

# Town of Hudson

## Office of the Board of Selectmen

### Explanation of "Selectmen's Warrant Articles" for the 1999 Annual Town Meeting

**Article 12 – Bond Article for Widening of Lowell Road** - Allows for the issuance of up to \$1,000,000 in bonds to allow the widening and other improvement of Lowell Road between Wason Road and Executive Drive, and signalization of the Executive Drive intersection.

**Article 13 – Collective Bargaining Contract with the Police Union** - Implements a 4-year (FY1998-99 thru FY2001-02) collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Police Union. There is **no** retroactivity, therefore **\$0** cost during the FY1998-99 year.

**Article 14 - Collective Bargaining Contract with the Police, Fire & Town Hall Supervisors Union** - Implements a 5-year (FY1997-98 thru FY2001-02) collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Union representing supervisory and professional employees in the Police and Fire Departments, as well as in Town Hall. There is **no** retroactivity, therefore **\$0** cost during the 1<sup>st</sup> two years of the contract (FY1997-98 & FY1998-99). This contract converts to one that is entirely performance-based, as opposed to general across-the-board increases, during the last years.

**Article 15 - Collective Bargaining Contract with the Highway Department Union** - Implements a 2-year (FY1999-00 and FY2000-01) collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Union representing the Highway Department employees.

**Article 16 - Collective Bargaining Contract with the Firefighters Union** - Implements a 3-year (FY1999-00 thru FY2001-02) collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Fire Union.

**Article 17 – Adoption of the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 1999-2000** - Approves an Operating Budget for the coming Fiscal Year of \$18,424,611, representing an increase of 2.4% over FY1998-1999.

**Article 18 – Authorization for the Selectmen to Sell Land** - Enables the Board of Selectmen to sell 35 acres of land in the original Unicorn Industrial Park. Proceeds would go into Undesignated Surplus to be utilized to fund the construction of the Public Works Facility (see Article 19).

**Article 19 – Construction of Public Works Facility** - Appropriates \$950,000 from Undesignated Surplus for the construction of a new Public Works Facility to replace the current facility on Melendy Road at Central Street.

**Article 20 – Salary Increase for Town Treasurer** - Provides for increasing the Treasurer's salary from \$6000 per year to \$7500.

**Article 21 – Wage & Benefit Adjustments for Non-Union Personnel** - Provides for compensation adjustment for the Town Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Finance Director, Road Agent, Recreation Director and Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen.

**Article 22 – Provides for Part-Time Cablecasting Employee** - Provides for the hiring of an employee at \$10,916 per year for local cablecasting. This position would be fully paid from funds received from the cable television franchise.

**Article 23 – Wage & Benefit Adjustment for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector** - Provides for compensation adjustment for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

**Article 24 – Property Appraiser Position** - Provides for a full-time professional position to assist in the appraisal of property to better insure fair and equitable tax assessments.

**Article 25 – Reconstruction or Repair of Bridges** - Appropriates \$260,000 for the necessary repairs to the bridges on Melendy Road at First Brook and on County Road at Second Brook. It is expected that the State will reimburse 80% of that total, or \$208,000.

**Article 26 – Middle School Resource Officer** - Provides for a full time police officer to be School Resource Officer at Memorial School. It is anticipated that this position will be fully funded for the next three years by a U.S. Department of Justice grant.

**Article 27 – Speed Detection Message Board** - Provides for the expenditure of \$14,665 to purchase a speed detection message board to be used to combat speeding on neighborhood streets by alerting drivers of their speeds. A \$6000 grant has been approved, reducing the net cost to the Town to \$8665.

**Article 28 – Community Policing Officer** - Provides for the hiring of an additional police officer, whose salary and benefits should be subsidized during the first three years by a \$75,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant, to enhance community policing.

**Article 29 – Fire Prevention Officer** - Requests affirmation of the continuance of an existing full-time position within the Fire Department. This position has been filled since 1993, and is an essential part of the Fire Department's fire prevention, inspection, education, and code enforcement

activities.

**Article 30 – Two Firefighter/EMT-I positions** - Provides for the hiring of two additional full-time Firefighters, who would also be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (Intermediate level).

**Article 31 – Salary Increase for Library Employees** - Provides for a 5% increase in salary for Library employees.

**Article 32 – Land Purchase for Future Library** - Appropriates \$200,000 for the purchase of two parcels of land adjacent to the existing Library to allow for expansion of the facility.

**Article 33 – Purchase of former Benson’s Animal Farm Property** - Appropriates \$50,000 to be added to the \$50,000 voted at the 1998 Annual Town Meeting, and authorizes these funds to be used to purchase the Benson property from the State Department of Transportation.

**Article 34 – Hydrogeological Evaluation of former Burns Hill Road Landfill** - Appropriates \$60,000 for testing and evaluation of the former Burns Hill Road landfill to fulfill State and Federal environmental requirements.

**Article 35 – Purchase of Land Abutting former Burns Hill Road Landfill** - Provides for the purchase of a strip of land around the perimeter of the landfill where the landfill has encroached on adjoining property. With the alternative being to abate and restore the encroached-upon land, purchase is the least expensive and most logical approach.

**Article 36 – Rescinding Bond Authorization – Friary Property** - This is a "housekeeping" article, which rescinds the Town’s authority to issue \$2,400,000 in bonds, originally to allow for the purchase of the Friary property. The bonding is no longer necessary since the property was sold to another party. This unneeded authorization counts towards the Town’s total debt in financial analyses until it is rescinded.

**Article 37 – Rescinding Bond Authorization – Consumers New Hampshire Water Company** - This is a "housekeeping" article, which rescinds the Town’s authority to issue \$7,000,000 in bonds, originally to allow for the purchase of the Consumers New Hampshire Water Company. The bonding is no longer necessary, since the net bond issue to support the purchase was less than the authorization. This unneeded authorization counts towards the Town’s total debt in financial analyses until it is rescinded.

**Article 38 – Fire Prevention Ordinance** - Updates the Town Fire Code, updates the BOCA Fire Prevention Code, amends sprinkler system and fireworks regulations, and establishes appeal procedures.

**Article 39 – Purchase of Property at 39 Ferry Street** - Allows for the purchase of the property at the southwest corner of Ferry and Library Streets to be used for Fire Department Administration and Fire Prevention offices, freeing up much needed space in the existing Central Fire Station.

**Article 40 – Establishment of Land Use Change Fund** – Provides for setting aside of monies due the Town as penalties for properties coming out of Current Use status. These monies would be used for the potential purchase of additional open space.

**The Board of Selectmen has voted to Recommend all of these articles.**

**Please vote on March 9**