



TOWN OF NORTHWOOD 2023 VOTER GUIDE

**Please Vote March 14th, 2023 at St.
Joseph's Parish Hall
from 7:00am to 7:00pm**

Article 1: Elections

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Opening	Position	Term
(2)	Board of Selectman	3 years
(4)	Budget Committee	3 years
(1)	Cemetery Trustees	3 years
(1)	Planning Board	1 year
(2)	Planning Board	3 years
(1)	Library Trustee	3 years
(1)	Treasurer	3 years
(1)	Police Commission	3 years
(1)	Trustees of the Trust Funds	3 years

Please see a separate voter guide for information regarding the zoning amendments.

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

Amend Section VII.C. Non-Conforming Lots to clarify that changes to lot boundaries that do not impact that lot's compliance with the Ordinance are permitted. (Majority vote required)

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

Amend Section III. Definitions to redefine Large Scale Business to apply to any commercial or industrial business, rather than a retail or wholesale business, with aggregate gross floor area of 10,000 sq. ft. or more contained on a single lot, and to amend Section IV.B.(4)(g) Large Scale Business Setbacks to reference the definition of Large Scale Business and to add a purpose statement. (Majority vote required)

Article 4: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section VI.C. Agricultural Soils Overlay District to properties consisting of at least 10 acres and 25% or more of the total land is designated as soils designated "prime" or of "statewide importance" be developed using Open Space Design, lowering the threshold from 20 acres. Further to require that that the required Open Space prioritize conservation and continued use of agricultural soils of prime or statewide significance. (Majority vote required)

Article 5: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section VII.D.(3) Permitted Conversion of Seasonal Dwellings for Year-Round Occupancy to provide examples of other ordinance requirements that proposals must meet. (Majority vote required)

Article 6: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section IV.B.(1) Road Frontage to require that all required frontage be contained in a single contiguous segment. (Majority vote required)

Article 7: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section III Definitions to delete the existing definition of Affordable Housing, adopt definitions of Affordable Housing and Workforce Housing from RSA 674:58, and adopt a definition of Cluster Housing as housing with more than one principal residential structure per lot. Amend Section V. Use Regulations to add Cluster Housing as a permitted use and to replace all references to Elderly Housing with Cluster Housing, which may be used only for the construction of Elderly Housing and/or Workforce Housing. Further, to reduce the maximum density of Cluster Housing from 4 units per acre to 2 units per acre. (Majority vote required)

Article 8: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section IV.B.(5) Structure Height to clarify the points from which structure height is measured. (Majority vote required)

Article 9: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Northwood Development Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section III Definitions to define Religious Uses and Section V. Use Regulations to comply with requirements of RSA 674:76 exempting Religious Uses from all zoning requirements other than height, yard size, lot area, setbacks, open space and building coverage requirements. (Majority vote required)

Article 10: 2023 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 **four million twenty-two thousand six hundred thirty dollars (\$4,022,630)** Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million nine hundred fifty-six thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars. (\$3,956,584)** 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. **(Majority vote required) (Estimated Tax Net of estimated revenue \$2.48) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-1)**

The Budget Committee's proposed 2023 operating budget for the town provides funding for only the very basic functions of all our departments and services. It is approximately 1.7% higher than the default budget approved in 2018 (as adjusted per state statutes). This budget is recommended by a majority of the budget committee 14-1 and is recommended unanimously by the Selectmen. The difference between the proposed budget and the default budget is \$66,000. This difference reflects the need to play catch-up following four years of default budgets. It addresses items like inflation effects on most commodities the town uses especially vehicle and heating fuels, the increase in benefit costs for town employees as well as increases in wages necessary to be competitive in the workforce marketplace and significant increases in solid waste disposal costs., If the proposed budget is not passed, the town will need to re-evaluate what services it provides.

Article 11: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT TRAILER PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)** for the purchase of a 10-ton equipment trailer for the highway department and to authorize the withdrawal of **twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)** from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Account. **(Majority vote required)**

(Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)

The purchase of a new equipment trailer will allow for the safe transportation of our backhoe and rented excavator and end the need for using the personal equipment belonging to town staff. This purchase is in the approved Capital Improvement Plan.

