

**TOWN OF SUGAR HILL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES-RESULTS
MARCH 11, 2025**

Moderator James F. Snyder declared the polls open at 12 noon for the voting by ballot on Article 1, the election of town officers. Polls will close at 6:30 PM unless the town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour. All articles to be presented, discussed and acted upon at 6 PM. Moderator Snyder went over his rules of conduct for the meeting. The Moderator asked that all newly elected officers stay after the meeting to get sworn in by the Town Clerk. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Article 1 to be passed over until the ballots are counted at which time Moderator Snyder will read the results.

ARTICLE 1: To vote by nonpartisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Town Clerk to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Tax Collector to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Trustee of the Trust Fund to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of six (6) years.
- A Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of four (4) years
- Two Board of Adjustment members to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- Two Board of Cemetery Trustees to serve for a term of three (3) years
- And such other Town Officers as may be required by law

RESULTS OF ARTICLE 1:

Selectman, Three Year Term	Rusty Talbot	101
Town Clerk, One Year Term	Lissa Boissonneault	112
Tax Collector, One Year Term	Lissa Boissonneault	111
Town Treasurer, One Year Term	Amy Venezia	109
Library Trustee, Three Year Term	Alice Claffin	110
Trustee of Trust Funds, Three Year Term	Mark E. Butterfield	103
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Three Year Term	John Barth	103
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Two Year Term	Evan Carmean	104
Cemetery Trustee, Three Year Term	Larry Sawyer	107
Supervisor of Check List, Five Year Term	Rosemary Ellms	108

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$One Million, Eight Hundred Seventeen Thousand, and Six Hundred Forty-Five Dollars .(\$1,817,645) to defray Town charges.

Executive	\$85,502.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	31,740.00
Financial Administration	29,014.00
Property Revaluation	7,200.00
Legal Expenses	15,000.00
Payroll Taxes	45,000.00
Planning Board	10,065.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1,000.00
General Government Buildings	51,600.00
Buildings & Grounds	47,825.00
Cemetery	12,500.00
Insurance	209,794.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	9,291.00
North Country Council	1,291.00
Franconia Notch Chamber	8,000.00
Unemployment	250.00
Police Department	348,333.00

Ambulance.....	26,371.00
Fire Department.....	122,700.00
Building Inspections.....	10,000.00
Emergency Management.....	6,000.00
Airport.....	179.00
Town Maintenance.....	313,005.00
General Highway Department Expense.....	239,950.00
Street Lighting.....	2,500.00
Highway Block Grant.....	45,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal.....	44,748.00
Health, Hospitals.....	9,267.00
North Country Home Health.....	1,775.00
Grafton County Senior.....	1,250.00
White Mountain Mental Health.....	692.00
American Red Cross.....	300.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health.....	1,250.00
Boys & Girls Club.....	2,500.00
Center for New Beginnings.....	500.00
Franconia Children's Center.....	500.00
Above the Notch.....	500.00
Welfare.....	6,000.00
Tri County Cap.....	1,294.00
Pantry.....	1,000.00
Parks and Recreation.....	32,076.00
Library.....	36,240.00
Patriotic Purposes.....	2,000.00
Conservation Commission.....	1,000.00
Interest Expense - Tax Anticipation.....	1,000.00
Capital Expense.....	17,495.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....	\$1,817,645.00

The Select Board recommends these Appropriations.

Moved by Tim Egan, Seconded by Steve Monsein
Jennifer Gaudette, Town Administrator gave an overview of the budget line by line. She informed the room that the tax impact of Article 2 would be \$4.49.

Nick De Mayo made a motion to reduce the budget by \$1,000, Seconded by Ed Hansalik

All in favor of the amendment, "Aye", Opposed, "No", The No's have it

Back to original motion:

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976. The tax impact is \$0.16 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Richard Bielefield, Seconded by Tim Egan

Road Agent Doug Glover spoke on the article.

