



TOWN OF AUBURN VOTER'S GUIDE

**GUIDE TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
2016 TOWN MEETING &
2016 AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING**

AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL

March 8, 2016

Polls open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.



TOWN OF AUBURN

Dear Fellow Residents of Auburn:

This year marks the Town of Auburn's eighth experience with the Official Ballot Voting process that is commonly known as "SB2". The first portion of the annual Town Meeting was held on January 30th. At that deliberative session, the voters in attendance were presented with the articles on the warrant as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. After discussion, all articles in their original format are being included on the ballot by the Town Clerk for your consideration at the second portion of Town Meeting. Your chance to cast your vote on these issues, within the privacy of the voting booth, is **Tuesday, March 8th from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.** at the **Auburn Village School**.

In concert with the Auburn School Board, we are again pleased to provide you with this joint publication that details the issues and items you will be asked to cast your votes on in March.

We realize that sometimes lengthy legal language required by law to write various warrant articles can be confusing to voters who have not been actively involved in the debate that created the article. To help voters have a clearer understanding of each topic, we have prepared the ensuing Voter's Guide for your consideration. The guide is meant to explain, in common language, the intent of each article, as well as offer some background information on the topic. This guide supplements the annual Town Report, which will be available at the Town Hall, the Library, the Police Station and online via the Town's website (www.auburnnh.us). Should you have any questions regarding your town government after reviewing these documents, we urge you to contact any of our Board members or the Town Hall (483-5052) for further information or clarification. Any one of us would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Important decisions regarding the level or type of service your school district and town government delivers to you will be made at the polls. In addition, there are positions within town and school district governments which will be elected by your vote. We urge you to consider the issues, make informed decisions, and please come to the Auburn Village School on Tuesday, March 8th to cast your vote.

Auburn residents will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed budget and other issues by answering "Yes" or "No" to the questions on the official ballot that will be used in conjunction with the annual election. We are pleased to present you with this 2016 Voter's Guide to assist you as you prepare to vote on the various issues appearing on the School District and Town Meeting warrants.

Tax impact information listed in the guide will not be listed on the ballot. We have provided this information here to give voters an idea of what the individual items will cost if voters approve the item. The tax impact information listed in the voter's guide is simply an estimate based on a current snapshot in time using information and revenue projections that are available today. However, the actual tax rate is not set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) until September or October, using actual information that is available then.

In closing, we would like to "Thank You" for the opportunity to represent you, and we appreciate your consideration as we work together to maintain Auburn as a great community to live in.

Sincerely,

James F. Headd, Chairman
Richard W. Eaton, Vice Chairman
Dale W. Phillips, Selectman
AUBURN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PO Box 309 • Auburn, NH 03032-0309

SELECTMEN: (603) 483-5052 • TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR: (603) 483-2281
BUILDING/ZONING: (603) 483-0516 • PLANNING: (603) 483-0799 • FAX: (603) 483-0518

TOWN OF AUBURN and AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER'S GUIDE

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Letter from Board of Selectmen	3
Candidates for Town Offices	5
Article 2 – Proposed Amendment to the Auburn Zoning Ordinance	6
No. 1 – Make Changes to the Cluster Development Regulations.....	6
No. 2 – Conditional Use Permits for Certain Driveways.....	7
No. 3 – Smoke, Fire and Carbon Monoxide Detection	8
No. 4 – Plan Review and Technical Assistance.....	9
No. 5 – Abolish Cluster Development (Petition Article).....	10
Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement with Auburn Police Union	11
Article 4 – Mosquito Control Program.....	12
Article 5 – Town Buildings Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund	13
Article 6 – Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund	14
Article 7 – Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund	15
Article 8 – Membership of Parks & Recreation Commission	16
Article 9 – Sale of Former Fire & Police Station—Raymond Road	17
Article 10 – FY 2016 Town Budget.....	18
Comparison of 2016 Proposed Town Budget and Default Budget	19
Summary of 2016 Proposed Town Budget.....	20
Summary of 2016 Default Budget	21
Estimated Homeowner Cost of Proposed Town Budget	22
Auburn School District Candidates for Offices	23
Article 2 — Proposed Bond Issue for Addition/Renovation of AVS	24
Article 3 — Collective Bargaining Agreement with Auburn Education Association.	27
Article 4 — FY 2016-2017 School District Budget	28
Article 5 — Sale of Hooksett Road Property	29
Article 6 — Study Withdrawal from SAU #15	30
Proposed Auburn School District Budget FY 2016-2017.....	31

1. To choose candidates for Town Offices.

FOR SELECTMAN

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Russell Sullivan
James F. Headd

_____ (Write-in)

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Scott R. Norris

_____ (Write-in)

FOR MODERATOR

Two Years

Vote for not more than ONE

James Tillery

_____ (Write-in)

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Patricia A. Allard

_____ (Write-in)

FOR SUPERVISOR OF THE
CHECKLIST

Six Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Barbara J. Coapland

_____ (Write-in)

FOR PLANNING BOARD

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Michael Rolfe
Alan R. Cote

_____ (Write-in)

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Elizabeth Michaud

_____ (Write-in)

FOR POLICE COMMISSION

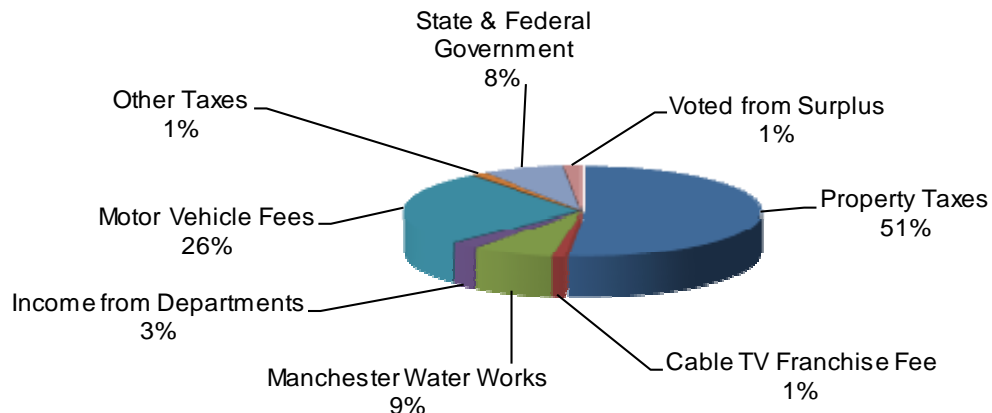
Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Kenneth Robinson
Dennis George McCarthy

_____ (Write-in)

2016 SOURCES OF TOWN REVENUE



2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following amendments to the existing Auburn Zoning Ordinance as proposed and recommended by the Auburn Planning Board, in conformance with NH RSA 675:1, et seq., and include the following: **(The full text of the proposed regulations is posted and available for inspection at the Town Hall, and is also available to review on the Town web site at www.auburnnh.us).**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Auburn Planning Board for the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Auburn Zoning Ordinance to make changes to the cluster development provisions set forth in Article 7 of the Zoning Ordinance. (A copy of the full text of the proposed changes is posted and available for review at the Auburn Town Offices.) **(Recommended by the Planning Board)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Planning Board. The proposal would affect substantive changes to the cluster development provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, which are set forth in Article 7 of the Ordinance, including but not limited to the required minimum and maximum lot sizes permitted in a cluster development, the calculation of the maximum number of dwelling units permitted in a cluster development, open space requirements, and roadway construction within a cluster development.

This proposal is in response to a lot of input and information the Planning Board has received from the public in recent years. The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance are intended to tighten up the regulations of cluster developments and enhance the provision of open space areas that Auburn residents have consistently indicated is important to them in maintaining the rural nature of our community.