Article 12: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING/PAVING AND DITCHING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$235,000)** 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 Lake Road (crack sealing) Church St, Harmony Road, and Jenness Pond Rd. in accordance with the Town's 2022 road plan. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 14-1)**

Funding in this article will allow the town to continue to follow the road surface management plan which was updated in 2021. Due to the dramatic increase in petroleum cost it may be necessary to make some adjustments to the plan once final bid prices are obtained. As we continue to follow our road plan, we are seeing our focus change for major reconstruction projects to more preservation methods which are much less expensive. If we want to ensure this trend continues, we need to complete the proposed work as scheduled by the road plan.

Article 13: RT 4 RECREATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)** to continue improvements to the recreation complex located on Rt 4 including but not limited to expansion of parking, improving drainage, loaming and seeding and general equipment and improvements to the existing fields. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 15-0)**

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 14: TOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)** to continue updating of the Town's 2004 Master Plan. This sum will provide an update and/or development up to four additional chapters. Thirty thousand (\$30,000) to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, and the balance of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) to come from grants. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget committee 15-0)**

Approval of this article will allow the planning board to utilize new grant funding already approve for the creation of a new housing chapter for the Master Plan as well as the creation of a minimum of two additional chapters, with a natural resources chapter and a recreation chapter having priority.

Article 15: FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CAB AND CHASSIS LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a four year lease purchase agreement in the amount of **two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)** for the purpose of purchasing a new ambulance cab and chassis, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$75,000 for the down payment, this amount to be

withdrawn from the Fire Rescue Special Revenue Fund. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. If this article and Article 16 are both approved, the existing ambulance 1 cab and chassis will be retained for construction of a new forestry/utility vehicle, and the existing patient transport box will be transferred to the new cab and chassis. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-4)**

This cost savings measurer will allow for the continued use of our existing patient transport compartment on a new cab and chassis providing at least an additional eight to ten years of service. This option versus purchasing a completely new ambulance will save approximately \$100,000 in acquisition and finance costs. Replacement of this vehicle is in accordance with the approved Capital Improvements Plan.

Article 16 FIRE DEPARTMENT FORESTRY/UTILITY VEHICLE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixty thousand dollars \$60,000** for the construction of a new forestry vehicle utilizing the existing ambulance 1 cab and chassis and adding the necessary forest fire fighting and other equipment to the vehicle and to authorize the withdrawal of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Special Revenue Fund. This article will be void if Article 15 fails. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-5)**

If article 15 is approved this option would utilize the existing ambulance 1 cab and chassis for construction of a new utility/forestry vehicle that will replace our existing forestry vehicle. This vehicle will provide the department greater flexibility when responding to a variety of minor incidents, provide access to locations with limited road access and assist in handling most outside fires. The existing ambulance 1 cab and chassis has been professional evaluated and determined to be in very good condition and suitable for this use. If article 15 is not approved this article is void. . Replacement of this vehicle is in accordance with the approved Capital Improvements Plan.

Article 17: 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 third 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 all prior years payments. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement 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 two years lease payments.

Article 18: FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 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 third 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 and second-year payment. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

Based on historical ambulance revenues, it is anticipated that on-going lease payments could be made using the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement 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 two years lease payments.

Article 19: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK LEASE/PURCHASE PAYMENT

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 fifth-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. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.04) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

This article is for the fifth 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 20: 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 fifth 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. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 payments will be lost.

Article 21: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred and twenty thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight dollars (\$120,778)**, 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 2022 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2022. Current balance as of December 31, 2022: Cable \$113,729 Transfer Station \$192,663, and Cemetery: \$65,800.

Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$33,291	Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$86,687	Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$800
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(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)

This article requests approval to deposit the 2022 revenues from the above listed services into the expendable trust funds set up for their individual operation and maintenance.

Article 22: VESTED BENEFIT TIME 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. Said amount to come from taxation.

