

WARRANT ARTICLES - TOWN MEETING 2007

The following are the warrant articles that Town Meeting 2007 will vote on. Background information is provided, where appropriate, in square brackets [].

Town Meeting starts at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 13, in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym. **Don't come to Town Meeting expecting to vote on the school bond!** That happens at School District Meeting on March 5.

Warrant Article 1

To choose the necessary officers for the ensuing year.

[This happens by ballot voting at AE/MS from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM on March 13. See page 6 for a facsimile of the ballot.]

Warrant Article 2

To see if the town will vote, under the provisions of RSA 674:16 and 675:3, to amend the Andover Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, by extending the expiration of Article XI from March 31, 2007 to the date of Town Meeting in 2012. (OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTE.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

[This, too, happens by ballot voting at AE/MS from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM on March 13. See page 6 for a facsimile of the ballot. For more information about the issue of extending the growth management provisions of Article XI, see the front-page article in the February issue of the Beacon, available at our libraries or online at AndoverBeacon.com.]

Warrant Article 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to be added to the police cruiser capital

reserve fund previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

[This is our second "payment" toward being able to replace the older of our two police cruisers in 2009, when it is eight years old.]

Warrant Article 4

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the highway equipment capital reserve fund previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

[Most of this fund was spent last year in purchasing the new grader. Adding to the fund this year begins the process of saving up to replace the grader 15 or 20 years from now.]

Warrant Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the bridge rehabilitation capital reserve fund previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

[We've already got \$30,000 set aside in this fund for repairing Town-owned bridges. This adds \$20,000 from this year's budget to that amount. The current plan is to replace the large culvert/bridge on Morrill Hill Road next.]

Warrant Article 6

To see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the Transfer Station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in this fund

and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

[We purchased a new trash trailer for the Transfer Station last year, wiping out the capital reserve fund for Transfer station equipment. This article will create a new fund and start the process of saving for the next piece of equipment that will need to be replaced.]

Warrant Article 7

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of repairing monuments and fixtures in the Lake View and Lake Side Cemeteries. This will be a special non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the restoration is completed or December 31, 2012, whichever is sooner. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

[The "non-lapsing" language is special legal language that we use when we appropriate money for a project that may not be completed by the end of the year. "Repairing monuments and fixtures" means continuing the process of restoring damaged gravestones in the cemeteries.]

Warrant Article 8

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Three Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$1,368,483.00) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. The Selectmen recommend an amount of One Million, Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$1,374,983.00). This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

[This is our usual "approve the budget" warrant article. The amounts mentioned do not include any of the amounts mentioned in any of the other warrant articles. The amounts of all the warrant articles that pass get added together to determine the final 2007 Town budget.

The difference between the amount recommended by the Budget Committee and the amount recommended by the Se-

lectmen is \$6,500 to be used to create an addition to the Recycle Building at the Transfer Station.

For more information about the proposed budget, see the article on page 1.]

Warrant Article 9

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the highway equipment capital reserve fund created in 1972. (The voters at the 1995 town meeting authorized the withdrawal of the remaining balance in this fund but took no action to discontinue it.)

[This is just some housekeeping we neglected to do in 1995 and has no impact on the Town budget.]

Warrant Article 10

To see if the town will vote to go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Andover. (Submitted by petition.)

Warrant Article 11

To see if the town will vote to leave the Swap Shop open two days a week, year-round. (Submitted by petition.)

[See the Town Forum on this page for background information on this article.]

Warrant Article 12

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

TOWN FORUM - SWAP SHOP

Howard L. Wilson

From historical usage, the Transfer Station's Swap Shop saw four to six tons of goodies delivered in and left again in one vehicle or another to be re-used or sold. Given tip fees of \$48 per ton at Penacook, this is a savings to all the taxpayers of Andover.

Over a period of 12 to 15 years, no problems were seen with the Swap Shop. The problems originated when I was terminated as a Town employee, thus permitting the accumulation of large items and computers.

As I worked there, I charged the tip fee to dropped items that met the standard for disposal. This despite protest from whomever dropped the item (couch, mattress, chairs, organ, etc) that due to quality, this item would leave as re-usable by the following open day. This despite a rain or snow day between drop and expected leave, reducing value or use. If such dropped items are encouraged to be brought in and the Transfer Station employees do nothing, yes, the Swap Shop will look bad.

Responsibility and accountability from Town employees will permit re-opening of the Swap Shop. Responsibility from residents of the town to not leave furniture, computers, components, and clothing will aid keeping the Swap Shop open year round.

If irresponsibility is rewarded, harsher methods may be needed to keep re-use and recycling as a component of the Transfer Station. Or this petition to open or re-open the Swap Shop on an annual basis.

Board Of Selectmen

While we understand Mr. Wilson's wish to have the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station open more often, experience has proven that the only way to do that would be through hiring an attendant.

If this year's Town Meeting chooses to add to the proposed 2007 budget to authorize a hired staffer at a likely cost of \$9 to \$10 per hour, plus applicable employment taxes, to save the tipping cost of four to six tons of material a year at \$42.50 per ton, the Selectmen will of course comply.

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