

State of New Hampshire,
Town of Wentworth
Warrant for year 2025 Town Meeting

To the inhabitants of the Town of Wentworth, in Grafton County, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the election of the Town Officers for the Town of Wentworth will be held at the Wentworth Elementary School, 1247 Mt Moosilauke Hwy, Route 25, Wentworth NH, March 11, 2025. The polls will open at 11 am and close at 7 pm to bring in your votes on Article 1 (the election of Town Officers). All other articles will be presented, discussed and acted upon on Saturday, March 15, 2025 beginning at 1 pm, to be held at the Wentworth Elementary School.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Moderator Stephen Welch
The Moderator read Article 1

Article 01 Election of Officers

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (By Official Ballot)

Position	Term		
Selectman	3 yrs	Richard Ducheneau	121
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 yrs	Linda Franz	117
Town Treasurer	3 yrs	Deborah Vlk	134
Planning Board	3 yrs	Omer C Ahern, Jr.	93
Planning Board	3 yrs	Philip Chandonnet	103
Supervisor of the Check List	3 yrs	Ramandeep Davis	131
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Sharon Sanborn	131
Library Trustee	1 yr	Resa Cirrincione	124
Town Auditor	1 yr	Lena-Maye Williams	117
Cemetery Trustee	3 yrs	Francis Muzzey	WI
Fire Commissioner	1 yr	Jeffry W. Ames	117
Fire Commissioner	1 yr	R. Pete Chierichetti	108
Fire Commissioner	1 yr	Brian Dubois	114

Motion to Accept: John Vlk

2nd: Jenn Meade

No questions or comments

Re-read Article

PASSED by voice vote

Article 02 Receive Reports

To receive reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditors, and other Town Officers, and to vote on any motion relating to those reports.

Motion to Accept: Tim Minear

2nd: Linda Franz

No questions or comments

Re-read Article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 03 General Municipal Operations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$406,775 for General Municipal Operations for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. This article does not include any amounts contained in any other article.

Motion to Accept: John Vik
2nd: Tom Stoughton
Tim Minear asked to amend the article to read:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$366,097.50 for General Municipal Operations for the purposes detailed in the operation budget posted with the Warrant. This article does NOT include any amounts contained in any other article.

Motion to Accept: Tim Minear
2nd: Kim Minear
Amendment was re-read and failed by hand count
Yes = 17
No = 51

Re-read original article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$406,775 for General Municipal Operations for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. This article does not include any amounts contained in any other article.

PASSED by voice vote

Article 04 Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the Planning Board in connection with its activities for such purposes and such uses as deemed necessary by said Planning Board.

Motion to Accept: Duane Brown
2nd: Sonia Scheller

Tim Minear asked why this much?
Jenn Meade answered that the money goes towards master plan renewal.

No further questions or comments
Re-read original article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 05 Commercial Site Plan Review

To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 674:43 and specifically under 674:16 to allow the Wentworth Planning Board the sole purpose of amendment of the Wentworth Planning board Regulations for Commercial Site Plan Review. Under its guidelines the Wentworth Planning Board will hold additional public hearings for public comment concerning the changes to the Planning Board Regulations.

Article was read

Francis Muzzey motioned to table

Moderator explained tabling ends all discussion

2nd: Quentin Mack

Vote took place

68 = Yes

14 = No

Passed by hand count vote

Article 06 Historical Society

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the maintenance and expenses associated the Wentworth Historical Society Museum and the grounds on which it stands.

Motion to accept: Jenn Meade

2nd Doug Campbell

No questions or comments

Re-read article

PASSED by voice vote

Article 07 Power to Friendship Bridge

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,700 for the purpose of supplying power from the Wentworth Historical Building to the Friendship Bridge. (Majority vote required)

Motion to accept: Donna King

2nd: Deborah Ziemba

Donna explained that the town should have a light on the covered bridge as it is a pedestrian bridge. She explained the power would come from the historical society building and the historical society would pay the monthly bill.

Jenn Meade explained that the town did not own the covered bridge and it belonged to a non-profit 503C. She did not agree with the lighting.

Re-read article

FAILED by show of hands

Article 08 Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$109,653 for the maintenance of the Police Department for the ensuing year for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$6,645 coming from the unassigned fund balance and \$103,008 from general taxation.

Motion to accept: Francis Muzzey
2nd: Renee Ferland

No questions or comments
Re-read original Article
PASSED on voice vote

Article 09 Animal and Pest Control

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,133 for the expenses associated with Animal and Pest Control.

Motion to accept: Richard Ducheneau
2nd: Doug Campbell

No questions or comments
Re-read original Article
PASSED on voice vote

Article 10 Ambulance Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,000 for the operating expenses associated with Ambulance Services.

Motion to accept: Quentin Mack
2nd: Linda Franz

Peter Bonicek who serves as chairman of the board of WWAS asked to speak and explained that there is a new board with a new action plan.

