

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RUMNEY
WARRANT for
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 8th day of March 2016, next, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Article 1 and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 10th day of March 2016, next, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action will be taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant.

The Town Meeting was opened at 7:02 PM by Moderator James Buttolph. He asked all the veterans to stand and they were recognized for their time of service to our country. Then we said the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Moderator James Buttolph gave a brief history of elections held in New Hampshire. Voter fraud was rampant by the later 1800s. Prior to 1890 there was no statewide voter program. So in 1891 the state gave each town a wooden ballot box. In 1892 the first secret ballot election was held, tailored after the "Australian Ballot." In honor of our first Presidential Primary in 1916, Secretary of State, William Gardiner had a poster made of photos of the wooden ballot boxes still in existence. Our poster is hanging on the wall at the school. We still have and use our original ballot box to this day.

On behalf of the town, Mark Andrew publically expressed appreciation to former Town Clerk-Tax Collector, Linda Whitcomb, for her years of service to the Town of Rumney. A gift from the Town will be delivered to her at her home.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 8th):

<i>Selectman for 3 years</i>	<i>Daniel Kimble</i>	<i>166</i>
<i>Selectman for 1 year</i>	<i>Mark H. Andrew</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Town Clerk / Tax Collector for 3 years</i>	<i>Paulette Bowers</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Treasurer for 1 year</i>	<i>Janet Sherburne</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Town Moderator</i>	<i>Jim Buttolph</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Supervisor of the Check List for 6 years</i>	<i>Justina French</i>	<i>179</i>
<i>Fire Commissioner for 3 years</i>	<i>Terri Lewis</i>	<i>174</i>
<i>Cemetery Trustee for 3 years</i>	<i>Linda Kimble</i>	<i>177</i>
<i>(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years</i>	<i>Ken Weinig</i>	<i>133</i>
	<i>Gerard Thibodeau</i>	<i>89</i>

Library Trustee for 3 years

Roger Daniel

156

Library Trustee

for 1 year

Lorraine Grote-Eaton

137

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years

Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$**190,000** for the purchase of a Highway dump truck and related accessories and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$190,000 for notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. (2/3 ballot vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen.

ACTION: Article 2 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. After much discussion an amendment was proposed by Gerard Thibodeau. The amendment was written as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,000 for the purchase of a Highway dump truck and related accessories and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$70,000 for notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon, and to withdraw up to \$120,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1997 . (2/3 ballot vote required)

The amendment passed by a voice vote.

After allowing the ballot open for one hour, the article as amended was approved by secret ballot, 46 YES to 7 NO, after allowing the ballot open for one hour.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$**52,058** for the replacement of the Buffalo Road Bridge, #128/073 with \$33,472.50.00 of said sum to come from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, \$14,868 of said sum to come from the NHDOT State-Aid Bridge Program, and the remaining \$3,717.50 of said sum to be withdrawn from the Bridge Repair & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 3 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. With no discussion the article passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To choose three members for the **Advisory Committee:**

1 for a 3-year term from the Depot

1 for a 3-year term from Quincy

1 for a 1-year term from Rumney Village

ACTION: Article 4 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. There were no nominations for the Depot area. Robert Berti was nominated and seconded to represent the Quincy area and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast a single vote. Kevin Maes was nominated and seconded to represent the Rumney Village and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast a single vote. Both were declared elected.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$463,307** to defray the following **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

General Government Expenses	
Executive	\$ 63,816
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 68,770
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 5,574
Financial Administration	\$ 36,906
Legal Expenses	\$ 49,200
Health Insurance	\$151,000
Planning Board	\$ 4,996
General Government Buildings	\$ 40,550
Street Lights	\$ 9,000
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 31,495
Regional Association Dues	\$ 2,000
Total General Government Expenses	\$463,307

ACTION: Article 5 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. Discussion included a question regarding the legal expenses, which was explained as being the result of the continuing issue with the utility companies. Another question regarded the cost of health insurance, which was explained by there being 8 full-time employees. The article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,650** for **Assessing Services** and **Tax Map updates** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 6 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. With no discussion the article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** for the purpose of **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 7 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. With no discussion the article passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$29,440** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$5,000 to come from the Cemetery Trust Fund and \$24,440 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 8 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. With no discussion the article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,000** for the purpose of repairing the stone wall at the Highland North Cemetery and to authorize the withdrawal of \$6,000 from the Cemetery Improvement Fund (established in 2014) and the remaining funds to be raised by taxes. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 9 was read; a motion was made to put it on the table and was seconded.
Discussion: Question of this work having been completed last year. The work was started but has not been completed. The article passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$199,993** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 10 was read; a motion was made to put it on the table and seconded.
Discussion was a request for statistics to be included on Town Report in the future. The article passed with a voice vote. Chief of Police, Brett Miller, made a motion to restrict Article 10, Janet Sherburne seconded. The restriction passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$146,500** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	40,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	40,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	14,000
EMS Vehicle (2005)	5,000
EMS Equipment (2012)	3,000
Transfer Station Compactor Fund (2005)	4,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	3,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	20,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	8,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	5,000
Town Office Equipment Fund (2015)	2,500
Water Supply-Dry Hydrant (2010)	2,000
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$146,500

