

Election Day – March 8

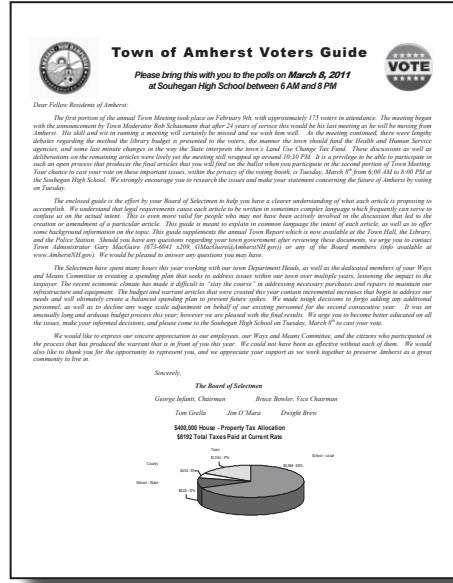
Amherst Polls Open: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Souhegan High School, Amherst, NH

The 2011 Town of Amherst Voters' Guide is included with today's edition of *The Amherst Citizen!*

Extra copies are available at the Amherst Town Hall, Amherst Town Library, Moulton's Market, Cider Mill, or The Homestead.

View election results or download a copy of the Voters' Guide at:

www.amherstcitizen.com



FY 12 Town Ways & Means Report Operating Budget and Warrant Articles

Voters, it's time to go to the ballot box! Your support on the budget this year is vital and important. The budget this year has a built-in increase because of the road-rebuilding bond approved last year and the first summer's construction costs. And yet, even with that, we added more roads miles this year to the list needing total rebuild. This will cost us at least 10 times more than just simply maintaining them every year. As a result, road maintenance funding has been increased this year to begin to reverse this process. It's extra funding, but far less expensive than totally rebuilding our roads.

The Board of Selectmen, Ways & Means, and the Department Heads have collaborated on a multi-year look at the budget to not only spread the cost increases over time, but to also prioritize the funding at the same time. We have bridges that are in trouble. After four years of negotiation, we have a new contract with our Policemen and women. And we have a new fire engine and fire safety gear that must be replaced for our volunteer fire fighters. We also need vehicles in our highway department to replace those having seen too many salty winters.

Much has been put off over the last few years, and the Town Budget held artificially lower than actual

needs. That can be done for a while, but it most certainly catches up eventually and creates problems. And the longer it goes on, the deeper the financial hole the Town creates for itself to try and climb out of. Think back to the \$15 million road rebuilding bond.

This year there is a substantial difference between the Town Budget, and the default budget. The budgets presented by the Department Heads were reviewed and approved by the Selectmen, Ways and Means, and the Deliberative Session. The budgets are fair, with little fat to find, and were well reviewed by us all. More importantly, the budgets represented the true needs of the Town Departments. We can not afford to go to the default budget. To do so will require cut backs in service and / or layoffs.

The quality of life in Amherst is what has attracted most of us to build lives here, and to stay here. If this is true for you as well, Ways and Means is asking for your support. Vote on March 8th, and vote to support our Town.

*Jack Kunkel, Chairman
FY 12 Ways & Means
Amherst*

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 24: Police Union Contract

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Union (Police Union) and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$81,988 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent expired collective bargaining agreement paid in the prior fiscal year. Upon approval of this article, additional estimated increase over 2012 costs are to be transferred to the general operating budget of the Police Department. The cost item increases attributable to the new collective bargaining agreement are set forth as follows:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Fiscal Year	Additional Estimated Increase	YES	NO
2012		2013		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wages	\$63,390	Wages	\$28,522	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits	\$18,598				
Total	\$81,988	Total	\$28,522		

Note: Pursuant to the form of RSA 273-A:12 in place at the time of the drafting of this warrant, this collective bargaining agreement, if approved, including the pay plan, but excluding cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

ARTICLE 25: Public Health Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to continue with a Public Health Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program. This program is designed to monitor and help prevent the presence of mosquito borne vector diseases in accordance with the State of New Hampshire Abrovincial Surveillance, Prevention and Control Guidelines.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 26: Lease/Purchase of Rescue/Pumper for Fire Department

