

## 2023 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

At a legal meeting of the Town of Hillsborough, County of Hillsborough, in said State of New Hampshire, inhabitants qualified to vote in Town Affairs of said Town on the postponed date of March 28<sup>th</sup> in 2023, at the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School in said Hillsborough, New Hampshire at seven o'clock in the morning, the Moderator called the meeting to order. Meeting was postponed from March 14, 2023 because of a major snow storm. Article One, the election of officers through Article Fifteen were to be voted on by official ballot at the polls between seven o'clock in the morning through seven o'clock in the evening, Articles Sixteen through Thirty Three were to be taken up at the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School at 7:30 P.M.

**Article 1:** The voters of Hillsborough proceeded to ballot for one Selectman for three years, one selectman for two years, one Town Clerk / Tax Collector for three years, one Treasurer for three years, two Planning Board members for three years, two Zoning Board of Adjustment members for three years, one Trustee of the Fuller Public Library for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, one Cemetery Trustee for three years, one Water & Sewer Commissioner for three years, one Water & Sewer Commissioner for two years, and all other necessary Town Officers or agents for the ensuing year.

**Article 2:** The Town voted to add the definition of Construction Services to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Construction Services to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone and permitted by Special Exception in the Rural Zone.

Construction Services: Any of the activities commonly referred to as construction and shall include without limiting thereby, building, plumbing, heating, roofing, interior remodeling and/or excavation as defined in RSA 155-E.

Yes 442      No 244

**Article 3:** The Town voted to add the definition of Contractor's Storage Yard to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Contractor's Storage Yard to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone and permitted by Special Exception in the Rural Zone.

Contractor's Storage Yard: An area of outdoor open storage for materials used for construction and for construction equipment. The materials and equipment are typically employed in the course of the contractor's business or may be available for sale or rent.

Yes 427      No 262

**Article 4:** The Town voted to add the definition of Entertainment Establishment to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Entertainment Establishment to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone and Central Business District.

Entertainment Establishment-Any establishment (indoors or outdoors) where entertainment, either passive or active, is provided for the pleasure of the patrons, either independent or in conjunction with any other use. Such entertainment includes but is not limited to vocal and instrumental music, dancing, karaoke, comedy, and acting. This does not include any of the uses defined in Article XI Sexually Oriented Businesses.

Yes 458      No 220

**Article 5:** The Town voted to add the definition of Entertainment, Live to Article II General Provision section 226-6 and add such Entertainment, Live to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone and Central Business District,

Entertainment, Live-A musical, theatrical, dance, cabaret, or comedy act performed by one or more persons.  
Live Entertainment does not include any of the uses defined in Article XI Sexually Oriented Businesses.

Yes 454 No 221

**Article 6:** The Town voted to add the definition of Event Venue to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Event Venue to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone, Central Business District and permitted by Special Exception in the Rural Zone.

Event Venue: A commercial site that accommodates the gathering of groups and/or individuals to host recurrent events such as wedding(s), business meeting(s), or any other commercial events. Such events are allowed to be conducted indoors or outdoors within or around the primary and/or accessory buildings or structures on a property.

Yes 459 No 215

**Article 7:** The Town voted to add the definition of Manufacturing to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Manufacturing to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone.

Manufacturing-The commercial, mechanical, or chemical transformation of materials or substances into new products, including the assembling of component parts, the creation of products, and the blending of materials including but not limited to oils, plastics, and resins.

Yes 419 No 246

**Article 8:** The Town voted to add the definition of Pet Grooming to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 Business District, Rural Zone and permitted by Special Exception in the Residential Zone\

Pet Grooming The grooming of a domestic animal, including bathing, cutting of hair, trimming of nails, and other services generally associated with the act of grooming but shall exclude veterinary services, breeding, boarding, and overnight accommodation.

Yes 454 No 221

**Article 9:** The Town voted to add the definition of Commercial Hydroponics Facility to Article II General Provisions section 226-6 and add such Commercial Hydroponics Facility to the Table 4 Chart of Uses as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone.

Commercial Hydroponics Facility-A commercial facility that houses the cultivation of plants by placing the roots in liquid Nutrient solutions rather than in soil. This definition will not limit the use of hydroponics conducted on a farm or agricultural operation as defined in RSA 21:34-a II

Yes 448 No 224

**Article 10:** The Town voted not to amend the Table 4 Chart of Uses, Residential Uses Note number 2, to Divide note number 2 under Residential Uses in the Central Business District into two separate notes. Note number 2 will state that Dwellings at street level require a Special Exception. New note number 3 will reduce the minimum floor area of any dwelling unit from 600 square feet to 300 square feet for a one-bedroom dwelling unit. Units two bedrooms or more require an additional 120 sq. ft. per additional bedroom."

Yes 304 No 383

**Article 11:** The Town voted to amend the Table 4 Chart of Uses to add Residential Solar Energy Systems permitted on any residential structure, and Commercial Solar Collection Systems permitted in the Commercial Zone and Residential Zone.

Yes 508 No 186

**Article 12:** The Town voted to amend the definition of Light Industry in Article II General Provisions section 226-6 to remove the requirement allowing no more than 30 employees and adding the language "outside the enclosed building".

**LIGHT INDUSTRY--** An activity primarily concerned with the enclosed manufacturing, processing or warehousing of goods that causes no traffic congestion, undue noise, vibration, odor or other nuisance outside the enclosed building, and poses no hazard to public health or safety.

Yes 427 No 263

**Article 13:** The Town voted to amend Article III General Provisions section 229-12 to add Conditional Use Permits to the Zoning Ordinance.

Yes 367 No 293

**Article 14:** The Town did not vote to amend the language of Article IX Administration and Enforcement 229-59 H.

**From:**

A building permit for a building, structure, alteration or proposed land use or otherwise shall become void if the work is not substantially started and completed with all reasonable due diligence within 2 years.

**To:**

A building permit for a building, structure, alteration or proposed land use or otherwise shall become void if the work is not started and substantially completed with all reasonable due diligence within 1 year.

Yes 352 No 352

**Article 15:** The Town voted not to adopt a new Article XX Dark Skies Ordinance and the associated Dark Skies Lighting Levels Map as published in the 2022 Town Report and on the Town website.

Yes 253 No 452

The 2023 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm, by Moderator Eric Ivanov at the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the residents of Hillsborough Heidi Welch, the former school Music teacher, sang the National Anthem. Mr. Ivanov than spoke on the rules of the meeting and how it would proceed.

**Article 16** Moved by Selectman James Bailey and seconded by Selectman Richard Pelletier, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,671,606.00 (Eight Million Six Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Six Hundred Six Dollars) as a 2023 Operating Budget. This amount does not include amounts from any other warrant articles. With no discussion the article passed.

Mr. Alan Dobrowoski moved to move article 28 up to be voted on next, seconded by Mr. Benny Valenzuela. Passed by had vote and Article 28 was moved forward for a vote.

**Article 17:** Moved by Selectwoman Iris Campbell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$852,360.00 (Eight Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Dollars) for the purpose of operating the Water Department during 2023. Of that sum, \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to come from Water Department Surplus and \$752,360.00 (Seven Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Dollars) is to come from Water Department income. Some discussion on this article on which Mr. Peter Mellen from Water and Sewer, answered the questions that were asked and article passed with hand vote.

**Article 18:** Moved by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,063,694.00 (One Million Sixty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars) for the purpose of operating the Sewer Department during 2023. Of that sum \$1,063,694.00 (One Million Sixty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars) is to come from Sewer Department income. No discussion and passed by hand vote.

**Article 19:** Moved by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Pelletioer, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$425,000.00 (Four Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be deposited in the following already established Capital Reserve Funds:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • Highway Department Equipment CRF                        | \$ 30,000.00  |
| • Ambulance CRF   | \$ 100,000.00 |
| • Municipal Buildings Maintenance, Repairs & Upgrades CRF | \$ 100,000.00 |
| • Cemetery Maintenance & Repair CRF                       | \$ 10,000.00  |
| • Library Building CRF                                    | \$ 50,000.00  |
| • Parks CRF   | \$ 50,000.00  |
| • Sidewalks CRF   | \$ 25,000.00  |
| • Transfer Station Equipment CRF                          | \$ 60,000.00  |

Of that sum, \$300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and \$125,000.00 (One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) is to come from taxation. Mr John Segedy submitted an amendment to the article to decrease amounts but the amended was defeated by hand vote and the article passed as written by hand vote after much discussion.

**Article 20:** Moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the non-lapsing sum of \$350,000.00 (Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of road work? Of this amount, \$153,194.00 (One Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars) is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and \$196,806.00 (One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Six Dollars) from taxation. This article is to be non-lapsing until December 31, 2024. Article passed with no discussion and a hand vote.

**Article 21:** Moved by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mrs. Campbell, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount non-lapsing sum of \$136,450.00 (One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Four Hundred-Fifty Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a trash trailer for the Transfer Station. Of this amount, \$136,450.00 (One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Four Hundred-Fifty Dollars) to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. This article is to be non-lapsing until December 31, 2024. Passed by hand vote with no discussion.

**Article 22:** Moved by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$273,000.00 (Two Hundred Seventy-three Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of the East Washington Road Bridge Repair. Of that sum, \$212,658.00 (Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-eight Dollars) is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and \$60,342.00 (Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Forty-two Dollars) from taxation. A few questions asked and answered, article passed with a hand vote.

**Article 23:** Moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease purchase agreement containing a non-appropriation clause, in the amount of \$270,775.00 (Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing new Highway Department Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the first year's payment for that purpose. Hand vote passed this article with no discussion.

**Article 24:** Moved by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mrs. Campbell, the Town voted to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Employee Health and Wellness, and to raise and appropriate the sum of

\$35,000.00 (Thirty-five Thousand Dollars) to deposit in such fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Of that sum, \$35,000.00 (Thirty-five Thousand Dollars) is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. There was a lot of discussion on this article, but a hand vote passed it after, questions were answered.

**Article 25:** Moved by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Town voted to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Computer and Software Upgrades, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to deposit in such fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Of that sum, \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Hand vote passed the article with no discussion.

Mrs. Riche Colcombe moved to bring article 31 forward and seconded by Mr. Sean Burt. Ernie Butler requested to do so with a ballot vote. Request was signed by five voters for the ballot vote. Article 31 was moved forward with ballot vote, with a hand vote to move and vote by ballot. Polls opened and ballots were cast.

**Article 26:** Moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Valenzuela, the Town voted to adopt the provisions of RSA 41:26-E to change the Town Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position. No discussion and passed with hand vote.

**Article 27:** Moved by Riche Colcombe and seconded by Mrs. Campbell, the Town voted to readopt the provisions of 72:28-b, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, previously adopted for an All Veterans' Tax Credit, [2017 Adopted RSA 72:28-b All Veteran's Tax Credit \$500 (Article 22)], at \$500.00 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the April 1, 2023 tax year. As amended by Article 28 which was voted on and amended, article 27 amount was now also amended to 750.00 per. This article as amended also passed with little discussion.

**Article 28:** The Town vote to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500.00 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the April 1, 2023 tax year. As originally written, but an amendment was written to make the amount \$750.00 and was voted on and adopted. Mr. Dobrowoski's amendment passed and the article passed with the increase to 750.00 per year. Article as amended was moved by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Campbell, with no discussion, passed with hand vote.

**Article 29:** Moved by Mrs. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Town voted not to accept Old Mill Farm Road, a private road, which measures 1,323.91 feet along the centerline from Beard Road to its termination in a cul-de-sac. This approval is contingent upon final inspection by the Road Agent and Board of Selectmen. Road Agent Mr. Ernest Butler spoke on this article and said it was better to wait on road, until some improvements could be completed. Article did not pass with a hand vote.

**Article 30:** Moved by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Valenzuela, the Town voted not to accept Minot Road, a private road, which measures 659.59 feet along the centerline from Beard Road to Old Mill Farm Road. This approval is contingent upon final inspection by the Road Agent and Board of Selectmen. This article has some discussion and did not pass by hand vote.

**Article 31:** Moved by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Valenzuela, the Town of Hillsborough voted not to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing the property of 22 Henniker Street for the purpose of constructing a municipal parking lot to be available for the public use. Much discussion on this article and then a ballot vote was taken. Yes 18 No 97

As this was being voted on at the ballot box, the official ballot for officers was read by Mr. Ivanov.

**Article 32:** Moved by Riche Colcombe and seconded by Mr. Valenzuela, if Article #3 Operating Budget of the Hillsboro-Deering School District 2023 Warrant is defeated, shall the voters of the Town of Hillsborough require the Select Board and Hillsborough Police Department to contract the services of a School Resource Officer at the

expense of the Hillsboro-Deering School District and not at the expense of the Town of Hillsborough's Budget. Said contract shall be for no less than the full cost of labor and benefits for the hours contracted by the Hillsboro-Deering School District. (By Petition) There was some discussion on the article and the article passed with a hand vote.

Before calling the meeting closed, Mr. Ivanov asked the residents to thank all the Town Employees for their work for the Town and Ernie Butler and the road crew for their work through the big storm and all winter.

**Article 33:** Moved by Mr. Leigh Bosse and seconded by Mrs. Campbell. to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 with no other business to transact that may legally come before the meeting. Meeting was adjourned .

A True Copy of Attest:

Deborah J. McDonald  
Hillsborough Town Clerk

## **2023 TOWN MEETING BALLOT RESULTS ON ARTICLE 1:**

### **Selectman for 3 years:**

Iris Campbell 404  
Sean Burt 306

### **Selectman for 2 years:**

Richard Pelletier 438  
Katherine Charrette 256

### **Tax Collector/Town Clerk for 3 years:**

Deborah J McDonald 681

### **Treasurer for 3 years:**

Robert R Charron 668

### **Planning Board for 3 years (two positions):**

Kim Opperman 199  
Kyle Tyrrell 322  
Bryant E Wheeler 366  
Nancy A Egner 333

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment for 3 years (two positions):**

Roger Racette 450  
Keith T Cobbett 508

### **Trustee of the Fuller Public Library for 3 years**

Norma Hubbard 641

### **Cemetery Trustee for 3 years:**

Norma Webster 638

### **Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years:**

Lori Adams 618

**Water and Sewer Commissioner for 3 years:**

Peter D Mellen 631

**Water and Sewer Commissioner for 2 years:**

David N Fullerton 256

Dana R Clow 417

**SCHOOL OFFICIALS: (Hillsborough results only not included are Deering results)**

**School Board from Hillsborough for 3 years:**

Paul Plater 476

Mike Luciano 134 (write in)

**Moderator for 1 year:**

John Segedy 540

A True Copy of Attest:

Deborah J McDonald  
Hillsborough Town Clerk