

Town of Hampton Falls

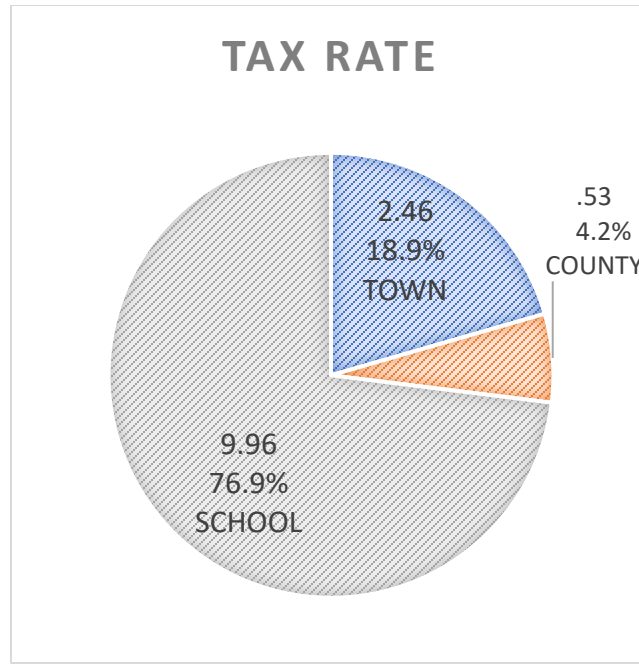
2024

Voter Guide

As amended after

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

To assist the voters with the Official Ballot Law, the Town of Hampton Falls has written this Voter's Guide. Included is a brief explanation of the Official Ballot law process, a copy of all warrant articles you will see on the Town Ballot; the Board of Selectmen recommendations; and a brief explanation of the articles. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Administrator at (603) 926-4618 ext. 103 or via email at townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org.



Tax Rate Breakdown

Property Tax Rate History

- Revaluation Year

	County	Town	Local School	State Ed.	Total
*2013	\$1.07	\$4.37	\$12.33	\$2.42	\$20.19
2014	\$1.08	\$4.52	\$12.60	\$2.44	\$20.64
2015	\$1.09	\$4.56	\$14.12	\$2.45	\$22.22
2016	\$1.06	\$3.85	\$14.12	\$2.47	\$21.50
2017	\$1.08	\$3.73	\$13.95	\$2.34	\$21.10
*2018	\$.97	\$2.51	\$14.35	\$2.07	\$19.90
2019	\$.96	\$3.66	\$15.38	\$2.11	\$22.11
2020	\$.94	\$3.44	\$14.95	\$2.02	\$21.35
2021	\$.90	\$3.53	\$12.28	\$2.02	\$21.12
2022	\$.89	\$3.85	\$14.86	\$1.39	\$20.99
*2023	\$.53	\$2.46	\$8.87	\$1.09	\$12.95

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Voting on the town and school elected officials, budgets and warrant articles. Polls are located **at Lincoln Akerman school** and are open from 8AM to 8PM. A picture ID is required to vote. Unregistered voters may register at the polls with proof of residency and a picture ID.

ARTICLE 1

Election of Town Officials

To choose the following officers for the coming year:

Moderator (One) for Two Years;

JP Pontbriand

Selectman (One) for Three Years;

Ed Beattie

Library Trustee (1) for Three Years;

Linda Coe

Supervisor of the Checklist (One) for Six Years;

Lyn Stan

Planning Board (2) for Three Years;

Eric Cimon

Abigail Tonry

Cemetery Trustee (One) for Three Years;

Jonathan Bohm

Trustee of the Trust Funds (One) for Three Years.

David Mayes

Elected officials are required to take an oath of office within 6 days of being notified, in accordance with RSA 42:4. All officials elected on March 12th will need to contact the Town Clerk at 603-926-4618 ext. 101 to schedule a time to take their oath.

ARTICLE 2: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendments as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, Article I, Section 4, Replace the definition of Fireworks Sales Establishments with “Fireworks, as in NH RSA 160-B and 160-C as amended.”

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: The State defines fireworks in the Statutes and by amending our zoning ordinance to reference the specific statute, it will keep Hampton Falls’ regulations consistent with the State as they may be amended periodically.

ARTICLE 3: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, H2 Retail Uses**, add additional words “**Fireworks (per NH RSA 160-B and C) NOT permitted.**”

Recommended by the Planning Board.



Explanation: (Articles 3, 4, & 5)

NH RSA 160-C:6 Local Option. – Any municipality in the state, by action of its local legislative body or local governing body, may vote to allow or to prohibit, within that municipality, the issuance of permits or licenses to sell permissible fireworks or the display or possession of permissible fireworks. If the municipality has voted to prohibit the issuance of permits or licenses or the display or possession of permissible fireworks prior to the effective date of this section, such decision shall remain in effect unless subsequent action is taken under this section.

Source. 1999, 348:14, eff. Jan. 21, 2000

On August 9, 2023 the Board of Selectmen voted: **To prohibit the sale of Display and Permissible Fireworks in Hampton Falls, as per NH RSAs 160-B:10 and 160-C:6. Articles 3 through 5** will confirm that decision and give the town voters the power to make and/or change that decision in the future. If the Warrant Articles do not pass, the Board of Selectmen have the option to vote to prohibit the issuance of permits or licenses to sell fireworks.

ARTICLE 4: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, L1 Wholesale Uses**, add additional words “**Fireworks (per NH RSA 160-B and C) NOT permitted.**”

Recommended by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 5: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, L2 Warehousing Uses**, add additional words “**Fireworks (per NH RSA 160-B and C) NOT permitted.**”

Recommended by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 6: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article I, Section 4**, Add definition of “**Short-Term Rental**”. “**Short-Term Rental**” means any individually or collectively owned single-family house or dwelling unit or any unit or group of units in a condominium, cooperative, or timeshare, or owner-occupied residential home, that is offered for a fee and for less than 30 consecutive days. Short-term rentals are residential uses of the property and do not include a unit that is used for any nonresidential use, including retail, restaurant, banquet space, event center, or another similar use.”

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This article defines what is a “**Short-Term Rental**”. Commonly known as an “Air B & B”, a short-term rental is a residential unit rented for less than 30 consecutive days.

ARTICLE 7 -Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, A, Residential Uses**, add new use: “11. **Short-Term Rental**”, permitted “P” in all zones, add additional words “**Per Zoning Ordinance Definition**”.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This article will allow short-term rentals for residential purposes in all zones in accordance with the definition shown in Article 6.

ARTICLE 8: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, J, Lodging Establishments**, add new use: “5. **Short-Term Rental**”, permitted “P” in all zones, add additional words “**Per Zoning Ordinance Definition**”.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This article will allow short-term rentals in lodging establishments in accordance with the definition shown in Article 6.

ARTICLE 9: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article I, Section 4**, Add definition of “**Vape Shop**”. “**Vape Shop**” means any premises, primarily dedicated to the display, sale, distribution, delivery, offering, furnishing, or marketing of electronic smoking devices, liquid nicotine, liquid nicotine containers or vapor products.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: The definition of “**Vape Shop**” specifies that the shop is primarily dedicated to vape products. This ordinance does not prohibit the sale of those items at gas stations or other establishments not specifically dedicated to vape items.



ARTICLE 10: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section 4, H2 Retail Uses**, add additional words “**Vape Shops NOT permitted**”.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This adds to the Table of Uses that Vape Shops are not permitted in any zone.

ARTICLE 11: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

New Definition: Add Art. I, Sec. 4 – Digital Sign. A digital sign is a video-style panel, one or two-sided, capable of displaying either text or photos. Digital signs, if utilized, would only replace the Change Panel portion of a sign as defined in Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.2.2.4. Either method of panel—digital or manual change panel--would be allowed per sign.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1 Digital Sign

