

TOWN OF AUBURN AND AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

**GUIDE TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
2022 TOWN MEETING &
2022 AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL

March 8, 2022

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 14th experience with the Official Ballot Voting process that is commonly known as "SB2". The first portion of the annual Town Meeting was held on February 5th. At that deliberative session, the voters in attendance were presented with the seven articles on the warrant as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee and the one presented by citizen petition. After consideration of each article, Deliberative Session voters made no changes or amendments to any of the proposed articles. All of these articles 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 clear 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 Griffin 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 Selectmen's Office 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 the 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 2022 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 at that time.

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,

Keith N. Leclair, Chairman
Michael J. Rolfe, Selectman
Thomas F. Carroll, Selectman
AUBURN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PO Box 309 • Auburn, NH 03032-0309

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TOWN OF AUBURN and AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER'S GUIDE

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1. To choose candidates for Town Offices.

FOR SELECTMAN

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas Carroll

_____ (Write-in)

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Danyle Lane

_____ (Write-in)

FOR TOWN MODERATOR

Two Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas Lacroix

_____ (Write-in)

FOR SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST:

Six Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Barbara J. Coapland

_____ (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

David Oliveira

Joseph A. Rossino

_____ (Write-in)

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Walter P. Milne

_____ (Write-in)

FOR PLANNING BOARD

Three Years

Vote for not more than ONE

Michael O'Callaghan

_____ (Write-in)

2. To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items related to the first year of a five-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 \$53,022 over FY 2021 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 Fifty-three thousand twenty-two dollars (**\$53,022**), to fund those cost items for FY 2022. Cost items for FY 2023, FY 2024, FY 2025 and FY 2026 will be presented to the voters for their approval in March 2023, March 2024, March 2025 and March 2026 in accordance with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required) (**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 14 positions including two full-time and one part-time Sergeants and six full-time and five part-time Police Officers.

In 2013, the Auburn Police Union and the Town of Auburn were able to reach accord for a first time collective bargaining agreement that covered the period of April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, that 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. In 2016, agreement was reached for a third contract that covered the three-year period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2019. And in 2018, agreement was reached for a fourth contract that covers the three year period of April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022.

In November 2021, all parties were able to reach agreement on a fifth contract that would cover a five-year period of April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2027.

Article 3 of the 2022 Town Warrant is requesting funding for the cost items of the first year of the new five-year agreement which totals \$53,022. Funding for Years Two, Three, Four and Five will be brought forward for approval in March 2023 through March 2026.

In general terms, the funds requested this year will cover the potential of a wage schedule adjustment (average of 3-4%) and step increases (3%) for all full-time and part-time officer positions covered by the Auburn Police Union. The funding also includes the costs of the related payroll benefits of Social Security, Medicare and/or the NH Retirement System, depending on the position.

In addition, the funding covers increased costs for shift differential rates of pay; the cost of an additional holiday and funds for educational reimbursement. The proposed contract also increases the rates for outside details that are paid by the requesting party and not the Town of Auburn.

For Years Two through Five, an annual cost of living adjustment of 1.5% per year is provided, but will be voted on in those years.

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

A **"No"** vote would not provide funding for the first year of the five-year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Auburn and the Auburn Police Union, and would result in both sides returning to the negotiation table during 2022 to work on a new agreement.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.06

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five-thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$25,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2021 with no additional amount to be raised by taxation in 2022. (Majority vote required) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2020 Auburn voters established an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of maintaining or replacing vehicles and equipment owned and operated by various Town departments as the need might arise. The intention was to manage the larger, unanticipated expenses that arises instead of carrying larger amounts of money in various operating budgets annually for "what ifs".

These funds could be utilized to cover unanticipated and extraordinary costs to either repair or replace vehicles or equipment that was not specifically provided for in the Town budget. These vehicles can include:

- ◆ Fire and Rescue Trucks
- ◆ Police Cruisers
- ◆ Building Inspector Vehicle
- ◆ Parks & Recreation Vehicle

Since it was established in 2020, some of the expenses the Expendable Trust Fund has been used for includes:

- Repair the hydraulic jack stabilizer system and other electronic systems & switches—\$3,316;
- Purchase & install auto-eject and battery charging system for AFD Car 2 — \$1,757.92;
- Repair of various electrical and hydraulic items on E-One Quint ladder truck inclusive of annual testing—\$13,098.49

As 2022 begins, the fund has a balance of approximately \$36,900. With two years of experience of this fund being in place, we have experienced an average of \$15,000 in unanticipated expenses each year, mainly on the larger, more complicated pieces of apparatus like fire trucks.

The Board of Selectmen is asking to place \$25,000 into this Expendable Trust Fund to ensure that there is adequate funds available in this account for the maintenance of the Town's fleet of vehicles and larger pieces of equipment.

The warrant article as presented would have the \$25,000 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 \$25,000 in the Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, with the money coming from the Town's undesignated fund balance. This would result in a balance of approximately \$56,000 in the fund.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the deposit of \$25,000 in the Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund resulting in a balance of approximately \$31,000 being available in the fund.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five-thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$25,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2021 with no additional amount to be raised by taxation in 2022. (Majority vote required) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2016 Auburn voters established an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of having funds available to cover the potential expense of accrued employment benefits (leave time and associated payroll expenses) of individuals who may leave the Town's employ during the course of a year. This is a legal liability the Town has as an employer.

The cost of accrued benefits will be different for each individual and is dependent on how long they have worked for the Town; what their current rate of pay is; how much leave time they have accrued and the Town is obligated to pay at the time of separation.

In 2020, a total of nearly \$19,400 was expended from this fund to cover two approximate 10-year employees who left Town service.

In 2021, approximately \$13,500 was expended to cover the accrued benefits of one 15-year retiring employee.

While considering this item, the Board of Selectmen is aware of the current Town's work force and the expectation that over the next few years, there will be a number of senior employees who are likely to be retiring from Town service.

As proposed, the 2022 money would come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and would not be raised by additional taxation.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the deposit of \$25,000 in the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund with the money coming from the Town's undesignated fund balance. This would result in a balance of approximately \$42,400 in the fund.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the deposit of \$25,000 in the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund resulting in a balance of approximately \$17,400 being available in the fund.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund previously established. The sum of \$5,000 represents the proceeds from the sale of cemetery plots in 2019 and 2020, and shall come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2021, with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2022. (Majority vote required) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**
(Recommended by the Budget Committee)

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2016 Auburn voters established a Cemetery Maintenance Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of having funds available to cover the potential expense of potentially unanticipated or unplanned work efforts at either the Auburn Village Cemetery or the Longmeadow Cemetery.

Instead of appropriating tax dollars into this fund, it was originally intended that the proceeds from the sale of lots in either the Auburn Village Cemetery or the Longmeadow Cemetery would be the source of funding for this fund in a similar fashion as the Land Use Change Tax income has been directed to the Town's Conservation Fund.

As of the end of 2021, there are a total of \$9,100 in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

When first proposed in 2016, the NH Department of Revenue Administration (NHRA) disallowed the self-funding portion of the warrant article. So for several years, the Town used tax revenues to initiate funding. No funds were proposed in 2019 and 2020. The intent of Article #5 is to use the total proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots in 2019 and 2020 which totaled \$5,000 by taking this amount from the Town's unreserved fund balance (surplus) for this purpose.

This effort is with the full support of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

As presented, the warrant article requests \$5,000 to be placed in the fund. The money would come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and would not be raised by additional taxation.

There are no immediate plans for expenditures in 2022.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the deposit of \$5,000 in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund with the money coming from the Town's undesignated fund balance. This would result in a balance of approximately \$14,100 in the fund.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the deposit of \$5,000 in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund resulting in a balance of approximately \$9,000 being available in the fund.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

6. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue electing the Road Agent and give the Selectmen the authority to appoint an Expert Highway Agent in accordance with the provisions of RSA 231:64. (Majority vote required)

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen. It is in recognition the Town of Auburn is a growing community within southern New Hampshire. Over the years, our residents and taxpayers have been very well-served by a number of individuals who have served as Road Agent, including Holly Rolfe, Joe Stacey and Mike Dross.

But as the community grows, so does the job responsibilities of all of our varied elected and appointed positions. In the case of the Road Agent, there is approximately 65-miles of paved and unpaved roads that require maintenance, in addition to the drainage systems that support them. Beyond road construction and winter snow & ice operations, the Road Agent is responsible for everything from the removal of dead or menacing trees, replacement of various street and road signs, maintenance of detention and retention ponds, roadside mowing, road striping and many other tasks including securing and managing the vendors he or she is able to engage to perform the work of the Town.

Without owning any trucks or equipment, the Town of Auburn is reliant on the ability of the individual elected to serve as Road Agent to manage these multiple tasks, develop schedules, secure appropriate contractors, provide adequate resources & project materials, and oversee the overall work efforts. Historically, the Road Agent is one of the contractors who also performs this work along with other contractors.

In electing an individual to serve as Road Agent, there is only one legal criteria for holding that position — the individual must be a registered voter in the Town of Auburn. There can be no other criteria in order for someone to be able to file to run for office.

As the Town approved in 2021 to change the Tax Collector's position from elected to appointed, this warrant article would enable the same sort of process to be established for the Road Agent where a job description outlining the responsibilities of the position would be developed, and the requirements and knowledge that someone should have to fill such a position, including some years of similar experience. The Town would also have the ability to perform a records check on past performance and to do reference checks with past employers or clients. None of that is possible for an elected position.

This proposal is definitely not aimed at the current Road Agent, Mike Dross. Frankly, the Board of Selectmen would be happy to appoint Mike to the position for as long as he is willing to serve. Mike has indicated his interest in retiring at the end of his current elected term of office in March 2024, and the Board of Selectmen is looking down the road (no pun intended) to filling the position when Mike decides to leave.

It is also important to state what this article does not do. It **does not** create a Public Works Director position who shall also be an engineer. It **does not** establish a full-time Town highway department with employees and equipment. It **does not** change the overall way things work now with all work contracted out — which is what an 'expert highway agent' is expected to be, an individual able to use their own equipment for this work in addition to hiring other contractors.

Under New Hampshire law, the position of Road Agent is one that can either be appointed or elected. The proposed warrant article is how the voters would make that decision. We can not overstate that this proposal is not a reflection at all on our current Road Agent or any previous Road Agents — all of whom have served Auburn well.

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the discontinuing of electing a Road Agent and authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint or hire a Road Agent in the future.

A **"No"** vote would not discontinue the practice of electing a Road Agent and would leave the position just as it exists today.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

7. To see if the Town will vote to affirm its establishment of a Cemetery Maintenance Fund in 2016 pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, and further to allow all future proceeds received from the sale of cemetery lots in Auburn cemeteries to be deposited into this fund. The proceeds and any interest gained thereon, may be used for the maintenance of cemeteries; and further to name the Board of Selectmen as the agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

YES ____ NO ____

This article was proposed by the Board of Selectmen, with the full support of the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

As was noted for Article #5, in 2016 Auburn voters established a Cemetery Maintenance Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of having funds available to cover the potential expense of potentially unanticipated or unplanned work efforts at either the Auburn Village Cemetery or the Longmeadow Cemetery.

When originally proposed in 2016, the NH Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) disallowed the self-funding mechanism proposed at that time which would direct all of the future proceeds from the sale of lots in either the Auburn Village Cemetery or the Longmeadow Cemetery be deposited in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Since that time, the NHDRA has provided model language to accomplish the establishment of this type of funding source, which has been used in the writing of Article #7.

As proposed, Article #7 would accomplish the original intent of past Boards of Cemetery Trustees and Boards of Selectmen to have the proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots be dedicated to this fund.

A **"Yes"** vote would authorize the transfer of funds from the future sale of cemetery lots in the Auburn Village Cemetery and the Longmeadow Cemetery to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund without any further action of the Town Meeting.

A **"No"** vote would not authorize the transfer of funds from the future sale of cemetery lots in the Auburn Village Cemetery and the Longmeadow Cemetery to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund, leaving the future funding of this fund to possible Town Meeting appropriations.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

8. To see if the Town is in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members? (Majority vote required) (By petition and signed by at least twenty-five (25) certified petitioners)

YES ____ NO ____

This article was submitted by a petition submitted and signed by at least twenty-five (25) registered voters. The article was discussed at the February 5th Deliberative Session of Town Meeting during which the main petitioner, Ed Gannon of Windsor Drive, reported he had sponsored the petition to add two additional Selectmen positions for five reasons. He indicated those included a lack of transparency concerning the Right-to-Know law; what he considers to be outdated financial software at Town Hall; overall spending increases in Town specifically noting increases in the Fire Department budget; what he felt was not following the Town Purchasing Policy concerning the Town's ambulance contract and fire/EMS dispatching contracts with the Town of Derry, and the amount of money spent on the maintenance of roads.

During the meeting discussion, the five reasons noted were addressed that all of the petitioners' Right to Know requests had been answered with assistance of Town Counsel; the Town Hall financial software meets all required standards and audit concerns; the Town budget and proposals go through many levels of approval including the Selectmen, Budget Committee and voters; the Town's Purchasing Policy provides flexibility that not all items have to go out to bid; and the Town has supported the cost for the level of the improvement of Town roads.

At the Deliberative Session, five speakers expressed their opposition to the proposal of increasing the size of the Board of Selectmen from three members to five members, several of whom indicated they didn't hear any explanation in the petitioner's presentation as to how or why adding two additional Selectmen would solve any of the issues or concerns he had expressed.

