



**Hampton, NH Town Warrant Articles**  
**March 12, 2024**  
**In the Know Hampton**  
**Your Source for Unbiased**  
**Warrant Article Information**

**This document is intended to help Hampton voters understand the Warrant Articles that will appear on the ballot on March 12, 2024.** We do not tell you how to vote – that is up to you. The objective is to help voters understand what the Articles mean, what people are saying for and against, and what the cost implications may be. At the end of this document is a handy checklist that you may use to make note of your decision on each Article. Bring your notes to the Ballot Box to save time.

**Article 1: Election of Officers** To choose by non-partisan ballot:

2024 Candidates for Town Positions		
Candidates	Term	Candidate Names
Board of Selectman (2)	3 Yrs	James Waddell Richie Sawyer Carleigh Beriont
Budget Committee (2)	3 Yrs	Alan Barclay Scott Blair William Dibiasio Steven Henderson
Library Trustee (1)	3 Yrs	Kimberly Olson Andrew N. Morse
Planning Board (2)	3 Yrs	John Tirrell Jeff Grip Brendan McNamara
Supervisor of the Checklist (1)	6 yrs	Nancy Stiles
Supervisor of the Checklist (1)	2 yrs	Katherine Desrochers
Tax Collector (1)	3 Yrs	Donna Bennett
Trustees of Trust Fund (2)	3 Yrs	Joyce Skaperdas James R. Dearden Bruce Theriault
Zoning Board (2)	3 Yrs	Erica de Vries Bill O'Brien John Janakos

**What it means:** In the chart above, the races shown in yellow are contested, meaning that there are more candidates than open positions. For any opening, you also have the option to write in the name of a candidate.



**Articles 2-9 are Zoning Articles and have no direct tax impact. No one spoke either for or against Articles 2-9 except to explain them.**

## **Article 2: Definition of “Affordable Housing”**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article I - General, Section 1.6 - Definitions to insert a new definition for “Affordable Housing,” by referencing NH RSA 674:58 I, and as amended. Also insert a new definition of “Workforce Housing”, by referencing NH RSA 674:58 IV, and as amended.

**What it means:** This article adds new definitions of “Affordable Housing” and “Workforce Housing” to Hampton’s Ordinances by referencing the appropriate NH state regulations (RSA’s), and including amendments to those RSAs as they may be adopted in the future. Essentially, this Article is keeping pace with the state’s evolving definitions.

## **Article 3: New Use in Overlay District: Alternative Treatment Center (Non-Cultivation)**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article I - General, Section 1.6 – Definitions to insert a new definition for “Alternative Treatment Center (Non-Cultivation Location).”

Amend Article III - Use Regulations. Add new Section 3.50 identifying an Alternative Treatment Center (Non-Cultivation Location), as regulated by the State of New Hampshire (RSA 126-X), as a permitted use in the following locations: the Business (B) zoning district, but only along Lafayette Road from Ann’s Lane north to the North Hampton town line; the General (G) zoning district, but only along Lafayette Road from the NH-101 interchange south to the Hampton Falls town line; and the Industrial (I) zoning district.

Amend Article II - Districts, Section 2.8 F Town Center District (North and South). Add New Use #28 identifying an Alternative Treatment Center (Non-Cultivation Location), as regulated by the State of New Hampshire (RSA 126-X), as a permitted use in the Town Center-North (TC-N) zoning district only.

Amend Article XIX-A - Interstate Corridor Overlay District, Section 19-A.4 Permitted Uses and Facilities. Add New Use #9 identifying an Alternative Treatment Center (Non- Cultivation Location), as regulated by the State of New Hampshire (RSA 126-X), as a permitted use in said zoning overlay district.

**What it means:** Alternative Treatment Centers are facilities registered with the State as approved locations for the dispensing of medical cannabis. By state law, access to the facility is limited to residents of New Hampshire diagnosed by a medical provider as having a qualifying medical condition and who possess a valid Registry ID Card by the Therapeutic Cannabis Program (TCP). “Non-Cultivation Location” means that no cannabis can be grown in any of these Centers. This warrant article adds Alternative Treatment Centers (Non-Cultivation Location) as a permitted use in Hampton; adds a definition for these Centers, and amends several existing Zoning Articles to describe where these Treatment Centers may be located.



#### **Article 4: Definition of the Term “Family” for Purposes of the Zoning Ordinances**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article I - General. Section 1.6 Definitions to add a new definition of “Family.” This definition formally codifies the term in the Zoning Ordinance, providing clarity for fire and life safety purposes.

**What it means:** To date, the term “Family” has been subjective. In order to effectively apply building and fire codes, this Warrant Article defines it as follows:

- One or more adult persons occupying a single dwelling unit, living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit, who are related by blood, adoption, marriage, or other domestic relationship recognized by the State of New Hampshire.
- A number of adult persons (not exceeding 4) living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit though not related by blood, adoption, marriage or other domestic relationship recognized by the State of New Hampshire, shall also constitute a family.
- Roomers, boarders, and other transient guests cannot be considered members of a family for the purpose of this definition.
- Foster children shall be included, in accordance with New Hampshire State Regulations. This definition also does not preclude one or more individuals under the age of 18 residing with a parent or other person having legal custody or guardianship of such person(s).

#### **Article 5: Changes to Floodplain Management Ordinance**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Article II - Districts, Section 2.4 - Floodplain Management Ordinance. This amendment involves an update of the existing Floodplain Management Ordinance for the following purposes: Definitions: Add definitions for “Flood Design Class”, “Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation (SLR DFE)”, and “Tolerance for Flood Risk”; Delete the definition for “Crawl Space”; Modify the definition for “Substantial Improvement”. State Building Code Compliance: Add language stating that all development in a Special Flood Hazard Area shall be compliant with the applicable requirements of the State Building Code and the applicable standards in this Ordinance, whichever is more restrictive (2.4.7 A.5). Higher Floodplain Management Standards: Critical Facilities - Add language indicting that the construction of critical facilities (those that are vital to public health and safety, e.g., police stations, fire and rescue stations, shelters, schools, nursing homes and water supply and waste treatment facilities) is prohibited within the Special Flood Hazard Area unless specified criteria to address flood risk are met (2.4.7 C); Elevation of Utilities - Add language stating that all development in a Special Flood Hazard Area shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities elevated to the Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation in Table 1 of Section 2.4.9 (and determined by the Floodplain Administrator in Section 2.4.8) (2.4.7 A.4); Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation (SLR DFE) - Insert new Table 1 titled “Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation Requirements for Flood Design Classes 1-4 in the Special Flood Hazard Area” under Section 2.4.9.



This table provides varying freeboard requirements based on the type of elevation, the flood zone, and the flood design class (also cross-referenced in Sections 2.4.7 A.4, 2.4.9 A.1, 2.4.9 B.1, 2.4.11 C.1.a). Clarification Changes: Reference the date of the current Flood Insurance Study for Rockingham County and the current Flood Insurance Rate Maps (2.4.3B); Delete references to basements and/or crawl spaces (2.4.6 A.2, 2.4.9 A.1, 2.4.9 A.2, and 2.4.9 B.2); Change the words “base flood elevation” to “lowest floor” (2.4.9 D); Clarify in the Ordinance that the issuance of a variance to construct below the base flood elevation will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage; Cross reference Section 2.4.11 C.1 in Attachment A of Article IV - Dimensional Requirements.

**What it means:** This article updates the Town’s Floodplain Management Ordinance. It adds several new definitions, deletes the definition for “crawl space” and modifies the definition for “Substantial Improvement”. It specifies that new development in the Special Flood Hazard Area has to be in compliance with the NH State Building Code or Hampton’s Floodplain Ordinance, whichever is more restrictive. The article also specifies that the construction of certain types of critical facilities are prohibited in the Special Flood Hazard Area unless specific criteria addressing flood risks are met. The article specifies the height to which utilities in new construction in the Special Flood Hazard Area must be raised. The article also includes a new table that describes new freeboard requirements for new or substantially-improved construction in the Special Flood Hazard Area based on elevation, identifies which FEMA Flood Zone the property is in, and gives the new ‘design flood class’ for the structure. The article also changes some language to add clarity.

#### **Article 6: Change in Status for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (Family Use)**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article III-A— Accessory Dwelling Units to Single-Family Dwellings as follows: Section 3-A.4 Occupancy Requirements to add a new Subsection “F” regarding accessory dwelling units that are used exclusively as the primary or secondary residence of related individual(s); Section 3-A.5 - Site Location and Size to modify the existing requirements as to which detached structures may be utilized for a detached accessory dwelling unit and to provide screening requirements from same; Section 3-A.7 - Dimensional Requirements to delete the existing restrictive language involving pre-existing lots of record and expanding the footprint of a principal dwelling; Section 3-A.10 Impact Fees to cross-reference new Subsection 3-A.4f; and Section 3-A.11 Removal of an Accessory Dwelling Unit to delete the existing Use Change requirement while maintaining the existing Building Permit requirement.

Also amend Article VI - Parking, Section 6.3 - Parking Requirements (new Subsection 6.3.1b) to require an accessory dwelling unit to have at least one unobstructed 9’ x 18’ parking space on-site, instead of two parking spaces as currently required.

**What it means:** The purpose of this amendment is to update the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance to offer greater flexibility, including for detached ADUs, and to help provide additional housing opportunities in the Town of Hampton. Various issues related to ADUs are addressed, such as those pertaining to primary or secondary residence of related individuals; issues of size, location, and dimensional requirements; impact fees; Use Change requirements; and parking requirements for ADUs.

#### **Article 7: Changes to Ordinance Regarding Required Parking Spaces for ADA Purposes**



Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article VI - Parking. Add New Section 6.5 - Accessible Parking Spaces for the Disabled, which is divided into the following three Subsections: 6.5.1 stating that adequate parking spaces for disabled persons shall be provided as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the New Hampshire State Building Code, that an accessible parking space shall be a minimum of 9' x 18' in size and shall have an adjacent access aisle which is a minimum of 5' wide and clear of obstructions, and indicating that each accessible parking space must be designated by a sign; 6.5.2 inserting a table which identifies the minimum number of accessible parking spaces required, based upon the total number of parking spaces that are provided per lot; and 6.5.3 providing standards for van accessible spaces.

**What it means:** This modifies requirements for parking spaces for persons with disabilities, thus conforming to the Americans With Disabilities Act and NH State Building Codes. The issues addressed are the number of such spaces required, their dimensions, appropriate signage, and standards for van-accessible spaces.

#### **Article 8: Changes to Ordinance Regarding Multi-Family Dwellings and Outdoor Grilling Space**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article VIII - Multi-Family Dwellings. Add new Subsection 8.1.5 to require a safe and suitable area for outdoor grilling, which is located outside of the required dimensional setbacks for the zoning district and at least ten (10) feet away from buildings.

Amend Section 8.2 to incorporate minor language adjustments for clarity and to note that, in the Town Center District (Historic, South, and North), only Subsections 8.2.5 and 8.2.6 shall apply.

Also amend Article II – Districts, Section 2.8 Town Center District (Subsections D & F) to cross-reference Article VIII.

**What it means:** This article pertains to multi-family dwellings and adds requirements for safe and suitable spaces for activities such as outdoor grilling. It also clarifies the need for such spaces in Town Center Districts.

#### **Article 9: Changes to Ordinance Regarding Required Building Permits**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Amend Article X - Building Permits and Inspection. Section 10.1 to delete the existing language which states that a permit shall not be required in the case of repairs unless such repairs include alteration or new construction in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). This language is replaced with language indicating that a permit is not required for work outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area that is considered exempt in accordance with Section 105.2 of the “2018 IBC Code and Commentary” or as amended. In the Special Flood Hazard Area, the permitting requirements of Zoning Ordinance Section 2.4 - Floodplain Management Ordinance shall take precedence.



**What it means:** This article deletes language related to building permit exemptions for work that has a cost of less than \$500, and clarifies that such permit exemptions, as specified in the 2018 International Building Code and Commentary, only apply outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area. It also clarifies which zoning ordinance takes precedence inside of the Special Flood Hazard Area.

## **Articles 10-30 are Town-Sponsored Articles**

How much will approval of a specific Article cost for my tax bill? Taxes are calculated based on the valuation of your real estate property. Articles with tax implications for 2024 are presented below each discussion with a cost per \$1000 of valuation. Throughout this document, the cost is translated to how much approval of that Article would cost a homeowner of a property valued at \$400,000 (roughly the average of all taxed properties in Hampton). You can do the approximate math from there, or if you want to be more specific, here's how: Get your valuation from your latest tax bill or go to:

<http://gis.vgsi.com/HamptonNH/Search.aspx> and enter your street address. This will display the latest valuation for your property. Divide by 1000 (example \$400,000 divide by 1,000 is 400.)

Multiply the result by the cost given in the Article for the tax impact per thousand dollars of valuation.

### **Article 10 - \$2.5MM Bond to Replace Worn Sewer Pipes - (3/5ths Ballot vote required)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of replacement of +/-2,200 ft of vitrified clay gravity sewer on Ross Avenue, Kentville Terrace, and Charles Street, which has been identified as a priority project that will eliminate a significant amount of Inflow/Infiltration from the town's sewer system (Estimated to be 10,000-20,000 gpd/idm\*). The design, engineering, and implementation of replacement of the sewer mains and manholes, and in some cases realigning the sewer to eliminate back lot sewers, sewer mains under buildings, assets in wetlands, and in areas prone to flooding. Replacement of sewer services, drainage improvements, and associated repairs to the roadways are also included; and

Said sum to be raised by the issuance of bonds or notes for a period not to exceed [thirty (30) years] under and in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town Treasurer to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, obtain, accept and expend any Federal, State or other available aid or funds, including, but not limited to, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan, toward the project in accordance with the terms and conditions under which they are received and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to borrow in anticipation of the receipt of such funds and or the issuance of such bonds or notes as provided in the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement such cost-effective solutions as are presented in the future that they deem to be in the best interest of the Town that may result in a lesser amount of expenditure than is authorized by this warrant article; and To authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions or to pass any other vote necessary to carry out the project in the best interest of the Town of Hampton. (3/5ths Ballot vote required)





**What it means:** This project will replace over 2,200 feet of old vitrified clay sewer pipe with new pipes to remove inflow and infiltration issues; and it will eliminate inaccessible back lot sewers, sewers under buildings, assets in wetlands and in areas prone to flooding. Associated drainage and pavement repairs will be made. The cost includes design, engineering and construction. Because this is a bond Article, by state law it must receive a 3/5ths majority vote (60%).

\* Gallons per day, per inch-diameter mile (gpd/idm). Inch-diameter miles are the total miles of sewer multiplied by the average diameter (in inches) of sewer pipe.

**Those in favor say:** Because the current pipes are compromised and allow inflow and infiltration, excess groundwater and salt water is being transported via the pipes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Thus, the Town is having to treat this excess volume, costing us money and decreasing our capacity. Additionally, the salt is detrimental to the “good” bacteria that is needed break down the components of the wastewater.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session or at any of the public sessions where the proposal was discussed.

**Fiscal Impact:** If a bond is issued in 2024, the first bond payment will be due in 2025. The estimated 2025 tax rate impact is \$0.074 per \$1,000 valuation (valuation changes may alter this estimate). A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$29.60 for 2025, and will impact future year’s taxes as well. The total of the bond’s principal and interest payments over a 15-year period at an interest rate of 4.75% are estimated to be \$3,447,188.

Note: Articles 11 & 12 are technically loans, and thus each requires a 3/5ths majority to pass (60%). The Funding will come from the State Revolving Fund, as a 100% reimbursement of our expenses. By NH regulations, it must be presented as a tax impact, even though the funds will eventually come from the State.

### **Article 11 – Wastewater Treatment Study - \$100,000 Offset by 100% Loan Forgiveness**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Outfall Study. The Town was issued an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) in March 2022 by the EPA to address non-compliance with the total copper WWTP discharge limits. This project will include evaluation of the WWTP’s existing outfall location and the potential for site specific water quality criteria study (i.e., water effect ratio), alongside the evaluation of outfall relocation alternatives including a dilution study. Said appropriation to be offset by \$100,000 in principal loan forgiveness under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF); and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, accept and expend any Federal, State or other available funds towards the project in accordance with the terms and conditions under which they are received and to borrow in anticipation of the receipt of such and or the issuance of such bonds or notes as provided in the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and

To authorize participation in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) (RSA 486:14) established for the purpose, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend such monies as they become available from the Federal and State Governments. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever occurs sooner. (3/5ths Ballot vote required)



**Background:** Hampton received an Administrative Order-on-Consent (AOC) from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to the amount of copper that is being discharged from our Wastewater Treatment Plant. At high concentrations, copper is toxic, affecting metabolic processes of marine organisms. An AOC is an agreement between an entity (Hampton in this case) and the regulatory body (EPA) in which they agree to address damages caused by violations, and to cease the activities that caused the problem.

**What it means:** This project will investigate various ways to remedy the high copper output from our Wastewater Treatment Facility. The plan is to evaluate the existing outfall location, site-specific water quality criteria, and to look at outfall relocation alternatives including a dilution study.

The cost of this project is covered under a Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which means we will receive a 100% loan forgiveness for the cost.

**Those in favor say:** The discharge location for the WWTP has limited dilution, causing the copper limits leaving the plant to be unacceptable. Full-scale pilot testing demonstrated that total copper reduction to discharge permit levels is not achievable via chemical addition without significant infrastructure modifications (e.g. construction of tertiary treatment/filtration systems).