A **“Yes”** vote would approve the Planning Board’s recommendation and will make substantive changes to the cluster development provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

A **“No”** vote would leave the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance unchanged in the area of cluster development, and would not address any of the concerns with cluster development expressed by the public.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Auburn Planning Board for the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 5.10 Minor Conditional Use Permits, (6) Certain Driveways, of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance to read:

Certain Driveways: Construction of driveway with Minimum Impact Applications for access to single family houses on lots of record as of March 10, 2009 **or as part of Planning Board re-view process for subdivision approval. (Recommended by the Planning Board)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Planning Board. The proposal would make a minor adjustment to the Wetlands and Watershed Protection Regulations contained in Article 5 of the Auburn Zoning Regulations. The proposed amendment would enable the Planning Board to work with property owners in locating a driveway for access to single family houses that are created through the subdivision approval process.

During 2015, while reviewing a single lot subdivision for property on Bunker Hill Road, wetlands on the property resulted in a complicated process that had to include the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment to locate a driveway on the newly created lot. This amendment to the Zoning Regulations would enable the Planning Board to effectively work with property owners and address these potential driveway locations without multiple applications and hearings to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

A **“Yes”** vote would approve the Planning Board’s recommendation and will enable the Planning Board to work with property owners in sighting certain driveways on properties impacted by wetlands.

A **“No”** vote would leave the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance unchanged in the area of locating certain driveways affected by Wetlands and Watershed Protections, and would continue to require approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to construct a driveway on a newly created lot affect by the provisions of the Wetlands and Watershed Protections set forth in Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Auburn Planning Board for the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 13.08, Smoke and Fire Detectors of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance to rename as Article 13.08— Smoke, Fire and Carbon Monoxide Detection and Portable Fire Extinguishers and add the following:

All Commercial and Industrial occupancies shall have all Portable Fire Extinguishers installed, inspected, maintained and recharged in accordance with **NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code 2009 edition, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2009 edition, NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers 2013 edition** and the **NH State Fire Code**. Any person performing an annual external visual examination of a portable fire extinguisher shall obtain a:

- 1. Certification as a Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician by the National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED), or;
- 2. Certification or testing by another recognized organization as deemed appropriate and acceptable by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), or;
- 3. Current certification from the manufacturer of the portable fire extinguisher denoting the portable fire extinguisher and areas in which the applicant has successfully trained and been certified.

(Recommended by the Planning Board)

YES NO

This article was proposed by the Planning Board. The proposal would amend a portion of Article 13.08 — Building Code and Building Permits of the Auburn Zoning Regulations. The proposed amendment would add Carbon Monoxide detection and portable fire extinguishers to the article that deals with smoke and fire detectors. In addition, the proposal would bring the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance into full compliance with state and national fire and life safety standards as recognized by the State of New Hampshire.

These standards and regulations noted above are in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Uniform Fire Code 2009 edition, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2009 edition, NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers 2013 edition and the NH State Fire Code.

A **“Yes”** vote would approve the Planning Board’s recommendation and will admend the Building Code and Building Permit section of the Zoning Ordinance to address carbon monoxide detection and portable fire extinguishers, in addition to bringing the Town into compliance with state and national life safety standards.

A **“No”** vote would leave the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance unchanged in the area of Building Code and Building Permits, and would leave the Town out of compliance with current state and national life safety codes.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Auburn Planning Board for the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Appendix F, Fire Department Regulations, of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance to add Section E— Plan Review and Technical Assistance. **(Recommended by the Planning Board)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Planning Board. The proposal would amend Appendix F of the Auburn Zoning Regulations to include plan review and technical assistance to commercial construction applicants before the Planning Board. The proposal would include the following:

Plan Review and Technical Assistance:

1. The Town of Auburn shall require for new commercial construction, modification or rehabilitation, construction documents and shop drawings shall be submitted, reviewed and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) prior to the start of such work.
2. The applicant shall be responsible to ensure that the following conditions are met:
 - a. The construction documents include all of the fire protection requirements.
 - b. The shop drawings are correct and in compliance with all applicable codes and standards.
 - c. The contractor maintain an approved set of construction documents on site.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the AHJ to promulgate rules that cover the criteria to meet the New Hampshire State Fire Code and the review of documents and construction documents within established time frames for the purpose of acceptance or providing reasons for non-acceptance.
4. Review and approval by the AHJ shall not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of compliance with the New Hampshire State Fire Code.

Technical Assistance:

1. Construction documents or shop drawing shall be prepared and/or reviewed by an approved independent third party with expertise in the matter to be reviewed at the submitter's expense.
2. The independent reviewer shall provide an evaluation and recommend necessary changes of the proposed design, operation, process, or new technology to the AHJ.
3. The AHJ shall be authorized to require the design submittals to bear the stamp of a registered design professional.
4. The AHJ shall make the final determination as to whether the provisions of the New Hampshire State Fire Code have been met.

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the Planning Board's recommendation and will add the proposed Section E for Plan Review and Technical Assistance for commercial construction to Appendix F of the Zoning Ordinance.

A **"No"** vote would leave the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance unchanged with respect to Appendix F of the Zoning Ordinance.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by voter petition for the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Auburn Zoning Ordinance by abolishing the cluster development provisions (Article 7) from the Ordinance, so that all residential development will be subject to the 2-acre minimum lot size requirement. **(Not Recommended by the Planning Board)**

YES _____ NO _____

This article was proposed by petition of 26 registered voters in the Town of Auburn. A copy of the Petition is on file at the Town Offices and is available for inspection or copying upon request. It is also available for review on the Town of Auburn website (www.auburnnh.us). The petition as presented by the voters seeks a warrant article *"to abolish Cluster Developments from the Auburn Master Plan, Town Planning and Zoning Ordinances, and return to the required 2-acre minimum building lots for all future developments."*

Under state statutes, voters have the authority to vote on changes to the Town's zoning ordinance, but not on the Town's Master Plan or Subdivision Regulations. The Planning Board is charged with the responsibility and authority to develop and approve the Master Plan and Subdivision Regulations.

In submitting their petition, the petitioners indicated that "the majority of current cluster developments are not in favor with many residents, have proven problematic with the various Boards, and have greatly affected the rural character of our town."

Following public hearings held on January 11, 2016 and January 25, 2016, the Planning Board voted unanimously to not recommend the adoption of the petitioned article that would eliminate Article 7 from the Auburn Zoning Ordinance and abolish cluster development regulations. Instead, the Planning Board is recommending the approval of Zoning Amendment No.1 that would make substantial changes to the Cluster Development regulations to address various concerns members of the public have expressed with the current regulations. These changes include, but are not limited to, the required minimum and maximum lot sizes permitted in a cluster development, the calculation of the maximum number of dwelling units permitted in a cluster development, open space requirements, and roadway construction within a cluster development.

It should be noted that should this petitioned warrant article pass to eliminate the provisions of cluster development from the zoning ordinance, it would negate any action the voters take on the proposed Zoning Amendment No. 1, even if a majority of voters approve of Amendment No. 1.

In addition, note that although the petitioned warrant article stated that all future development would "return to the required 2-acre minimum building lots", the effect of passage of the petitioned warrant article would be to leave the existing lot size requirements, as set forth in Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance, intact. Therefore, upon passage of the petitioned warrant article, all development would be subject to the lot size requirement set forth in Article 4, which vary from 1 to 3 acres depending on the zoning district.

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the petitioned warrant article and would eliminate Article 7—Clustered Development from the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance.

A **"No"** vote on this petitioned warrant article would leave the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance unchanged in the area of cluster development, and Article 7—Clustered Development would remain a part of the Town of Auburn Zoning Ordinance. (Note, however, even if this petitioned article fails, there may be changes to Article 7 of the Zoning Ordinance if the voters pass Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board (see Page 5).

3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items related to the first year of a three-year collective bargaining agreement which resulted from negotiations between the Auburn Board of Selectmen, the Auburn Police Commission and the Auburn Police Union, Local 216 and which represents an estimated increase of \$12,418 over FY 2015 salaries, fringe benefits and other cost items at the current staffing level for the ensuing year; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve thousand, four hundred and eighteen dollars (**\$12,418**), to fund those cost items for FY 2016. Cost items for FY 2017 and FY 2018 will be presented to the voters for their approval in March 2017 and March 2018 in accordance with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners. In 2012 members of the Auburn Police Department exercised their right to form a collective bargaining unit that is known as the Auburn Police Union. Included in this unit, as certified by the NH Public Employees Labor Relations Board, are 16 positions including one full-time and two part-time Sergeants, and four full-time and nine part-time Police Officers. In 2013, the Auburn Police Union and the Town of Auburn were able to reach agreement for a first time collective bargaining agreement that covered the period of April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, which was approved by voters in March 2013. In 2014, agreement was reached for a second contract that covered the two-year period of April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2016. Funding for this agreement was approved by voters in both in March 2014 and March 2015.

The second agreement comes to an end on March 31, 2016, and the parties were able to negotiate a successor three-year contact that would begin on April 1, 2016 and end on March 31, 2019. The cost items of the first year of that new three-year agreement total \$12,418 and are presented to the voters for their approval in March 2016.

The 2016 warrant article is seeking funding for the first year of the three-year agreement. In general terms, the funds will cover the potential of a single step increase (2%) for all the full and part-time officers covered by the Auburn Police Union, as defined by the wage scale included with the collective bargaining agreement (estimated cost of \$5,784). The agreement also includes the provision of shift differential pay ranging from 50-cents an hour to \$1 per hour for different shifts worked other than the traditional "day" shift (estimated cost of \$7,071.46). And, the agreement also provides for the provision of life insurance for all full-time positions in exchange for the elimination of Merit Pay that is in the current contract (estimated savings for the first year of \$437.50).

The step increase adjustments and the swapping of Merit Pay for life insurance are the same as the benefits included in the Town's proposed operating budget for all other Town employees. The Shift Differential is exclusively proposed for the Auburn Police Union.

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the cost items for year one of the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Auburn and the Auburn Police Union.

A **"No"** vote would not provide funding for year one of the proposed three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Auburn and the Auburn Police Union, and would likely return both sides to the negotiations table to work on a new agreement.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.02

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-four thousand–six-hundred and seventy-five dollars (**\$34,675**) to implement a mosquito control program to include the integration of various methods of reducing mosquito vector species of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.
(**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen**) (**Not Recommended by the Budget Committee**)

YES _____ NO _____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2009, public health concerns for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) were found throughout the State of New Hampshire. In communities adjacent to Auburn, there were positive tests documented in Derry, Manchester and Candia, at a minimum. State health officials determine if the disease is found in communities around you, they don't test in your community and just assume that it is there. Annual occurrences of mosquito-borne disease in New Hampshire have prompted a desire for a mosquito control program in many communities.

In 2010, the Town of Auburn commenced a mosquito control program as approved by the voters. More than 1,800 individual specimens were trapped and tested. There were no positive results found for either West Nile Virus or EEE in Auburn in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 or 2015. Very few cases were found throughout the state as a whole. However, in 2013, out of 101 mosquito batches there was one positive test result in Auburn for a species of mosquito that carries EEE.

Due to the extensive network of wetlands found in the Town of Auburn, the program designed for our community involves locating and documenting specific larval habitats of "spring" mosquitoes; contacting landowners for permission to complete larviciding; instituting a larval mosquito control application process and microscopic species determination; and initiating public outreach programs through the Auburn Village School, day care centers, Town website and other venues. The Auburn program is quite labor-intensive with nearly 1,200 labor hours used each year from March through October. The same is anticipated for 2016, if approved by voters in March.

When most people think of mosquito control, they envision trucks loaded with chemicals spraying the air throughout the Town. That is not the approach Auburn has generally undertaken. Larviciding is an application placed directly to the habitat areas where mosquito larvae are to be hatched. These areas are relatively shallow, stagnant pools of water, including the road side catch basins, that can be found throughout the Town.

Mosquito control programs are carefully regulated and licensed by the State of New Hampshire through the NH Division of Pesticide Control in the Department of Agriculture. The vendor providing the pest control services has to be licensed, while the municipality planning on managing a program must also receive a special permit for this undertaking. No fewer than five state agencies participate in the review process for these permits.

A **"Yes"** vote would allow the Town to continue to undertake a mosquito control program throughout the Town of Auburn, beginning as early as possible in March 2016.

A **"No"** vote would prevent the Town from continuing with a mosquito control program of any type in 2016.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.05

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (**\$30,000**) to be placed into the Town Buildings Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2015 with no additional amount to be raised by taxation in 2016. (**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen**) (**Recommended by the Budget Committee**)

YES _____ NO _____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2006 Auburn voters established a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing Town buildings as the need might arise. Since it was established in 2006, the Capital Reserve Fund has been used to:

- fund the replacement of the roof on the Town Hall;
- replace a portion of the floor in the Griffin Free Public Library;
- repair or replace the electrical and heating systems, insulation and garage doors at the former incinerator building for the Highway Department;
- replace the oil burner at the Pingree Hill Fire Station;
- cover a significant portion of the renovation work performed on the Town Hall in 2010;
- cover the Town's portion of costs for the new sign and message board at the Town Hall;
- establish a locker room for the officers at the Auburn Police Department;
- repair portions of the roof at the Griffin Free Public Library;
- make improvements to the records storage vault at the Town Hall;
- repair the central air conditioning system at the Auburn Police Department;
- repair toilets in the holding cells at the Auburn Police Department;
- replace the septic system at the Town Hall;
- repair HVAC system at the Safety Complex;
- repair property fence at Town Hall;
- replace rear doors at Town Hall with code-compliant door;
- install new records storage system for land use files at Town Hall, and
- replace and upgrade parking lot and exterior lights at Town Hall

The fund has a balance of approximately \$100,000. The original intention in establishing the fund was to maintain close to a \$100,000 balance in order to have funds available should any significant repair work become necessary on any Town building. In 2016, the roof of the Griffin Free Public Library will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$14,000, while the roof the Highway Garage also needs to be replaced for approximately \$15,000. These expenses would come from this fund.

The Board of Selectmen is asking to place \$30,000 into this Capital Reserve Fund in order to maintain a balance of \$100,000. The warrant article as presented would have the \$30,000 come from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) of the Town and not from a direct appropriation of new tax dollars.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the deposit of \$30,000 in the Town Buildings Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund, with the money coming from the Town's undesignated fund balance. This would result in a balance of approximately \$100,000 in the fund after the Library and Highway garage roofs are repaired.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the deposit of \$30,000 in the Town Buildings Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund resulting in a balance of approximately \$70,000 being available in the fund after the Library and Highway Garage roofs are repaired.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

6. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the maintenance and upkeep of town cemeteries; to raise and appropriate the sum of Four-thousand dollars (**\$4,000**) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2015; and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen**) (**Recommended by the Budget Committee**)

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Working with the Auburn Cemetery Trustees, there has been an interest in establishing an Expendable Trust Fund where a portion of the proceeds from the sale of plots in either the Auburn Village Cemetery or the Longmeadow Cemetery could be accumulated and used for maintenance and other upkeep for the cemetery properties.

In 2014, the Trustees of Cemeteries working through the Selectmen's Office requested the Trustees of the Trust Funds to establish such an account and during the course of the year transferred \$4,000 to this account from the sale of cemetery plots.

