

TOWN OF HILL, NH

TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 14 & 16, 2023

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF HILL, NH  
2023 WARRANT ARTICLES**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

POLLS OPENED: 11:00AM

By: Eric Herr

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all necessary Town officials for the ensuing year.

NOTE: By law, the meeting must open before the voting starts. Therefore, the meeting and the polls will be open at 11:00 AM for the consideration of Article 1. At noon, the meeting will recess but the polls shall remain open and shall not close until 7:00 PM.

POLLS CLOSED: 7:00PM

By: Moderator, Eric Herr

Registered voters on Checklist: 725

New Voters: 0

Total Registered Voters: 725

Ballots: 133

18% of Registered Voters

The meeting will reconvene at the Jennie D. Blake Elementary School on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7:00 PM to act on the remaining articles of this warrant.

## OFFICIAL ELECTIONS RESULTS

For the Town of Hill, NH

By: Shelly J. Henry

March 14, 2023

**SELECTMEN**

For 3 Years

**Stephen Thomson** 72**TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR**

For 3 Years

**Shelly Henry** 125**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

For 2 Years – Vote for One

**Vacant** 2

Joann Irving was written-in with 2 votes  
She is a current member of the Budget Committee  
Leaving this position vacant  
11 others with 1 vote each

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

For 1 Years – Vote for Two

**George Wilson** 2**Vacant**

10 others with 1 or votes each

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

For 3 Years – Vote for Three

**Betty Hanks** 111**Madelyn Manos** 83

2 others with 1 vote each

**CHECKLIST SUPERVISORS**

For 6 Years – Vote for One

**Marie Stanley** 114**LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

For 3 Years – Vote for One

**Madelyn Manos** 70

1 other with 1 vote

**TRUST FUND TRUSTEE**

For 3 Years – Vote for One

**Lisa Seymour** 99

1 other with 1 vote

**TREASURER**

For 1 Year – Vote for One

**Judith Brady** 123**CEMETERY TRUSTEE**

For 3 Years – Vote for One

**LISA SEYMOUR** 98

4 others with 10 or fewer votes each

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

MEETING OPENED: 7:00PM

By: Moderator, Eric Herr

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY:  
ELECTION RESULTS READBy: Natali Mills  
By: Moderator, Eric Herr

VOTERS PRESENT: 75

10% of Registered Voters

Moderator, Eric Herr, called on Selectman, Thomas Seymour to motion to allow non-voters to speak during Town Meeting (to allow Town Counsel to respond to legal questions).

MOVED: Selectman, Thomas Seymour  
SECONDED: Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

Motion PASSES

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended budget of **\$1,233,280** for the general municipal operations, exclusive of individual and special warrant articles. (The Selectmen Recommend **\$1,232,085**).

	Approp. 2022	Selectmen 2023	Budget Committee 2023
Executive	\$79,269	\$79,207	\$79,207
Town Clerk	\$62,249	\$65,177	\$66,372
Tax Collector	\$7,570	\$7,970	\$7,970
Reval of Property	\$16,308	\$16,908	\$16,908
Legal Expenses	\$4,000	\$5,500	\$5,500
Personnel Admin.	\$14,214	\$14,102	\$14,102
Planning & Zoning	\$4,586	\$6,807	\$6,807
Gen. Govt. Bldg.	\$17,814	\$26,310	\$26,310
Cemeteries	\$6,450	\$6,450	\$6,450



Insurance	\$19,751	\$21,726	\$21,726
Police	\$48,044	\$13,688	\$13,688
Ambulance	\$64,392	\$67,449	\$67,449
Fire	\$65,721	\$79,330	\$79,330
Emergency Management	\$975	\$2,175	\$2,175
Highways & Streets	\$408,888	\$437,322	\$437,322
Street Lighting	\$5,500	\$6,600	\$6,600
Recon. Of Highways	\$47,000	\$49,000	\$49,000
Solid Waste Disposal	\$104,853	\$110,968	\$110,968
Water Services	\$138,000	\$144,151	\$144,151
Health Other	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
Health Agencies	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700
Welfare	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
Parks & Recreation	\$17,079	\$21,079	\$21,079
Library	\$33,791	\$34,641	\$34,641
Patriotic Purpose	\$400	\$400	\$400
Conservation	\$175	\$175	\$175
Int. on Tax Anticipation Notes	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$1,179,479</b>	<b>\$1,232,085</b>	<b>\$1,233,280</b>

**MOVED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Frank Razzaboni

**DISCUSSION:** Anson Libby spoke asking the public to carefully consider all of the costs throughout the budget as they will likely increase taxes.

Bruce Blazon proposed an amendment to Article 2 to reduce budget by uncollected taxes for years up to and including 2019.



**AMENDMENT:** Proposed reduction of the general municipal operations budget in the sum of \$47, 298.51 which is the sum of uncollected taxes for years up to and including 2019.

**AMENDMENT MOVED:** Bruce Blazon

**AMENDMENT DISCUSSION:** Bob Dupuis requested the definition of RSA 80. Town Counsel spoke about deeding property and the reasons why a town may choose not to deed. Shaun Bresnahan explained how taxes are collected and how some residents are trying with payment plans. Nathan Mills spoke and felt this amendment was one residents' attempt to get what he wanted.

**AMENDMENT**

**FAILED**

**ARTICLE 2**

**PASSED**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to reclaim and pave approximately 3,500 feet of Bunker Hill Road; \$75,000 to come from general taxation, \$42,000 from Highway Block Grant and \$33,000 from Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Budget Committee and Selectmen)

**MOVED:** Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**DISCUSSION:** Carol Snow-Asher why Bunker Hill Road was selected first? Shaun Bresnahan told her the consensus was that it was the worst section of road in the Town and that it was paved first many years ago.

**ARTICLE 3**

**PASSED**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to hire a full-time police chief per RSA 105:2-a. Such position shall include benefits and enrollment in the NH Retirement System. The town will raise and appropriate \$90,317 to fund the position starting no sooner than June 1, 2023. The funds will cover salary, benefits, retirement, the necessary equipment and supplies to carry out official duties. (Recommended by the Budget Committee and Selectmen)

**MOVED:** Selectman, Frank Razzaboni

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

**DISCUSSION:** Shaun Bresnahan explained that the dollar amount referenced was for a seven-month period. The ongoing annual cost would be \$149,000 and \$13,688 referenced in Article 2. Shaun Bresnahan also stated the Moderator had received a written request (from 5 registered voters) for this Article to be voted by ballot. There was much discussion on this Article. Paul Meyerhoefer asked about additional insurance required. Shaun Bresnahan explained there would be an additional cost through Primex but it was unknown at this time. Bruce Blazon proposed an amendment to insert language without changing cost.

**AMENDMENT:** Proposed (\$0) increase to the article to insert language: "that the Select Board will include in the recruitment, interviewing, and hiring of a police chief an advisory committee of at least 3 citizens meeting the residency requirements of the Town of Hill to exclude current or former town employees with the exception a former Police Chief.

**MOVED:** Registered voter, Bruce Blazon

**SECONDED:** Registered voter, Joann Irving

**AMENDMENT PASSED**

**ARTICLE 4 PASSED by ballot vote 53 YES 20 NO**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,500 to be deposited into the following capital reserve funds as indicated: (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Purpose	Amount
Archival Preservation	\$500
Building Improvement	\$6,000
Fire Heavy Equipment	\$30,000
Highway Heavy Equipment	\$35,000
Police Heavy Equipment	\$5,000
Road Improvements	\$20,000



Gravel Crushing	\$0
Master Plan	\$0
Transfer Station	\$1,000
Wellhead Protection Area	\$1,000
Park and Recreation Acquisition, Repair, Replacement & Maintenance	\$1,000
Capital Reserve Fund	

**MOVED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Frank Razzaboni

**DISCUSSION:** Shaun Bresnahan proposed an amendment to remove the \$20,000 from road improvements.

**AMENDMENT:** Remove the \$20,000 Road improvements from the Capital Reserve funds reducing the sum to **\$79,500.00**

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**AMENDMENT PASSES**

**ARTICLE 5 PASSED as Amended**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to withdraw an estimate of \$56,363.84 from the Edwin F. Ferrin Memorial Trust as per the trust document to be deposited in the General Fund to offset General Government Expenses.

**MOVED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

**DISCUSSION:** Bob Dupuis asked why the amount is an estimate. Shaun Bresnahan explained that the town is allowed a percentage of the profit and exact amount would be determined if this article passes.

**ARTICLE 6**

**PASSED**



**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to fund the Legal Expense Expendable Trust Fund, per RSA 31:19 – a, for the litigation of legal actions brought against the town and raise and appropriate \$5,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unreserved fund balance. (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

**MOVED:** Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Frank Razzaboni

**DISCUSSION:** Shaun Bresnahan explained the Select Board were looking to fund the Legal Expense Expendable Trust Fund up to \$10,000.

**ARTICLE 7        PASSED**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to replace the heating system at the Hill Fire Station to come from general taxation. (Recommended by the Budget Committee and Selectmen)

**MOVED:** Selectman, Frank Razzaboni

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**DISCUSSION:** Heating system is forced hot air from the 1960's the Fire Department is looking to upgrade to propane force hot water system. Mark Labonte spoke to quotes received and explained to due to the large size of the existing system the new one would free up space offering additional storage. Fire Chief Moulton spoke to the specifications of the new system and the number of zones.

**ARTICLE 8        PASSED**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the town will vote to re-adopt the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit as defined in NH RSA 72:28 and NH RSA 72:28-b which now includes individuals who continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces and to include the previously adopted property tax credit of \$300. Such credit to become effective on April 1, 2023. (Recommended by the Budget Committee and Selectmen)

**MOVED:** Selectman, Thomas Seymour

**SECONDED:** Selectman, Shaun Bresnahan

**DISCUSSION:** With some discussion and upon the advice of counsel, Thomas Seymour, Selectman, made a friendly amendment which breaks the article in two parts and each reads as follows:

Shall the Town of Hill re-adopt the optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property in the amount of \$300? Such credit to become effective on April 1, 2023.

Shall the Town of Hill re-adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property in the amount of \$300.00 which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28? Such credit to become effective on April 1, 2023.

**AMENDMENT**

**PASSED**

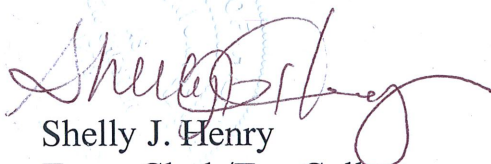
**ARTICLE 9**

**PASSED as amended**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:57PM**

By: Moderator, Eric Herr

Given under my hands and seal this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023



Shelly J. Henry  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector  
Town of Hill, NH