

**2016 WARRANT ARTICLES
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield in the County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified that the first session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on **January 30, 2016 at 10:00** a.m. for explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA §40:13, IV. You are hereby notified that the second session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on **Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:00** in the forenoon for the choice of Town Officers elected by official ballot to vote on questions required by laws to be inserted on the official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA §40:13, VIII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will be open on said date at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and will not close earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS
ARTICLE 1**

2 Selectmen

John Brunelle
Kevin Bourque

3 Year Term

2 Budget Committee

Cynthia Couture
Paul B. Mallory
Shana Dodge
Jennifer Bourque
Andrew Cutter

3 Year Term

1 Checklist Supervisor

Robert Redding

6 Year Term

1 Cemetery Trustee

Warren Adams

3 Year Term

1 Trustee of Trust Funds

Michael Falzon

3 Year Term

2 Library Trustee

Cecile Bonvouloir

3 Year Term

ARTICLE 2 - SIGN ORDINANCE

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 1500, Sign Ordinance, to comply with the recent Reed v. Town of Gilbert, AZ Supreme Court decision clarifying the right to free speech and content based signs. Proposed amendments delete all provisions relevant to real estate, development, property sales, and agricultural “you pick” signs as they are considered content based and invalid under the recent decision. Section 1503.02 relative to Residential District Home Occupation signs is proposed to be amended to allow signs for all property owners in the Residential District, not just home occupations. Additionally, a new provision is proposed to allow for Temporary Signs to be placed for 30 days without approval or a permit. A definition of “temporary signs” is proposed to be added to Section 200, Definitions.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

ARTICLE 3 - SETBACKS OF SHEDS AND STRUCTURES ON ALBUQUERQUE

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 502.03 of the Residential District to allow sheds less than or equal to 192 square feet to be setback a minimum of 10 feet from the side and rear lot lines. Further to reduce the building or structures set back from Albuquerque Avenue from 75 feet to 50 feet, consistent with the setback required for all other public rights of way.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

ARTICLE 4 - TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to relocate all dimensional standards (frontage, setbacks, and lot size) to new a single table of dimensional requirements in Section 300. Delete all relocated content from Sections 500-1000. There are no proposed changes to the dimensional requirements currently in effect with the exception of those within the Residential District. The Residential District side and rear setbacks for sheds less than or equal to 192 square feet is proposed to be reduced from 20 to 10 feet and the setback from Albuquerque Ave for all buildings and structures is proposed to be reduced from 75 to 50 feet. Also within the Residential District, uses other than single family residential and two-family residential are proposed to have a minimum of 150 feet of frontage and 1 minimum contiguous acre of dry land to be consistent with the requirements for single family residential in the same district.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

ARTICLE 5 - DEFINITIONS AND AQUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 200, Definitions, to remove site features such as fences and retaining walls from the definition of "structure" and add a definition of "public right of way". Public Right of Way means Class I - Class VI highways as defined in NH RSA 229, or streets shown on subdivision and/or site plan plats approved by the Litchfield Planning Board. Amend Section 1252.00 of the Aquifer Protection District to correct the source citation for the original Aquifer Delineation Study.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

ARTICLE 6 - 2016 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$5,425,953. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$5,359,917 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Litchfield 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. Estimated 2016 tax rate increase is \$0.17.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Neither Recommended nor not Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 4-4-0)

ARTICLE 7 - POLICE CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items for wage and related costs that have been included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Litchfield and Council 93 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees which provides for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,329 for the current 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. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.02.

2016 \$18,329.00

2017 \$14,623.00 (estimated)

2018 \$12,659.00 (estimated)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

ARTICLE 8 - FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC TRAINING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,600 for expenses associated with training one (1) full time firefighter as a paramedic. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until training is completed or by December 31, 2019, whichever is sooner. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-1)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-1-0)

ARTICLE 9 - SECOND YEAR OF TOWN NON UNION WAGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

To see if the Town will vote to endorse the second year of a three year salary adjustment implementation plan to bring Town employee salaries in line with the non-union employee wage plan, as approved by the Board of Selectmen in 2013.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