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.1 Digital signage shall be allowed in BDS and BDN Districts in place of the “change panel” as listed in Art. IV Sec. 3.2.2.2.4 and shall be no greater than 30% of total allowed freestanding sign size. Only one digital sign (either one or two sided) is allowed per parcel.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.2 As per Zoning Article IV section 3.2.1.6 no moving, flashing or animated signs are permitted. Images displayed on the digital sign must be static and non-moving. This prohibition includes blinking or scrolling text or animated images. Frequency of change between static images on sign shall be no closer than 1 minute apart. This change time may be adjusted by the Code Enforcement Officer as necessary to minimize effects on neighboring properties or distraction to persons traveling on public roads.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.3 Brightness output of the digital sign must be reduced to a maximum of 50% after dusk. This brightness level may be adjusted by the Code Enforcement Officer, including a requirement that signage be turned off between midnight and dawn, as necessary to minimize effects on neighboring properties or distraction to persons traveling on public roads.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.4 The use of distracting or glaring colors is prohibited. Examples are lime green, pink and orange or those mimicking emergency vehicles.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.5 New or revised site plans will require identification of digital signage as part of Planning Board Site Plan Approval.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1.6 Upon approval of digital sign application, all other methods of signage except primary business sign are prohibited, excluding political signs.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: The current ordinances allow electronic signs and in order to make the town’s ordinances clear, a specific definition and regulations are being proposed for digital signs.

ARTICLE 12: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Sign Ordinance, Add Art. I, Sec. 4 - Dancing Sign. A dancing sign is a fan driven tube sign meant to actively “dance” or move when in operation.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.7 and Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.2.7: Dancing Signs are prohibited in all districts.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This amendment will prohibit the “Dancing Signs” and will help clarify the current sign ordinance.

ARTICLE 13: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Sign Ordinance, Add Art. I, Sec. 4 - Sign Board or Sandwich Board. A Sign Board or Sandwich Board is a freestanding sign normally folded open and self-supporting. The sign message may appear on one or both sides of the board.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.8 – Sandwich Board or Sign Board for Single Business in “BDN and BDS Districts”; and Art. IV Sec. 3.2.2.8: Sandwich Board or Sign Board for Multi-Business Sites in “BDN and BDS Districts”;

Sandwich Board/Sign Board signs shall be kept at least 15-feet inland of the “Fog Line” of a public way, or edge of pavement onto the parcel which utilizes the sign. The board can only advertise goods or services available on the parcel on which it is placed. One (1) sandwich board/ sign board sign is allowed per parcel.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This amendment will help regulate the number and placement of sandwich board type signs.

ARTICLE 14: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Sign Ordinance, Add Art I, Sec. 4 - Feather Flag Sign. A feather flag sign is a temporary upright outdoor sign made of flexible lightweight fabric with a sturdy frame that is affixed to a pole driven into the ground or supported by an individual stand, which

contains language for advertisement, greeting, or other messaging purposes.

Add Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.9 and Add Art. IV Sec. 3.2.2.9: Feather flag signs are prohibited in all districts.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This amendment will define and prohibit feather flag type signs in all zoning districts.

ARTICLE 15: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the title of the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.5: Banners for Single Business in “BDS, BDN and TCD Districts”, to read: Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.5: Banners for Single Business in “BDN and BDS Districts”.

Amend the title of Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.2.5: Banners for Multi-Business in “BDS, BDN and TCD Districts”, to read: Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.2.5: Banners for Multi-Business in “BDN and BDS Districts”.

Amend Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.2 Billboards, Dancing signs, and Feather signs are not permitted in any district in Town.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This amendment will prohibit billboards, dancing signs and feather flag type signs in all zones and only allow banners in Business District North and Business District South.

ARTICLE 16: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.4 (under Applicable Rules for All Signs in All Districts). Each sign shall be constructed of durable material and shall be maintained in a high state of repair at all times. Any sign, banner, flag or pennant which becomes in disrepair may be removed upon order of the Code Enforcement Officer if not refurbished, repaired, or removed after sixty (60) days written notice. (Amended March 1988)

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This amendment will help maintain the quality and condition of signs in town.

ARTICLE 17: Amend Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance?

Amend the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance to add a new Art. IV, Sec. 3.4 Table of Sign Types listing the various sign types and whether each type is permitted or prohibited in each zoning district, along with references to the applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Explanation: This table compiles all of the sign types into a format that will provide convenient references to the ordinances.

	<u>SIGN TYPE</u> *see note below for Signs in A/R	<u>A/R- Agricultural Residential District *</u>	<u>BDN- Business District North</u>	<u>BDS- Business District South</u>	<u>TCD- Town Common District</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinance Reference</u>
1	Banner Sign	N	P	P	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.5 and 3.2.2.5
2	Billboard Sign	N	N	N	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.2
3	Change Panel	N	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.2.4 and 3.2.2.2.4
4	Dancing Sign	N	N	N	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.7 and 3.2.2.7
5	Digital Sign	N	P	P	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.3.1
6	Feather Sign	N	N	N	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.9 and 3.2.2.9
7	Flag Sign	N	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.4.2 and 3.2.2.4.2
8	Flat to Wall Sign	N	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.1.1 and 3.2.2.1.1
9	Freestanding Sign	N	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.2.2
10	Hanging Sign	N	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.2.6 and 3.2.2.2.6
11	Political Sign	P	P	P	P	Art. IV, Sec. 3.3.5
12	Sandwich Sign or Sign Board Sign	N	P	P	N	Art. IV, Sec. 3.2.1.8 and 3.2.2.8

Business District North is the northern portion of the Route 1 corridor beginning at approximately Fallon’s Home & Hearth to the Hampton town line. Business District South is along the southern portion of the Route 1 corridor from the Seabrook line to the property abutting Whittier Pond. The section in-between BDN and BDS is the Town Common District (TCD).

ARTICLE 18: Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Hampton Falls 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 therein, totaling \$3,597,047? Should this amount be defeated the default budget shall be \$3,483,572 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton Falls 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. (Majority vote required.) (NOTE: This warrant article [operating budget] does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.) (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation:

The variance between 2023 approved budget and 2024 proposed budget is \$252,529 or 7.56%. The variance between the proposed budget and the default budget is \$113,475. The significant changes include an increase in the health insurance rates, IT Support services and the costs associated with three elections. Wages increased an average of 3%. There is one employee being changed from part-time to full-time.

	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Default Budget
Executive	146,328	149,770	144,115
Election/Regis.	117,999	132,698	132,698
Financial Admin.	145,910	179,926	155,836
Legal	9,500	9,500	9,500
Employee Benefits	560,876	659,084	663,425
Planning Board	22,265	22,143	22,265
Zoning Board	1,050	1,050	1,050
Heritage Comm.	1,000	1,000	1,000
Govt. Buildings	64,200	66,565	64,200
Cemeteries	18,200	21,220	18,200
Insurance	40,240	43,772	43,179
Police	651,746	666,342	651,746
Ambulance	105,664	139,875	105,664
Fire	203,574	218,000	203,574
Building Insp.	62,760	64,427	62,760
Emergency Mgmt.	11,975	10,950	11,975
Highway	481,283	500,329	491,862
Street Lights	4,300	4,300	4,300
Solid Waste Coll.	152,350	150,050	152,350
Solid Waste Disp.	126,964	126,200	126,964
Health	350	350	350
Animal Control	6,080	6,080	6,080
Health Agencies	17,750	16,000	17,750
Welfare	5,750	3,950	5,750
Parks & Rec.	38,010	45,177	40,010
Library	191,994	214,863	201,994
Patriotic Purpose	600	600	600
Conservation	10,900	14,700	10,900
Bond Principal	120,000	120,000	120,000
Bond Interest	10,700	8,026	13,375
Tax Antic. Costs	1,000	100	1,000

ARTICLE 19: Electric Aggregation

Shall the town vote to adopt the Hampton Falls Electric Aggregation Plan which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to implement a Community Power Aggregation program as described therein. Community Power Aggregation programs, pursuant to State Statute RSA 53-E, allow municipalities to purchase electric energy supply on behalf of their residents and businesses with the goals of allowing more local control of energy sources, lowering relative costs, expanding access to renewable energy sources, and supporting the development of innovative energy projects. (Majority Vote Required)

Explanation: This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Electric Aggregation Committee. Passage of this article will allow the Board of Selectmen to establish Hampton Falls Community Power and enable the town to take control of its energy future, lower energy costs for residents and in the future, invest in local renewable energy projects.

Residents and small businesses will be able to choose among supply options with varying amounts of renewable energy content. HF Community Power will include options with higher percentages of renewable energy at a higher cost. The default rate will be lower than Unitil. You may opt out of the HF Community Power and return to Unitil or other supplier of your choice. If approved, this savings opportunity could begin in June, 2024.

ARTICLE 20: Highway Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$311,000) to be placed in the Highway Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to culverts and town roads, using \$70,140 Highway Block Grant to offset this amount. If the grant is not fully received, the remainder to be raised through taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

As of 12/31/2023 this fund had a balance of \$131,582.08

Explanation: This Capital Reserve Fund is used to pay for road improvements throughout the town. In 2024, it is anticipated that repairs are going to be done on Crank Road and Drinkwater Road. Recent storm damage may result in other areas becoming the priority. By depositing the funds into the Capital Reserve Fund it insures that the funds can only be used for that purpose.



ARTICLE 21: Replace Fire Department Radios

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars \$140,000 for the purchase and service of emergency radios and associated equipment for the Fire Department. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The radios used by the Fire Department are no longer able to be repaired and are vital to the communication between dispatch and fire department personnel. The radios have been in service since 2001 and intent is to purchase 40 radios. These radios are specifically designed to be used in emergencies by first responders and are essential for communications. It was explained at the Deliberative Session that these radios are able to communicate in situations where use of a cell phone would be dangerous.



[This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY](#)

ARTICLE 22: Public Safety Building HVAC

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) to update the HVAC systems in the Public Safety Building as recommended by the town's Energy Committee. System to include two (2) new 48,000 BTU hyper heat pumps and ten (10) ceiling cassettes, thermostatically and independently controllable. Said appropriation to be offset by \$12,333 in remaining ARPA funds. (Majority Vote Required)

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen are in agreement that the HVAC needs to be improved in the Public Safety Building. The town's Energy Committee worked hard to evaluate the current systems and come up with an economical replacement system that will provide much improved working conditions for the staff with anticipated cost savings. The Board voted not to recommend this article based on prioritizing other needs being requested this year.

The justification for the investment:

- Current HVAC system is inadequate, inefficient, outdated and likely to degrade or fail further.
- Current systems don't work together and are usually on manual over-ride.
- The PSB has non-communicating and "layered" sources of HVAC including forced hot water, forced hot air, mini-splits, space heaters, etc.
- The current climate control system does not deliver equally to all parts of the building causing extreme hot spots and cold spots and generating the need for inefficient and costly stop-gap measures.

ARTICLE 23: Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1987, for the purpose of purchasing a replacement tank truck for the Fire Department. The intent is to raise funds over the next five years towards the purchase of the vehicle. As of December 31, 2023 the balance in that account was \$2,707.24. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: It is anticipated that one of the town's tank trucks will need to be replaced in five years. The current cost for a tanker is approximately \$800,000 which could increase to nearly One Million Dollars in five years. The plan is to replace a tank truck that will be thirty years old then. The majority of the funds will come from the ambulance revenues that are saved toward vehicle purchases with the balance from taxation. This is a small amount to start saving towards that purchase.



ARTICLE 24: Mosquito Control

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) for the purpose of a mosquito control program that will include an early detection system for diseases, larviciding and spot adulticiding for 2024. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This is the cost for the vendor providing mosquito control services to the Town.

ARTICLE 25: Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$47,489) to be placed in the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund established in 1994, for the purpose of purchasing police cruisers and other related equipment to include in-cruiser video cameras and radar. This appropriation to be offset by a grant of \$47,489 that was received in 2022. This is an audit requirement. No tax impact. (Majority Vote Required) As of 12/31/2023 this fund had a balance of \$49,062.85.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: No funds are being requested this year. The town received a grant in 2022 that was used to reimburse the costs of the recently purchased cruiser. The funding for the cruiser was from the existing Capital Reserve Fund and as a result, the grant funds need to be returned to that fund.

ARTICLE 26: Library Long-Term Strategic Plan

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$31,750) for the purpose of engaging a strategic planning consultant to develop a long-term strategic plan for the library and to authorize the Library Trustees to utilize donation funds for this purpose. This article to be non-lapsing for two years. No amount to be raised from taxation. No tax impact. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The population of Hampton Falls and library usage trends have changed over time. The intent of the study is to understand current needs to best serve residents and help the Library Trustees develop a long-term strategic plan. The study will provide opportunities for residents to share their thoughts. The consultant will develop a strategic plan that is critical to update programming and services, enable focused budgeting, and inform potential capital investments and improvements over the coming years.

ARTICLE 27: Change Polling Hours

Polling hours in the town of Hampton Falls are now 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Shall we place a question on the state election ballot to change polling hours so that polls shall open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM for all regular state elections beginning on September 10, 2024? (Majority Vote Required)

