

**TOWN OF ORFORD
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**PROPOSED
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

2024

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF ORFORD, County of Grafton, in said state, qualified to vote on Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Rivendell Academy Gymnasium in said Orford on Tuesday the 12th of March next at seven o'clock in the evening to act on the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1

To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officers. The polls will be open from four o'clock in the afternoon and will close no earlier than nine o'clock in the evening for you to cast your ballot for the following officers:

Moderator	2-Year Term		Planning Board	3-Year Term
Selectboard Member	3-Year Term		Planning Board	3-Year Term
Selectboard Member	2-Year Term		Planning Board	2-Year Term
Free Library Trustee	3-Year Term		Planning Board	2-Year Term
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3-Year Term		Planning Board	1-Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	3-Year Term		Planning Board	1-Year Term
Supervisor of the Check List	6-Year Term			

ARTICLE 2 – Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million four hundred twenty-four thousand five hundred seventy-two dollars (\$1,424,572) for general municipal operations. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Executive	\$ 100,339
Election & Registration	46,429
Financial Administration	86,721
Revaluation of Property	16,395
Legal Expenses	30,500
Engineering Expenses	8,000
Planning Board	17,250
General Government Buildings	12,950
Cemeteries	37,170
Insurance	41,227
Regional Association	1,995
Contingency Fund	5,000

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police	\$ 186,712
Emergency Services	95,298
Fire Department	87,349
Emergency Management	500

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Highways	\$ 514,841
Street Lighting	6,000

SANITATION

Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 10,209
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HEALTH - Animal Control \$ 500

WELFARE - Direct Assistance \$ 5,000

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Parks and Playgrounds	\$ 50,685
Libraries	57,872
Patriotic Purposes	1,700

CONSERVATION COMMISSION \$ 3,930

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred ninety thousand two hundred twenty-three dollars (\$490,223) for payments into the following Capital Reserve Funds. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

Road Improvement CRF (1994)	142,758
Fire Trucks CRF (1983)	58,859
Fire Dept. Equipment CRF (2015)	34,574
Fire Truck Major Maintenance CRF (2017)	4,043
Heavy Equipment Maintenance ETF (2003)	8,277
Highway Department Trucks CRF (1997)	130,000
Grader CRF (1983)	7,839
Loader CRF (1983)	25,021
Police Vehicle CRF (2023)	10,500
Town Buildings CRF (2019)	20,831
Town Property ETF (2000)	29,000
Cemetery Mower/Building CRF (2015)	1,521
Tree Care & Replacement ETF (1991)	10,000
Revaluation CRF (2021)	7,000
TOTAL	490,223

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate seventeen thousand three hundred eleven dollars (\$17,311) for the following appropriation requests:

Visiting Nurse Alliance \$7,000
 Grafton County Senior Citizen's \$3,000
 Tri-County CAP \$2,474
 West Central Behavioral Health \$1,800
 Public Health Council of the Upper Valley \$937
 Rivendell Recreation - \$750
 CASA \$500
 WISE \$500
 Ammonoosuc Community Health Services \$350

(Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate seventy thousand, nine hundred forty-one dollars (\$70,941) to be added to the Town of Orford Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This represents funds received in 2023 from the NH Highway Special Block Grant of \$18,044 for additional road projects, the NH Municipal Bridge fund for the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of municipally owned bridges of \$20,328, and FEMA reimbursement funds of \$32,569 (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the Archertown Road Flat-Phase II project (from the end of Phase I at the top of the hill, to Newcomb Bridge), which includes ledge removal, culvert replacements, ditching, grading, cost of gravel and base coat paving, plus top coat paving of the Archertown Road for both Phase I and II areas. The cost to be paid as follows: Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from taxes, and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. This will be a 3-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to remove the culvert at Mousley Brook and construct a bridge over the same area as a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. The cost will be shared between FEMA and the Town (75/25) to be paid as follows: Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from FEMA funds, and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. This will be a 3-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for design, permitting and to replace the dual culverts on Indian Pond Road (just north of the beach access road) with 3-4' culverts. This will be a 3-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority vote required). The majority of the Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to purchase 3 hand-held radio systems, one for each member of the Highway Department. This will be a 3-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to extend the Quinttown Road apron an additional 240 feet beyond the current apron, for paving and shouldering. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to continue exploration for uses of the Main Street Congregational Church. (Majority vote required) The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.) to cover costs for surveys, inspections and other expenses related to uses of the Congregational Church. (Majority vote required) The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town to vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Orford, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$15,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$20,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$25,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$50,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$40,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 14 – Petitioned article

To see if the Town will vote for bylaws of the road committee to read:

The road committee will: (work with the "road agent") to:

1. Recommend annual road maintenance priorities and budget
2. Recommend emergency road infrastructure repair
3. Recommend annual road and culvert repair priorities and budget
4. Develop and maintain long range road infrastructure capital repair plan and running estimate for same
5. Provide subject matter expertise on municipal road maintenance, repair and construction, including contract / proposal review and estimates.
6. Provide subject matter recommendation on building layout, building construction or building retrofit.

The means of communication will be in writing from the road committee via email or handed document with date of acceptance of delivery. If the "Road Agent" does not accept recommendation/s, then the "Road Agent" will put in writing the reason not accepting the road committee recommendation/s

Note: This written notification will be provided to the chair of the road committee within 14 days. (Majority Vote required) The Selectboard do not recommend this article.

ARTICLE 15 – Petitioned article

To see if the Town will vote to require the Orford Board of Selectmen to add "Public Comment" to the agenda of all posted Board of Selectmen public meetings.

(Majority Vote required) The majority of the Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 16

To hear the reports of Agents, Auditors and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any vote relating thereto.

ARTICLE 17

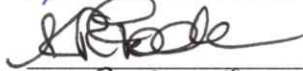
To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hand and seal at Orford the 7th day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-four.

John Adams



Kevin Follensbee



P. Chase Kling

