

State of New Hampshire
Town of Stratford
2022 Town Meeting Warrants

To the inhabitants of the Town of Stratford in the County of Coos qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Fuller Town Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m. to act upon the subjects hereinafter set forth. The voting on Articles 1 and 2 will be by official ballot and the polls shall be open for balloting from 10 a.m. and close at 7 p. m.

You are hereby notified, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 40:4, to meet at the Stratford Public School on Saturday March 12, 2022, at 10 a.m., to consider Articles 3 through 20.

Article 1. To choose by non-partisan ballot the following officers: 1 Selectman (3 Year Term); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Library Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 year term); 1 Treasurer (3 Year Term); 1 Moderator (2 Year Term); 1 Supervisor of the Checklist (6 Year Term).

Article 2. To choose by non-partisan ballot: Do you approve of having 2 sessions for the annual town meeting in this town, the first session for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot and the second session, on a date set by the selectmen, for transaction of other business? (Insert as Petition)

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$877,330** for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$8,298** to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000** to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000** to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,000** to be added to the previously established 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the 250th Anniversary Celebration to be held in 2023. (Board Recommends)

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000** to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Municipal Solar Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000** to be added to the previously established Recreation Revolving Fund. These funds will be specific to upgrading/replacing park equipment. (Board Recommends)

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to restrict the discharge of permissible (consumer) fireworks under RSA 160-B and RSA 160-C by accepting the Fire Works Use Ordinance as proposed in the 2021 Town Report.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000** to be added to the previously established Cemetery Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take affect April 1, 2022, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. (Majority Vote Required)

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Stratford, in accordance with RSA 72:39-b, based on assessed values, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$15,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$25,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$40,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or, if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$25,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$40,000, excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority Vote)

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$47,090** to be used towards the purchase of new extrication tools, also known as 'jaws of life', with \$23,545 to come from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund and \$23,545 to be raised by taxation. (Board Recommends)

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$250** for the Cohos Historical Society in showing support of the Town in helping to match the current LCHIP Grant for the restoration of the Marion Blodgett Museum in Stratford Hollow.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,200** in donations to the following groups: \$500, North Country Home Health & Hospice; \$200, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital; \$200, Northern Human Services; \$2,500, Tri-County CAP; \$500, Colebrook Food Pantry; \$200, Helping Hands; \$500, Backpack Program; \$2 00, CASA; \$200, Stratford Old Home Day, Inc.; \$200, American Red Cross.

Article 20. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting and to hear reports from any agents or committees heretofore chosen.