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$151,900) to be used for Highway Department Roadwork improvement projects to be chosen at the discretion of the Road Agent and Selectmen. Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$26,900) to come from the Fund Balance. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:3, VI and will not lapse until the fund is expended or in 3 years, whichever is less. (Majority vote required)

The tax impact of \$125,000 is \$0.38 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms, Seconded by John Tardelli

Selectperson Margo Connors and Road Committee member Carl Martland spoke on the article.

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1993. Tax impact is \$0.16 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Tim Egan

Fire Chief Allan Clark spoke on the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008. Tax Impact is \$0.04 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Tim Egan

Fire Chief Allan Clark spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2009. Tax Impact is \$0.04 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Starcy Branch

Road Agent Doug Glover spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Carolina Crapo Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004. Tax Impact is \$0.04 per thousand.

Moved by Starcy Branch, Seconded by Tim Egan

Selectperson Margo Connors spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976. Tax Impact is \$0.06 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Starcy Branch

Police Chief Mike Ho-Sing-Loy spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$5,750) to be added to the Building & Grounds Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2012. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Starcy Branch

Jennifer Gaudette, Ad. Asst. spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Fund created in 2024. (Majority Vote Required) The tax impact is \$0.02 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Starcy Branch, Seconded by Nick De Mayo
Fire Chief Allan Clark spoke on the article
Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars 9\$15,000) to be added to the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1991. The tax impact is \$0.05 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Starcy Branch, Seconded by Gary Young
Selectperson Margo Connors spoke on the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty -One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) for the purpose of cemetery road maintenance at Sunnyside Cemetery with One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$1,456) to come from the Cemetery Trust Fund Interest and the remaining Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$19,544) to come from taxation. (Majority Vote Required)
The tax impact is \$0.06 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moderator James Snyder announced that if Article 13 passed, we would pass over Article 14 and if Article 13 did not pass, we would vote on Article 14.

Moved by David Brown, Seconded by Kathy Jablonski
Cemetery Trustee Kathy Jablonski spoke on the article
Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for cemetery improvements and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$6,500) to be placed in the fund. Further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required) This article will be passed over in the event Article 13 passes. The tax impact for the article is \$0.02 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Article 14 passed over. Moderator Snyder paused the meeting to read the ballot vote results of Article. 1.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Five Dollars (\$14,005) for the second year's payment for the Dodge 2500 Truck. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.) The tax impact of this article is \$0.045

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Starcy Branch
Selectperson Chis Ellms spoke on the Article
Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eleven Thousand Fifty-Two Dollars (\$211,052) To be added to the Highway Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006 This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Starcy Branch
Jenniver Gaudette, Ad. Asst., Selectpersons, Chris Ellms and Richard Bielefield all spoke on the article.
Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) To be placed in the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019. The tax impact is \$0.04 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Kathy Jablonski, Seconded by Tim Egan

Selectperson Margo Connors spoke on the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 18:

Are you in favor of combining the office of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector to create a new office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector with the term of office to be THREE years? If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting to choose a town clerk/tax collector. (Majority ballot vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Article

Moved by Nick De Mayo, Seconded by Rosemary Ellms

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lissa Boissonneault spoke on the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 19: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Jennifer Gaudette, Administrative Asst. presented retiring Selectperson Margo Connors with a lovely bouquet of flowers with many thanks for all her years of dedicated service. Margo received a standing ovation from the room. Nick De Mayo proceeded to speak on the state of the national deficit and Grafton County issues that he is concerned about but was advised by the Moderator that this was not pertinent to the business of running our town. Fire Chief Allan Clark spoke on prior storms that damaged our roads and the money that was owed by FEMA to offset the extensive expenses to repair the damage. He reported that the amount is down to \$89,000 which is the amount now owed to us by the State of New Hampshire and that should be forthcoming. Gary Young stated his appreciation to Margo Connors for her time on our selectboard. Moderator Jim Snyder thanked all the volunteers that make our town run well and smoothly. He also thanked all the election workers that put in so many hours, especially during the big election years. He thanked Dennis Cote for providing and setting up the sound system for our Town Meeting. There was a question on the balloon testing that is coming up and that was answered.

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Snyder adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lissa M. Boissonneault, Town Clerk

