

**Official Ballot
Annual Town Election
Weare, New Hampshire
March 12, 2024**

**Selectman
Three Year Term**

Vote for Two

Janice Mathews **1163**

James Drury **1072**

(Write-in) 68

**Selectman
One Year Term**

Vote for One **1260**

David Pratte

(Write-in) 71

**Town Moderator
Two Year Term**

Vote for One

Jonathan Morton **1265**

(Write-in) 51

**Supervisor of Checklist
Six Year Term**

Vote for One

Kristen Lundeen **928**

Maria Fossiano 507

(Write-in) 7

**Library Trustee
Three Year Term**

Vote for One

Joshua Hilliard **1305**

(Write-in) 13

**Trustees of the Trust Funds
Three Year Term**

Vote for One

Beverly C. Cotton **1322**

(Write-in) 8

**Ethics Committee
Three Year Term**

Vote for One

Carl Warren Hallstrom **1247**

(Write-in) 22

ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to the Weare Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Weare Planning Board as follows: Amend Article 4.1, Definitions, to add a definition of “Private Road” as an access to three or more lots shown on a survey plan dated prior to March 1988 or a plan approved by the planning board, and to allow the planning board to approve private roads by conditional use permit? (**Recommended** by the Planning Board)

YES 1308

NO 548

ARTICLE 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 to the Weare Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Weare Planning Board as follows: Amend Article 17.1.1 to allow building permits to be issued on Private Roads? (**Recommended** by the Planning Board)

YES 1249

NO 608

ARTICLE 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 to the Weare Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Weare Planning Board as follows: Amend Article 19 regarding Special Exceptions to correct an incorrect internal reference and add sections 19.1.11, 19.1.11.1, 19.1.11.2 and 19.1.11.3 to allow campers/travel trailers/RVs not located in an approved campground to be used for more than 15 days in any 30 day period by special exception, except in the Commercial and Village Districts; allow construction/office trailers to be used for more than 121 days and/or to have running water and/or sleeping provisions by special exception, except in the Village District; to provide that time periods run beginning on the first day of the use; and to exempt manufactured homes used for temporary occupation during the repair or replacement of a damaged dwelling for a period of not more than 12 months from the special exception requirements? (**Recommended** by the Planning Board)

YES 1262

NO 595

ARTICLE 5

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4: We the undersigned residents petition to amend the Town of Weare Zoning Map by modifying the zoning of Tax Map 107 Lot 025, said parcel being located at 117 Abijah Bridge Road, to change from Residential (R) to Rural/Agricultural (RA)? (**By Petition**) (**Recommended** by the Planning Board)

YES 1488

NO 350

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town 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 Eight Million Five Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four Dollars

(\$8,574,144)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Eight Million Two Hundred Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$8,240,774), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town 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. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 703

NO 1174

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town approve the cost items contained in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Union for the Police Department Employees, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

| <u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u> | <u>Estimated</u> <u>Increase</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2024 | \$ 65,439 – 5% |
| 2025 | \$ 66,056 – 5% |
| 2026 | \$ 69,359 – 5% |

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$65,439) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1106

NO 790

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety- Eight Thousand One Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$98,190), representing a 5% COLA pay increases for all non-union Town and Library personnel, except the Town Administrator? If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget and the difference in wages and benefits annually would be One Hundred Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$130,920). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1002

NO 887

ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Thirteen Dollars (\$70,013) to cover the cost of a wage adjustment by increasing the hourly wages for the Full Time Highway Department Personnel, by adding Three Dollars (\$3) to step one (1) for each position? This cost represents wages, payroll taxes and New Hampshire Retirement System contributions for nine (9) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost of Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars (\$92,768). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1287

NO 611

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$22,993) to cover a wage adjustment by increasing the hourly wages for each Full Time Fire and Rescue Personnel employee an average of \$1.50 per hour ? This represents wages, payroll taxes and New Hampshire Retirement System contributions for nine (9) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost Twenty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$29,813). Should Article 8 pass, then Article 10 increase shall raise and appropriate Zero Dollars (\$0). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1001

NO 901

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$10,221) representing the cost of turning one part-time Library staff position into a full-time Library staff position? This represents wages, payroll taxes and New Hampshire Retirement System contributions for nine (9) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost of Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$12,740). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 757

NO 1142

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$81,690) for the purchase of one (1) new fully outfitted and marked Chevrolet Tahoe 4 x 4 Police Pursuit Vehicle, with Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000) to be withdrawn from the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund; and Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) to be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance representing monies received for Everett Dam Patrols; and the balance of Forty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$46,690) to be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1129

NO 772

ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town vote to establish a Public Safety Services Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, I (c), for the purpose of outfitting, and maintaining police vehicles and other safety equipment as needed? Funding for this revolving fund will come from donations and 75% of cruiser detail fees collected from private details with 25% of cruiser detail fees to go to the General Fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all the monies in the fund. Further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 867

NO 1016

ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed into the Community Cable Access TV Fund Capital Reserve Fund with said amount to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? This represents previously collected cable franchise fees.

(**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 978

NO 895

ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$29,566) representing the additional cost of turning the Part Time Building Inspector into a Full Time Building Inspector? This represents wages, payroll taxes and New Hampshire Retirement System contributions for nine (9) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost of Fifty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$52,853). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 993

NO 885

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. (The intent is to purchase one (1) new fully equipped 10-wheel plow truck for the Highway Department.) The amount of Seventy-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$79,797) will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance from monies received from the State of NH pursuant to House Bill 2; and the balance of Two Hundred Thousand, Two Hundred Three Dollars (\$200,203) to be raised by taxation? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1060

NO 831

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$90,776) to be placed into the Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund with said amount is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? This amount represents State Bridge Aid previously received pursuant to House Bill 2. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1537

NO 341

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) to be added to the previously established Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads with up to Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$284,000) anticipated from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant (pursuant to RSA 235) and the

remaining balance to be raised by taxation? (If the Town receives the anticipated amount of the Highway Block Grant, the amount to be raised by taxation will be \$316,000. If the Town receives less than anticipated, the difference will need to be raised by taxation, and if the Town receives more than anticipated, less will be raised by taxation.) **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

YES 1239

NO 647

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new roadside mower? This would replace the 1995 New Holland Mower that the Town purchased used in 2019. **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

YES 546

NO 1331

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new battery powered trailer caddy to move empty and loaded trash trailers at the Transfer Station and to authorize the withdrawal of the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000) from the previously established Transfer Station Recyclable Special Revenue Fund which was created for this purpose? This will replace the 1988 Ford 8000. **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

YES 1290

NO 594

ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town establish a Landfill Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding repairs and maintenance needs for the landfill cap and raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be placed in this fund? Further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

YES 1189

NO 673

ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for cemetery improvements and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from Cemetery Trust Funds Cy Pres Account? **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

YES 1343

NO 516

ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to allow the Conservation Commission to secure contracted services with a Licensed Forester for forestry

services including plan updates, harvest layout, harvest management, forest inventory, trail maintenance and development, invasive species control and other related services; and to allow the Conservation Commission to contract or purchase materials or services for maintenance and upkeep of town forests, and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Town Forest Account? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 1366

NO 505

ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town complete the easement and survey plat voted on at the March 12, 2013 Town Meeting vote on Warrant Article 29, shall the Town authorize the Conservation Commission to convey the associated conservation easement over a portion of the Banks-Shmid property (map 408/lot 123) on East Road including the existing hay field and exclusive of 20 acres set aside for ongoing gravel pit operations and future recreational facilities to a qualified land trust such as the Piscataquog Land Conservancy or Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests subject to the final approval of the Board of Selectmen? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

YES 953

NO 911

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to study restricting eligibility for appointed positions to Town Boards and Committees to two (2) consecutive terms, which shall include any part of a term served, and shall remain ineligible for the next succeeding three (3) years? (**By Petition**)

YES 959

NO 870

ARTICLE 26

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Conservation Commission under the direction of Board of Selectmen to take immediate action on the division of the One Hundred and Thirty-Seven (137) acres of already purchased land on East Road previously known as the Alma Shmid property, tax map 408-123, by dispersing it as follows: twelve acres (12) to include but not limited to the fields and front acreage of the property to be allocated to recreational facilities and ballfields, eight (8) acres to be allocated as gravel pit(s), and to convey the remaining one hundred and seventeen acres (117) as the Conservation Commission deems appropriate? [This article has no tax impact as land is already owned by the Town of Weare] (**By Petition**)

YES 947

NO 909

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will vote to study to rescind the provisions of RSA 79-A:25 II, which authorized the deposit of 75% of the land use change tax collected by the Town to be deposited into the conservation fund? (**By Petition**)

YES 692

NO 1086