

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 14, 2023**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Election to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-4. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 1 would add chimneys to the list of structures exempt from the 35-foot height limit contained in Section 704 Height.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 2 would add Accessory or Community-Shared Solar Energy Systems as allowed uses in Easton and provide standards regarding their construction. Systems up to and including 20 kW would be added to Section 602.1 as Permitted Uses, and systems over 20 kW would be added to Section 602.2 to be allowed by Special Exception. A new section would be added to Article 8. General Regulations containing standards such as code requirements, screening, glare, setbacks and removal, and Section 1203. Special Exceptions would be expanded to include language specific to solar energy systems over 20 kW. A height limit of 20 feet would be added to Section 704 Height for freestanding systems. Article 2 - Authority and Purpose and Article 3 - Definitions would both be expanded to address solar energy systems.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 3 would increase the number of occupants allowed in Short Term Rentals and would add standards required prior to issuance of a Zoning Permit. Section 602.1 Permitted Uses currently limits Short Term Rentals to two occupants for each permitted bedroom. This amendment would add "plus 2" to that section. A new section would be added to Article 8 General Regulations to address parking, septic systems, drinking water and code requirements.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

ARTICLE 5. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$269,098 for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$ 14,150.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	11,500.00
Financial Administration	16,800.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	6,152.00
Legal Expenses	10,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	5,000.00
Government Buildings	18,500.00
Cemetery	2,650.00
Insurance	3,500.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,574.00
General Government – Contingency	2,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	12,220.00
Fire Department	22,550.00
Building Inspections	1,000.00
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	151.00
Public Safety – Other (Including Communications)	1,750.00
Highways and Streets	60,001.00
Sanitation – Solid Waste	41,000.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	2,000.00
Parks and Recreation	22,000.00
Library	0.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00
Construction Bonds – Principal	8,800.00
Construction Bonds – Interest	<u>1,900.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$269,098.00

ARTICLE 6. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,511 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$ 500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	800.00
White Mountain Mental Health	<u>211.00</u>
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$1,511.00

ARTICLE 7. Budget for Other Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,034 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Center for New Beginnings	\$ 250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	200.00
Tri-County Community Action Program	<u>584.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$1,034.00

ARTICLE 8. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000.00

ARTICLE 9. Fee for Franconia Library

To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for payment to such library for this purpose; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 10. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997); of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 11. Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 12. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 13. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 14. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 15. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 16. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 17. Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 18. Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$512.40 to add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Trust Fund (established in March 2019); of this amount the entirety is to come from the December 31, 2022 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 19. READOPT the Optional Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the Town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$350. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 20. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the Meeting

To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.