ACTION: Article 11 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. After no discussion the article passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$29,557** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the Town of Plymouth for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 12 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion was about why we contracted with Plymouth. The explanation given was because Plymouth Ambulance Service is very prompt and they have 24 hour, 7 days / week service. We signed a 3 year contract without a clause binding us to them. The article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,551** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 200

Emergency Management	\$ 7,851
Total Safety, E-911 & Emg Mgt	\$ 9,551

ACTION: Article 13 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. With no discussion the article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$73,951** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 14 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. A motion was made and seconded to raise the Fire Chief's stipend by \$1,000. The motion passed with a voice vote. The article also was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,500** to defray the cost of **purchasing three (3) new sets of protective clothing and five (5) new Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles** to replace EXPIRED bottles for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$5,000 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2009) with the remaining funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 15 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. After no discussion the article was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Non-Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of compensating firefighter's involved with fighting forest fires and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000** to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

ACTION: Article 16 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion was about why the account is needed. The explanation given is because we need to be able to pay mutual aid firemen who come to help put out during forest fire which are not naturally occurring. The article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,000** to pave the parking lots adjacent to Town Facilities and to authorize the withdrawal of \$20,000 from the Town Facilities Fund (established in 1998) with the remaining funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 17 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us that contracting the pavers for both the town roadwork and the paving adjacent to the town facilities would be most economical. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to pave the parking lots adjacent to Town Facilities and to authorize the withdrawal of \$30,000 from the Town Facilities Fund (established in 1998) with the remaining funds to be raised by taxes."
The amendment to Article 17 passed by a voice vote. The amended article passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,223** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *Article 18 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us of the number of EMS workers to be 4 already trained and 2 more who are still in training. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$240,157** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us that \$16,000 has been spent on salt and sand this year. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$90,000** for **Road Improvements** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. There was no discussion. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$145,449** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us that tin cans are not being recycled and a buyer for paper has not been found. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,320** to defray the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,220) and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. There was no discussion. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,200** to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: *The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. There was no discussion. The article was passed by a voice vote.*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$36,397** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	2,050
Health Officer Stipend, etc.	946
Health Administration	500
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	1,500
Pemi-Baker Community Health	4,500
Voices Against Violence	1,000
Bridge House	2,000

Genesis	300
CASA	400
CADY	600
Transport Central	100
Direct Assistance	11,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	4,306
Grafton County Seniors	3,300
Tri-County CAP	<u>3,895</u>
Total Animal Control, Health & Welfare	\$ 36,397

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us that Direct Transport is a new organization transporting people for medical appointments only. The article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,306** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	1,600
Baker Athletic Field	1,200
Jim Darling Natural Area	600
Patriotic Purposes	400
Conservation Commission	1,206
Baker River Watershed Dues	300
Conservation Trust	3,500
Stinson Lake Port-a-toilet	<u>500</u>
Total Culture, Recreation & Conservation	\$9,306

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. After no discussion, the article was passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,500** for the purpose of an **Old Home Day** celebration; \$3,241 will come from the 2015 end-of-year fund balance, with the remaining \$1,259 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. The discussion informed us of a meeting March 31st to plan the 250th Anniversary of the Town. The article was passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,680** to defray the cost of operating the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it to the floor and seconded. After no discussion the article was passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$48,024** for payment on the Byron G. Merrill Library Improvement bond. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded.

Discussion: Janice Mulherin praised the Library Building Committee for a job well done. The article was passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for the purpose of purchasing security equipment for the Town Office Building and to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,500 from the Town Facilities' Fund (established in 1987). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded. After no discussion the article was passed with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 30: 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 by majority vote. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: The article was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and seconded.

Discussion: Concern was expressed that this article would give any present or future Board of Selectmen too much power to acquire property. Referencing RSA 41:14-a, the town was assured of the limits and safeguards limiting the Board's power. The purpose of the article is only to give the town the ability to acquire gifted property. The article was passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 31: To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

The being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

***Paulette Bowers,
Rumney Town Clerk***