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.025. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$10.00 for 2024, a cost that would be reimbursed to the Town.)

## **Article 12 – Sludge Handling Study - \$100,000 Offset by 100% Loan Forgiveness**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Sludge Handling Study. The WWTP is currently completing Phase 2 of a comprehensive plant upgrade with Phase 3 to follow. Prior to moving forward with any upgrades to the sludge handling plant, this project will evaluate long-term options relating to sludge disposal and sludge drying. The goal is to provide the Town with a financial comparison of different treatments and disposal options, considering landfill costs, potential PFAS regulations, sludge drying options, and cost-benefit analysis of several proposed sludge handling scenarios.

Said appropriation to be offset by \$100,000 in principal loan forgiveness under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF); and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, accept and expend any Federal, State or other available funds towards the project in accordance with the terms and conditions under which they are received and to borrow in anticipation of the receipt of such and or the issuance of such bonds or notes as provided in the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and

To authorize participation in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) (RSA 486:14) established for the purpose, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend such monies as they become available from the Federal and State Governments.

This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever occurs sooner. (3/5ths Ballot vote required)





**What it Means:** The Waste Water Treatment Plant Sludge Handling Study will explore options related to sludge disposal and sludge grind, compressed solids from the waste water treatment process). Financial implications of various disposal and treatment options will be investigated.

**Those in favor say:** A constellation of factors is affecting how municipalities including Hampton handle biosolids. Biosolids are organic matter that remain after sewage is treated. In Hampton, we add a polymer coagulant to remove the excess liquid/water in order to reduce the cost to haul the biosolids to Rochester, NH. New PFAS regulations, landfills reaching capacity, and the ever-increasing fees for hauling and disposal mean that our current processing may become impractical. We need to start looking into how we handle our biosolids in the future.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.025. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$10.00 for 2024, a cost that would be reimbursed to the Town.)

### **Article 13 – Operating Budget of \$34,866,529 versus a Default Budget of \$33,507,321**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to 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 as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$34,866,529. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$33,507,321, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton 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.

**What it means:** The voters are presented with two possible operating budgets. The Proposed Operating budget is what the Town departments feel they need to manage the Town efficiently, safely and effectively. The Default Budget is a calculated budget defined by RSAs (New Hampshire state legislature) which specify certain costs that must be covered in the Town's Budget.

Both budgets for 2024 reflect cost of Warrant Articles approved at prior Town Elections.

The Proposed Operating Budget represents a **5%** increase over the 2023 adopted budget, and a **4%** increase over the Default Budget. Much of the increase in the Proposed Operating Budget over the 2023 adopted budget can be attributed to the Police Department seeing year-round needs for staff (part-time staff being far less available region-wide); staffing to provide increased attention to speeding per requests from residents; and funds being spent on outside agencies, now that Covid grants have expired. Other increases incorporated into the Proposed Operating Budget cover new equipment; increased utility costs; and upfront costs for new software to help manage the Town more effectively and efficiently.

The Default Budget represents a **1%** increase over the 2023 adopted budget. A default budget is regulated by RSA 40:13 and starts with the prior year's approved budget, and is increased by obligations mandated by law; debt service and contracts lawfully entered into; and is reduced by one-time expenditures, salaries and benefits related to positions that may have been eliminated. The Default Budget will be the operating budget for the Town in the event the Proposed Operating Budget fails to pass.



**Those in favor say:** The Budget Committee met and worked with each Town department to review the needs (and not wants) of each department. Each line item of the budget was thoroughly reviewed four times (by the Department Heads, Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and the Budget Committee). Those in favor said it is a fair budget that provides what the community needs and has asked for. It was also noted that there are costs in the Proposed Operating Budget that prevent more costly repairs or expenditures down the road.

**Those opposed say:** It was expressed that taxpayers are already impacted by rising costs and are looking to cut costs. Those opposed asked taxpayers to realize the impact their votes have on tax bills.

**Fiscal impact:** The Proposed Operating Budget impact is \$0.433 per \$1,000 valuation. The Default Budget impact is \$0.089 per \$1,000 valuation. For a home valued at \$400,000 this means that the Proposed Operating Budget will cost \$173.20 more than last year in annual property taxes and the Default Budget will cost \$35.60 more than last year, or a difference of \$137.60. The number to use if you are calculating for your own property would be the difference between the two or .344 per thousand dollars of property valuation.

A “Collective Bargaining Agreement” (CBA) is the result of extensive negotiations between the Town and an employee Union regarding topics such as wages, hours, benefits and terms and conditions of employment. As an overarching statement related to the four CBAs in Articles 14, 15, 16 & 17, the Town has had difficulty hiring due to Hampton’s wages being non-competitive with surrounding municipalities. Further, the Town Departments have trained employees only to have them leave for higher-paying positions in the area. Thus, there are many unfilled positions. When the Departments are understaffed, it affects the service levels for Hampton residents and contributes to higher costs by way of overtime pay for the employees that the Town does have. To address this, the first year of the contracts reflect a market rate adjustment. In the subsequent 2 years of each of the contracts, the increases range from 2% - 4% (different by group but all within that range). Articles 14 and 15 also incorporate a pay matrix, where the employees are recognized for their skill sets. That provides a way of rewarding employees to remain with the Town and still advance with regard to responsibility and with regard to pay.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against Articles 14, 15 16 or 17 at Deliberative Session.

#### **Article 14: Collective Bargaining Agreement - Public Works Employees - \$141,954 in 2024 (39 weeks)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the SEIU Local1984 (Public Works employees), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels, over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Estimated Increase (over previous year level)

2024 (39 weeks)	\$141,954
2025 (52 weeks)	\$147,904
2026 (52 weeks)	\$ 98,466
2027 (13 weeks)	\$ 21,375



And to further raise and appropriate \$141,954 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

**What it Means:** This Article asks for voter approval of a new CBA that seeks to give Public Work employees a way to improve their career standing by increasing their skills. This new approach is built into the salary scale that is reflected in the Article. This agreement covers 34 employees.

**Those in favor say:** Allowing existing employees to advance in a step fashion benefits both the employee (better wage opportunities) and the Town (better ability to retain employees and to recruit when needed.)

**Fiscal impact:** If Article 14 is approved, a property valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$14.40 in 2024, and an increase of \$15.00 for the highest cost year in the contract period (2025). Cost per thousand dollars of valuation is .036 cents in 2024.

#### **Article 15: Collective Bargaining Agreement - Town Employees - \$91,150 in 2024 (39 weeks)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the SEIU Local 1984 (Town Employees), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels, over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Estimated Increase (over previous year level)

2024 (39 weeks)	\$91,150
2025 (52 weeks)	\$85,143
2026 (52 weeks)	\$69,667
2027 (13 weeks)	\$17,237

And to further raise and appropriate \$91,150 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

**What it means:** Similar to Article 14, this CBA allows for employee advancement by acquiring new skills that benefit the Town. The agreement covers 26 employees who work in Town Hall, as well as the civilian employees at the Police Department such as Police Dispatchers.

**Those in favor say:** Getting to competitive wages helps control costs, since the Town is not constantly having to go through repetitive hiring cycles. Increased costs for extensive (and sometimes unproductive) hiring efforts could be better invested elsewhere, and high turnover also hampers the ability to build cross-department rapport, which is critical for the smooth functioning of the Town.

**Fiscal impact:** If Article 15 is approved, a property valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$9.20 in 2024. Cost per thousand dollars of valuation is .023 cents in 2024.



## **Article 16 – Collective Bargaining Agreement - Professional Firefighters - \$300,420 in 2024 (39 weeks)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Professional Firefighters Association, Local 2664, IAFF (Firefighters), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels, over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Estimated Increase (over previous year level)

2024 (39 weeks)	\$300,420
2025 (52 weeks)	\$228,298
2026 (52 weeks)	\$162,421
2027 (13 weeks)	\$37,150

And to further raise and appropriate \$300,420 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

**What it means:** This CBA covers 36 people: (4) fire alarm operators and (32) firefighters' positions. The proposed agreement would bring our firefighters, who work in a more active community than many of the other towns studied, up to the average mark of compensation in the region.

**Those in favor say:** Firefighter salaries for Hampton were compared to Seabrook, Exeter, North Hampton, Rye, Dover and Portsmouth. Hampton was found to be the lowest, and this factor is making it difficult to hire and retain employees. We currently have 4 openings, and only 10 applicants – not all of whom are qualified.

**Fiscal impact:** If Article 16 is approved, a property valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$30.40 in 2024, with lesser increases in each of the subsequent years in the contract period. Cost per thousand dollars of valuation is .076 cents in 2024.

## **Article 17 – Collective Bargaining Agreement - Fire Dept Supervisory Assoc - \$95,422 in 2024 (39 weeks)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Professional Firefighters Association, Local 2664, IAFF (Supervisors), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels, over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Estimated Increase (over previous year level)

2024 (39 weeks)	\$95,422
2025 (52 weeks)	\$64,080
2026 (52 weeks)	\$52,205
2027 (13 weeks)	\$12,130



And to further raise and appropriate \$95,422 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

**What it means:** Article 17 CBA covers 13 positions within the Fire Department, as follows: Secretary & Part Time Fire Prevention Secretary, Fire Prevention Officer, Lieutenants (working supervisors who ride on the trucks and manage the operations of the fire station), Captains (shift commanders who ride on the trucks, manage the day-to-day operations of their shift, and develop daily work schedules) and the Deputy Fire Chief who oversees the day-to-day operations of the fire department. This agreement provides a Market Rate adjustment, and subsequent smaller increases in years 2 and 3.

**Those in favor say:** These positions support critical emergency service in Hampton and the people involved have worked diligently in difficult situations. These are the folks whose day-to-day leadership and training assure that the firefighters go safely home at the end of each shift.

**Fiscal impact:** If Article 17 is approved, a property valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$9.66 in 2024, with lesser increases in each of the subsequent years in the contract period. Cost per thousand dollars of valuation is .024 cents in 2024.

Articles 18, 20 and 26 if approved, will draw upon the Unassigned Fund Balance for a cost reduction to taxpayers in the current year of \$1,154,500 - roughly \$36.00 savings for a home valued at \$400,000. This is in addition to \$2 million from the Unassigned Fund Balance that was used to lower the tax revenue needed to meet general budgetary requirements.

The Unassigned Fund Balance consists of excess funding that comes from either more revenues than expected (Example: the Rooms and Meals Tax distribution from the State; or higher than anticipated revenues from Trust Funds) OR from lower than anticipated costs (example expenses approved by the taxpayers that cost less than expected, or the project is not pursued.)

There is a required minimum funding that a municipality needs in the Unassigned Fund. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) recommends 5%-17% of the municipality's overall budget be held as "unassigned" to cover emergencies and to mitigate the fluctuations in the timing of revenue received and outlays required. The top end of this exigency translates to over \$5 million for Hampton. Even with the hold-back requirements, there is excess funding to dedicate to projects the Town Departments feel are needed. If the voters approve these expenditures and if they were NOT being funded by the Unassigned Fund Balance, it would require additional taxation.

If all the Articles that call upon the Unassigned Fund Balance are passed, it would reduce the Unassigned Fund by \$1.1 million, which would leave adequate backup resources, and would still allow the town to qualify for a lower bond rate for Warrant Articles that are bond-funded.

When you see "no tax impact in 2024" associated with an Article that uses the Unassigned Fund Balance, it means there is no need to raise new tax revenue to cover the proposed costs, because the money was previously raised, earned or conserved. However, the voters have the ability to approve or reject the proposed use of those funds.



## **Article 18: Purchase of a Jet Vacuum Truck - \$635,000 (UFB)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$635,000 for the purpose of purchasing a Jet Vacuum truck to be used by the sewer and drain division to clean catch basins, manholes, drainage and sewer systems. The replaced vehicle to be traded in or sold as deemed to be prudent by the Public Works Director, Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. Said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the purchase is completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever is sooner.

**What it means:** The DPW Jet Vacuum Truck is used by Sewer and Drain Division to clean catch basins, manholes, drainage and sewer systems. The funding will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which means that there will be no new tax impact in 2024.

**Those in favor say:** With interest rates high, it was deemed more favorable to purchase the truck outright, rather than lease. The existing Vac truck is rusting to a point that holes are forming, seals are weakened and not replaceable and vacuum suction is decreasing. The new truck will have increased capacity, making it more efficient with less dumping. There will be more power for vacuuming, giving us the ability to maintain areas that are currently not serviceable. The jetting capabilities are also increased. The retiring truck was a 6-wheeler; the replacement truck will be a 10-wheeler.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** This Article proposes the use of the Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for the truck. The taxpayer will not see any increased cost in 2024 if this proposal is approved by the voters.

## **Article 19: Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$500,000**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of adding to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established under Article 16 of the 1998 Annual Town Meeting.

**What it means:** Establishing and funding a Capital Reserve Fund helps spread the cost of needed work over multiple years. Savings will be available for future maintenance and improvements to the roadways and associated sidewalks within the Town of Hampton. Approval is required by Town Meeting (your vote) to use this Fund. The current value of the fund without this appropriation, but after the use of \$500,000 towards the recently approved High Street Improvements project is \$2,335,091. Projects that may be considered using funds from this reserve account could include, but are not limited to:

- Moulton Road Improvements
- Mace Road Improvements
- Winnacunnet Road Improvements

**No one spoke for or against this Article at Deliberative Session, other than to explain it.**

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.126. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$50.40 for 2024. However, \$500,000 was approved and was part of the 2023 tax bill. Thus, this would remain constant with 2023 tax bills, i.e. no increase over last year.





## **Article 20: Replace/Upgrade Drainage Infrastructure in Specific Areas - \$492,000 (UFB)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$492,000 for the purpose of replacing/upgrading the drainage infrastructure in these areas:

- Mary Batchelder Rd: Approximately 600 linear feet of deteriorated pipe and catch basins.
- Hackett Lane Pump Station: Replace and upgrade this pump station that is responsible for draining runoff through the Town's Drainage system.
- High Street Parking Lot, install water quality improvements as required under the Town's MS4 permit and redefine the layout of the High St. Parking lot to maximize parking and delineate markings and signage.

**What it means:** This Article asks for approval for costs associated with the engineering, design, permitting, and construction of drainage infrastructure upgrades in three areas, identified by inspections as requiring immediate work.

**Those in favor say:** Half of Mary Batchelder Road was paved last year, but the balance could not be paved because the corrugated metal pipes underneath the road are deteriorated. This project would fix the pipes and so that the roads can be repaved. The funding sought under this Article would also replace the Hackett Lane pump station which helps prevent flooding in the Hackett Lane area. Finally, the funding would be used to improve the water filtration aspects of the High Street Parking Lot to improve water quality as required by New Hampshire Permitting, and to maximize parking.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** This Article proposes the use of the Unassigned Fund Balance. The taxpayer will not see any increased cost in 2024 if this proposal is approved by the voters.

## **Article 21: Road Improvements - \$678,300 (State Highway Block Grant Partial Offset)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$678,300 for the purpose of improvements to streets, sidewalks, and driveway openings; replacements to drainage and/or sewers; curbing maintenance or installation; and improvements and repairs to Town parking lots, parking areas, and cemeteries. Said appropriation to be offset by the State Highway Block Grant estimated to be \$325,682.

If the grant is not fully received, the remainder to be raised through taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the improvements are completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever occurs sooner.

**What it means:** Hampton anticipates receiving a NH DOT Highway Grant that helps to maintain Class IV and Class V “highways” (basically compact sections of town roads). Funds are applied to specific projects identified by DPW and approved by the Board of Selectmen. Identifying projects is a fluid process, as many factors can affect priority and feasibility. However, the expected focus of these funds in 2024 includes Old Town Hall parking lot, St. Cyr and Falcone Circle, Roberts Drive, Warner Lane, Rosa Road and Donna Lane.

**Those in favor say:** This funding helps DPW improve roads that do not have extensive infrastructure issues, but do need top-level repairs. The work helps to return roads to smooth working order. The cost is expected to be partially offset by a block grant from NH DOT.



**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per thousand dollars of valuation is \$ 0.089. A household valued at \$400,000 will see a tax cost of \$35.60 in 2024. A similar Article was passed last year, and was part of your tax bill. This year's number is a little higher; the increase over last year would be around \$4.80 (as opposed to the cost at \$35.60.)

## **Article 22: Parks and Recreation Department - \$220,000 (No Tax Impact)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$220,000 for the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department to upgrade, install, purchase, design, engineer and construct: drainage improvements and renovation of the ball fields at Eaton park; to add security cameras and/or security access controls within recreation areas and grounds; to replace or repair holiday decorations; picnic tables and chairs for Recreation grounds; to line and stripe additional pickleball courts on the existing tennis courts; and to contribute to the repair, service or maintenance of the fields, grounds and equipment, as determined to be in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum of \$220,000 from the Hampton Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund previously established under Article 44 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.

**What it means:** A certain portion of the parking meter revenue that goes to the Town (as opposed to the State) is deposited in the Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund, which has been designated by Hampton voters as a set-aside for the needs of the Parks and Recreation Department. Every year, needs are identified, and the voters are asked to approve withdrawal of the requested dollars from the fund for infrastructure projects.

**Those in favor say:** There is very little in the Recreation Department's budget for maintenance. The money in the Parks and Rec fund, which comes from a distribution from the state's parking meters, is used to improve recreational facilities. The ability to offer good recreational opportunities to residents is part of the culture of our town, and this expenditure, which does not require new taxes to be raised, is a crucial part of that.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** There would be no new tax impact, as the Recreation Infrastructure Fund will be tapped.

## **Article 23: Contributions to Human Service Agencies - \$155,761**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$155,761 for the purpose of funding the following twenty-one (21) human service agencies in the Seacoast area in the amounts requested for 2024.

These agencies shall be required to give a written report at the end of their fiscal year 2024 to the Board of Selectmen highlighting what the funds were used for and what impact the funds had in assisting them to achieve their goals and objectives.



Human Service Agency	2023 Funding	2024 Funding
Aids Response Seacoast	2,700	2,700
American Red Cross	2,000	2,000
Area Home Care & Family Services	12,000	12,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters	8,000	8,000
Child Advocacy Center	2,000	2,750
Court Appt Special Advocates (CASA)	1,000	1,000
Cross Roads House	15,000	15,000
Families First Health & Support Center	10,000	10,000
Friends Program Retired & Senior Volunteer	1,800	1,800
Gather	5,000	5,000
Haven Violence Protection & Support Services	7,500	7,500
New Generation Shelter	2,000	2,000
One Sky Community Services	5,100	5,100
Rockingham Community Action	25,000	25,000
Rockingham Meals on Wheels	11,811	11,811
Seacoast Family Promise	2,500	2,500
Seacoast Mental Health Center	8,000	8,000
Seacoast Visiting Nurse	40,000	0
Seacoast Youth Services	5,000	5,000
St. Vincent de Paul	3,000	3,000
Step Up Parents	500	0
Transportation Assistance for Seniors (TASC)	9,600	9,600
Waypoint	16,000	16,000
Total	\$195,511	\$155,761

**\*Note:** Gather received \$5,000 last year via a separate Warrant Article.

**Also note** that if Article 35 is approved by the voters, the donation to Cross Roads House will add \$24,000 for a total of \$39,000 rather than the \$15,000 shown in the chart on the next page. See Article 35 for more details.

**What it means:** Each of the listed agencies will receive a donation from the town in the noted amount. The funds raised and donated last year are provided for comparison. This is an “all or none” Warrant Article. If the Article passes, all the listed agencies receive the specified donations. If it fails, none do. The funding requested is considerably lower than last year, because the Seacoast Visiting Nurse Group and Step Up Parents withdrew their funding requests. The Child Advocacy Center has increased their funding request, but the bottom line is still lower than 2023.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.039. A household valued at \$400,000 would see \$15.60 incorporated in the tax bill for 2024. However, since a similar cost has been part of the tax base for some time, there is essentially no increased tax (and in fact a reduction in the tax bill.)



#### **Article 24: Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000 (No Tax Impact)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of conducting all lawful functions allowed under federal, state, and local criminal justice forfeiture programs and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum of \$90,000 from the Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund previously established under Article 55 of the 2003 Town Meeting.

**What it means:** During police operations, items of value may be forfeited by individuals. There are expenses associated with the management of such property, including storage, the return of items where appropriate, etc. NH law permits the auctioning of abandoned property, and the proceeds are put into a fund. This Article would allow the funds to be withdrawn to cover departmental costs, as approved via the RSAs. The actual amount is unknown at voting time. The \$90,000 is seen as the upper limit of what may be available to withdraw.

**Those in favor say:** No one spoke in favor of this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Those opposed say:** Those opposed take issue with the taking of property, or have issues with how funds are spent. Both of these issues are defined at the state level and are not affected by the voters' decision.

**Fiscal impact:** There would be no new tax impact, since this money is in a set-aside fund. This is a routine measure, seen every year, to allow the withdrawal of the funds for various Police Department needs.

#### **Article 25: Lane Library Repairs and Upgrades - \$50,000**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of completing physical repairs to, and upgrading items at Lane Memorial Library, including repairing the portico area, installing an interior wall and door with associated work as well as to implement certain IT upgrades. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the improvements are completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever is sooner.

**What it means:** The portico area of the Lane Library is leaking, and causing internal repair issues in several areas. This funding request would address that, and convert unused space into a secure office with the construction of a wall and door. The final cost item relates to a website migration to better accommodate a large amount of historical data that the library has accumulated.

**Those in favor say:** The standing library budget is only \$6,000 and does not allow for more significant expenditures without the support of the voting and tax paying public.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.013. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$5.20 for 2024.

#### **Article 26 – Firefighters Turn Out Gear Equipment Fund - \$27,500 (UFB)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,500 for the purpose of adding to the Firefighters Turn Out Gear/Personal Protective Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously



established under Article 17 of the 2019 Town Meeting. Said sum of \$27,500 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

**What it means:** In 2019, voters approved \$200,000 for a new Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of Firefighter's Protective Gear. This fund needs to be added to regularly, so that as gear is replaced using money withdrawn from the fund, additional funds will be available for future needs. This Article would transfer the funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Turnout Gear Reserve Fund. The value of the fund at the end of 2023 was roughly 141,700.

**Those in favor say:** This is an annual procedure to keep our Firefighters safe. A single set of firefighting gear costs around \$6,000. There are strict standards with regard to the amount of service before the gear must be replaced, and that has meant 4-5 new sets of equipment each year. To pay for this expense, a reserve fund was established and needs to be regularly replenished. This Article allows funds to be taken from the Unassigned Fund Balance for this purpose. One person at Deliberative Session asked why it is not part of the budget. He was advised that in the event the proposed operating budget fails, the additional put-aside for firefighting gear could not take place. That's why it is offered to the voters as a separate item to approve.

**No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.**

**Fiscal impact:** There is no new tax impact in 2024. This Article is allowing the transfer of funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the previously-established Firefighter Turnout Gear Reserve Fund.

#### **Article 27 – Forest Maintenance Fund - \$15,000**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of adding to the Forest Maintenance Fund previously established under Article 33 of the 2015 Town Meeting. The purpose of this fund is to maintain the town forest through activities such as trail maintenance and development, signage, and removal of invasives in accordance with RSA 31:113.

**What it means:** The purpose of this fund is to maintain the town forest (aka White's Lane or Twelve Share – a collection of parcels between Barbour Road and the North Hampton town line that is overseen by the Town's Conservation Commission) which has been set aside for passive recreation such as hiking, biking, walking, and hunting. Activities to be covered under the requested funding are development of trails including signage, removal of downed limbs, and control of invasive species.

**Those in favor say:** Like any recreational area, regular maintenance is required to maintain the accessibility of this asset now and for future use.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at the Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.004. A household valued at \$400,000 would see \$1.60 incorporated into the tax bill for 2024.

#### **Article 28 – Victory Garden Expansion - \$10,000**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of renovating the Hampton Victory Garden and develop new garden plots to accommodate more gardeners. This



project would involve cleaning up the back portion of the property, relocating the existing shed, and may involve renovating the pathways within the garden, improving the existing fence, and providing compost and/or other suitable organic material to improve the soil health within the garden. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the improvements are completed or by March 31, 2028, whichever occurs sooner.

**What it means:** Located on Barbour Road, the Victory Garden was established in 1992 and is overseen by the Conservation Commission. There are approximately 50 plots, 15x20 feet each. Interested gardeners lease the lots from the Town. Those fees are used to maintain the space on a regular basis. Gardeners are responsible for their own supplies. There is currently a waitlist of over 20 people, and the average wait time is 4-5 years. This project would convert unused space adjacent to the current gardens (also owned by the Town) into additional plots to accommodate more gardeners.

**Those in favor say:** This is a valuable resource for the Town, as evidenced by the long waitlist. It is a great way for people to be outdoors and to be in a community with other gardeners.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.003. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$1.20 for 2024.

## **Article 29 – Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents Ages 65+ (Town Version)**

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to modify the Elderly exemptions for property tax in the Town, pursuant to N.H. RSA 72:27-a, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65-74 years of age increase to \$175,000 (currently \$140,000); for a person 75-79 years of age increase to \$225,000 (currently \$168,000); for a person 80 years of age or older increase to \$300,000 (currently \$221,000), and additionally adjust the income level of the single filer to \$42,000 (currently \$38,000), married filing jointly to \$75,000 (currently \$58,000).

To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) consecutive years preceding April 1st, must own the real estate individually, or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married and living together for at least five (5) years, in addition the taxpayers must have a net income of not more than \$42,000 (currently \$38,000) if single, or if married, a combined net income of \$75,000 (currently \$58,000), and own net assets not in excess of \$250,000 excluding the value of the person's primary residence which must be in the Town of Hampton. If Article 29 passes, Article 33 would be Null and Void.

**What it means:** In Hampton (as in many towns), we have real estate tax exemptions that are granted to lower-income older residents to assist with their tax burden, to allow them to remain in their homes. The way it works is the amounts referenced in the chart below are taken off the assessed value of the home prior to calculating the taxes for that property. There are net income and net asset limitations, since the program is meant to help those in need. The net income test includes but is not limited to Social Security, pension payments and IRA distributions. For perspective, in 2022 (the most recent year published by the state of NH as of this writing), exemptions reduced the Town's taxable valuation by roughly \$30 Million, of which the elderly exemption represents 90%. This was equivalent to about \$430,000 in tax expense that was redistributed to other taxpayers.





The Article as revised at Deliberative Session indicates that if Article 29 passes, Article 33 (a petitioned Warrant Article) would be null and void. That is because the two articles deal with the same topic, with different qualifying income and asset limitations. They could not both be enacted. Below is a chart that compares the two proposals:

#### Deduction from the Assesed Valuation Prior to Calculating Taxes Owed

Age of Homeowner	Current Exempted Amount	Proposed Article 29	Proposed Article 33
65-74	\$140,000	\$175,000	\$165,000
75-79	\$168,000	\$225,000	\$183,000
80+	\$221,000	\$300,000	\$236,000

Income Limit	Current Income Limit	Proposed Article 29	Proposed Article 33
Single	\$38,000	\$42,000	\$100,000
Married	\$58,000	\$75,000	\$200,000

Net Asset Limit*	Current Asset Limit	Article 29	Article 33
	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

\* Excludes Primary residence, which must be in Hampton.

**Those in favor say:** Hampton will have a regularly scheduled revaluation of property values this year. If the value of the exemptions are not raised, some people who would otherwise qualify for the exemption would be excluded and could be in danger of losing their homes if the increased real estate taxes could not be paid.

**Those opposed say:** There was no voiced disagreement with the intent of this Article, but there was a lot of discussion about the appropriate new levels to use. The dollar amounts shown for Article 29 are the ones agreed to at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** There is no direct tax impact, but to the degree that this Article, if approved, reduces the taxable base, it will mean that other mostly younger taxpayers will pick up the difference.

#### Article 30 – Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents with Disabilities

To see if the Town of Hampton will vote to modify the Disabled exemption for property tax in the Town of Hampton, pursuant to N.H. RSA 72:37-b based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: the exemption level would increase to \$175,000 (currently \$125,000), and additionally adjust the income level of the single filer to \$42,000 (currently \$38,000), married filing jointly to \$75,000 (currently \$58,000).

To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five (5) consecutive years preceding April 1st, must own the real estate individually, or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married and living together for at least five (5) years, in addition the taxpayers must have a net income of not more than \$42,000 (currently \$38,000) if single, or if married, a combined net income of \$75,000 (currently \$58,000), and own net assets not in excess of \$250,000 excluding the value of the person's primary residence which must be in the Town of Hampton.

**What it means:** This Article has the same wording as Article 29, but applies to people with disabilities. It concerns the amount of assessed value that is subtracted from the property valuation before calculating taxes



owed for people who meet the criteria. For these purposes, a person is considered “disabled” if he or she meets the criteria for disability that are used under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act.

For perspective, in 2022 (the most recent year published by the state of NH as of this writing) exemptions reduced the Town’s taxable Valuation by roughly \$30 Million, of which the exemption for people with disabilities represents about 8% or \$38,000 redistributed.

**Fiscal impact:** There is no direct tax impact, but to the degree that this Article, if approved, reduces the taxable base, it will mean that other taxpayers will pick up the difference.

### **Article 31 – Hampton Christmas Parade - \$3,000**

On the petition of John Woodburn and at least 25 Hampton registered voters, shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to pay to Experience Hampton Inc, the organizer of the 2010 to 2023 Hampton Holiday Parade, to help defray the expenses of the 2024 Holiday Parade and related activities. The parade will be held in December of 2024.

**What it means:** This request is for an annual donation to Experience Hampton to help fund the Holiday parade, which generally occurs in early December.

**Those in favor say:** The parade involves many groups, including businesses, schools and local officials. The total cost of the parade is \$15,000, of which the taxpayers are being asked to absorb a percentage.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** Cost per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.001. A household valued at \$400,000 would see \$0.40 incorporated into the tax bill for 2024. The town has supported this donation in the past at the same level, so it would technically not be an increase.

### **Article 32: Creation of a Telecommunications Committee**

On the petition of Amy Gunzelmann and at least 25 Hampton voters, shall the Town of Hampton vote to create a Telecommunications Committee that will have representation from the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and members of the public to oversee the planning and permitting of new telecommunication and cellular facilities within the Town of Hampton. Currently, the town does not have adequate oversight to address large areas that lack cellular service while assuring that new facilities do not negatively impact residents.

- The Telecommunications Committee shall consist of 7 regular members, all to be appointed by the Planning Board, would report annually, and receive regular input from Town residents. The Committee would set its agenda based on community needs and concerns.
- Responsibilities of the Telecommunications Committee would include reviewing and revising Zoning Article XVI — Telecommunications Facility Ordinance; it was adopted in 1999 and does not properly address current technologies or knowledge of such technology's impacts. Amendments to Zoning Article XVI would include appropriate minimum setbacks and/or exposure levels for cellular antennas from property lines, residences, and schools; proper notification to abutters when new projects are proposed; and development of a Master Plan for wireless coverage in Hampton that



minimizes the number of individual towers constructed by private companies and positions them in a way that prioritizes the health of Hampton citizens.

- Decision-making by the Telecommunications Committee regarding new cellular facilities would be driven by a needs assessment of coverage gaps within our town and follow the recommendation of the bi-partisan New Hampshire Commission on the Health and Environmental Impacts of 5G and Wireless Technology.
- The proposed Telecommunications Committee would become a resource for information about cellular projects within the town.

The formation of this committee would empower the Town of Hampton to provide robust cellular service while ensuring its residents' health and property rights are protected.

**What it means:** This Article if approved would form a new committee to oversee issues related to improving telecommunications in Hampton. The concept grew out of the issues faced by the community with the proposal to add cell towers at a Barbour Road property in conjunction with a developer of cellular infrastructure. That proposal highlighted the issues of spotty cellular connections in portions of Hampton, as well as home owner concerns about living in proximity to a cell tower structure.

**What everyone seemed to agree upon:** Cell service in many areas of Hampton is poor. We rely upon cell service for everything from emergency services to GPS to Two Factor Authentication. There should be a proactive effort in Hampton to improve service while respecting the rights and concerns of homeowners.

**Those in favor say:** Technology is changing rapidly and there needs to be focus on the evolving options in order for the Town administrators to fully understand how to best establish and maintain reliable communication capability for residents. It would be good if members of the community (as part of this proposed committee) could weigh in on this issue and help to steer the solutions.

**Those opposed say:** The way the Article is written, it is unclear how the Committee would function especially with regard to the Planning Board, Zoning Board or the Cable TV Committee, and whether it would be an advisory committee. The point was made that the members of the Boards that now have jurisdiction on issues related to communications are members of the community, too and seek commentary from the wider public – meaning the objective of including citizen participation is being met with our current Boards and Committees. The Planning Board has taken note of this issue and has added the topic to its worklist for 2024. There will be an exploration of the Ordinances and how they might be revised to address some of the concerns that were raised. This is the work of the Planning Department and having another Committee will slow things down and potentially complicate matters. There is also a lack of clarity as to whether the members are appointed by the Planning Board, or are designated representatives from various Boards.

**Fiscal impact:** No direct tax impact.

### **Article 33 - Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents Ages 65+ (Petitioned Version)**

On the petition of Regina Barnes and at least 25 Hampton voters, shall the Town of Hampton modify the Elderly exemptions for property tax in the Town of Hampton, pursuant to N.H. RSA 72:27-a, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 Years of age up to 75 years increase to \$165,000 (currently \$140,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years increase to \$183,000 (currently \$168,000); for a person 80 years of age or older increase to \$236,000 (currently \$221,000). To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) consecutive years preceding April 1<sup>st</sup>



must own the real estate individually, or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married and living together for at least five (5) years, in addition the taxpayers must have a net income of not more than \$100,000 (currently \$38,000) if single, or if married, a combined net income of less than \$200,000 (currently \$58,000), and own net assets not in excess of \$500,000 (currently \$250,000) excluding the value of the person's primary residence which must be in the Town of Hampton.

**What it means:** This Article addresses exactly the same topic as Article 29, except the petitioner proposes less of an upward change in valuation exemptions versus Article 29, and proposes that both the income and asset limits be much higher. Under this scenario, many more people would qualify to have their taxes reduced, thus redistributing that tax burden to other, mainly younger taxpayers. The average value of a residence in Hampton is \$400,000 (prior to the revaluation). Since the value of the primary residence in Hampton is excluded in the asset formula, a person could have a net asset value of \$900,000 or more and still qualify under this proposal. Similarly, a single filer could have an income of \$100,000 or a married couple could have an income of \$200,000 and still qualify. Thus, many more people in the age groups noted would qualify for the tax exemption, and the taxes that would be excused for them would be picked up by the remaining homeowners.

#### **Deduction from the Assessed Valuation Prior to Calculating Taxes Owed**

<b>Age of Homeowner</b>	<b>Current Exempted Amount</b>	<b>Proposed Article 29</b>	<b>Proposed Article 33</b>
65-74	\$140,000	\$175,000	\$165,000
75-79	\$168,000	\$225,000	\$183,000
80+	\$221,000	\$300,000	\$236,000

<b>Income Limit</b>	<b>Current Income Limit</b>	<b>Proposed Article 29</b>	<b>Proposed Article 33</b>
Single	\$38,000	\$42,000	\$100,000
Married	\$58,000	\$75,000	\$200,000

<b>Net Asset Limit*</b>	<b>Current Asset Limit</b>	<b>Article 29</b>	<b>Article 33</b>
	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

\* Excludes Primary residence, which must be in Hampton.

**Those in favor say:** No one spoke in favor of the Article at Deliberative Session.

**Those opposed say:** It was expressed at Deliberative Session that the intent of this program is to help seniors who might not be able to pay their full tax bill to remain in their homes. The limits proposed in this Article as qualifying amounts make the exemption available to people with an income and a net asset value much higher than what might be considered “needs-based” under the original intent of the program. This Article, if approved, would reduce the taxable base, and thus require other taxpayers will pick up the difference.

**Fiscal impact:** There is no direct tax impact, but if enacted there would be a shifting of responsibility with regard to who pays for the needed town revenue.



## **Article 34 – Request for the Town to Take Responsibility for Specific Private Roads**

On a petition by at least 25 registered voters, to see if the Town will formally accept "as is" and at no cost to the Town, Ice House Lane and Reuben's Driftway, that were located on "The Winter Road to the Fish Houses", an historic Town road created (by prescription) from more than 20 years of public use and documented in historical maps, plans and deeds from 1841 through the 1970's. These roads contain 14 households and are paved, well-maintained and have town sewer mains installed. Upon passage, this article shall not become effective until (1) all parties having an ownership interest in these roads have signed a release indemnifying the Town from any damages that might result from their re-dedication as town roads and (2) the physical roadways have been conveyed to the Town. This acceptance process shall be at no cost to the Town.

**What it means:** A group of homeowners who have been maintaining their streets, as required by the permitting process and as agreed to by the developer, now request that the Town assume ownership of the roads and the maintenance responsibility. The process of transferring the roads will be at no cost to the Town.

**Those in favor say:** No one spoke in favor of the Article at Deliberative Session.

**Those opposed say:** This Article would add to the services the Town needs to provide, and could potentially be an additional cost if defects are discovered under the roads, since the Town would be accepting the roads on an "as is" basis. The road is dedicated to 14 homes, and was allowed by the Town with the understanding that the Homeowner's Association would maintain the roads.

**Fiscal impact:** There is no direct tax impact, but would add to services required, and could potentially be a cost if work is needed under the roads, which were built privately and thus outside of the Town's specifications.

## **Article 35 – Increased Funding for Crossroads House This Year and Going Forward - \$24,000**

We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Hampton request the Board to insert the following article on the Warrant for the March Town Meeting of Hampton, New Hampshire. Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000 for the purpose of increasing the funding to 25% of the actual cost for the human services provided to our citizens by Cross Roads House, Inc. of 600 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth, NH. This would be in addition to the longstanding amount of \$15,000 that the Town of Hampton has budgeted annually to Cross Roads House since 2006.

**What it means:** Cross Roads House, Inc. is requesting that the amount provided by Hampton each year (historically \$15,000) be increased to \$39,000, and to be added in that higher amount to the annual Social Services Article. As rationale, they note that the current donation only handles about 10% of the average cost of serving a homeless person or family. The increased amount, should it be approved, would be just over 25% of the average cost for Hampton residents who utilize Cross Roads House.

Because the amount requested was increased substantially, the Board of Selectmen asked the petitioner to keep the \$15,000 amount in Article 23 with the other social services agencies, and to make the increased amount a separate Warrant Article this year. If this Article passes, the intent would be to add the higher amount (\$39,000) to the Social Services Article along with all the others in subsequent years. The new total for Cross Roads House in 2024 would be \$39,000 (the \$15,000 in Article 23 and the \$24,000 under this Article), assuming voter approval.



**Those in favor say:** Cross Roads House helps individuals and families to secure housing, and provides guidance to assist these individuals to regain their footing to become productive members of their communities.

**Those opposed say:** No one spoke against this Article at Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal impact:** The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.006 per \$1,000 valuation. A household valued at \$400,000 would see a tax increase of \$2.40 for this Article. The total \$39,000 for Cross Roads House amounts to \$3.90 for property valued at \$400,000.

### **Article 36 – New P/T Position Veterans Outreach Coordinator - \$ 0**

On the petition of twenty-five registered voters in the Town of Hampton, to see if the Town of Hampton will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 to fund the salary of a new part time position of a Veterans Outreach Coordinator. This will be a part time position of 28 hours per week. The role of this position will be to assist all military members of our community, both active and retired, in acquiring benefits they are duly entitled to through both State and Federal agencies. This position will not receive benefits other than salary from the Town. This cost is to be included in the annual budget and Default Budget moving forward. This appropriation would be over and above the existing positions funded in the 2023 operating budget.

**What it means:** The petitioners had cited a salary of \$29,701.40 but that dollar provision was deleted at Deliberative Session. As amended, it is impractical to enact.

**Those in favor say:** No one spoke in favor of the Article at Deliberative Session.

**Those opposed say:** The reason the attendees at the first Town Meeting zeroed out the cost of this Article is that there were too many unknowns. There are many state and federal agencies that provide services for veterans. It is unclear why this position is necessary or how the person in this role would interact with other agencies. It is unclear to whom this position would report at Town Hall, or where they would have an office. The Article states that the person would not get benefits. Presumably, this is a reference to the 28 hours per week disqualifying the position from the benefits afforded full-time employees, but there are still benefits that part-timers qualify for, and this position would as well. It was suggested that the Board of Selectmen review the needs of Veterans and readdress the issue next year.

**Fiscal impact:** This Article was zeroed out at Deliberative Session, essentially making it impractical to implement. There would be no fiscal impact as amended.

### **Article 37 – Change to the Way Fiscal Information Is Represented on the Ballot**

On the petition of twenty-five registered voters in the Town of Hampton. Shall the Town of Hampton provide taxpayers a more relevant cost estimate for proposed spending Warrant Articles? This Fiscal Impact modification simplifies awareness of the expected cost for the taxpayer associated with each spending article and provides the calculation for not only cost per \$1000 property valuation (currently), but also the valuation of a typical Hampton home of \$400,000. If passed, all subsequent spending Warrant Articles providing estimated Tax Impact will also display the calculation for \$400,000 valuation. This applies to all spending articles beginning February 2025. As an example, a Warrant Article showing a \$0.077 cost per \$1000 property valuation would also display as “Tax impact for \$400,000 valuation = \$ 30.80”.





**What it means:** The petitioner is requesting that the tax impact of Warrant initiatives be represented on the ballot as both the dollar cost per thousand (current) and the specific impact on a property valued at \$400,000.

**Those in favor say:** The intent of the Article is to make it easier for people to understand how much their own tax would be.

**Those opposed say:** People will still need to do the math, since only a subset of homes will have close to the \$400,00 valuation. It will be a moving target, even to present it as the “average”, since valuations are likely to change with periodic revaluations. The cost per \$1,000 is the “least common denominator” approach and is easy enough for most people.

Note: In the Know Hampton provides the translation to the average home value of \$400,000 and will update the average each year.

**Fiscal impact:** No direct tax impact.

### **Article 38 – Change to How the Use of the Unassigned Fund Balance is Represented on the Warrant**

On the petition of twenty-five registered voters in the Town of Hampton. Shall the Town of Hampton revise each Town Spending Warrant Article claiming No Tax Impact or Zero Tax Impact to adopt format modifications to the Fiscal Impact Note which identifies the Town has already collected taxes from you in previous years and are now suggesting where the Town wants those funds to be spent? No new tax impact for (year). Most articles displaying zero impact are funded by the “Unassigned Funding Balance” referred to as UFB, identifying previously taxed funds.

**What it means:** The petitioner is requesting that the Town add the terminology “No New Tax Impact for (current year). The rationale is that it would make it clear that the project is not “free” but is coming from previously accumulated funds, such that no new taxes are required.

**Those in favor say:** There should be, for transparency purposes, additional language to Warrant Articles that draw upon the Unassigned Fund Balance for the funding of the Article, to clarify that the spending is actually using funds, in part, that were already taxed and collected.

**Those opposed say:** The Warrant already shows the requested language (no new taxes for (year). This addition is not necessary. Further, the voters should understand that it is not just tax monies collected and not used that makes up the Unassigned Fund Balance. It is also funds received from invested Trusts; grant money received, good fiscal management, etc.

**Fiscal impact:** No direct tax impact.

### **Article 39 – Zero-Based Budget Preparation**

On the petition of twenty-five registered voters in the Town of Hampton. Shall all Town of Hampton Departments be required to adopt "Zero-Based" budgeting when preparing and submitting budgets to the Town Manager for consideration starting in 2025 with proposals for 2026? All Town Departments are to start at \$0.00, justify every expense in each department, and then review each department budget with the Budget Committee for inclusion in the annual Operating Budget Proposal Warrant Article. Although this requires more



effort for the departments and committee, it avoids the current method of starting with what was spent the previous year as the basis for the following year's budget. Zero-Based budgeting is in place at Town, County, and State legislatures throughout the country. It is NOT applied at the Federal level although Presidential candidates from both parties propose having Congress adopt this method to reduce the Federal deficit.

**What it means:** Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. Every function within the department is analyzed for needs and costs. The budgets are then built around what is needed for the upcoming period, regardless of whether each budget is higher or lower than the previous one.

**Those in favor say:** The method of “Zero-Based” budgeting would help identify more urgent needs of the Town and prioritize over more minor needs. The practice is used in business in planning for future needs and adds clarity to how budgets are produced.

**Those opposed say:** The Board of Selectmen have not taken a position on this Article since it would most likely be non-binding. This budgeting method works well in business, but due to the structure of current town management, this budgeting method would only be advisory. It would cross the authority of the Selectmen and Town Manager in the SB2 form of government (meaning towns that use a Town Manager), and would not add clarity due to the processes established for this type of town management. It was also noted that any resident currently has the right and opportunity to bring issues of priority to the Board of Selectmen.

**Fiscal impact:** No direct tax impact.

#### **Article 40 – Elimination of the Unassigned Fund Balance and Handling of Excess Revenue or Underspensing versus Taxes Collected**

On the petition of twenty-five registered voters in the Town of Hampton. Shall the Town of Hampton abolish the Unassigned Funding Balance, limit any and all tax surplus to a 15% “emergency reserve” fund and annually proportionally refund the taxpayer the excess overtaxed funds? This would abolish the Unassigned Funding Balance (UFB) that is currently in place and used to pay for things not included in the Operating Budget. These are revealed to the taxpayer as Fiscal Impact Notes in the current Town Warrant Articles as “No Tax Impact” or “Zero Tax Impact” when in fact, those funds were already collected as Property Taxes in prior years. These items appear to be free. They are not. Surplus funds over and above the “emergency reserve” 15% would be refunded to Property Taxpayers annually as a physical check refunding what was overpaid. The Town Moderator will announce these values to Taxpayers during the annual Town Deliberative Session identifying the tax refund for that year. The amounts presented are similar to the proposed cost of each spending Warrant Article, identifying what a refund would be for \$1000 property valuation, as well as the refund amount for an average home valuation of \$400,000.

**What it means:** The petitioner requested at Deliberative Session to have this Article deleted from the Warrant. The rationale was that, with subsequent understanding of how the Unassigned Fund Balance works, it became clear that the Unassigned Fund Balance cannot be eliminated, and it would be better to remove the question from the ballot. That is not permitted by state law, however, once it is posted for Deliberative Session.


**Those in favor say:** No one (including the petitioner who was present) spoke in favor of this Article.



**Those against say:** It is simply not possible – nor prudent – to eliminate the Unassigned Fund Balance. It serves as an emergency fund for the Town, and it helps to keep the cost of bond borrowing lower. There are only 3 ways to withdraw money from the Unassigned Fund: 1) Approval by the NH Department of Revenue Administration of an emergency expenditure; 2) Putting forward to the voters specific Warrant Article(s) that approve the purpose; or 3) Applying some of the revenue towards reducing the amount of tax revenue needed to be raised. Both #2 and #3 were utilized by the Town on this year’s Warrant.

**Fiscal impact:** No direct tax impact, however if it was even possible to do this, there would be increased costs each time we had a bond article. The bond rating agencies use the Town’s available emergency funds as a way of establishing credit-worthiness of the municipality. If we had no emergency funds on hand, it would reduce Hampton’s rating and increase the cost of borrowing.

**VOTING DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> 7 AM TO 8 PM AT WINNACUNNET H.S.  
REMEMBER TO BRING PHOTO ID.  
YOU CAN BRING YOUR NOTES WITH YOU TO THE BALLOT BOOTH TO SAVE TIME.  
THANKS FOR BEING A THINKING HAMPTONITE.**

		
<b>2024 Hampton Town Meeting Tuesday March 14th</b>		
Vote at Winnacunnet High School on Tues, 3/12 from 7 AM to 8 PM. You may bring this sheet with you to save time in the ballot booth.		
<b>Candidates for Office - circle your choice. You may also write in a candidate.</b>		
<b>2024 Candidates for Town Positions</b>		
<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Candidate Names</b>
<b>Board of Selectman (2)</b>	3 Yrs	James Waddell Richie Sawyer Carleigh Beriont
<b>Budget Committee (2)</b>	3 Yrs	Alan Barclay Scott Blair William Diblasio Steven Henderson
<b>Library Trustee (1)</b>	3 Yrs	Kimberly Olson Andrew N. Morse
<b>Planning Board (2)</b>	3 Yrs	John Tirrell Jeff Grip Brendan McNamara
<b>Supervisor of the Checklist (1)</b>	6 yrs	Nancy Stiles
<b>Supervisor of the Checklist (1)</b>	2 yrs	Katherine Desrochers
<b>Tax Collector (1)</b>	3 Yrs	Donna Bennett
<b>Trustees of Trust Fund (2)</b>	3 Yrs	Joyce Skaperdas James R. Dearden Bruce Theriault
<b>Zoning Board (2)</b>	3 Yrs	Erica de Vries Bill O'Brien John Janakos
Yellow highlighting above indicates competitive races.		



Use this handy checklist to make your notes on how you plan to vote. It will save time in the booth!

	Circle if you are choosing to vote "yes" or "no".
<b>Article #</b>	<b>Topic</b>
2	Definition of "Affordable Housing"
3	New Use in Overlay District: Alternative Treatment Center (Non-Cultivation)
4	Definition of the Term "Family" for Purposes of the Zoning Ordinances
5	Changes to Floodplain Management Ordinance
6	Change in Status for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (Family Use)
7	Changes to Ordinance Regarding Required Parking Spaces for ADA Purposes
8	Changes to Ordinance Regarding Multi-Family Dwellings and Outdoor Grilling Space
9	Changes to Ordinance Regarding Required Building Permits
10	Article 10 - \$2.5MM Bond to Replace Worn Drainage Pipes - (3/5ths Ballot vote required)
11	Wastewater Treatment Outfall Study - \$100,000. Offset by 100% Loan Forgiveness (3/5ths Ballot vote required)
12	Sludge Handling Study - \$100,000. Offset by 100% Loan Forgiveness (3/5ths Ballot vote required)
13	Operating Budget of \$34,866,529 versus a Default Budget of \$33,507,321
14	Collective Bargaining Agreement with Public Works Employees \$141,954 in 2024 (39 weeks)
15	Collective Bargaining Agreement with Town Employees - \$91,150 in 2024 (39 weeks)
16	Collective Bargaining Agreement with Professional Firefighters Assoc - \$300,420 in 2024 (39 weeks)
17	Collective Bargaining Agreement with Fire Dept Supervisory Assoc - \$95,422 in 2024 (39 weeks)
18	Purchase of a Jet Vacuum Truck - \$635,000 (UFB)
19	Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$500,000
20	Replace/Upgrade Drainage Infrastructure in Specific Areas - \$492,000 (UFB)
21	Road Improvements - \$678,300 (State Highway Block Grant Partial Offset)
22	Parks and Recreation Department \$220,000 (No Tax Impact)
23	Contributions to Human Service Agencies - \$155,761
24	Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000 (No Tax Impact)
25	Lane Library Repairs and Upgrades - \$50,000
26	Firefighters Turn Out Gear Equipment Fund - \$27,500 (UFB)
27	Forest Maintenance Fund - \$15,000
28	Victory Garden Expansion - \$10,000
29	Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents Ages 65+ (Town Version)
30	Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents with Disabilities
31	Christmas Parade - \$3,000
32	Creation of a Telecommunications Committee
33	Real Estate Tax Reduction for Hampton Residents Ages 65+ (Petitioned Version)
34	Request for the Town to Take Responsibility for Specific Private Roads
35	Increased Funding for Crossroads House This Year and Going Forward - \$24,000
36	New Part Time Position Veterans Outreach Coordinator - \$29,701.40
37	Change to the Way Fiscal Information Is Represented on the Warrant
38	Change to the Way Withdrawals from the Unassigned Fund Balance are Represented on the Warrant
39	Zero-Based Budget Preparation
40	Elimination of the Unassigned Fund Balance
	Highlighted Articles = Bond or Loan Funding - Requires 60% "Yes" Vote to Pass
	UFB = No new taxes in 2024.