Lots of questions were asked.
Re-read original article
Passed by paper ballot
Yes = 58
No = 45

Article 11 Fire Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,100 for the maintenance of the Fire Department for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$5,000 coming from unassigned fund balance and \$55,100 from general taxation.

Motion to accept: Mike Norkelun
2nd: Charles Archibald

No questions or comments
Re-read article
Passed by voice vote

Article 12 Fire Department-Pump Refurb

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,200 for the purpose of refurbishing the fire pump on Engine Two.

Motion to accept: Jenn Meade
2nd: Doug Campbell

No questions or comments
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 13 Highway and Streets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$428,330 for Highway and Streets for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$49,196 coming from the unassigned fund balance and \$379,134 from general taxation.

Motion to accept: Sonia Scheller
2nd: Sam Brown
No questions or comments
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 14 Purchase of new highway truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of a 2024 Ford F600 4x4 truck, equipped with 4 yard dump body, 4 yard stainless steel sander, 10 foot plow and hydraulics to run broom and rake, to maintain town roads, \$110,000 to come from Highway Equipment Capital Reserve and \$40,000 from highway block grant, and nothing from general taxation. The Select Board recommends this action. (Majority vote required)

Motion to accept: Brian Dubois
2nd: George Morrill
Some conversation took place
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 15 Western Star

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to continue with the fifth year of the seven (7)-year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing a 2022 Western Star 4700SF Dump/Plow Truck for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500 for the said fifth year payment for that purpose. The lease agreement does not contain an escape clause. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Motion to accept: Jordan King
2nd: Adam Patten
No questions or comments
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 16 North Dorchester Road Bridge Bond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$131,818 for the second installment of a ten-year bridge bond commitment, \$85,000 being the principal portion and \$46,818 being the interest portion.

Motion to accept: Maureen Horgan

2nd: Devin Green
No questions or comments
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 17 Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$92,300 for the purpose of disposal and hauling of solid waste and cost of maintenance for the Town Transfer Station, said amount to come from general taxation.

Motion to accept: Sam Brown
2nd: Nance Masterson
Some discussion took place
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 18 Parks and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,200 for the Parks and Recreation for the general maintenance of parks including the Common, Library, Riverside Park, and Hamilton Memorial Field.

Motion to accept: Arnie Scheller
2nd: Maureen Horgan
No questions or comments
PASSED by voice vote

Article 19 Conservation Appropriation

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be expended for the purpose of matters relating to conservation and Baker River water quality testing, with \$1,576 coming from unassigned fund balance and \$424 from general taxation.

Motion to accept: Tom Stoughton
2nd: Emily Gove
Some discussion took place
Re-read article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 20 EFT and CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$219,100 to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2024 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$25,000
Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$50,000
Police Cruiser CRF (established 1993) \$9,000
Property Revaluation CRF (established 1995) \$5,000
Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$50,000
Town Hall Maintenance and repairs CRF (established 2000) \$5,000
Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$25,000
Fire Department Site EFT (established 2004) \$25,000

Webster Memorial Library EFT (established 2015) \$10,000
Town Office Expansion ETF (established 2017) \$15,000
Celebration ETF (established 2018) \$100

Motion to accept: Devin Green
2nd: Rick Ducheneau

Holly Buker wanted to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$219,100 to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2024 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$18,000
Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$25,000
Police Cruiser CRF (established 1993) \$4,500
Property Revaluation CRF (established 1995) \$2,500
Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$25,000
Town Hall Maintenance and repairs CRF (established 2000) \$2,500
Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$15,000
Fire Department Site EFT (established 2004) \$15,000
Webster Memorial Library EFT (established 2015) \$5,000
Town Office Expansion ETF (established 2017) \$10,000
Celebration ETF (established 2018) \$100

Motion to accept: Tim Minear
2nd: Sam Brown
Lots of people said NO
FAILED by voice vote

Holly Buker also asked to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$219,100 to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2025 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Motion to accept Tim Minear
2nd: Sam Brown
Amended article was read
PASSED by voice vote

Article 21 Webster Memorial Library

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$57,377 for the Webster Memorial Library and authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000 from the Webster Memorial Library Expendable Trust created for that purpose. The balance of \$54,377 is to come from general taxation. The Select Board recommends this action. (Majority vote required)

Motion to accept: Bud Masterson
2nd: Emily Gove

No questions or comments
PASSED by voice vote

Article 22 Other Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Motion to reconsider article 5: Linda Franz

2nd Duane Brown

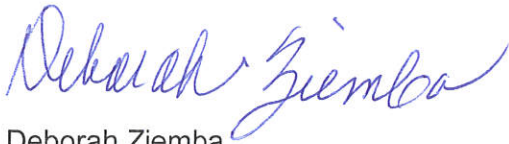
FAILED by hand vote

Motion to adjourn: Neil Borger

2nd: Deborah Ziemba

PASSED by voice vote

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah Ziemba