



TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**2015 TOWN MEETING VOTERS GUIDE**

To assist the voters with the myriad of warrant articles on the March 10, 2015 ballot, the Town of Newmarket has written this Voter’s Guide. It is a copy of all warrant articles you will see on the Town Ballot; their impact on the tax rate; the Town Council and Municipal Budget Committee recommendations; and a brief explanation of the articles. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Administrator’s Office at (603)659-3617 or via email at [sfournier@newmarketnh.gov](mailto:sfourmier@newmarketnh.gov).

**Election of Town Officials**

- Article T- 1.** To choose the following officers for the coming year:
- Two Town Councilors ..... Three Years
  - One Town Councilor..... One Year
  - Three Municipal Budget Committee Members..... Three Years
  - One Town Clerk - Tax Collector ..... Three Years
  - One Supervisor of the Checklist ..... Three Years
  - Two Planning Board Members ..... Three Years
  - One Trustee of the Trust Funds..... Three Years
  - One Trustee of the Trust Funds..... One Year

**Amendment to Town Charter – Contributions to Capital Reserve Fund**

**Article T- 2.** Shall the municipality approve the charter amendment as summarized below?

This Amendment would authorize the Town of Newmarket, through its annual budgetary process, to appropriate funds and anticipated revenues to previously established capital reserve funds, expendable trust funds and other funds, as part of the Town’s operating budget.

Amend the Town Charter by adding the new underlined language as follows:

**5.4. Use of Official Ballot.**

I. "Operating budget" as used in this section means "budget" as defined in RSA 32:3, III, exclusive of "special warrant articles", as defined in RSA 32:3, VI(a)(b)(d) and (e). The "Operating budget" may include appropriations and anticipated revenues to funds previously established by the legislative body as defined in RSA 32:3, VI(c). This amendment shall be effective upon passage.

(Majority Vote Required) *Recommended by the Town Council 7-0.*

**Explanation:** Since 1991, Town has included contributions to Capital Reserve Funds as an appropriation in the Annual Budget. The NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) stated that contributions must be on ballot as separate warrant articles since our charter did not specify another way. This amendment would go back to previous practice.

### **FY2016 OPERATING BUDGET**

**Article T- 3.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,107,827? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,981,111 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. If passed, it is estimated that passage of this article will amount to \$6.01 of the tax rate, which is a twenty-one cent decrease over the previous year. If the article is defeated, the default budget will amount to \$5.83, which is thirty-nine cent decrease over the previous year. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 11-0. Recommended by the Town Council 7-0.*

**Explanation:** The Municipal Budget Committee and Town Council propose a budget of \$9,107,827

This would be an increase of \$297,015 or 3.8%. Of this \$271,530 is in the Water and Sewer Department and does not affect the tax rate. If the proposed budget passed, due to additional revenues tax rate would be reduced 21¢

If the Default Budget passed, it would be \$8,981,111 or an increase of \$170,289 over current year.

### **RATIFICATION OF A 3 YEAR POLICE CONTRACT**

**Article T- 4.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Newmarket and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 215, which represents the Police Employees, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Salary and Salary Driven Benefits Increase</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016	\$25,240
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017	\$19,577
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018	\$16,458

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand two hundred forty dollars (\$25,240) for the fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current

staffing levels. There will be a four-cent impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required)  
*Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** The Town Council has reached a Three Year agreement with the Police Union. Salary increases in each of the three years are 2.5%, 2%, 1.5% respectively. The estimated impacts in each year are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Salary and Salary Driven Benefits Increase</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016	\$25,240
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017	\$19,577
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018	\$16,458

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Public Works Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required)  
*Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 10-1.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$130,000 to Public Works Capital Reserve Fund, which is to purchase large equipment such as trucks loaders etc. To fund this we would withdraw \$130,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$487,594 in the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Storm Water Management Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required)  
*Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$50,000 to Storm Water Management Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose of the fund is to prepare for storm water management projects required by Federal regulations. To fund this we would withdraw \$50,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$51,141 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE MACALLEN DAM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Macallen Dam Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required)  
*Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$50,000 Macallen Dam Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to study and address the issues facing the Macallen Dam. To fund this we would withdraw \$50,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$8 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO POLICE VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty six thousand five hundred dollars (\$46,500) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. *Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 8-3.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$46,500 to the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to replace police vehicles. To fund this we would withdraw \$46,500 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$170,904 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO COMPENSATED ABSENCES FUND**

**Article T- 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Compensated Absences Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$10,000 to the previously established Compensated Absences Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to pay employees for earned time at the time of separation from the Town. To fund this we would withdraw \$10,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$29,516 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **ESTABLISHES A ROAD MAINTENANCE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 10.** To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of planning, engineering, and maintenance of Town roads and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from fund balance to be placed in this fund and further to name the Town Council as agents to expend the fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. Majority vote required *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds creates a Road Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund and places \$125,000 to it. The purpose to of the fund is study and improve Town Roads. To fund this we would withdraw \$125,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus).

## **CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICE DISPATCH CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty nine thousand four hundred forty nine dollars (\$29,449) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Police Dispatch Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 9-2.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$29,449 to the previously established Police Dispatch Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to replace equipment in the Police Dispatch Center. To fund this we would withdraw \$29,449 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$102,269 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$10,000 to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to conduct the Town Wide Property Valuation every 5 years as mandated by the State, which will be 2019. To fund this we would withdraw \$10,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$ 3,324 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$50,000 to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to replace fire department equipment. To fund this we would withdraw \$50,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$277,231 in the Capital Reserve Fund as of Dec. 31.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO THE TERCENTENNIAL FUND**

**Article T- 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) from fund balance to be placed in the previously established Town of Newmarket Tri-centennial Expendable Trust Fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds \$2,000 to the previously established Town of Newmarket Tri-centennial Expendable Trust Fund. The purpose to of the fund is to put money aside to celebrate Newmarket's 300th Birthday in 2027. To fund this we would withdraw \$2,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus). There was \$2,000 in the fund as of Dec. 31.

## **ESTABLISH A MASTER PLAN CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**Article T- 15.** To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of conducting the Master Plan and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from fund balance to be placed in this fund and further to name the Town Council as agents to expend the fund. There will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee by a vote of 11-0.*

**Explanation:** Passage of this article adds creates a capital reserve fund to put money aside to conduct the Town Master Plan every 10 years and places \$125,000 into it. This is recommended by State law and now required by Town Charter. To fund this we would withdraw \$10,000 from Fund Balance (Surplus).

**DONATION OF \$10,403 TO LAMPREY HEALTH CARE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION**

**Article T- 16.** ***By Petition*** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,403 for the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation. There will be a one-cent impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the Town Council by a vote of 4-2. Not recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 0-6-1 abstention.*

**Explanation:** The petitioners are seeking to restore funding for senior transportation that was not in the Town Administrator, Town Council, or Municipal Budget Committee proposed budget.