

Town of Bradford
State of New Hampshire

Town Warrant of Town Meeting March 12th, 2024

The Polls will open at 8:00 am, and not close earlier than 7:00 pm, on March 12th, 2024.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Bradford in the County of Merrimack in the said State qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Bradford Area Community Center on East Main Street in said Bradford, N.H. on Tuesday the twelfth day of March next, at eight o'clock in the morning to act on the following articles:

Article One: To choose all necessary town officials for the ensuing year.
Total Votes Cast: 329 (19 absentee ballots were cast)

Moderator 2 years - Vote for not more than 1

Bruce Storm 293 Elected

Selectman 3 years - Vote for not more than 1

Chip Meany 149 Elected

Budget Committee 3 years - Vote for not more than 2

Jennifer Richardson 242 Elected

Kimberly Firth 249 Elected

Budget Committee 1 year - Vote for not more than 1

Dawn Gezelman 273 Elected

Cemetery Commission 3 years - Vote for not more than 1

Marlene Freyler 281 Elected

Cemetery Commission 1 year - Vote for not more than 1

Dawn Gezelman 275 Elected

Planning Board 3 years - Vote for not more than 2

Shanna Griffin 228 Elected

Carol Meise 180 Elected

Scholarship Committee 1 year - Vote for not more than 1

Devin Pendleton 289 Elected

Supervisor of the Checklist 6 years - Vote for not more than 1

Judith Marshall 295 Elected

Supervisor of the Checklist 4 years - Vote for not more than 1
Susan Gildersleeve 284 Elected

Town Clerk/Tax Collector 3 years - Vote for not more than 1
Erica Gross 321 Elected

Treasurer 3 years - Vote for not more than 1
Stephen Pierce 61 Elected

Trustees of the Brown Memorial Library 3 years - Vote for not more than 1
Jason Grey 282 Elected

Trustees of the Trust Funds 3 years - Vote for not more than 1
Bruce Gezelman 264 Elected

Zoning Board 3 years - Vote for not more than 1
William Duffy 197 Elected

KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELECTION, March 12, 2024

Question 1: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the **Municipal Budget Committee's recommended amount \$54,320,531** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the District. The **School Board** recommends **\$54,320,531**. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. This warrant article asks the voters to raise and appropriate for the support of schools, the salaries of School District Officials and Agents, and for the statutory obligations of said District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the State sources, together with other income, the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Bradford, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot, the amount to be raised by taxation by said towns. **(School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 9-0)**

- A. \$54,320,531 for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the School Board
- B. \$54,320,531 for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee

A. 188 B. 97

Question 2: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$100,000** to be placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of repair, unanticipated utility costs, and maintaining the school buildings and equipment, with such amount to be funded **from unassigned fund balance (surplus funds) remaining** on hand as of June 30, 2024. **(School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 8-1)**

Yes 230 NO 87

Question 3: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$100,000 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Roof Fund for the purpose of replacement or major repairs to roofs in the district with such amounts to be funded **from unassigned fund balance (surplus funds) remaining** on hand as of June 30, 2024. **(School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 8-1)** Yes 236 NO 79

For Moderator for 1 year (Vote for 1)
Derek D. Lick 262 Elected

Election officials present at the March 12, 2024, Town Election:

Moderator: Bruce Storm Assistant Moderator: Kathleen Bigford

Town Clerk: Erica Gross

Supervisors of the Checklist: Judith Marshall, Thomas Marshall, and appointed Supervisor, Susan Gildersleeve

Selectmen: Beth Downs, Mel Pfeifle, and Marlene Freyler

Ballot Clerks: Mary Derry, Denise Renk, Robert Toppi, Maria Storm, Eileen Kelly, Kathleen Barr and Tandy Hartford

Counters: Carey Rodd, Robert Toppi, Steve Pierce, Tandy Hartford, Julie Leonard, Eileen Kelly, Julie Lutter, Jason Grey, Beth Downs, Dawn Gezelman, Bruce Gezelman, Thomas Marshall, and Dan Innis.

The count ended at 10:00 pm, and the results were announced.

Article Two: To adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm, at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School, on Old Warner Road in Bradford. Raising the money and remaining articles in the Warrant will be taken up at the adjourned meeting.

The meeting reconvened on March 13, 2024 at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School on Old Warner Road in Bradford.