Current balance as of December 31, 2022: \$24,178. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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, 2022, the town's liability was approximately \$139,000.

Article 23: 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, 2022. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2022: \$40,783. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 equipment trailer in article 11 for cash which will avoid the cost of interest on a financed or leased purchase.

Article 24: 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, 2022: \$29,369. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 25: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$5,925)** 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, 2022: \$113,475 **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0)**

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 26: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eight thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$8,250)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2022: \$1,027. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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

Article 27: 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, 2022: \$308. **(Majority vote required) Tax Estimate \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 28: TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2022: \$3,645. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

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 29: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** 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, 2022. Current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2022: \$14,124. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

This article deposits funds into the facilities expendable trust fund to fund current and future significant repairs, and improvements of Town buildings, including Chesley Memorial Library, when needed. In 2022 additional significant repairs were made to the town hall and office building and the community hall totaling over \$30,000.

Article 30: 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, 2022. 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, 2022: \$98,858. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

The road improvement expendable trust fund supplements the annual appropriation for road improvements and repairs which allows for additional road projects to be completed during financially difficult budget years. This fund is also available to cover the cost of unanticipated emergency road repairs without impacting the scheduled capital projects or the operating budget. In 2022 this fund was used to supplement some unanticipated highway block grant funds to complete repairs to a road scheduled for improvement in 2023.

Article 31: TOWN EMPLOYEE COST OF LIVING INCREASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$68,000)** to cover the salary and benefits-cost associated with providing a 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment) in 2023 for all town employees. Said amount to come from taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.08) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-1)**

To attract and retain qualified and capable employees in all town departments, we must keep our wages competitive and provide the wages necessary for our employees to absorb the significant increase in the cost of living in 2022 and 2023 which is far above the 3% being requested.

Article 32: CREATING A FULL TIME CODE COMPLIANCE AND BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION

To see if the Town will vote to approve creating a full-time code, compliance and building inspector position and to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty-two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$42,700)** to pay the additional wages and benefits not included in the proposed operating budget and further to authorize the Select Board and Budget Committee to include the necessary funds in future operating budgets to support this new full-time 40 hours per week position. Said amount to come from taxation. This position is currently part time at approximately 25 hours/week. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.05) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

There are several benefits to having a full-time code compliance, building inspector and health officer. Here are a few, more time to work with contractors, builders and developers new and existing projects, more time to be proactive in enforcing land use, health and building code violations more time for improving office operations and permitting system and a much greater likelihood of retaining a qualified individual in this position.

Article 33: CREATING A FULL TIME ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

To see if the Town will vote to approve creating a full-time assistant librarian position and to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand four hundred (\$25,400)** to pay the additional wages and benefits not included in the proposed operating budget and further to authorize the Library Trustees and Budget Committee to include the necessary funds in future operating budgets to support this new full-time 35 hour per week position. This position is currently part time at approximately 30 hours/week. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-1)**

As with other town departments, the Chesley Memorial Library lost employees over the past several years. Staffing with part-time positions does not attract qualified candidates or encourage retention of valuable employees. Library vacancies remain at a record high in New Hampshire. The Library Director is the only full-time employee; the Assistant Librarian and the Technology Librarian are currently part-time employees working 30 hours per week. We request that the Assistant Librarian and the Technology Librarian positions become full-time at 35 hours per week. This modest increase in hours will improve staff coverage, enhance our ability to retain qualified staff, and strengthen programs and services for Northwood residents of all ages.