When the Town's auditing firm was performing the audit for FY 2014, they noted the establishment of this fund and, despite its appropriate intent and purpose, cited that it had not been established by a vote of Town Meeting as required by state statute.

As proposed, the warrant article would formally establish the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund with the provision that any funds placed in that account could only be spent for the maintenance and upkeep of town cemeteries. This article also seeks to appropriately deposit into the fund the \$4,000 that had been handled in 2014, but disallowed by the auditors' notation.

If approved, it is anticipated that moving forward, all of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots would be requested to be deposited into this fund for this purpose through individual warrant articles placed on future Town Meeting warrants.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the establishment of the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund and would place \$4,000 from previous sale of plots in the Town cemeteries into this fund.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the establishment of the proposed Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund and would require the lapsing of the \$4,000 into the general fund resulting in these funds not being designated for this purpose.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

7. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35:9-a, for the Town's liability for payment of accrued benefits; to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2015 with no additional amount to be raised by taxation in 2016; and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. As an employer, the Town of Auburn has a legal responsibility to pay employees for any accumulated leave time (called 'Earned Time' in both the Town of Auburn Personnel Policy and the Auburn Police Union Collective Bargaining Agreement) that may be on the books at the time that employee leaves Town employment for any reason.

Whether an employee leaves Auburn to accept a job elsewhere, retires from service or perhaps is terminated from their position, RSA 275:44 requires that this accrued time be paid out to that individual within 72-hours of their leaving the employment of the Town of Auburn.

At the end of 2015, the Town had approximately \$131,700 worth of accrued leave on the books for the 20 full-time employees eligible for Earned Time. This ranges from a few days' time for some employees up to the maximum amount of nine weeks leave that could be accumulated.

This legal obligation translates into an unfunded liability on the financial ledgers, in addition to requiring that any such payment be made from current operational funds which could lead to an inability to fill a vacant position timely while addressing this financial obligation.

The Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund proposed in this article would place \$50,000 in an account that could be used only for this purpose. Although it does not fully provide for the total amount of accrued leave existing today, it provides just under half of the funds, and likely would be more than enough to handle expenses for accrued benefits that the Town might face in any given year.

As an employer, the Town of Auburn has an aging workforce, not unlike many employers through the State of New Hampshire. Many of our employees have been with the Town of Auburn for 15 or more years. With the potential of retirements coming in the near future, the establishment of this type of fund positions the Town to be able to better meet its legal and financial obligations in a timely manner, while also being able to work to maintain staffing levels as needed through the operating budget. The establishment of this type of fund is widely considered to be a sound municipal business practice and would reflect positively in future financial audits.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the establishment of an Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund and deposit \$50,000 from the Town's undesignated fund balance into the fund in order to be able to meet legal obligations for the payment of accrued leave as may arise from time to time.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the establishment of the proposed Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund, would leave the unfunded liability on the Town's financial records, and would require the payment of any such expenses from the Town's operating budget as they are incurred, which may require the Board of Selectmen to take funds away from some other planned purpose.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the March 1984 vote to establish a five (5) member Parks and Recreation Commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen, including a Selectman as ex-officio member, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35-B in order to expand the size of the Commission to seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, including a Selectman as an ex-officio member.

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. When Auburn voters approved the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Commission at the 1984 Town Meeting (Article 17), the Commission was established as a five-member Commission, with one of the five members to be a member of the Board of Selectmen. In general terms, this structure served the Town well for decades.

With an increased work load and interest in expanded activities, the Board of Selectmen had appointed anywhere from one to three additional individuals to serve as Alternate Commissioners, and provide some additional volunteer support to the five-member Parks and Recreation Commission.

Unfortunately, it has come to the Town's attention that although state statutes allow for alternate members of a number of local boards and commissions such as the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Library Trustees, the statutes do not allow for alternate members to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The article being proposed is to expand the total membership of the Parks and Recreation Commission from five (5) members including a Selectman to seven (7) members including a Selectman. In doing this, it would allow the current two Alternate Commission positions to become full Commission members. This will enable the Parks and Recreation Commission to maintain its current level of volunteer members.

This article is viewed as a housekeeping article intended only to ensure the Town is in compliance with state statutes and prior decisions made by Auburn Town Meeting voters.

A **"Yes"** vote would formally establish the Parks and Recreation Commission as a seven-member board as authorized under NH RSA 35-B.

A **"No"** vote would leave the Parks and Recreation Commission as a five-member board as originally established in 1984, and would require that two individuals who are currently serving as Alternate Parks and Recreation Commission members be eliminated from those roles.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to offer for sale, negotiate a price and close the sale of the property at 50 Raymond Road (Tax Map #26, Lot #13) that includes approximately 0.7920-acres of land and the building that was the former fire and police station.

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2011, Auburn voters approved a warrant article that accepted a specific proposal from a local resident for the purchase of the former fire and police station building at 50 Raymond Road. The proposal included the allowance of some continued storage space by the Town in the facility, in addition to enabling the Town to have the first right of refusal to buy back the property at a price to be determined at a later date should the individual later decide to sell the property.

Since that 2011 vote, the economy has changed significantly and the local resident, while still interested in the purchase of the building, found he was not in a position to move forward as planned at that time. This resident still has interest in the building, but has indicated to the Board of Selectmen it may still be another two or three years before he may be in a position to potentially move forward with any project concerning that property.

The voters approval in 2011 gave the Board of Selectmen authority to deal with a single buyer on a specifically proposed transaction. Where a number of years has passed and it appears there would still be several more years before that potential transaction might take place, the Board of Selectmen is interested in asking the voters for general authority to sell the property.

As time passes, the building is deteriorating and has been the subject of numerous acts of vandalism. The cost of heat and electricity for the facility increases and, if the Town is going to keep the property, it should look to make improvements to the property in order to sustain the property and to make it efficient for use.

The proposed warrant article would enable the Board of Selectmen to test the market for this property and determine if there is any interest in it. It would not limit the Board to potentially dealing with one specific buyer, but permit the Board to negotiate with anyone who may be interested in the property. If given this general approval by the voters, the Board would still be free to negotiate with the individual interested in the property as addressed in the 2011 warrant article, but would also be able to negotiate with other parties.

During the past two years, the Town has worked to clear the title on what had originally been two separate parcels of land — one of which had been given to the Town of Auburn, while the other was given to the Auburn Volunteer Firemen's Association. One of the parcels was subject to a deed restriction, which directed that the property was to be returned to the heirs of the original donors once the Town was no longer using the property. In order for the Town to be able to convey the property, the title had to be cleared and that was accomplished in 2015.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the former fire and police station property at 50 Raymond Road in a manner which the Board believes is in the overall best interest of the community.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the Board of Selectmen to offer the former fire and police station property for sale, and would leave the Selectmen to determine if they should improve and maintain the building for Town use, or revert back to the 2011 proposal discussed above, should that proposal become viable.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

10. To see if the Town will vote to 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 **\$5,169,138**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$5,087,445**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Auburn 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. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant article.