Beth Downs, Chair of the Select Board: Welcomed everybody to the 288th Town Meeting. She then recognized Marilyn Goldberg for 24 years of service to the town as the treasurer.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, opened the meeting at 7:17 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by Bob Selig.

Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief, and Devin Pendleton, Parks and Recreation, made a public service announcement about making Bradford a Heart-Safe Community by having as many citizens trained on AED and CPR as possible.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, reviewed the rules of conduct for the meeting, and then read the election results for the town and the school.

Presentations were given for the following:

Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan – Kathleen Bigford, founding member of the Bradford Energy Committee: Asked for the support of Article Six, which would implement a more flexible electricity buying. The goal of this plan is to pursue community power, save money, and increase renewable energy. This allows the residents to lower electricity rates and participate with over 120,000 New Hampshire residents whose towns have already joined the Community Power Coalition.

SB2 – Sue McKevitt: Reminded everyone that attending town meeting allows everyone to make informed decisions. She stated participatory democracy requires that we know what we are talking about and what we are voting for. While researching SB2 with other towns that have it, she learned that fewer people show up for the deliberative session of an SB2 than a town meeting, where each article can be discussed, becoming informed, and voting.

Masonic Building Committee – Kristine Foss, Committee Chair: Explained how the committee members first went through the building and walked the entire site with maps to find any challenges they might encounter, including the Fire Department's egress issues. They then reviewed the options and costs that would best benefit the town. They did eliminate the option to repurpose the building where it stands since the cons far outweigh the pros with the shared lot lines, utilities, parking issues, and maintenance. The building is also cost-prohibitive to bring up to code for commercial or residential use. The 2 options being presented are Article Nine, to retain the building, and Article Ten, to sell and remove the building.

Budget Committee – Kim Firth, Committee Vice Chair: Stated that one of the Budget Committee's goals is to increase transparency. She explained in detail the dramatic increase in 2023 property taxes and overall costs in the operating budget, insurance, library, legal, rescue, highway, general government buildings, police, and fire department. She thanked the department heads for working closely with the committee and cooperating to reduce their budgets.

Andrew Pinard: Stated the importance of looking at the state portion of education. The total increase was 40%. The majority of the increase is not coming to Bradford students but coming out of our local school districts and going into private education, no matter the source or the school choice option. This money is being downshifted to our property taxes to pay other students to attend schools, not even in our district.

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$2,937,259.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts appropriated by other

warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>
1. Executive	237,511.00	237,511.00
2. Elections & Vital Statistics	11,050.00	11,050.00
3. Financial Administration	95,450.00	95,450.00
4. Revaluations	39,800.00	39,800.00
5. Legal	66,000.00	66,000.00
6. Employee Benefits	1.00	1.00
7. Planning & Zoning	13,349.00	13,349.00
8. General Gov	157,750.00	157,750.00
9. Cemetery	25,700.00	25,700.00
10. Insurances	103,951.00	103,951.00
11. Other General Gov	8,750.00	8,750.00
12. Police Department	635,471.00	635,471.00
13. Fire Department	160,740.00	160,740.00
14. Rescue Services - FAST	9,150.00	9,150.00
15. Rescue Services – Contract	95,000.00	95,000.00
16. Building Code Department	24,000.00	24,000.00
17. Civil Defense	1.00	1.00
18. Highway Department	700,845.00	700,845.00
19. Bridges	1.00	1.00
20. Street Lighting	2,000.00	2,000.00
21. Solid Waste Collection	99,991.00	99,991.00
22. Solid Waste Disposal	26,200.00	26,200.00
23. Inoculations	1.00	1.00
24. Welfare Administration	7,468.00	7,468.00
25. Welfare Payments	30,270.00	30,270.00
26. Parks and Recreation	21,509.00	21,509.00
27. Library	90,000.00	90,000.00
28. Patriotic Purposes	20,000.00	20,000.00
29. Community Center	43,800.00	43,800.00
30. Other Conservation	1,000.00	1,000.00
31. Long Term Notes	209,000.00	209,000.00
32. <u>Interest on TAN notes</u>	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total	\$ 2,937,259.00	\$ 2,937,259.00

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Three and asked for a motion to accept the article. Jen Richardson moved to approve Article Three, which Bruce Gezelman seconded.

Chris Frey made a motion to amend Article Three to read Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Dollars (\$2,731,000.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts

appropriated by other warrant articles. The Board of Selectmen is to determine the adjustments to individual line items in Article Three as long as the total amount appropriated does not exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Dollars (\$2,731,000.00).

Chris Mock seconded the motion.

Chris Frey: Stated that the budget trajectory is unsustainable now. He would like to start with a 7% reduction so that people of all ages can still afford their property.

Ed Shaughnessy, Police Chief: Responded that with the Police Department being one of the biggest drivers in the budget, realistically, the department is up Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) from last year, including a one-time mandatory upgrade for dispatch equipment and an increase to health benefits which is less than what the cost of living and merit increases were. Shortly after he started working for the Town, they started covering 24/7. He takes a lot of pride in the fact that anytime you call, you are going to get a Bradford police officer. To look at a 7% decrease (90% of the budget is personnel-related), they would be looking at their on-call (2 am to 6 am, and their coverage for the 11 Federal holidays), we would be giving up about Thirty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$38,000.00) and 24/7 coverage of you having a Bradford officer. Many towns around us have State Police coverage, which is great, but the State Police are very shorthanded. Knowing that we don't have coverage, he does not want to see crime and theft increase during those hours. The State Police are not active patrols. They are just a response to an incident. He then told of an incident that occurred, and it took the State Police 48 minutes to arrive. Bradford Police handle a lot of suspicious incidents that do occur during the later hours.

Laurie Colburn, Budget Committee: Reminded everyone that the committee budgets to make provisions for all the services this community has previously supported. A cut this big would have an impact on your services.

Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief: Stated that the Fire and Rescue budgets are down from the past two years. Their calls are up, and they have improved the quality of service. They do not have any full-time personnel; all of their personnel are your neighbors who respond. They also have a lot of equipment that needs maintenance. A 7% cut will impact service, vehicles, utilities, and the ability to get equipment.

Kris Foss: Reminded everyone that this is a true form of democracy. Democracy means not just going to a town meeting but participating in meetings and committees all year round. Ideas for cost savings are ongoing throughout the year, so it is not responsible to attend a town meeting and ask for the budget to be cut this deeply. As we have heard, these committees have done a lot of work to keep these budgets down.

Carol Conforti-Adams: Stated that if we listened to Andrew Pinard that one of the things affecting our property taxes is the school choice school funding. It is very easy to reach out to legislators. We need to stop the school charter system if it is going to affect 40% of our taxes. We want to keep a quality community and we need to keep fire and safety. We need to keep our employees satisfied so they don't leave. Carol Conforti-Adams then called to move the vote.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, re-read the article and called for a raised hand count to move the vote to amend the article. *Amendment failed with a raised hand vote.*

Devin Pendleton, Chair of Library Trustees, motioned to amend line 27 from Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) to Ninety-Five Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$95,479.00). Jen Richardson seconded the motion.

Jason Grey, Treasurer of Brown Memorial Library: Explained the amendment. He stated that 100% of the library's funding has always come from town appropriations, donations, and fundraising, which do not amount to operating budget items. The increase would enable the trustees to pay the library employees a fair wage. He noted that all of the library employees are your town residents. They choose to show up, work, and support the library, which is a vital community resource. They choose to work there instead of going somewhere that offers a higher wage like McDonalds. Another thought to remember is that since this is only part-time work, no benefits are offered.

Devin Pendleton, Chair of the Library Trustees: Presented statistics from other towns and showed that Bradford's funding for the library is quite low.

Laurelyn Ksander: Stated that when she moved here over a year ago, she was eight months pregnant, and the reason she has made friends and become a part of the community is because of the library. With all the festivities the library does to make this a better community, should we really be turning down a request for Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)? This should drive us to support the people who make our community what it is.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, repeated the motion to amend line item 27. *Amendment passed with a raised hand vote.*

Bruce Storm, Moderator, re-read the newly amended article. **Article Three:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$2,942,738.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts appropriated by other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.)

Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Three, which Beth Downs seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Four: To see if the Town will vote to retain the following town-owned properties, Map 4 Lot 7 and Map 4 Lot 9, for conservation purposes as provided by RSA 80:42-a. Both lots, each of approximately two acres, comprise wetland and are part of the West Branch Brook headwater identified as prime wetland and wildlife habitat. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Four and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Four, which Beth Downs seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to accept the gift of a framed copy of a 1925 50th Anniversary Announcement of the Bradford-Newbury Fair offered by Robert W. Wright, Jr. of Sutton NH. This donation is given under the following two conditions: 1) The Town votes to accept the donation at an annual Town Meeting, and 2) It shall be displayed. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Five and asked for a motion to accept the article. Beth Downs moved to approve Article Five, which Bruce Gezelman seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bradford Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bradford Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Six and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Six, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Seven: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13, known as SB2 to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Bradford on the second Tuesday of March. **By Petition.** (3/5 majority ballot vote required.) Select Board does not recommend.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Seven and explained that this would be a private ballot vote using the pink "Yes and No" tabs. As required by law, the ballot box would stay open for one hour and needed a 3/5 majority vote. Bruce asked for a motion to accept the article. Andrew Pinard moved to approve Article Seven, which Kim Firth seconded.

Andrew Pinard: Stated he moved this for discussion purposes only. During his time as a Select Board Rep. and a School Board Rep., he attended the deliberative sessions at the school district level for nineteen years. At the deliberative session this year, seven residents from the Town of Bradford attended. He added they were all working the event. It goes to show that the SB2 does not necessarily engender participation in the process. It is very important to understand that this will have a significant impact moving forward. It also means, that the few people that show up (this year being one of the shortest deliberative sessions in School Board history because of lack of participation), the yes people participated at the ballot box, but what form does that participation take? How informed are they on the decisions that are being made and how much does that shape what's going on? I want to express my deepest appreciation for everybody who got up from their televisions and came out tonight to show up in person to participate in this historic form of town government. I would support maintaining this town meeting form of government moving forward.

Beth Downs, Chair of the Select Board: Stated that at almost every Select Board meeting, she begs the public to come and give more input. This year, the participation has been, as usual, very little. I see a few faces that have come to the meetings; the same is true with the Budget Committee meetings. If you want to be part of it, you must participate and know how the town works. To take away everyone's voice in this room and go to SB2 would be a travesty.

Pam Bruss: Stated that, in theory, this would be a great thing, but in actuality, she does not support it. Look at our budgets. What do we have control over? Our Town. The schools have skyrocketed; no one shows up or has input. Look at all of you here. This is your voice, and we are educated because of that.

Rebecca Herman asked to move the vote and end the discussion.

Bruce Storm asked for a voice vote to end the discussion.

The motion to end the discussion passed with a voice vote.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, declared that voting for SB2 would begin, and the ballot box would stay open for one hour. Ballot boxes were opened for voting at 8:35 pm and closed at 9:35 pm. There were 197 votes cast. A 3/5 majority vote of 60% was required to pass the vote. The end count was 85% against the passage of this article.

Article Failed Yes 31 No 166

Andrew Pinard made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article Seven. Beth Downs seconded.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, asked for a vote on the motion to restrict reconsideration on Article Seven.

The motion to restrict reconsideration passed with a voice vote.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and enter into and provide an easement to the Bradford Historical Society over the front portion of land known as 152 East Main Street in Bradford (Tax Map 17, Lot 112), with improvements thereupon, (the "Property") to allow the Historical Society to place, construct and maintain historical buildings and displays and to hold Historical Society meetings and events on the Property in furtherance of the Historical Society's mission. Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Eight and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Eight, which Beth Downs seconded.

Harry Wright: Explained that the Historical Society has been maintaining the property. The need for the easement clears legal documentation so that grants can be made for the property.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to retain as Town-owned and Town-maintained the building at 89 West Main Street (Map 16 Lot 87) known as the Masonic Building. This will be a ballot vote. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Nine and asked for a motion to accept the article. Sue McKevitt moved to approve Article Nine, which Brooks McCandlish seconded.

Brooks McCandlish: Clarified that if you vote yes for this, the building stays where it is with no funding. If you want something productive done with this building, he suggests voting no and seeing if we can find someone to either move the building or salvage the good pieces from it.

Article Failed Yes 12 No 153

Andrew Pinard motioned to move ahead to Article 11 while the voting count was finished. Bruce Gezelman seconded.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to sell the Masonic Building pursuant to RSA 31:3, to authorize the Select Board to negotiate the terms and details of the sale of the Masonic Building and its removal from Town property, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the sale of the Masonic Building as recommended by the Masonic Building Committee. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Nine. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Ten and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Ten, which Beth Downs seconded.

