

TOWN OF NEWPORT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 5, 2024

The annual town meeting of the Town of Newport and the Town School District was called to order at 6:00PM by Selectboard Chair, Steven Barrup.

Mr. Barrup requested a moment of silence for our troops and for those that are no longer with us and then the flag salute was done.

1. David Ghelli made a motion that the clerk dispense with the reading of the entire warning, motion was seconded and PASSED on a voice vote.
  
2. TO ELECT A MODERATOR: Jerry Waterman nominated Richard Tetreault. Nominations were closed and Denise Daigle cast one ballot electing Richard Tetreault. After the town clerk administered the oath to Mr. Tetreault, he explained to the body some of Roberts Rules of Order.
  
3. TO HEAR AND DISPOSE OF THE REPORTS OF THE TOWN OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. Fire Department Report
  - b. Treasurer's report
  - c. Selectboard's report
  - d. Tax Collector's report
  - e. School Directors' report
  - f. Principal's report
  - g. Lister's report

Dave Ghelli made a motion to hear and dispose of the report of the town officers. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This PASSED on a voice vote.

4. TO ELECT ALL NECESSARY OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. TOWN CLERK FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Denise Daigle. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. Avis Rollins administered the oath to Denise Daigle
  
  - b. TOWN/SCHOOL TREASURER FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Denise Daigle. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. Avis Rollins administered the oath to Denise Daigle.

- c. SELECTPERSON FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Jerry Waterman nominated Steve Barrup. Nominations were closed and Denise Daigle cast one ballot electing Steve Barrup. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Barrup.
  - d. SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Conrad Bellavance nominated Dari-Joi Glover. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Dari-Joi Glover.
  - e. SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR A TWO YEAR TERM: Cameron Thompson nominated Jillian Raymond. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Jillian Raymond.
  - f. LISTER FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Linda Waterman nominated Arlene Brown. Nominations were closed and Denise Daigle cast one ballot electing Arlene Brown.
  - g. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Denise Daigle. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote.
  - h. FIRST CONSTABLE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Linda Waterman nominated Anthony Glover. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Glover
  - i. SECOND CONSTABLE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Terry Dillon. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Dillon.
  - j. PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR THREE YEAR TERM: Bruce Sargent nominated Edward Champine. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Edward Champine.
  - k. PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Joanne Guyette-Worth. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The town clerk administered the oath to Joanne Guyette-Worth..
  - l. PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: There were no nominations for this position.
5. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$20,496.00 to the Orleans County Sheriff's Department to allow for police services in town for the contractual year of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Steve Edgerley made a motion to approve this article This was seconded by Conrad Bellavance. The body had no objection in allowing a representative from the Sheriff's department to speak and answer questions. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.

6. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to approve a one year contract in the amount of \$67,491.00 to the Newport Ambulance Service, Inc. Chris Barrett made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Steve Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
7. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$40,678.13 to the Newport Town Fire Department (to help defray expenses). Chris Barrett made a motion to approve this article. This was seconded by Lauren Dillon. The body had no objection in allowing a Jason Willis, the fire chief, speak and answer questions. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
8. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$30,000.00 to the Newport Town Fire Department to be placed in a reserve fund for the purchase of equipment and vehicles that will outdate and/or need to be replaced. Chris Barrett made a motion to approve this article. This was seconded by Lauren Dillon. The assembly granted Jason Willis, fire chief, permission to speak with regard to this article. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
9. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$300.00 per student for “Special Busing”. This amount to be paid directly to the bus service, if available. If busing is not available, individuals MUST present a bill to the Clerk’s Office prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 with verification that their child is attending a certified private school and the date of enrollment as a regular education student. Ernest Choquette made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Bruce Sargent. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
10. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will approve the school board to expend \$3,809,719.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Dave Ghelli. Jill Raymond explained the budget numbers and the school’s mission statement to the assembly. Cameron Thompson also explained the budget to the assembly. The body had no objection in allowing Shelly Lanoue, the principal, speak and answer questions. Some discussion followed. Results of the paper ballot vote were: YES – 34 NO – 27. This article PASSED.
11. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will approve the school board to transfer the \$75,500.00 unallocated unaudited general fund balance from the 2022-2023 school year to the capital improvement fund. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Dave Ghelli. This article PASSED on a voice. Vote.
12. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$327,227.01 for the General Fund expenditures and direct the Selectboard to deduct anticipated revenue. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Bruce Sargent. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.

13. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$875,674.67 for the Roads and Equipment expenditures and direct the Selectboard to deduct anticipated revenue. Bruce Sargent made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$21,000.00 for the Lister's expenditures. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Dave Ghelli. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer into the re-appraisal fund the amount not used by the lister's budget in 2023 which is \$5,855.65. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Tom Latta. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
16. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$25,000.00 to the Goodrich Memorial Library. Steve Edgerley made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Jillian Raymond. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
17. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$1,100.00 to Rural Community Transportation (RCT) for services provided to residents that live in the Town of Newport. Cameron Thompson made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Tina Royer. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
18. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Society to assist with its commitments to rescuing, and finding homes for unwanted pets. Steve Edgerley made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Dave Ghelli. This article PASSED by a voice vote.
19. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging in providing services to residents of the town. Celine Champine made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
20. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$625.00 to the Old Stone House Museum to assist in maintaining the Old Stone House Museum and its Educational Program, and direct the selectmen to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same. Steve Edgerley made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Jillian Raymond. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
21. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$3,188.00 to the Northeast Kingdom Human Services a not-for-profit 501c (3) organization, to provide psychiatric mental health services to residents of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties. Tom Latta made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Jillian Raymond. This article PASSED on a voice vote.

22. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,200.00 to Umbrella, Inc. to support services to the residents of the town Jillian Raymond made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Maureen McGuire. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
23. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$500.00 as requested by Orleans County Citizen Advocacy for the purpose of creating and supporting one-to-one relationships between people with disabilities and community volunteers, and to direct the Selectmen to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same. Maureen McGuire made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Tom Latta. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
24. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$4,200.00 to Orleans-Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc. for the services of Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Work, Licensed Nurses Aide, Homemaker, Personal Care Attendant, Hospice, and Maternal Child Health Programs, and other community health programs provided by the Agency. Dave Ghelli made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Celine Champine. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
25. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$1,500.00 for the support of the northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA), a not for profit 501(3), to offer Food shelf services to residents. Tom Latta made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
26. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting. Ernest Choquette asked about the fire pond on town owned land on Vance Hill. He asked the moderator to request a show of hands to see if people supported this or not. A show of hands showed the body did support this. The selectboard answered questions related to this and other ARPA funded projects in town. Bruce Sargent talked about the conservation committee. He stated that one of the members had passed away. He asked for volunteers to contact the selectboard if they are interested in being on this committee.
27. To adjourn. Hearing no objections the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 9:00PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Denise Daigle – Town Clerk - Town and School Treasurer



---

Richard Tetreault, Moderator

---

---

---

Steven Barrup  
Jerry Waterman  
Richard Gosselin  
Selectboard-Town of Newport

---

---

---

---

Jillian Raymond  
Dari-Joi Glover  
Tina Royer  
Reene Fontaine  
Cameron Thompson  
School Board, Town of Newport

AUSTRALIAN VOTING RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

N.C.U.H.S.                    78 YES 74 NO

RECEIVED AND RECORDED THIS 7th DAY OR MARCH, 2024.

---

Denise Daigle  
Town Clerk – Town and School Treasurer