

WARRANT ARTICLES - TOWN MEETING 2009

The following are the warrant articles that the Andover Town Meeting 2009 will vote on. Background information is provided, where appropriate, in square brackets [].

Voting for the election of officials and for questions on the official ballot will be open on Tuesday, March 10, from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym. As soon as the polls close, Town Meeting will begin to consider the following warrant articles.

Warrant Article 1

To choose the necessary officers for the ensuing year.

[This happens by ballot voting from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM on March 10 at the AE/MS gym.]

Warrant Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser for the Police Department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$18,000 plus accumulated interest from the previously established capital reserve fund.

[The phrase "raise and appropriate" is required legal language, but in this case it's misleading. Of the \$24,000 for the new police cruiser, \$18,000 has already been raised through taxes and set aside over the past three years.

If this article is approved, only \$6,000 will impact 2009 tax bills. So this article 1) raises \$6,000 from this year's taxes, and 2) appropriates that \$6,000 plus the \$18,000 we raised over the past three years to the purchase of a new police cruiser.]

Warrant Article 3

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.

[The highway equipment capital reserve fund is intended primarily for replacing the Town's road grader 15 or 20 years from now.]

Warrant Article 4

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.

[The bridge rehabilitation capital reserve fund is intended primarily for rehabilitating a Town bridge every five years or so. The current plan is to use some of this money in 2009 to prepare engineering studies, plans, and permits for the rehabilitation of a very large culvert (so large that it qualifies as a bridge) on Morrill Hill Road. Construction would hopefully take place in 2010, with the state reimbursing the Town for 80% of the total cost.]

Warrant Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the transfer station equipment capital reserve fund previously established.

[The Transfer Station capital reserve fund was mostly depleted in 2006 by the purchase of the new trash trailer. The Recycling Committee hopes to present a plan for improvements to the Transfer Station at the 2010 Town Meeting, and the money in this fund is sure to be an important part of implementing that plan.]

Warrant Article 6

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of repairing damaged monuments in the Durgin, Hobbs-Sweatt, Old Center and Boston Hill 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, 2014, whichever is sooner.

[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 damaged monuments" means continuing the process of restoring damaged gravestones in the cemeteries.]

Warrant Article 7

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the construction phase of the rail trail from Potter Place railroad station northerly into Danbury. Such amount raised will be offset by a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for 80% of the cost and the remaining 20% will be reimbursed to the town from the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail of Merrimack County.

[The phrase "raise and appropriate" is required legal language, but in this case it's misleading. The funds for this article have already been raised by the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, which proposed this article. This article would allow the Town to spend funds that the Town receives from the Friends and from the New Hampshire Department of Trans-

portation to pay for the resurfacing of the Rail Trail from Potter Place north to Danbury. No Town funds would be used, so this article will not impact 2009 tax bills.]

Warrant Article 8

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty One Dollars and no cents. (\$1,349,161.00) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. This article does not include appropriations voted in the 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 (including this one) get added together to determine the final 2009 Town budget.]

Warrant Article 9

To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 76:15-a. This will provide for the semi-annual collection of property taxes. The first bill will be due on or approximately July 1 and will be 1/2 of the previous year's total tax bill. The second half bill will be due on or approximately December 1 and will be the year's billing based on the current year tax rate with credit given for the first half payment.

[For more details about switching to semi-annual tax bills and how they would work, see the article on page 16.]

Warrant Article 10

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



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