

## **Town of Newfields 2024 Town Warrant**

### **Rugg Property Acquisition**

Article 1. By Citizens Petition: Shall the Town of Newfields vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire +/-101 acres of property located off Piscassic Road near Bassett Lane in the Town of Newfields (a portion of Newfields Tax Map 205 Lot 2) for the purposes of expanding the town-owned Inland Acres Town Forest, and preserving open space, trails, public outdoor recreation, drinking water supplies, and wildlife habitat; to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$3,700,000 for the acquisition (not to exceed fair market value); to be funded by up to \$2.5 million from a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to the Town (with up to 20% or \$500,000 in principal forgiveness and up to 80% or \$2,000,000 to be repaid by the Town) and \$1.2 million or more in other grants or gifts; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, accept, and pass through a CWSRF loan and any federal or state grants or private gifts which may be available for said project; and all in collaboration with and facilitated by conservation organizations. This approval will not lapse until the property is acquired or by the end of 2025, whichever is sooner. Not recommended by Select Board 0-3. (Requires 3/5 ballot vote)

### **Operating Budget**

Article 2. Shall the Town of Newfields 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 \$2,092,446 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,972,247 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newfields 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. Select Board recommends the \$2,092,446 as set forth on said budget 3-0.

### **Reinstate Biweekly Curbside Recycling**

Article 3. By Citizens Petition: Shall the Town of Newfields vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) to continue biweekly curbside recycling. Understanding the importance of being fiscally responsible, we support reducing curbside recycling to every other week instead of weekly. This money is to be utilized solely for the purpose of curbside recycling. Not recommended by Select Board 1-2.

### **Study of Rugg Property Acquisition**

Article 4. By Citizens Petition: To see if the voters of Newfields, NH support the future purchase of approximately 101 +/- acres of land (Rugg property) located off Piscassic Road near Bassett Lane (a portion of Newfields Tax Map 205, Lot 2) for the purpose of expanding the Town owned "Inland Acres Town Forest". The approximate cost of acquisition to the Town of Newfields is \$3,700,000 less any grant(s) to include a long-term interest-bearing bond that may be floated by the Town of Newfields. To request that the Select Board review the project, including evaluation of funding options (bonds and grants), the ramifications of Exeter failing to purchase what would then become a landlocked 47 acres +/- plot that is surrounded by Newfields and Exeter conserved forest thus resulting in a de-facto expansion of the Exeter Town Forest at "no cost" to Exeter. The Select Board will also determine the divisibility (or lack thereof) of the entire parcel and said impact on the viability of the project. All other considerations shall be considered. The Board shall report to the Town its findings as to purchase considerations. Recommended by Select Board 2-0, 1-Abstention.

**Future Purchase of Fire Truck Capital Reserve**

Article 5. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established, for the future purchase of a new fire truck. Recommended by Select Board 3-0. (Majority vote required)

**Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve**

Article 6. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established? Recommended by Select Board 3-0. (Majority vote required)

**Non-Lapsing Fire Truck Payment**

Article 7. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of providing the funds for the final payment for a new fire truck to be funded by \$200,000 from the December 31, 2023 fund balance. This appropriation will have no impact on property taxes. This scheduled Warrant Article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32.7 section VI. It will not lapse until the fire truck purchase is completed or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner. Recommended by Select Board 3-0. (Majority vote required)

**175<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration**

Article 8. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the 175<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration festivities? Recommended by Select Board 3-0. (Majority vote required)