ARTICLE 10 - FIRST YEAR OF LIBRARY NON UNION WAGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,648.00 to fund salary adjustments to bring Library employee salaries in line with the non-union employee wage plan, as approved by the Library Board of Trustees in 2015. This article represents the first year of a three year implementation plan. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.01.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 6-2-0)

ARTICLE 11 - TOWN EARNED TIME ACCRUAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the Earned Time Accrual Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Neither Recommended nor Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 4-4-0)

ARTICLE 12 - LIBRARY EARNED TIME ACCRUAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Library's Vacation Accrual Expendable Trust Fund created in 2012 and return the balance of such fund to the Town's general fund. The balance of this fund as of December 31, 2015 is \$7,374. And further, to see if the Town will vote to establish an Earned Time Accrual Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of annually accounting for the cost of earned but unused vacation time so that the expenses associated with employee resignations, retirements and buyouts of accrued earned time do not impact the current year budget, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,374.00 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2015; and to further appoint the Library Board of Trustees to serve as agents to expend from the fund. This would have a net cost to 2016 general taxation of \$0.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

ARTICLE 13 - HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH AGENCIES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,167 to support the requests of Human Services and Health Agencies including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Home Health & Hospice Care, St Joseph's Community Services (Meals on Wheels), Bridges, Community Council of Nashua, Court Appointed Special Advocates and American Red Cross. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.02.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 4-2-3)

ARTICLE 14 - BUILDING SYSTEMS TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the Building Systems Trust Fund as previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

ARTICLE 15 - FIRE STATION EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle exhaust removal system for the Fire Station. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.06.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-1)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

ARTICLE 16 - 2016 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of road improvement projects. It is anticipated that these funds will be used toward the cost of repairs to Cutler Road, Pinecrest Road and other roads as necessary. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.23.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

ARTICLE 17 - CHANGE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Public Works Expendable Trust Fund, as shown below with original text shown unchanged, new text shown in bold and deleted text shown as crossed out:

This Fund can be used for payment of solid waste disposal fees in excess of the annual budgeted appropriation for that purpose as well as the replacement of capital equipment at the Solid Waste Facility with a value of ~~or~~ greater than \$5000. In addition, this Fund can be used for **repair and replacement of vehicles and equipment**, payment of snow removal related costs, including **but not limited to**, wages, contracted service fees and purchase of salt and sand in excess of the annual budgeted appropriation for those purposes. This would have a net cost to 2016 general taxation of \$0. (2/3 vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

ARTICLE 18 - PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for deposit into the Public Works Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.03.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 5-3-0)

ARTICLE 19 - RECYCLING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of accounting for the cost of collection and disposal of recycling material, purchase of recycling supplies and equipment and other direct and indirect costs associated with the town's recycling program. The revenue from fees, charges and other income derived from the town's recycling program will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

ARTICLE 20 - NORTHEAST ENERGY DIRECT (gas pipeline)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,597 to be expended at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen in opposition to the proposed Northeast Energy Direct high pressure gas pipeline and/or to minimize the impact thereof on the land and people of the Town, including, but not limited to, expenditures for legal representation and consultants, land use planning and consultation, public information purposes, administrative and court filing fees, participation in multi-town coalitions, and any and all other expenses reasonably related to opposing said pipeline project and/or mitigating the effects thereof. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2020. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.02.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Neither Recommended nor Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 4-4-0)

ARTICLE 21 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to require the Conservation Commission to provide the Board of Selectmen, unless waived by the Board of Selectmen, with an independent property appraisal on land they wish to purchase prior to requesting Board of Selectmen approval and to require the Conservation Commission to seek legal counsel review of purchase and sale agreements prior to approval by the Conservation Commission. Estimated 2016 tax rate impact: \$0.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

ARTICLE 22 - TAX CAP

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the Budget Committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than \$175,000. (3/5 vote required.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

ARTICLE 23 - BY PETITION

To see if the Town will vote to open the LCTV studio to all Litchfield residents for Public Access Television this would have a net cost to the 2016 general taxation of \$0.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AT SAID LITCHFIELD THIS 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 2016.

Steven D. Perry, Chairman

John R. Brunelle, Vice Chairman

Frank A. Byron

Kevin C. Bourque

Brent T. Lemire

Litchfield Board of Selectmen