

**TOWN OF ORFORD
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**PROPOSED
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
2026**

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 10th 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 eight 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
Town Clerk:	3-year term	Cemetery Commissioner:	3-year term
Tax Collector:	3-year term	Supervisor of the Check List:	5-year term
Free Library Trustee:	3-year term	Supervisor of the Check List:	6-year term
		Trustee of the Trust Funds:	3-year term

ARTICLE 2 – *no taxes will be raised for this article*

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million seven hundred fourteen thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars (\$1,714,393) (gross budget) for the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook Bridge project, and to authorize the issuance of not more than one million seven hundred fourteen thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars (\$1,714,393) of notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (This is a Town/State bridge project with a guaranteed 100% reimbursement by the State of New Hampshire DOT for the cost of construction). And further to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-one thousand four hundred thirty-four dollars (\$81,434) for the first year's interest payment, and authorize the withdrawal of eighty-one thousand four hundred thirty-four dollars (\$81,434) from the Road Improvement Capital Reverse fund. This is a 3-year non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7 VI. (3/5 ballot vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred twenty-six thousand nine hundred fifty-one dollars (\$1,526,951) for general municipal operations. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

General Government:

Executive	\$ 127,355
Election & Registration	51,056
Financial Administration	92,924
Revaluation of Property	18,400
Legal Expenses	25,500
Engineering Expenses	5,000

Planning Board	22,800
General Government Buildings	12,990
Cemeteries	39,661
Insurance	45,161
Regional Association	2,117
Contingency Fund	5,000
Public Safety:	
Police	\$ 196,292
Emergency Services	105,508
Fire Department	87,774
Emergency Management	3,300
Highway & Bridges	
Highways	\$ 534,757
Street Lighting	2,300
Sanitation: Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 16,625
Health: Animal Control	\$ 1,969
Welfare: Direct Assistance	\$ 5,000
Culture & Recreation:	
Parks and Playgrounds	\$ 60,500
Libraries	58,702
Patriotic Purposes	2,350
Conservation Commission:	\$ 3,910

ARTICLE 4 - no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the additional sum of seven hundred thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars (\$700,393) for the purpose of municipally managing a NH Department of Transportation State Aid Bridge grant for the construction phase of the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge project. (This represents the additional project costs over the funding approved at the 2021 annual meeting, WA #8 for \$1,200,000. The current project costs have increased to \$1,900,393). The cost will be paid by the NHDOT State Bridge Aid fund. This is a 3-year non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7 VI. (Majority vote required) The Selectboard recommends this article.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred two thousand nine hundred seventy-six dollars (\$502,976) for payments into the following Capital Reserve Funds. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

Road Improvement CRF (1994)	154,903
Fire Trucks CRF (1983)	62,486
Fire Dept. Equipment CRF (2015)	37,226
Fire Truck Major Maintenance CRF (2017)	4,457
Heavy Equipment Maintenance ETF (2003)	9,126
Highway Department Trucks CRF (1997)	100,000
Grader CRF (1983)	18,120
Loader CRF (1983)	29,000
Police Vehicle CRF (2023)	13,692
Town Buildings CRF (2019)	22,966

Town Property ETF (2000)	29,000
Cemetery Mower/Building CRF (2015)	500
Tree Care & Replacement ETF (1991)	10,000
Revaluation CRF (2021)	11,500
TOTAL	502,976

ARTICLE 6 - no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate one hundred forty thousand, eight-nine dollars (\$140,089.00) 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 reimbursement from the State of NH for funds paid for design engineering of the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge project. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 7 – no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate three hundred dollars (\$300) to be added to the Town of Orford Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This represents funds received for the sale of burial plots. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate nineteen thousand seven hundred six dollars (\$19,706) for the following appropriation requests:

- Visiting Nurse Alliance \$6,532
- Grafton County Senior Citizen’s \$3,000
- Tri-County CAP \$2,474
- West Central Behavioral Health \$1,800
- Pemi-Baker Hospice and Home Health \$1,500
- Public Health Council of the Upper Valley \$1,000
- Rivendell Recreation - \$750
- CASA \$500
- North Country Healthcare \$500
- Orange East Senior Center \$800
- WISE \$500
- Ammonoosuc Community Health Services \$350

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

ARTICLE 9 - no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for the paving the reclaimed section of Archertown Road from the Newcomb Hollow Bridge to the Norris Road intersection. The cost will be paid 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 10 – no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) for the reclaiming and paving the Archertown Road from 657 Archertown Road to the Box Culvert. The cost will be paid 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 11 – *no taxes will be raised for this article*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) to remove and replace approximately 225 LF of guardrail between 657 Archertown Road and the Indian Pond Intersection. The cost will be paid 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 12 – *no taxes will be raised for this article*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to repave the walkway in front of the Town Office building and extending out into the parking lot approximately 30'. The cost will be paid from the Town Properties 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 13 – *no taxes will be raised for this article*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to tear down the small garage located on Route 25A beside the Heritage Center. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$46,500) to construct a 32' x 48' x 14' clear span pole barn to be used for storing various highway equipment. This will be a 3-year non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to modify the Optional Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability, RSA 72:35 to the amount of \$4,500. The change also clarifies that "total and permanent" disability is a requirement and that this optional credit now replaces, rather than being in addition to, other standard veteran credits like the ones under RSA 72:28, 72:28-b, 72:28-c, and 72:36-a. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will 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, \$50,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$75,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$100,000. 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 \$45,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$55,000; 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 17 - *no taxes will be raised for this article*

To see if the Town will vote to change the term of the Supervisors of the Checklist to a 3-year term, as authorized by RSA 41:46-a. This change will not affect the current terms of the Supervisors of the Checklist, but instead will commence upon the end of the shortest term remaining and then proceed with the election of one officer each year over a three-year cycle. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 18 - no taxes will be raised for this article

To see if the Town will vote (1) to authorize the Selectboard, with the Orford Conservation Commission acting as its agent, to remove the existing closed High Bridge Road bridge and to design and construct a pedestrian bridge crossing over the Archertown Brook gorge that supports recreational use and preserves the historic character of the existing stone abutments; and (2) to reclassify a portion of High Bridge Road, from its intersection with Tillotson Falls Road westward toward Archertown Road, not to exceed 350 feet, from a Class VI road to a Class A trail. The cost of removal, design, and construction shall be paid from the Orford Conservation Fund, foundation grants, and private donations. (Majority vote required). The Selectboard recommend this article.

ARTICLE 19

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

ARTICLE 20

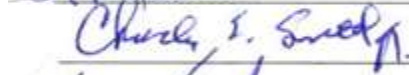
To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hand and seal at Orford the 11th day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Kevin Follensbee



Charles Smith, Jr.



Larry Taylor