YES ☐ **NO** ☐

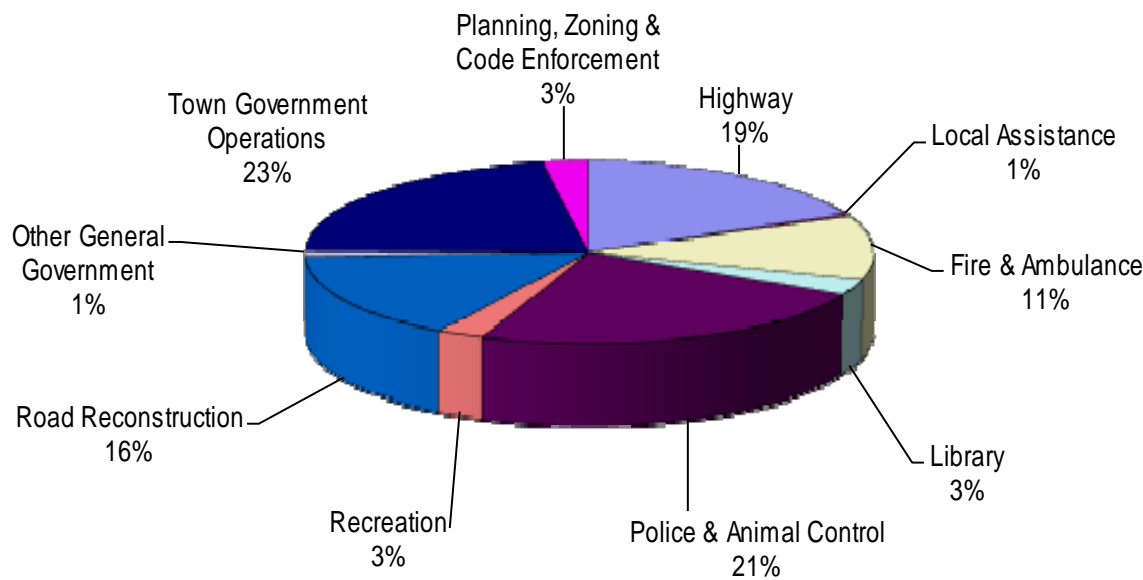
A **“Yes”** vote would approve the proposed 2016 operating budget totaling \$5,169,138 as presented by the Budget Committee.

2016 Tax Impact: \$4.33

A **“No”** vote would not approve the proposed operating budget as presented by the Budget Committee and would result in the Default Budget totaling \$5,087,445, calculated by the Board of Selectmen, being adopted.

2016 Tax Impact: \$4.21

2016 PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET BREAKDOWN



TOWN OF AUBURN
2016 PROPOSED BUDGET and 2016 DEFAULT BUDGET

Department	Budgeted 2015	Expended 2015	Proposed 2016	Default Budget
Executive	228,987.00	217,539.00	255,213.00	253,982.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	83,961.00	74,047.00	90,487.00	93,113.00
Financial Administration	100,031.00	96,149.00	98,440.00	98,655.00
Legal Expenditures	65,000.00	57,838.00	65,000.00	65,000.00
Personnel Administration	381,228.00	393,072.00	385,078.00	384,183.00
Planning & Zoning	77,324.00	62,283.00	70,102.00	42,152.00
General Government Buildings	80,325.00	74,822.00	80,085.00	79,588.00
Cemeteries	25,000.00	25,812.00	30,450.00	26,000.00
Insurance	89,171.00	78,645.00	102,525.00	102,525.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	7,898.00	7,898.00	8,121.00	8,121.00
Other General Government	106,416.00	91,062.00	105,473.00	107,451.00
Police	1,054,703.00	1,046,880.00	1,124,446.00	1,095,930.00
Ambulance	66,185.00	66,184.00	76,269.00	76,269.00
Fire	412,107.00	401,872.00	429,690.00	422,254.00
Building Inspection	69,685.00	62,131.00	65,171.00	64,548.00
Emergency Management	1,951.00	27,742.00	1,951.00	1,951.00
Other Public Safety - Town Details	2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Highways & Streets	935,435.00	904,968.00	935,464.00	935,435.00
Street Lighting	13,500.00	12,457.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
Solid Waste Disposal	15,700.00	13,851.00	11,925.00	12,175.00
Health Administration	2,518.00	2,275.00	2,549.00	2,518.00
Animal & Pest Control	19,568.00	19,021.00	19,988.00	19,834.00
Health Agencies & Hospitals	5,614.00	5,114.00	5,614.00	5,614.00
Direct Assistance	31,906.00	13,928.00	21,935.00	31,906.00
Intergovernmental Welfare Payments	4,471.00	4,471.00	4,471.00	4,471.00
Parks & Recreation	113,447.00	112,168.00	96,764.00	112,737.00
Library	150,356.00	136,757.00	143,975.00	143,193.00
Patriotic Purposes	6,900.00	6,642.00	6,500.00	6,900.00
Conservation Commission	2,741.00	2,236.00	2,753.00	2,741.00
Principle - Bonds & Notes	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Interest - Bonds & Notes	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	114,989.00	115,070.00	72,696.00	72,696.00
Road Reconstruction	800,000.00	652,334.00	800,000.00	800,000.00
Recreation Improvements	0.00	0.00	41,500.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 5,069,120.00	\$ 4,785,268.00	\$ 5,169,138.00	\$ 5,087,445.00

2016 Town of Auburn – Proposed Budget Summary

The proposed 2016 operating budget of \$5,169,138 as presented by the Auburn Budget Committee represents an increase of 1.15% from the approved Town budget for 2015. The estimated tax rate increase in the Town portion of property taxes would be \$0.08 to support this proposed budget.

Under the “SB 2” budgeting process that Auburn adopted in 2008, should the proposed budget not be adopted, then a default budget of \$5,087,445 would take effect. The default budget represents an increase of 0.36% over the approved budget for 2015. Due to the anticipated net assessed valuation of the Town for 2015, this results in an estimated tax decrease in the Town portion of property taxes of \$0.04.

The potential tax rate impact for either budget is a mixed result of an increased tax base (net assessed valuation) from 2015, a slight increase of other revenue sources available to the Town, and some increases and decreases in various operational expenses.

Highlighted below are the projects, equipment and/or items included within departmental budgets that will continue to allow for the same level of quality services the residents of Auburn have come to expect.

- The **Elections and Registration** overall budget reflects an increase due to the number of elections to be held in 2016. There was one election held in 2015, while there are four elections (February, March, September and November) to be held in 2016.
- The **Executive Department** budget now includes the full-funding of the Land Use Administrator position, which is the result of combining two previous positions of Assessing Coordinator and Land Use Secretary into one position.
- The **Legal Expenditures** budget is level funded from 2015, when a reduction of nearly \$30,000 had been implemented to cover general legal matters and any labor relations costs associated with the Auburn Police Union.
- The **Personnel Administration** budget is nearly level funded, with the near \$4,000 increase largely attributable to the full 12 month funding of one additional full-time police officer as of July 1, 2015.
- The **Insurance** budget that covers property and liability, workers compensation and unemployment compensation coverage has been increased by approximately \$13,000 to cover increases in workers compensation and property and liability coverage which are the result of the Town’s claims record and overall economic trends.
- The **Planning and Zoning** budget includes funding for the Planning Board to work on updating the Town’s Master Plan, a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and updating Subdivision Regulations.
- The **Police Department** budget has been increased by nearly \$70,000 due to the full 12 month cost of a fourth full-time officer approved as of July 1, 2015, in addition to increased costs in the IT and computer area to fully address ongoing operational issues identified with the serious hacking incident experienced in 2015.
- The **Fire Department** budget reflects an increase of nearly \$17,500 to address increases in contracted dispatch services, truck maintenance and personnel & volunteer stipend expenses.
- The **Ambulance** budget reflects an increase of \$10,000 as a result of contractual obligations to the Town of Derry for this service.
- The **Highway** budget is level funded from 2015.
- The **Direct Assistance** budget has been reduced by \$10,000 based on the case load and expenditures of 2015.
- The **Recreation** budget reflects a decrease of approximately \$17,000 due to placing improvement projects in a capital budget account.
- The **Road Reconstruction** account has been level funded for 2015 with plans to do major work on Chester Turnpike, Dearborn Road and Rockingham Road in 2015.
- The **Recreation Improvements** budget is new and provides \$41,500 to complete work on the expanded parking area and improve the irrigation system at Eddows Field.
- The overall **Town Budget** includes the potential for Step Increases (2%) for Town employees, but does not include a general cost of living adjustment (COLA) for any employees.

2016 Town of Auburn - Default Budget Summary

The proposed 2016 operating budget of \$5,169,138 as presented by the Auburn Budget Committee represents an increase of 1.15% over the approved Town budget for 2015. There would be an estimated tax increase in the Town portion of property taxes of \$0.08 to support this proposed budget.

Under the "SB 2" budgeting process, should the proposed budget not be adopted, then a default budget of \$5,087,445 would take effect. The default budget, as developed by the Auburn Board of Selectmen, represents an increase of 0.36% over the approved budget for 2015, and carries an estimated tax decrease in the Town portion of property taxes of \$0.04.

While the Proposed Operating Budget and the Default Budget are similar in many ways, there are differences in how money is allocated between the two budgets.

The Default Budget begins with the approved budget of 2015. Clear one-time expenditures are to be deducted from that amount. Cost increases associated with contracted and other legal obligations the Town has (such as the number of elections scheduled during the year, personnel costs, fire and police dispatching services, ambulance service, assessing services, utility costs, NH Retirement System rates, etc.) are added to the budget.

Highlighted below are some of the major differences between the Proposed 2016 Default Budget and what is contained in the proposed 2016 Operating Budget:

- The **Planning and Zoning** budget would be reduced to \$42,152 and would not include funding needed to complete an update of the Master Plan, Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and updates to the Subdivision Regulations.
- The **Cemetery** budget would be reduced by \$4,000, which would prevent some repair and restorative work planned by the Cemetery Trustees from occurring at both the Auburn Village Cemetery and the Longmeadow Cemetery.
- The **Police Department** budget would still contain funding for full year funding of the fourth full-time police officer position established in 2015, but would not include funding required for the IT and computer system upgrades and maintenance identified as critical following the serious hacking incident experienced in 2015. Funding for the full outfitting of two replacement police cruisers would also not be included in the Default Budget.
- The **Direct Assistance** budget would not be reduced by \$10,000 as recommended by the Budget Committee based on the case load and expenditures of 2015, but would be funded at the level approved in 2015.
- The **Parks & Recreation** budget would be funded at the prior year's level and nearly \$16,000 as the proposed operating budget outlines.
- The **Recreation Improvement** budget of \$41,500 is not included at all in the Default Budget. This budget line provides funding to complete the expansion of the parking area at Eddows Recreational Field that was begun in 2015. It also includes funds to upgrade and improve the irrigation system for several of the athletic fields at Eddows Field.
- The overall **Town Default Budget** does not include the potential Step Increases (2.0%) for Town employees as defined in the Town of Auburn Personnel Policy, and the associated costs for FICA, Medicare and NH Retirement System contributions for those increases.

ESTIMATED HOMEOWNER COST FOR PROPOSED 2016 TOWN BUDGET

Budget by Department	Proposed 2016 Budget	% of Total 2016 Budget	Estimated Tax Dollars Per Year Based on Assessed Value					
			250K Home	300K Home	350K Home	400K Home	450K Home	500K Home
General Executive	\$ 255,213	4.89%	\$ 53.82	\$ 64.58	\$ 75.35	\$ 86.11	\$ 96.87	\$ 107.64
Elections & Registrations	\$ 90,487	1.73%	\$ 19.08	\$ 22.90	\$ 26.71	\$ 30.53	\$ 34.35	\$ 38.16
Financial Administration	\$ 98,440	1.89%	\$ 20.76	\$ 24.91	\$ 29.06	\$ 33.21	\$ 37.37	\$ 41.52
Legal Expense	\$ 65,000	1.25%	\$ 13.71	\$ 16.45	\$ 19.19	\$ 21.93	\$ 24.67	\$ 27.41
Personal Administration	\$ 385,078	7.38%	\$ 81.21	\$ 97.45	\$ 113.69	\$ 129.93	\$ 146.17	\$ 162.41
Planning & Zoning	\$ 70,102	1.34%	\$ 14.78	\$ 17.74	\$ 20.70	\$ 23.65	\$ 26.61	\$ 29.57
Government Buildings	\$ 80,085	1.54%	\$ 16.89	\$ 20.27	\$ 23.64	\$ 27.02	\$ 30.40	\$ 33.78
Cemeteries	\$ 30,450	0.58%	\$ 6.42	\$ 7.71	\$ 8.99	\$ 10.27	\$ 11.56	\$ 12.84
Insurance	\$ 102,525	1.97%	\$ 21.62	\$ 25.94	\$ 30.27	\$ 34.59	\$ 38.92	\$ 43.24
Advertising & Regional Assoc.	\$ 8,121	0.16%	\$ 1.71	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.74	\$ 3.08	\$ 3.43
Other General Government	\$ 105,473	2.02%	\$ 22.24	\$ 26.69	\$ 31.14	\$ 35.59	\$ 40.04	\$ 44.48
Police Department	\$ 1,124,446	21.56%	\$ 237.12	\$ 284.55	\$ 331.97	\$ 379.40	\$ 426.82	\$ 474.25
Ambulance	\$ 76,269	1.46%	\$ 16.08	\$ 19.30	\$ 22.52	\$ 25.73	\$ 28.95	\$ 32.17
Fire Department	\$ 429,690	8.24%	\$ 90.61	\$ 108.74	\$ 126.86	\$ 144.98	\$ 163.10	\$ 181.23
Building Inspection	\$ 65,171	1.25%	\$ 13.74	\$ 16.49	\$ 19.24	\$ 21.99	\$ 24.74	\$ 27.49
Emergency Management	\$ 1,951	0.04%	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.82
Other Public Safety - Town Details	\$ 1,000	0.02%	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.42
Highway Department	\$ 935,464	17.93%	\$ 197.27	\$ 236.73	\$ 276.18	\$ 315.63	\$ 355.09	\$ 394.54
Street Lighting	\$ 13,500	0.26%	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.92	\$ 4.48	\$ 5.04	\$ 5.60
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 11,925	0.23%	\$ 2.51	\$ 3.02	\$ 3.52	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.53	\$ 5.03
Health Officer	\$ 2,549	0.05%	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.97	\$ 1.08
Animal Control	\$ 19,988	0.38%	\$ 4.22	\$ 5.06	\$ 5.90	\$ 6.74	\$ 7.59	\$ 8.43
Health Agencies	\$ 5,614	0.11%	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.13	\$ 2.37
Direct Assistance	\$ 21,935	0.42%	\$ 4.63	\$ 5.55	\$ 6.48	\$ 7.40	\$ 8.33	\$ 9.25
Intergovernmental Welfare	\$ 4,471	0.09%	\$ 0.94	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.89
Parks & Recreation	\$ 96,764	1.86%	\$ 20.41	\$ 24.49	\$ 28.57	\$ 32.65	\$ 36.73	\$ 40.81
Library	\$ 143,975	2.76%	\$ 30.36	\$ 36.43	\$ 42.51	\$ 48.58	\$ 54.65	\$ 60.72
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 6,500	0.12%	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.92	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.74
Conservation Commission	\$ 2,753	0.05%	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.81	\$ 0.93	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.16
Long Term Debt - P & I	\$ 2	0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
FD Fire Truck (Lease)	\$ 72,696	1.39%	\$ 15.33	\$ 18.40	\$ 21.46	\$ 24.53	\$ 27.59	\$ 30.66
Road Reconstruction	\$ 800,000	15.34%	\$ 168.70	\$ 202.45	\$ 236.19	\$ 269.93	\$ 303.67	\$ 337.41
Recreation Improvements	\$ 41,500	0.80%	\$ 8.75	\$ 10.50	\$ 12.25	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.75	\$ 17.50
Sub-Total (Operating Budget)	\$ 5,169,138	99.10%	\$ 1,090.07	\$ 1,308.08	\$ 1,526.10	\$ 1,744.11	\$ 1,962.12	\$ 2,199.96

Warrant Articles								
Auburn Police Union Contract	\$ 12,418	0.24%	\$ 2.62	\$ 3.14	\$ 3.67	\$ 4.19	\$ 4.71	\$ 5.24
Mosquito Control Program	\$ 34,675	0.66%	\$ 7.31	\$ 8.77	\$ 10.24	\$ 11.70	\$ 13.16	\$ 14.62
Sub-Total (Warrant Articles)	\$ 47,093	0.90%	\$ 9.93	\$ 11.92	\$ 13.90	\$ 15.89	\$ 17.88	\$ 19.86

Total Town Budget 2016	\$ 5,216,231	100.00%	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,980.00	\$ 2,219.82
-------------------------------	---------------------	----------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

2015 Approved Total Tax Rate

Town	\$ 2,739,135	4.25	\$ 1,062.50	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,487.50	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,912.50	\$ 2,125.00
Local School	\$ 8,296,724	12.87	\$ 3,217.50	\$ 3,861.00	\$ 4,504.50	\$ 5,148.00	\$ 5,791.50	\$ 6,435.00
State School	\$ 1,583,614	2.49	\$ 622.50	\$ 747.00	\$ 871.50	\$ 996.00	\$ 1,120.50	\$ 1,245.00
County	\$ 710,576	1.10	\$ 225.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 550.00
	\$13,330,049	\$ 20.71	\$ 5,177.50	\$ 6,213.00	\$ 7,248.50	\$ 8,284.00	\$ 9,319.50	\$ 10,355.00



AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING

MARCH 8, 2016

To choose candidates for School District Offices.

FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Three Years

Vote for not more than TWO

Samantha Belcourt

Anita Gildea

Alan Villeneuve

_____ (Write-in)

FOR MODERATOR

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

James Tillery

_____ (Write-in)

FOR TREASURER

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Linda M. Zapora

_____ (Write-in)

FOR CLERK

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Denise Royce

_____ (Write-in)

2. Are you in favor of the Auburn School District raising and appropriating the sum of \$23,150,321 for the addition/renovation to the Auburn Village School, and authorize the issuance of not more than \$23,150,321 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33:1, et. seq., as amended;) to authorize the Auburn School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Auburn School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Auburn School Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$578,758 for the first year's interest payment on the bond? **(3/5 ballot vote required) (Recommended by the School Board) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

Balancing the goals of safety, security, efficiency and effectiveness with a responsible proposal to the town was not easy and it wasn't done without a great amount of time and analysis. Hundreds of Board, community members, SAU and AVS staff hours have gone into identifying the critical goals of both the physical structure, addressing the unknowns of the future (changes in education, technology, tools, and best practice; population growth and/or decline) and providing the least amount of burden to Auburn taxpayers as humanely possible.

No one can argue that building new would be wonderful, but reality is it is far more expensive, and ultimately, we'd need to address the expense of maintaining the existing during construction, and addressing what to do with the existing property – an additional expense. Ultimately, we arrived at the plan to retain as much of the original structure as possible, but remove and renovate the areas most in need, while wrapping it all in a “new envelope” – like new, but not at a brand new price tag. We worked with the Turner Group, the engineers on this project, to identify a construction management company. Why? GMP or Guaranteed Maximum Price ensures we will not exceed the budget. Why Bonnet Page and Stone (BPS)? They've completed a number of similar projects and come with solid recommendations; they also have a track record of returning 2-3%.

The goals of the School Board and master planning committee are all attainable on the existing site. The structure of the part of the building to be renovated is solid. This plan allows for all goals to be met at about approximately a 40% savings over a completely new building.

We are not increasing staff, adding niceties, over planning or under planning. We are addressing the immediate needs and planning with enough flexibility to ensure sustainability for the life of the 30 year bond we are proposing.

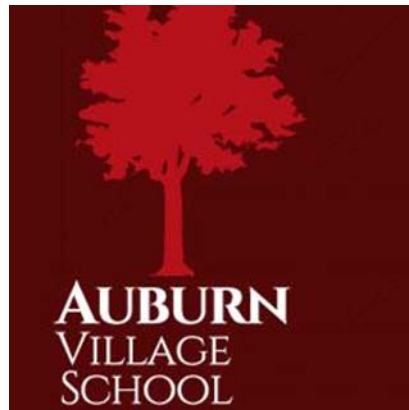
On the ensuing pages, you will find a fact sheet we hope helps address some commonly asked questions.

A “Yes” vote would approve the proposed bond issue and the two-year, phased construction would begin in the summer of 2016 with the removal of the portables and modulares. A new structure encompassing the classrooms previously housed in the portables and modular would be in place for the start of school, fall 2016.

A **"No"** vote would not allow for the borrowing of constructions funds as proposed and the two-year, phased construction project would not take place. Impacts of the decision would include:

- Tax rates will be impacted regardless
 - ⇒ maintenance issues will continue to increase, not decrease
 - ⇒ critical repairs and security measures will be need to be made over the course of the next several years, roughly \$3 million over the next five years. This will have an impact of approximately \$1.00 / thousand on the tax rate.
- The longer we wait, the more expensive it gets
 - ⇒ interest rates are historically low
 - ⇒ a future bond would likely be at higher rate
- Construction costs have increased approximately 40 % over the past 10 years, and are likely to continue to increase

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.82



AVS Addition and Renovation Highlights

Primary Goals:

- Remove portable and modular classrooms (9 classrooms)
Why? Portables are meant to be temporary. The portables have exceeded their life expectancy, are inefficient, and pose safety concerns.
- Improve safety and security of entire school
Why? The Department of Homeland Security performed a site assessment and identified many areas of concern; some can only be addressed with a renovation.
- Increase primary education, special education and group learning space
Why? This will allow for growth in enrollment and more flexible educational spaces to support optimal instructional practices.
- Improve the function of key common areas, including the gymnasium, nurse's office, and restrooms
Why? The gymnasium is too small to accommodate an entire school assembly.
The nurse's office does not currently meet minimum health standards.
Restrooms are insufficient for students and staff.

Proposal Highlights:

- A single secured building for students, staff, and community
- Over 50,000 square feet of new space (additional multi-age media lab, capacity compliant gym, accommodations for classrooms currently on the exterior, 4 additional non-designated classrooms)
- Removal of all portables and modular classrooms
- New appropriately sized gymnasium for school and community use
- New roofs, windows, and technical systems
- Available space for modest growth
- Renovate gymnasium for new cafeteria space
- Improved parking and traffic flow
- No impact on instructional school days during 24 month construction timeline

Proposed Costs:

- Guaranteed Maximum Price \$23,150,321 (includes all phases of the project)
- Tax impact calculated using current interest rates would be \$2.06 / thousand. Examples of home values:
- \$200,000 = \$412 / year or \$34.34 / month
- \$250,000 = \$515 / year or \$42.93 / month
- \$300,000 = \$618 / year or \$51.50 / month
- \$350,000 = \$721 / year or \$60.09 / month
- \$400,000 = \$824 / year or \$68.67 / month
- \$450,000 = \$927 / year or \$77.25 / month
- \$500,000 = \$1020 / year or \$85.84 / month

*Selectmen have begun discussing potential ways to offset the budget in order to reduce the tax impact.

Potential Savings:

- Possibility of increased town revenues could reduce overall tax impact
- Reduction in other areas of town budget
- Proceeds from sale of district owned land originally intended for Auburn/Candia middle school
- Alternate financing options to be explored before bond origination

Why are we proposing an addition and renovation instead of building new?

