

TOWN OF NEWPORT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 4, 2025

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 Steve Roberts. Nominations were closed and Denise Daigle cast one ballot electing Steve Roberts. After the town clerk administered the oath to Mr. Roberts, 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 Conrad Bellavance. This PASSED on a voice vote.

4. TO ELECT ALL NECESSARY OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. SELECTPERSON FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Jerry Waterman nominated Richard Gosselin. Nominations were closed and Denise Daigle cast one ballot electing Richard Gosselin. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Gosselin.
  
  - b. SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Cameron Thompson. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Cameron Thompson.

- c. SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR A TWO YEAR TERM: Derek Royer nominated Tina Royer. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Tina Royer.
  - d. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Randy Desrochers nominated Denise Daigle. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote.
  - e. FIRST CONSTABLE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Terry Dillon nominated Anthony Glover. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Glover
  - f. SECOND CONSTABLE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM: Dave Ghelli nominated Terry Dillon. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote. The Town Clerk administered the oath to Mr. Dillon.
  - g. PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR THREE YEAR TERM: Dave Ghelli nominated Mike Beaumier. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote.
  - h. PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: Sheryl Brown nominated Bruce Sargent. Nominations were closed and this PASSED on a voice vote.
  - i. 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 authorize the elimination of the office of town lister in accordance with 17 V.S.A. 2651c(b)(1) and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under the provisions of Title 32? Dave Ghelli made a motion to approve this article. This was seconded by Cameron Thompson. There was some discussion. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
6. This article was passed over.
7. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$21,840.00 to allow for police protection services in town for the contractual year of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. Jill Raymond made a motion to approve this article This was seconded by Cameron Thompson. The body had no objection in allowing a representative from the Sheriff's department to speak and answer questions. Some discussion followed. Jill Raymond made an amendment to this article for this to read that these funds be allocated to the Orleans County Sheriff's Department. This amendment was seconded by Theresa

- Forbes. Some discussion. The amendment FAILED on a voice vote. The original article PASSED on a voice vote.
8. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to approve a one year contract in the amount of \$71,979.00 to the Newport Ambulance Service, Inc. Cameron Thompson made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  9. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$45,000.00 to the Newport Town Fire Department (to help defray expenses). Steve Edgerley made a motion to approve this article. This was seconded by Randy Desrochers. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  10. 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. Steve Edgerley made a motion to approve this article. This was seconded by Eli Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  11. 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>, 2025 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 Theresa Forbes. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  12. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will approve the school board to expend \$4,058,641.00, 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. Cameron Thompson explained the budget to the assembly. Some discussion followed. Results of the paper ballot vote were: YES – 37 NO – 34. This article PASSED.
  13. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$353,048.00 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 Steve Edgerley. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  14. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$905,199.66 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 Randy Desrochers. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.

15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$30,000.00 for the Lister's expenditures. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Adam Messier. Some discussion followed. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer into the re-appraisal fund the amount not used by the lister's budget in 2024 which is \$117.56 Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Tom Latta. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
17. To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate \$25,000.00 to the Goodrich Memorial Library. Randy Desrochers made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
18. 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. Norene Roberts made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Hannah Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
19. 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 Terry Dillon. This article PASSED by a voice vote.
20. 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. Norene Roberts made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Hannah Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
21. 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. Conrad Bellavance made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Hunter Wells. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
22. 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. Jill Raymond made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Terry Dillon. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
23. 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 Norene Roberts made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Tina Royer This article PASSED on a voice vote.
24. 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. Norene Roberts made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Hannah Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.

- 25. 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. Tina Royer made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Hannah Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  
- 26. 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. Cameron Thompson made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Eli Roberts. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  
- 27. Shall the voters of the Town of Newport vote to appropriate 1,000.00 for the support of Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (NEKLS) to provide services to residents of the Town. Hannah Roberts made a motion to accept this article. This was seconded by Sheryl Brown. This article PASSED on a voice vote.
  
- 28. Mike McLeese expressed his concerns with regards to the current administration in the country.
  
- 29. To adjourn. Hearing no objections the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Daigle – Town Clerk - Town and School Treasurer

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Steve Roberts, Moderator

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Steven Barrup  
Jerry Waterman  
Richard Gosselin  
Selectboard-Town of Newport

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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.                    47 YES   51 NO

RECEIVED AND RECORDED THIS 6th DAY OR MARCH, 2025.

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Denise Daigle  
Town Clerk – Town and School Treasurer