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a four year lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing a replacement Rescue/Pumper for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$154,223 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement will contain an escape clause. (Majority vote required).
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 27: Funding for Recreation Land Purchase - Transfer from LUCT Fund to Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$390,000 to be placed into the Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction Capital Reserve Fund previously established by the passage of Article 10 at the March 2007 annual meeting. Such amount to be transferred from the existing balance of the Land Use Change Tax Fund pursuant to RSA 79-A:25-a, (II). And to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements and to acquire such properties for said purposes as they deem appropriate, on terms and conditions acceptable to the Board of Selectmen and under the provisions of RSA 41:14-a.
This is a non-lapsing Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 28: Discontinue Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote, pursuant to RSA 35:16-a, to discontinue the current Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund which contained an ending balance as of June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$ 14,230 with said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to be transferred to the general fund.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 29: Establish Forestview Cemetery Design Expendable Trust

Shall the Town vote, pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, to establish a new expendable trust account entitled the Forestview Cemetery Design Expendable Trust Fund, in which principal and interest may be expended, for the purpose of defraying the cost of the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction design of the Forestview Cemetery on Merrimack Road, and to name the Trustees of the Cemetery to be agents to expend for the purposes for which the trust was created, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 14,230 towards this purpose, said funds to come from the general fund and deposit the same in said Forestview Cemetery Design Expendable Trust Fund.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 30: Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 31: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING



ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2011

BALLOT 1 OF 2

Nancy G. Sweeney
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

SELECTMAN Vote for not more than one (3 Years) THOMAS P. GRELLA <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>	ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Vote for not more than two (3 Years) JAMES M. RAMSAY <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>	CEMETERY TRUSTEE Vote for not more than one (3 Years) MARIE T. GRELLA <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>
TOWN CLERK Vote for not more than one (3 Years) NANCY A. DEMERS <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>	TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS Vote for not more than one (3 Years) JACOB SIWIK <input type="radio"/> ANDREW PATAKY <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>	LIBRARY TRUSTEE Vote for not more than two (3 Years) HELEN D. ROWE <input type="radio"/> DONALD HOLDEN <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="text"/>

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 22: Bridge Replacement Bond

Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of two million, one hundred thousand, two hundred sixty dollars (\$2,100,260) (gross budget) to reconstruct three bridges red listed by New Hampshire Department of Transportation during annual inspections, more particularly identified as Bridge #109/090 (New Boston Road over Beaver Brook), Bridge #134/100 (Manchester Road over Beaver Brook) and Bridge #060/158 (Horace Greeley Road over Pulpit Brook) and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than two million, one hundred thousand, two hundred sixty dollars (\$2,100,260) 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 and to determine the rate of interest thereon and other conditions of the bonds or notes in their judgment. This is a special Article in accordance with RSA 32: 3/5 Ballot Vote Required
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 23: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, 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 herein, totaling \$10,346,565. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$10,136,943 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING



ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2011

BALLOT 2 OF 2

Nancy G. Sweeney
TOWN CLERK

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 32: Town Computer System Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Town Computer System Capital Reserve Fund previously established.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 33: Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative Subsidy

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500) to support the Souhegan Valley Rides bus service which provides subsidized transportation to qualified individuals including persons in the Town of Amherst.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 34: Health and Human Service Agencies

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) to support the health and human service agencies which provide service to Amherst residents, the amount of the grant and identity of the receiving organization to be determined by the Selectmen as they, in their judgment, deem appropriate. In the event this article passes, the selectmen intend to include this appropriation in future years as a line item in the operating budget.
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 35: Authorize the Amherst Conservation Commission to expend funds to qualified organizations

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 36: Authorize the Amherst Conservation Commission to expend funds for land purchases outside Amherst

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body?
(The Board of Selectmen recommends a yes vote.)

YES
NO

ARTICLE 37: Library Operating Budget (By Petition)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to defray the costs of the operation of the library.

YES
NO

ARTICLE 38: Library Operating Budget as a Separate Warrant Article (By Petition)

Shall the Town vote to express a 'sense of the voter' resolution requesting the Board of Selectmen and Library Board of Trustees, in future years, to schedule a special joint meeting prior to the final budget submission in order to facilitate increased communication between these boards and to provide an additional opportunity for citizens input regarding the overall library budget and goals.

YES
NO

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING