



# **TOWN OF NORTHWOOD 2022 VOTER GUIDE**

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**Please Vote March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at  
Northwood Elementary School  
from 7:00am to 7:00pm**

**Article 1: Elections**

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

<b>Opening</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term</b>
(2)	<b>Board of Selectman</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(4)	<b>Budget Committee</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(1)	<b>Budget Committee</b>	<b>2 years</b>
(1)	<b>Cemetery Trustees</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(1)	<b>Cemetery Trustees</b>	<b>2 years</b>
(1)	<b>Moderator</b>	<b>2 years</b>
(1)	<b>Library Trustee</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(2)	<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(1)	<b>Police Commission</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(1)	<b>Trustees of the Trust Funds</b>	<b>3 years</b>
(1)	<b>Supervisor of the Checklist</b>	<b>6 years</b>

**Article 2: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:**

To establish a new definition of Private Campsite as the use of property not within a campground or camping park for camping on a seasonal basis, to permit Private Campsites subject to certain performance criteria, and to establish the performance criteria that apply to this use, including requiring a camping permit from the building inspector, defining the “camping season” as April 15 to October 15, establishing rules for occupying private campsites both within and outside of “camping season”, limiting the number of private campsites on the property, providing requirements for solid waste and sewerage disposal, and prohibiting the collection of fees for use of the private campsite?

**Article 3: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:**

Are you in favor of repealing Article II Self-Contained Camper Trailers from the Town of Northwood General Ordinances? Should Article 2 proposing an amendment to the Northwood Development Ordinance to regulate such uses fail, this article shall become null and void.

**Article 4: Operating Budget**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **three million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand eight hundred sixty-four dollars (\$3,998,864)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million seven hundred thirty-four thousand ninety-eight dollars (\$3,734,098)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **(Tax Impact Net of estimated revenue \$3.30) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 9/7)**

*The operating budget for the town contains operating funding for all departments and services. The 2022 budget is approximately 6.6% higher than the default budget approved in 2018 with certain adjustments. This budget is not recommended by a majority of the budget committee 9/7 and is recommended by all of the Selectmen. The difference between the budget committee's budget and the Select Board's is \$117,500. which reflects the cost of playing catch-up following three years of default budgets for items like the increase in benefit costs for town employees as well as increases in wages to be competitive in the workforce marketplace. There are also significant increases to solid waste disposal, changes in employee positions and additional hours for part-time firefighters and fulltime police officers.*

#### **Article 5: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred twenty-six thousand Dollars (\$126,000)** for the purchase of a six-wheel dump truck with plow, wing and sander for the highway department and to authorize the withdrawal of **one hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$126,000)** from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Account. This purchase replaces the existing 2006 six-wheel dump truck. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-1)**

*As noted, this truck replaces the DPW's 2006 6-wheel dump truck with a slightly smaller 6-wheel truck which is used for summer and winter road maintenance. The price includes the cab and chassis, dump body, plow, wing and sander. The fact that there is no tax impact means for 2022 as we have been saving for this expense for the past several years to avoid the cost of financing this purchase.*

#### **Article 6: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000)** for the acquisition of communication equipment pursuant to the third and final year of the three-year Fire Department Mobile Communications Equipment Replacement Plan. The plan will replace all our portable and mobile radios over the three-year period. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021 **(Tax Impact \$0.) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This is the third and final year of a three plan to replace all outdated portable and mobile radios for the police and fire departments. Year one of the plan was funded in 2020. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.*

## **Article 7: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING/PAVING AND DITCHING**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)** to be used for the construction, reconstruction, paving, and ditching and/or resurfacing of town roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts. Proposed Town Road Projects including paving, shimming, crack sealing etc. on a portion of Bow St., Jenness Pond Rd., Old Pittsfield Rd., Old Turnpike Rd., and Ye Old Canterbury Rd. in accordance with the Town's 2022 road plan said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021. **(Tax Impact \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 12-1)**

*These funds will enable the town to complete road projects including paving, shimming, crack sealing etc. on a portion of Bow St., Jenness Pond Rd., Old Pittsfield Rd., Old Turnpike Rd., and Ye Old Canterbury Rd in accordance with the Town's 2022 road plan.*

## **Article 8: RT 4 RECREATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000)** to continue improvements to the recreation complex including but not limited to expansion of parking, improving drainage, ledge removal, loaming and seeding and general improvements to the existing fields. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021. **(Tax Impact \$0.) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 13-0)**

*This funding will provide for the additional construction work that will bring the facility closer to completion over the next few years which will allow for the full utilization of the complex for recreational activities.*

## **Article 9: TOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000)** to begin the updating of the Town's 2002 master plan. This sum will provide an update of the Vision and Land Use Chapters which are the required sections. Revisions to the master plan are recommended every 5 to 10 years. Said amount to come from taxation. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 13-0)**

*As stated, our town master plan is overdue for updating and this funding will provide for updating the required sections over the next few years.*

## **Article 10: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE PAYMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **fifty-two thousand two hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$52,237)** as the second payment on a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for a Tanker Truck with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$300,000 down payment and the first-year payment. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This purchase was approved by the voters in 2020 in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Based on historical ambulance revenues, it is anticipated that on-going lease payments could be made using the Special Revenue Fund. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$300,000 down payment it has committed to spend and the first-year lease payment.*

**Article 11: AMBULANCE LEASE PURCHASE PAYMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **twenty-six thousand two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$26,225)**, as the second payment on a 7-year lease/purchase agreement for an Ambulance with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$100,000 down payment and the first-year payment. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*Based on historical ambulance revenues, it is anticipated that on-going lease payments could be made using the Special Revenue Fund. If this article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses the \$100,000 down payment it has spent on it and the first-year lease payment.*

**Article 12: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK LEASE/PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **twenty-six thousand four hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$26,439)** for the fourth-year lease payment of the seven-year lease/purchase agreement of a highway dump truck that was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting. If this is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses all the money it has spent in prior years. **(Tax impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article is for the fourth payment of the 7-year lease/purchase of the town’s highway dump truck purchased in 2019. If this is defeated the vehicle must be returned and the town loses all the money it has spent in prior years.*

**Article 13: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE PAYMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand two hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$20,298)** for the fourth of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the backhoe. This lease agreement was approved in 2018 and does contain an escape clause so if the article is defeated the vehicle must be returned and all prior expenditures will be lost. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article is for the fifth and final payment of the five-year lease/purchase of the town’s highway backhoe purchased in 2018. If the article is defeated the equipment must be returned and all prior expenditures will be lost.*

**Article 14: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred thirty- three thousand nine hundred fifty-four dollars (\$133,954)**, to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 - a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2021 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2021. Current balance as of December 31, 2021: Cable \$98,480 Transfer Station \$100,465, and Cemetery: \$59,800.

<b>Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$33,546</b>	<b>Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$97,208</b>	<b>Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$3,200</b>
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**(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee (14-0))**

*This article requests approval to deposit the 2021 revenue from the above listed services into the expendable trust funds set up for their individual operation and maintenance.*

#### **Article 15: VESTED BENEFIT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Current balance as of December 31, 2021: \$30,419. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*Vested Benefit Expendable Trust is for the accrued time earned by long term employees. When an employee leaves, their accrued time will get paid from the trust fund so as not to impact the operating budget. As of Dec. 31, 2021, the town's liability was approximately \$179,774.*

#### **Article 16: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021: \$126,048. **(Tax Impact \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used for payment of equipment and/or down payments on vehicle leases and is intended to accrue until needed. This year we have proposed to use this fund to purchase a new dump truck in article 5 for cash which will avoid the cost of interest on a financed or leased purchase.*

#### **Article 17: POLICE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six thousand dollars (\$6,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021: \$23,148. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used to offset costs to purchase police equipment which helps to minimize operating budget spikes.*

#### **Article 18: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$10,875)**. to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the Lagoon Special Revenue Fund held by the Northwood Treasurer. Current balance as of December 31, 2021: \$104,989 **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0)**

*This article is to allow the deposit of the lagoon user fees into the Lagoon Expendable Trust fund. These funds are used for state licensing and monitoring of the lagoon, as well as the fees for the consultant to do the required testing of the lagoon.*

#### **Article 19: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021 is \$2,514. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to help prevent invasive species from entering our lakes and ponds.*

#### **Article 20: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021 is \$302.00. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to control and treat lakes and ponds that currently have an invasive species problem.*

#### **Article 21: TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand (\$10,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$4.00. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Impact \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund that will be used to control and treat invasive species on land such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Japanese Knotweed.*

#### **Article 22: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs, and replacement of general government buildings including the Chesley Memorial Library. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021: \$33,399. **(Tax Impact \$0) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article deposits funds into the facilities expendable trust fund to fund current and future significant repairs, improvements and replacement of government buildings, including Chesley Memorial Library, when needed. In 2021 significant repairs were made to the town office building and the community hall totaling over \$31,000.*

#### **Article 23: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)** to be deposited into the Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance and replacement of the Town's computer hardware and software programs. The balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021 is \$16,612. Said amount to come taxation. **(Tax Impact \$.02). Majority vote**

**required. (Recommend by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This fund provides for the management of annual upgrades to the Town's hardware equipment and software and prepares the Town to cover unforeseen emergency repairs and replacement of equipment and software without impacting the annual operating budgets. In 2021 a portion of this fund was used to purchase new fund accounting software for the Town.*

**Article 24: ROAD IMPROVEMENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)** to be deposited into the Roads Improvement Expendable Trust fund for improvements to Town roads including but not limited to paving, installing and replacing culverts, tree removal prior to road work, crack sealing, ditching, grading, and full reconstruction, etc. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2021. Said funds will be used for road improvement projects as outlined in the Town's 2022 Road Surface Management Plan and for emergency road repairs as they arise. The balance in this fund as of December 31, 2021, is \$150,076. **(No Tax Impact) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*The road improvement expendable trust fund supplements the annual appropriation from taxation which allows for additional road projects to be completed during financially difficult budget years. This fund also is available to cover the cost of unanticipated emergency road repairs without impacting the scheduled capital projects or the operating budget.*

**Article 25: CABLE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AMENDMENT.**

To see if the Town will vote to expand the original intent of the Cable Expendable Trust Fund, which was established in 2000 to now include other means of improving the communications between the Towns boards, committees, and departments with the town's residents. In 2000, the principle means of communication between the town and its residents was through a community bulletin board on a cable channel. Voting for this article would allow the Town to use this fund for other means of communication between the Town and its residents such as but not limited to email communications, a sign at Town Hall, electronic newsletters, etc. The Board of Selectmen will remain the agents to expend such funds, as stated in the original warrant article. **2/3 vote required. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)**

*This article will allow the Selectmen the ability to better utilize the revenue received from the cable franchise fees by using the funds to expand and improve the communications with the community by more contemporary options available today including both virtual means and traditional means.*

**Article 26: NARROWS FIRE STATION PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-five thousand (\$35,000)** to reconstruct the subbase and repave all the existing paved areas at the Narrows fire station. Said amount to come from taxation. **(Tax Impact \$.05) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

*This article provides funding to reconstruct the subsurface and surface of the paved area at the Narrows fire station which is badly in need of repair. The existing pavement may eventually damage the fire department vehicles and equipment.*



**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote, in the event of the proposed 2022 town budget not passing, to provide a onetime 2% COLA (cost of living adjustment) in 2022 for all “at-will” (non-contract) town employees and further to raise and appropriate \$41,816 to cover the salary and benefits-cost associated with the increase. **This article is by petition. (Tax Impact \$.06) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0)**

**Article 28:** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b, to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 31:14? This will provide a check and balance to the default budget, by having the budget committee approve it, just as they do the regular budget. **This article by petition.**

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to reduce the budget committee’s elected membership, from a current membership level of twelve (12) elected members-at-large to a membership level of six (6) members-at-large. Presently, the budget committee is comprised of twelve (12) elected members-at-large; one appointed school district representative; one appointed selectmen representative; and three appointed village district representatives. No members-at-large will be elected following approval of this article until 2025, at which time two members-at-large will be elected each year for a term of three years, unless at any time the number of members-at-large is less than (6) six. This reduction of elected members-at-large is in compliance with NH RSA 32:15 Budget Committee Membership. **This article is by petition.**

**Article 30:** To see if the town will vote that any new additional full-time positions (not personnel), be approved by the town voters via a warrant article at the annual election. **This article is by petition.**

*The Select Board members believe approving this article would limit the Board's ability to manage the level of staffing which they, along with department heads, are the most knowledgeable when determining the needs of Town departments.*

**Article 31:** Shall the Town rescind the action taken at the 1987 Town Meeting establishing a Police Commission so that the authority over the police department shall revert to the Board of Selectmen. **This article is by petition.**

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to require the Board of Selectmen to place the funding of all town vehicle purchases on the annual town warrant for approval by voters prior to any funds being expended for the purpose of vehicle acquisition, including either purchase or lease. **This article by petition.**

*The Select Board members believe approving this article will limit their ability to provide for the needs of a department which may impact public safety and general services especially in the event when a town vehicle is taken out of service due to major repairs or is determined to be beyond repair from an accident.*

## **Please Note:**

**The estimated tax impacts noted in each article are only estimates and will likely change at the time the 2022 tax rate is set next October. The estimates are based on the 2021 tax rate setting total town evaluation (\$696,982,750) which will likely change in 2022. Revenues are based on estimates and will also change at the time of tax rate setting in 2022. The revenue total used to calculate the net impact of the operating budget does not include any use of any fund balance at tax rate setting.**

**The term unassigned fund balance is often referred to as “surplus” which is the Towns reserve fund. This fund amount fluctuates each year and is used to pay the cost for current expenditures so there is no tax impact for some warrant articles.**

**If you have any question regarding any of the warrant articles on this years' ballot, please contact a member of the Select Board or our Town Administrator, Walter Johnson at 603-942-5586 ext. 2020. Thank you and please vote!**