Gary Perkins: Asked if there was a time limit on this. There should be one that way if it doesn't sell in 3 or 6 months, then it could be torn down.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a Treasurer. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Eleven and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Eleven, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to purchase and outfit with equipment a new Police Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). This appropriation will come from the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00), from unassigned fund balance in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the balance of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twelve and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twelve, which Beth Downs seconded.

Bliss Dayton: Spoke with respect to all of these warrant articles for money, starting with this one, which is one of the larger appropriations. If my math is correct, at last year's town meeting, we

approved warrant articles that required Eight Hundred and Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$806,500.00) to be raised from taxes, and if again, if my math is correct on the amount to be raised, if we pass every single article starting with this one going through the rest of the funding, it looks like the amount to be raised from taxes this year is Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000.00) which is a reduction of Two Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$223,500.00) on the amount to be raised from taxes. The Budget Committee presentation earlier showed that the operating budget is up One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$138,000.00) on a net basis, that's with all these warrant articles. It's still an Eighty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$86,000.00) reduction, and I see the Budget Committee nodding, so my math is pretty accurate on this. I point out that a number of these articles are putting money into capital reserve or expendable trust. This gives the Select Board more discretion when dealing with emergency situations. The capital reserve is saved for expensive items like a police cruiser, a fire engine, a grader, and heavy equipment stuff, and if we don't want tax shock in future years, we should share that cost by helping to fund what will be needed for replacement. I like the idea of balancing it with some of the funding from notes to pay for some heavy stuff later because future residents will benefit. It balances how much to save and how much to raise by taxation at the time of purchase. With that in mind, I favor almost all these warrant articles, including this one.

Ed Otto: Asked if the capital reserve money is put in a place where it is making money.

Scott McCaskill, Trustee of the Trust Funds: Explained that the money goes into a Municipal account which makes about 3 1/2%. If the money doesn't need to be immediately accessible, we look to put it into a CD where it makes 5% or something like that. We do not want to take risks with it like throwing it into stocks. My first job is to make sure nothing is lost.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, called for the vote on Article Twelve.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding the purchase, repair and replacement of police equipment. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Ed Shaughnessy, Police Chief: Explained that we have a couple different items on the CIP plan from our radios to our tablets to other equipment and when that is set there, you have a year for replacing and you have a little bit of time within that approval to get those replaced. This is taking all those pieces and putting them into one fund. My laptops are slated for repair in 5 years on the CIP, but I can make one last six or seven. We don't want to be forced to replace them. We just want to have a fund that we can go out and replace it and hopefully extend the life. At the same time, we took all of our equipment, our radios, our weapons, our tasers, and our body

cameras, did a shelf life on them with the costs for a year. That Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) or Seventy-Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) covers all of our equipment should something go wrong over that lifespan. Another example, our handguns, they recommend are good for 10 years, instead of in 10 years going out and buying all new ones (if one were to break or one were to go down) we would have a fund to go and replace that. Which right now we don't do. We don't budget for any of that. A couple years ago, I had to go into the lake after a drunk and my radio, my taser, my belt, were ruined. All of that was gone and we don't budget for repairs like that. So having this fund, that we can go to the Select Board, to get something replaced and not have to do it just because it's on the schedule is just being fiscally responsible with our money and our equipment.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Fourteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Fourteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict one hundred percent (100%) of revenues from Bradford Police detail assignments to expenditures for the purpose of purchasing new police vehicles. Effective January 1, 2024, such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Police Detail Special Revenue Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. (Majority ballot vote). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Fifteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Fifteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Ed Shaughnessy, Police Chief: Explained that when you're driving on the Interstate, and you see construction going on, and you see a police vehicle there, that's what's called, a detail. Those officers are working and getting paid by the company that's doing the paving, they are not getting paid by the State or if it's a Bradford car, it's not getting paid by Bradford. When we do that, and they request an officer, even if it's on Route 103, and it's for the cutting of trees or something, that company pays for the officer, that company pays hourly for the use of our vehicle, which is Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) an hour. Then, they pay all our admin fees, our retirement, our payroll expenses. What this fund is doing is, any excess that we get from the billing of the cruiser or the admin fees, at the end of the year goes into this fund. Then a couple years down the road, when we look to buy a new police cruiser, as you saw in the earlier one, there was Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) coming from fund balance. That's almost about what we brought in from the details last year. This fund would build, and the hope would be that we would be doing enough details that instead of pulling Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) from taxation, that if we put a little bit away each year, we would be able to take that money and apply it towards the car and

not ask for it through taxation. Right now, the excess from details goes back into the general fund.

Andrew Pinard: Expressed concern with the language of the warrant. I understand that if it's excess that's going into a fund, but the language says to restrict 100% of revenues from the Bradford Police detail assignments. That revenue goes to paying the salaries, as you described, of the officers who are there. If we adopt this with the language, that means that 100% of the revenues coming from the companies, comes in and gets put into this fund which means that we have to fund the salaries via our general fund. My concern is that we're putting all of the revenues into this fund, which part of that revenue goes to cover salaries and rental of vehicles. This is a contradiction to me in the language 100% of revenues. If I was an accountant 100% of revenue, is 100% of revenue. I just want it clarified before. I'm 100% behind doing the excess but if it's spelled out in statute, I'm okay.

Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator: Explained that the language came directly from the Department of Revenue Administration. It was vetted by the Town Counsel, and it will create a separate fund through which payroll expense and revenue will run through. It is completely separate.

Article Passed Yes 143 No 11

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the 2003 Fire Department Building Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Sixteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Sixteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to fund the 2006 Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Seventeen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Seventeen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Eighteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Eighteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund SCBA bottle and apparatus replacement. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Nineteen and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Nineteen, which Beth Downs seconded.

Amelia Dohrn moved to amend Article Nineteen to the originally requested amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00).

Brooks McCandlish seconded the motion.

Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief: Explained that we have some funds that were approved in 2022. We bought 11 bottles of our 28 bottles that we need to replace to the tune of about Eleven Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) a bottle. We have a little bit of money that doesn't lapse until 2027, but the total cost of replacing a pack is Eighty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$8,500.00) for the pack, Thirteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00) per bottle, and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a mask. With the current funding, I would be able to replace four of our fourteen packs, which would leave us zero money. Similar to what the Police Chief said, putting a little away to spend down the road. It also spreads out the burden because if we try to replace them all at once, you're talking about Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) a pack times fourteen. It's a couple hundred thousand dollars to replace them. If we can replace them every couple of years, it kind of spreads out the cost of the taxes.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, reminded everyone that this is an amendment to Article Nineteen, which has been moved and seconded.

Brooks McCandlish: Stated that they have a lifespan. Bryan can tell you what the age is and how long each bottle is good for, but after a certain point, they have to be replaced.

Beth Downs, Chair of the Select Board: Clarified that there is Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.00) already, and you're adding Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to it, which will give them Thirty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$38,000.00). So, raising it another Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) would give him way more than that.

Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief: Said it spreads it out so that funds are available until 2029 for the Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00). The other Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) is still available until 2027, similar to replacing cruisers or turnout gear or whatever. As Brooks said, the bottles usually have a fifteen-year life expectancy. In fifteen years, similar to when we asked for PPE before. It's a ten-year life expectancy on the PPE. If we wait until everything expires and purchase everything at once, we have a big peak in investment.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, asked to vote on the amendment from Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00). *Amendment failed with a raised hand vote.*

Bruce Storm, Moderator, asked for the vote on Article Nineteen, which had previously been motioned and seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$13,500.00) to fund Communications Equipment for the Fire Department. This appropriation will come from the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), with the balance of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to fund the installation of a Heat Pump to provide heating and cooling for the office areas and meeting room at the Fire Station. This appropriation will come from the 2003 Fire Department Building Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the balance of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-One and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-One, which Beth Downs seconded.

Lincoln Hefner: Asked what the annual cost savings will be, based upon what they are spending now.

Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief: Stated that he wished he had that exact answer, but part of the problem is that when that department was built, the heat for the entire living area, which is the left-hand side of the building, runs off of one thermostat. If I happen to be there or there's a meeting. It heats up the whole 1/3 of the office areas at one time. With the windows currently in there (jalousie windows, that crank out), there is no way to put any cooling system in there. Where that is technically the Emergency Operation Center and a part-time chief's office and training area, we have no cooling in there. So, the system that has been put through with the Energy Committee is to have three control heads, one in the crew quarters, one in the chief quarters, and one in the training room, which will be regulated separately so they can either be heated or cooled individual rooms. At least it will save on trying to heat the entire building.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the replacement of hoses and nozzles for the Fire Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until

the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Two and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Two, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00) to fund road maintenance, preservation and paving. This appropriation will come from the 2019 Roads and Bridges Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$129,000.00), with the balance of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$196,000.00) to be raised by taxation. Further, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Three and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Three, which Beth Downs seconded.

Steve Hall, Road Agent: Explained that four years ago the Town went to Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission who evaluated the Town's roads, and put a plan together. They went over our asphalt roads, giving us conditions and information on how to upgrade them. Two years ago, we started this program. We did some oiling and repairs on some the better roads that could take oil and chip sealing, which was about One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00). Last year, we ended up with about Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000.00). We did some paving and repair work on Fairgrounds Road, Jones Road, and Center Road, and I think the people who drive those roads appreciate that. We've been working with the CIP group, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, and keeping the Select Board abreast of everything happening. The CIP identified Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$460,000.00) for this year. Due to taxation and how things are going, it was decided to bring it down to Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00). We all know the conditions of these roads. I'm not asking for more money. I'm just trying to fill people in on what's going on. This article says that One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$129,000.00) is coming out of my Roads and Bridges fund, which is already established. Now, that fund is going to be pretty well-depleted. I'm not going to have anything if there's an emergency. I want you to know that, and I want you to be aware of that, and hopefully, that'll pass the Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00). We've identified a lot of options, and basically, we're wondering if we could get that money. I think we are going to try and do something on West Road, and we're going to try to do something again on Fairgrounds Road.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$32,100.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance and represents the funds received from the sale of the Highway Department's two graders in 2023. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Four and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Four, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Five and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Five, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) to fund the 2019 Road and Bridge Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Six and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Six, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the 2015 Town Equipment Repair and Purchase Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Seven and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Seven, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Eight: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Bridge and Culvert Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding repair and replacement of bridges and culverts. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Eight and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Eight, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Twenty-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Emergency Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. Said funds, with accumulated interest to the date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Twenty-Nine and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Twenty-Nine, which Beth Downs seconded.

Andrew Pinard: Asked how much money is in this fund.

Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator: Stated that at the end of 2023, there was Four Hundred Thirty Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$430.68). *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to fund the 2022 Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty, which Beth Downs seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Thirty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) to fund the 2008 Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-One and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty-One, which Beth Downs seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Thirty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the 2010 Communication Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (for emergency services). (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-Two and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty-Two, which Beth Downs seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Thirty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund a feasibility study for the use of the Bradford Area Community Center. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-Three and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty-Three, which Rachel Sweetbrown seconded. *Article Passed with a raised hand vote.*

Article Thirty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to fit up, furnish and equip the Town Hall. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-Four and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty-Four, which Beth Downs seconded.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Thirty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Ambulance Service Expense Overage Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding Ambulance Service expenses that exceed the budgeted amounts for such services. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-Five and asked for a motion to accept the article. Bruce Gezelman moved to approve Article Thirty-Five, which Beth Downs seconded.

Tandy Hartford: Asked why we have established the fund when in the past we have over appropriated, hoping that it would cover the cost since we can't spend money that we don't appropriate. I was wondering if this is the fix to that problem.

Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator: Replied that a couple a of years ago we had under appropriated. We appropriated Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$57,000.00) and it came in at Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00) and that was a really tight year. You know coming up with that difference. Last year we appropriated One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000.00). The bill was just under Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00) which gives us Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) which is this Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) here. The over appropriation last year lapsed into fund balance which is why we're pulling it from fund balance. This is going to be a cushion, should we have another surprise in the future.

Article Passed with a raised hand vote.

Article Thirty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Offices. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, read Article Thirty-Six and asked for a motion to accept the article. Rachel Sweetbrown moved to approve Article Thirty-Six, which Bruce Gezelman seconded.

Article Passed with a voice vote.

Bruce Storm, Moderator, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by everyone in attendance.

Bradford Board of Selectmen,

Beth Downs, Chairman

Mary Ellen Pfeifle, Selectman

Marlene Freyler, Selectman

A true copy attest:

Official Town Warrant and Minutes for the Election on March 12, 2024, and Meeting on March 13, 2024. 207 registered voters attended.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Gross".

Erica Gross

Town Clerk/Tax Collector