

# 2022 VOTERS' GUIDE

## DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Saturday, February 5th ★ 9am

Rollinsford Grade School

## BALLOT VOTING

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> ★ 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #47 (Foundry Street in Rollinsford)

### **DELIBERATIVE SESSION: WHAT IS IT AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

The Deliberative Session is the first session of Town Meeting. At this time, the resident voters in attendance may discuss, deliberate and/or amend the articles on the warrant. The potential is for the amount of the operating budget to change as well as amounts for other planned purchases and transfers, within the original intent of the article. The warrant articles, as originally written or if modified at the Deliberative Session, are what will appear on the ballot in March. Ballot voting on the warrant (as revised) will take place on March 8th at the American Legion.

**ZONING AMENDMENT:** The Rollinsford Planning Board proposes to amend Section 8.1.3: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) to eliminate the requirement for a Conditional Use Permit for proposed accessory dwelling units as long as the proposed accessory dwelling unit meets all requirements listed in the ordinance. This proposed amendment would make ADUs permitted by right, subject to the building permit process.

**TAX IMPACT INCLUSION:** To see if the Town of Rollinsford will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. If approved, beginning next year, the warrant articles on the official ballot will be notated with the estimated tax impact for each article funded through taxation.

**OPERATING BUDGET:** The proposed operating budget of \$2,500,672 is a 2% (\$49,104) increase over the 2021 approved operating budget. The default budget of \$2,394,340 would result if the proposed operating budget is not approved. The most significant differences consist of market adjustments for employees, an increase in the request for funding the summer day camp program by the Recreation Committee and anticipated increases in building maintenance and repair for Town Hall. This year the Select Board committed to a different compensation program for employees. Historically, employees were adjusted by across the board increases without regard to performance. This year the Board agreed to firm up the job description and performance appraisal process and award increases based on cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases. In return for the increases in salary line items, each Department Head committed to reductions in other areas of their budgets where certain areas were typically under-expended. This year the Recreation Committee requested a 59% increase in the summer day camp program funding. However, some, if not all, of these funds would be returned to the Town as revenue generated by program fees. Lastly, the last two years have seen significant increases in the cost of maintenance of Town Hall. In 2020 maintenance of the Town Hall was over-expended by \$21,000 and in 2021 by over \$26,000. This year it's anticipated that water and sewer costs for Town Hall will increase by over \$3,900 because of changes in water and sewer metering by the Water and Sewer Department. Adjustments for these anticipated costs have been included in this year's proposed budget.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 to be placed in the Town's Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. The goal remains to increase the amount going into the CIP every year so that, over time, the amount will level off providing a steady impact on the tax rate and negate the need to borrow for planned purchases. The Capital Improvement Reserve Fund can be described as a revolving fund. This reserve fund is funded through taxation and planned projects and purchases are later funded through the use of these dollars. A copy of the Capital Improvement Plan is available on the Town Website under Proposed 2022 Budgets in the Public Hearing folder.

**NEW EQUIPMENT TRUST FUND:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 to be placed in the New Equipment Trust Fund established for this purpose. Purchases from this fund can be for any department. New equipment purchases are typically smaller valued items that are below the threshold defined by the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. This trust fund is funded from taxation.

**TOWN REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,750 to be added to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. The purpose of this article is to fund the costs of the next revaluation due in 2022. This reserve fund is funded from taxation.

**CULVERT REPAIR/REPLACEMENT RESERVE FUND:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in the Culvert Repair/Replacement Reserve Fund for the repair and maintenance of the many culverts in Town. It is important to maintain culverts and replace them as necessary as collapsed culverts often cause drainage problems which can undermine a road or cause other environmental hazards. This reserve fund is funded from taxation.

**CONSERVATION LAND TRUST CAPITAL RESERVE FUND:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Conservation Land Trust Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. Many of the large areas of open land in Rollinsford are not in conservation. They could be sold and developed at any time. The amount in this fund, just under \$200,000, could be leveraged with conservation organizations who have resources available to assist. This fund represents to the conservation organizations the residents' commitment to conservation. The Conservation Commission believes the requested \$25,000 is needed to continue to build this fund. In discussions with conservation organizations, the Town should have a goal of building this fund to \$275,000 in order to be positioned to partner with conservation organizations. Tax revenue from any kind of development is typically insufficient to compensate for the financial burden created by the development. If the rural nature of Rollinsford is important to you, consider voting for this article and volunteering for the Conservation Commission. This reserve fund is funded through taxation.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ROOF REPLACEMENT:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 to replace the roof for the Highway Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of \$38,000 from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund established for this purpose. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until roofing replacement is complete or by December 31, 2023. The roof has been repaired multiple times due to improper installation and continues to be problematic. The \$38,000 would come from the Capital Improvement Reserve fund with no impact to taxation.

**POLICE CRUISER LEASE PAYMENT:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000 for the third-year payment for the cruiser lease. This would approve the third, and final, lease payment for a police cruiser authorized for lease in 2020. The \$13,000 would come from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund with no impact to taxation.

**POLICE BODY CAMERAS:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to purchase body cameras for the Police Department. The \$25,000 would come from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund with no impact to taxation.

**ROAD RESURFACING:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,000 for road resurfacing, sidewalk repairs and road damage improvements. Several years ago the Town began funding road maintenance solely through the operating budget. The proposed 2022 operating budget also includes an appropriation of \$255,000 for road resurfacing and maintenance. This additional request for use of funds from Capital Improvement Reserve will be used to supplement the cost of proposed projects for 2022. An initial estimate of over \$424,000 for six roads was received and the priority for repair/replacement will be evaluated in the spring. The list of proposed projects that are being considered can be found on the Town's website under 2022 Proposed Budgets in the Public Hearing documents folder and described in the 2022 Town Budget PowerPoint presentation. The \$56,000 would come from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund with no impact to taxation.

**WARRANT ARTICLE FOR RECREATION DIRECTOR (BY PETITION):** Residents pooled together enough registered voters to sign a petition putting this article on the ballot. If passed, this article authorizes hiring and funding \$15,000 for the salary of a Recreation Director for the Town of Rollinsford for one year only. Subsequent funding for this position would require another warrant article or that the Select Board fund the position through proposed operating budgets. If passed, this would be funded from taxation.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** The American Rescue Plan Act was introduced by the Federal Government to assist Cities and Towns with Financial assistance during the Coronavirus crisis. The amount of funds made available to each community is based on population with the distribution of the allotted funds taking place twice in a calendar year. Rollinsford accepted and received its first allotment which totalled \$135,363 in funds. A subsequent allotment is expected in June 2022 for an additional \$135,364. The US Treasury established a criteria for Governing Bodies of the communities to follow on how the funds may be expended. The Select Board has reviewed the Town`s needs that meet the criteria and are considering the following proposed projects. Additionally, the Select Board intends to apply for the Locality Equipment Purchase Program (GOFFER) which provides for up to another \$50,000 (with a 10% match) in funds that can be used for public health and safety equipment.

Town Hall Air Condensers - \$100,000 (estimate)

Fire Department Water Line Reconstruction - \$24,450 (estimate)

Firefighter Personal Safety Equipment Upgrades - \$25,000 (estimate)

Fire Department Vehicle Wash - \$25,000 (estimate)

Fire Department Vehicle Exhaust - \$46,000 (estimate)

Water and Sewer District - \$50,000

**MAKE SURE  
YOUR VOICE  
IS HEARD THIS  
TOWN MEETING.**