This has been an excellent and frequently asked question. The Auburn School Board and AVS Master Planning Committee, during its 2 years of planning, firmly believe that we can accomplish every primary goal on the current site with far less of an impact on the taxpayers than building a new school.

What if . . . ?

What if the warrant article for the addition and renovation fails?

- \$3,000,000 + in major repairs to AVS will be necessary over the next five years, including the following: roofs, windows, asbestos removal, replacement of portables, mechanical, etc.
 - \$600,000 per year increase in the school budget yields a minimum of \$1.00 / thousand tax impact each of the next five years
- We could spend \$3,000,000 putting band-aids on required repairs and not meet or address a single goal
- We will still have portables, safety issues, an undersized gym and cafe, and no room for growth.
- Construction costs have increased 30-40% over the last 10 years. What will they be 10 years from now? Interests rates are still at historic lows. This project or a similar project will cost much more in the near future, and we will continue to spend money patching a school that is nearing the end of its usefulness.

For more information:

<http://auburn.sau15.net/avs-renovation-information/>

avsroc@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/avsroc

3. Are you in favor of the Auburn School District approving the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Auburn School Board and the Auburn Education Association, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2016-2017	\$85,930

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,930 for the 2016 – 2017 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 the School Board)**
(Recommended by the Budget Committee)

YES ____ NO ____

This requested increase includes an average 1% salary increase overall primarily to address increased insurance rates. This is a one year agreement, as we anticipate some type of financial impact from Obamacare/National Health Care requirements in subsequent years.

A **“Yes”** vote would approve the cost items for the one-year collective bargaining agreement between the Auburn School District and the Auburn Police Education Association.

A **“No”** vote would not provide funding for the proposed one-year collective bargaining agreement between the Auburn School District and the Auburn Education Association, and would likely return both sides to the negotiations table to work on a new agreement.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.13

4. Are you in favor of the Auburn School District raising and appropriating 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 \$12,792,648? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,652,300, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Auburn School District 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 the School Board) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

The majority of the \$140,348 increase in the proposed operating budget represents the School Board's commitment to the quality of instructional support. A high level curricular specialist position has been budgeted to support the staff and administration of AVS. The comprehensive salary and benefits package is budgeted at \$110K. This position would be responsible for staying abreast on the current best practice in education, and bringing that learning and experience to the staff and administration. Without this position, we will limit the professional learning of our staff, limit our capacity to remain current and actionable to new teaching and learning methods, and limit the support we provide the administration. The remaining balance of this increase is spread across a number of line items supporting minor increases in materials and programs.

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the proposed 2016 operating budget totaling \$12,792,648 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

2016 Tax Impact: Local Education - \$14.30
State Education - \$ 2.49

A **"No"** vote would not approve the proposed operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee and would result in the Default Budget totaling \$12,652,300, calculated by the School Board, being adopted.

2016 Tax Impact: Local Education - \$14.09
State Education - \$ 2.49

5. Are you in favor of the Auburn School District authorizing the Auburn School Board to sell, on such terms and conditions as the Auburn School Board determine are appropriate, land identified as Lot 10-19 located on Hooksett Road in Auburn, comprised of approximately 60 acres, and further to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$2,000,000 from the proceeds of said sale to be added to the School Construction Expendable Trust Fund established in March 2002? **(Recommended by the School Board) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

In 2008, land was purchased from the Dollard Family for \$600,000 in anticipation of building a new middle school with Candia. The Candia School District ultimately voted down this article before Auburn had a chance to vote. Asking the voters and taxpayers for a healthy renovation investment, the School Board considered the sale of the land to potentially offset the renovation, and/or be used as capital reserve specifically designated to school construction.

This article is to support selling the land and authorizing the funds to be allocated this way. The land is currently within a residential zone and has a maximum potential of 20 lots given current zoning standards.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the Auburn School Board to sell this property and to place any proceeds from the sale of the property into the School Construction Expendable Trust Fund.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the Auburn School Board to sell this property and the property would continue to be owned by the Auburn School District.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.00

6. Are you in favor of the Auburn School District supporting the formation of a planning committee pursuant to RSA 194-C:2 to study whether Auburn should withdraw from SAU #15; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for this purpose? **(Recommended by the School Board) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

The purpose this warrant is to **evaluate** the withdrawal of the Auburn School District from SAU15. For those unaware, SAU 15 is a shared administrative body for the towns of Auburn, Candia, and Hooksett. Auburn currently carries approximately 25 % of the SAU 15 operating cost, a share which is based upon student enrollment and valuation in each district.

The RSA noted in the warrant prescribes that a planning committee be formed to study the advisability of Auburn leaving SAU 15 and creating an SAU of its own or joining another SAU. The committee will determine the adequacy of administrative services provided to the town by SAU 15 and assess the value of those services in relation to their cost. This is an exhaustive analysis involving all three SAU school districts.

The planning committee has one year to complete its work which will result in a recommendation to either remain in the SAU or to withdraw. If the proposal is to withdraw, it will be accompanied with a plan for the new SAU organization, a plan which must be approved by the NH State Board of Education. If all of the requirements for withdrawal are met, the school district then votes whether or not to proceed. (3/5 vote required in the affirmative).

This warrant article is not to vote on withdrawing, but to formulate the committee and study only. The funds are recommended by the SAU and the NH Department of Education to cover legal and administrative fees incurred during the year-long study. The school board does not expect the planning committee to fully expend the amount, however, wants to ensure the committee is sufficiently funded to complete their work. Any unexpended balance will be returned to the budget.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the Auburn School Board to commence a study on the advisability of Auburn leaving SAU #15 and either creating an SAU of its own or joining another SAU. Any recommendation for a possible action would be the subject of a future School District meeting warrant article.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the Auburn School Board to commence a study of the Advisability of Auburn leaving SAU #15, and the Auburn School District would remain with the Candia and Hooksett School Districts.

2016 Tax Impact: \$0.03

AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2015 APPROVED BUDGET and 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Department	Budgeted 2015	Proposed 2016
Instruction		
Regular Programs	6,556,000.00	6,552,493.00
Special Programs	2,841,936.00	2,698,862.00
Other Programs	56,263.00	66,217.00
Support Services		
Student Support Services	761,939.00	782,978.00
Instructional Staff Services	130,566.00	241,693.00
General Administration		
Other School Board	37,182.00	37,396.00
Executive Administration		
SAU Management Services	240,756.00	274,367.00
School Administration Service	386,072.00	415,856.00
Business	7,006.00	4,340.00
Plant Operations and Maintenance	732,556.00	591,012.00
Student Transportation	617,654.00	662,985.00
Support Service, Central and Other	210,656.00	265,645.00
Non-Instructional Services		
Food Services Operations	209,993.00	198,798.00
Facilities Acquisition and Construction		
Site Improvement	1.00	1.00
Architectural/Engineering	1.00	1.00
Other Outlays		
Debt Service - Interest	1.00	1.00
Fund Transfers		
To Food Service	1.00	1.00
To Capital Projects	1.00	1.00
To Expendable Trusts/Fiduciary Funds	100,001.00	1.00
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 12,888,585.00	\$ 12,792,648.00
WARRANT ARTICLES		
Collective Bargaining Agreement	0.00	85,930.00
Study of SAU Withdrawal	0.00	20,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 12,888,585.00	\$ 12,898,578.00

TOWN OF AUBURN AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND BALLOT VOTING

AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL

March 8, 2016

Polls open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.



TOWN OF AUBURN
P.O. Box 309
Auburn, NH 03032

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Auburn, NH 03032
Permit No. 15

CARRIER ROUTE PRE SORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER CR: