

## **Town of Canaan 2024 Proposed Warrant Articles (1/30/24, 9am)**

### **Article 1 Election of Town Officers**

**PLEASE INSERT LANGUAGE FOR THE ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS**

### **ARTICLE 2 Increase Size of Historic District Commission**

Are you in favor of authorizing, pursuant to and in accordance with N.H. RSA 673:4 and 673:5, the Historic District Commission to be comprised of up to seven (7) Commissioners as well as up to five (5) Alternate Commissioners as appointed by the Canaan Select Board. At present, the Historic District Commission is allowed to have five (5) Commissioners (as established in 1986) and three (3) Alternate Commissioners (as established in 2006).

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

### **ARTICLE 3 Amendments to Existing Canaan Building Code**

Are you in favor of adoption of the amendments, as proposed by the Canaan Planning Board, to the Canaan Building Code that seek to: a) modify building permit expiration criteria; b) amend appeals process to be more consistent with State law; c) remove most floodplain regulations (which are now contained in the Floodplain Management Ordinance); and d) merge the functions as well as the authority of Building Code Board of Appeals with that of the Board of Adjustment.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

#### **Article 4 General Fund Appropriation**

To see if the Town of Canaan 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 or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$5,246,713.99?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,911,477.66, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article  
The Budget Committee Yes 6 No 2 Recommends this article.

#### **Article 5 Water and Sewer**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$290,866.10 for Water and Sewer Operations for the Town of Canaan with \$162,005.72 to be raised and appropriated for Water and \$128,860.38 to be raised and appropriated for Sewer. These funds are intended to be raised by Water and Sewer user fees with no amount from property taxes. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article  
The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

No additional property tax impact because user fees fund these programs.

**Article 6 Equipment Lease with Fiscal Funding Clause (Escape Clause)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$169,599.44 as the first year's payment associated with a 7-year lease for the following equipment/vehicles for use by the Canaan Highway Department: (i) Grader; (ii) Backhoe; (iii) Ten Wheel Dump Truck; and (iv) One Ton Truck. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. The total sum of lease payments, for the duration of the lease term and if appropriation(s) are authorized for each year, shall total: \$1,187,196.08. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023, and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation for this article in 2024. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 0 Recommends this article with one abstention.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 3 Recommends this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.

**Article 7 Appropriate Additional Highway Paving Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of funding an expansion of anticipated paving projects, for 2024, by the Canaan Highway Department. This sum would serve to increase the appropriation for the Canaan Highway Department, specifically for paving projects, as provided for within the proposed General Fund Appropriation Warrant Article (as submitted above). This article is being submitted, in this form, to gauge the interest of the voters of Canaan in possibly increasing the budgetary line of the Canaan Highway Department, in future years, dedicated to paving projects which, is typically accounted for as part of the Department's overall operating costs within the Town's General Fund Appropriation Warrant Article.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 4 Does not Recommend this article.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.22 per thousand or \$48.85 on the median home worth \$223,050.

**Article 8 Appropriate to Fire Truck Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve (established in 1979) for this purpose. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023 and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation for this article.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 0 Recommends this article with one abstention.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 2 Recommends this article with one abstention.

There is no additional property tax impact.

**Article 9 Purchase Fire Truck with Funds from Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$585,000 for the purchase of an Alexis 16' Walk-In Rescue Fire Truck with said funds to come from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund (est. 1979). This article will be Non lapsing until 12.31.26.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.

**Article 10 Appropriate to Highway Equipment Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (established in 1979) for this purpose.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.44 per thousand or \$97.69 on the median home worth \$223,050.

**Article 11 Appropriate to the Transfer Station Special Revenue Account**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to be added to the non-lapsing Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund (established in 2008) for this purpose.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 4 Does Not Recommend this article.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.02 per thousand or \$3.66 on the median home worth \$223,050.

### **Article 12 Create and Ratify Prior Appropriations to the Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to create/establish, in accordance with RSA 35:1, a Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of providing funding for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, improvement and/or replacement of any buildings/structures under the ownership and/or control of the Town of Canaan. Furthermore, to see if the Town will vote to ratify the prior raising and appropriating, of past Canaan Town Meetings, associated with funding this purported capital reserve fund. Apparently starting in 2016, the voters of the Canaan Town Meeting authorized appropriations for the "Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund", however, the voters had failed to ever create such a capital reserve fund prior to the allocation of funds. If the voters approve this article, the Town shall be authorized to transfer the sum of \$196,276.68 (which represents the prior appropriations for this purpose) as well as any interest that may have accrued to said sum, to the properly established Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.

### **Article 13 Use of Capital Reserve and Taxation for Library Repair**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$187,000.00 for the repair and painting of the library and authorize the withdrawal of \$93,500.00 from the Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$93,500.00 is to come from general taxation. This article is entirely contingent upon the voters authorizing the creation/establishment of the Government Building Capital Reserve Fund as provided in Article 12. In the event that voters reject the authorization, requested in Article 12, to establish this capital reserve fund, this article shall be determined to be defeated (regardless of the result of such vote on this proposal). (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 1 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 1 Recommends this article with one abstention.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.20 per thousand or \$45.67 on the median home worth \$223,050.

**Article 14 Use of Capital Reserve and Revolving Fund for Ambulance Purchase**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$232,706.00 for the purchase of an Ambulance and authorize the withdrawal of all funds (currently \$50,356.98) from the Emergency Medical Service Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of the purchase up to \$182,349.02 is to come from the EMS Revolving Fund. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 0 Recommends this article with one abstention.

There is no additional property tax impact.

**Article 15 Establish Contingency Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to put in the fund. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 6 No 1 Recommends this article with one abstention.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.00 per thousand or \$.49 on the median home worth \$223,050.

### **Article 16 Police Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$3,854 and vote to approve the cost of items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Canaan and the AFSCME Local 3657 Police Department Employees Union which calls for an increase in salaries and benefits to the same degree as any increases are made to non-union employees. The Agreement also slightly modifies the accrual and use of compensatory time by limiting the time within which such compensatory time may be used to 30 days from the date of accrual and includes a 1.5% Retention Adjustment in each year of the three-year agreement. The first year of the agreement will cost \$1,244.12; the second year of the agreement will cost \$1,289.25 and the third year of the agreement will cost \$1,325.66. Copies of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be available at the Canaan Town Clerk's Office as well as at both the Deliberative and Voting Sessions of the Canaan Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 6 No 0 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

It is estimated that the passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.03 per thousand or \$1.88 on the median home worth \$223,050.

### **Article 17 Discontinue Unused or Inactive Capital Reserve Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following unused Capital Reserve Funds, with said funds to be placed in the town's general fund. (Majority vote required)

- Fire House Fund (\$279.81)
- Highway Garage Fund (\$16,973.95)
- Landfill Closure (\$.83)
- Library Renovation (\$347.01)
- Road Construction Maintenance (\$8,897.30)
- Town Office Renovation (\$559.93)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.



**Article 18 Discontinuance of Rameor Road**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the entirety of the Class VI road known as Rameor Road, pursuant to RSA 231:43, which begins at NH Route 118 and runs easterly to its terminus. If this discontinuance is approved by the voters, Rameor Road, in its current location, shall no longer be considered and/or treated as a Town road/highway from which, all legal rights to its use/occupation shall revert back to the owners of record for this property. This discontinuance will take effect upon passage.

There is no additional property tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

**Article 19 Equipment Purchase for Transfer Station Special Revenue Account**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing a used Skid Steer for use at the Transfer Station, said funds to come from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Account non-lapsing fund (established in 2008) for this purpose.

There is no additional property tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

**Article 20 Appropriate to Revaluation Capital Reserves**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1987) for this purpose.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.03 per thousand or \$7.33 on the median home worth \$223,050.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article.

**Article 21 Appropriate to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2005) for this purpose. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023, and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation for this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 0 Recommends this article with one abstention.

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article.

**Article 22 Appropriate to the Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 to be added to the Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023, and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation for this article .

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 0 Recommends this article with one abstention.

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article.

There is no additional property tax impact.

**Article 23 Appropriate to West Central Behavioral (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$4,590.00) for the support of West Central Behavioral Health. In fiscal year 2023 – July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 – West Central provided to 45 Canaan residents, including 22 children.

As the region’s non-profit community mental health center, West Central Behavioral Health provides mental health services and substance use disorder treatment for many of the most vulnerable residents, including adults, children, and elders. Support from the Town of Canaan will help us sustain our commitment to provide affordable mental health services to area residents.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 1 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 2 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 24 Appropriate to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$13,500.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Mascoma Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Canaan residents in 2024. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the Mascoma Area Senior Center provided services for 320 Canaan residents, and ServiceLink provided services for 65 residents. These services included congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$158,269.93.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 1 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 25 Appropriate to Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Dollars (\$2,910.00) to support Public Health Council of the Upper Valley services to Canaan residents in 2024. Services include monitoring pandemic response and recovery, communications around public health initiatives and resources, flu vaccine clinics, supporting programs for older adults, and more.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 1 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 1 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 26 Appropriate to Mascoma Community Health Center (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to support dental services at Mascoma Community Health Center. This appropriation will be used to offset annual donated dental care totaling \$43,774.00. 19% of our dental patients are Medicaid patients, 27 % are self-pay including sliding fee patients and 54% have commercial insurance.

Mascoma Community Health, Inc. is operating the dental practice that re-opened in the Healthcare Center October 1, 2023. The practice last had 2,021 patients and expects enrollment to be 2,000 by the of 2024, with about 600 patients or about 32% from Canaan.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 1 No 2 Does Not Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 3 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article with two abstentions.

**Article 27 Appropriate to Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,588.00 for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Canaan: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Disaster Relief, Tamworth Dental Center.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No. 1 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 28 Appropriate to WISE (By Petition)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) to support the mission of WISE providing free 24-hour crisis support services and advocacy to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 1 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 29 Appropriate to Advance Transit, Inc. (By Petition)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$10,135) to help support public transportation services in the Town of Canaan in 2024?

The Board of Selectmen Yes 2 No 1 Recommends this article.

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 1 Recommends this article with two abstentions.

**Article 30 Reinstate Election of Road Agent (By Petition)**

Are you in favor of discontinuing the appointment of a town highway agent and change back to the election of a town highway agent with a term of three years, beginning with the term of each town highway agent who shall be elected starting with next year's regular town meeting?

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article.