Article 34: CREATING A FULL TIME TECHNOLOGY LIBRARIAN

To see if the Town will vote to approve creating a full-time technology librarian position and to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$25,850)** to pay the additional wages and benefits not included in the proposed operating budget and further to authorize the Library Trustees and Budget Committee to include the necessary funds in future operating budgets to support this new full-time 35 hour per week position. This position is currently part time at approximately 30 hours/week. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-2)**

Article 35: CENTER SCHOOL REHABILITATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000)** for the repair and restoration of the former Center School located at 818 1st NH Turnpike. Said project including but not limited to abating all hazardous materials, "gutting" the building to the outside walls and studs,

repairing the existing foundation, removing the existing rear addition and constructing a new addition of similar size to include one full appropriate sized ADA compliant bathroom and a small kitchenette, replacing all insulation on all exterior walls and sheetrock and painting all interior walls, upgrading all electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems to meet all building and life safety codes. The finished building will be used for recreational, leisure, meeting and other activities deemed appropriate by the Select Board. Said amount to come from taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.11) (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

The time has come to decide what to do with the former Center School building located adjacent to the Town Hall as the condition of the building is deteriorating to a point beyond repair. There are some hazardous materials in the building (i.e. lead paint and a small amount of asbestos) that will be mitigated as part of a rehab project. The town could utilize the space for meetings and recreational activities if it is restored to a usable condition.

Article 36: RAZE THE CENTER SCHOOL

In the event Article 35 fails, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)** to raze the former Center School building located at 818 1st NH Turnpike next to the Town Hall and restore the property to a level area. Said amount to come from taxation. **If Article 35 passes this article will be void. (Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.02) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0)**

If the voters elect not to spend money on repairing the former Center School building, then it should be razed so it's no longer an "eyesore" that is detracting from the appearance of the Town Parade.

Article 37: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight (\$7,738)** to be deposited in the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund. Said amount represents the revenue received from the sale of 250th Anniversary commemorative items by the 250th anniversary committee deposited in the general fund in 2022. Said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2022: \$8,591. **(Majority vote required) (Tax Estimate \$0.00) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0)**

This article if passed will provide the 250th celebration committee the opportunity to use the funds received from the sale of 250th celebration memorabilia during the past year for activities related to the celebration in 2023.

Article 38: SNOWMOBILE CLUB TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUNDING REQUEST

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** for the support of the Northwood Crank Pullers Snowmobile Club's efforts maintaining 20 plus miles of Northwood Multi Use Trails. The all volunteer Northwood Club is 50 years old this year, has lost opportunities of traditional fundraising events, has provided over 600 man hours of unpaid volunteer efforts in these trails since April, with no assistance from DPW or the Recreation Department's staff or budgets. Insurance, equipment maintenance and fuel costs keep rising so assistance is needed to help defray some of the costs. Amounts to be raised by taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Tax estimate \$0.01) This article is by petition. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-1)**

This petition article if approved will provide taxpayer support for a portion of the maintenance provided by the local volunteer nonprofit snowmobile club on the miles of recreational trails throughout Northwood.

Article 39: INCREASE THE ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS.

To see if the town will vote to increase the income limits for elderly property tax exemptions as follows: current single person income limit from \$35,000 to \$40,000 and the asset limit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and to increase the married income limit from \$40,000 to \$50,000 and the married asset limit from \$50,000 to \$75,000. If approved, said limit increases will be effective as of April 1, 2023. **(Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)

With the increase in social security income and the value of some retirement assets, this increase would give some of our fixed income taxpayers the opportunity to still qualify for their exemption versus exceeding the current limits for both income and assets and no longer qualifying for the exemption.

Article 40: OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT (72:28,II)

Shall the Town of Northwood Readopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$250? **(Majority vote required)** . **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)**

Approval of this article and article 41 is a requirement of the NH Department of Revenue if we are to continue to offer a veterans' credit in the future. This is necessary as a result of changes made to the legislation in 2022 by the NH Legislature.

Article 41: ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT (72:28-b)

Shall the Town of Northwood readopt the ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Northwood under RSA 72:28? **(Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0)

This article expands the current all veteran's credit beyond just honorably discharged qualified veterans' to include active duty qualified veterans'.

Please Note:

The estimated tax impacts noted in each article are only estimates and will likely change at the time the 2023 tax rate is set next October. The estimates are based on the 2022 tax rate setting total town valuation (\$935,955,223) which will likely change some in 2023. Revenues are based on estimates and will also change at the time of tax rate setting in 2023. 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!