They expressed the thoughts that more people at the table does not mean a difference in the ultimate decisions made. One speaker indicated he strongly felt "the smaller the government, the better the government". He reported he has attended many meetings of neighboring towns with larger boards and he felt often times they were unable to do some simple things quickly, while he felt the Auburn Board is well organized to do its job.

Three of the speakers were former Auburn Selectmen who felt there is lively discussion at Selectmen's meetings largely because of the size of the current Board and noted at times it is difficult to find one individual to run for office, let alone more.

In New Hampshire, the size of a community's governing board is left to the individual community to make. There is no specified formula or number requirement — it is strictly a local decision for what might work best for that community. There are a total of 234 municipalities in New Hampshire. Of that total 13 are cities with either City Councils or Boards of Aldermen; 12 are larger communities with a Town Council form of government. The remaining 209 communities have Boards of Selectmen with 55 of them having five member boards and 154 communities who have three-member boards. Of the 55 communities with five member boards, the smallest is Ashland with a population of 1,938 and the largest is Salem at just over 30,000.

Generally voters at the Deliberative Session spoke in favor of maintaining the Town's three-member Board of Selectmen. They stressed a three-member board is capable of addressing the Town's issues, needs and residents, and has been sufficient for meeting the needs of the Town.

The question of the size of the board is a question that is defined by state statute. As such, under the SB 2 law, voters attending the Deliberative Session were not allowed to amend the question. Voters going to the polls in March will have to express their opinion by either voting to increase the size of the Board or not.

A **"Yes"** vote would support increasing the size of the Board of Selectmen from three to five members. If the article is approved, the increase would happen in the election held in March 2023.

A **"No"** vote would not change the size of the Board of Selectmen and leave it at its current size of three-members.

2022 Tax Impact: \$0.00

9. 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 **\$6,035,729**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$5,795,712**, 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. (Majority vote required) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**
(Recommended by the Budget Committee)

YES ____ NO ____

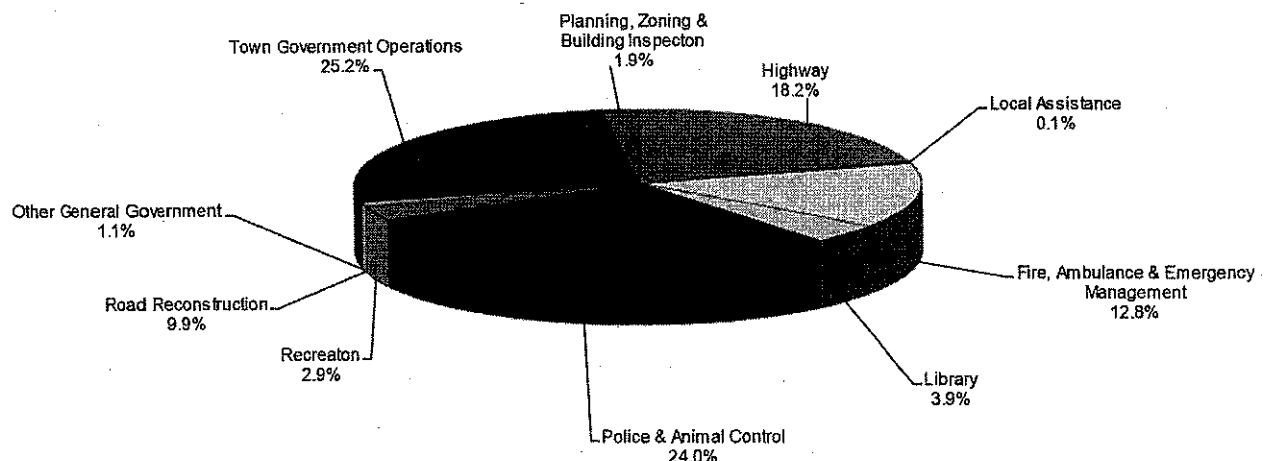
A **"Yes"** vote would approve the proposed 2022 operating budget of \$6,035,729 as presented by the Budget Committee.

2022 Tax Impact—\$3.41

A **"No"** vote would not approve the proposed operating budget as presented by the Budget Committee and would result in the Default Budget totaling \$5,795,712, calculated by the Board of Selectmen, being adopted.

2022 Tax Impact—\$3.01

2022 PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET BREAKDOWN



TOWN OF AUBURN

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET and 2022 DEFAULT BUDGET

Department	Budgeted 2021	Expended 2021**	Proposed 2022	Default Budget 2022
Executive	288,555.00	258,578.00	290,486.00	278,003.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	89,088.00	69,558.00	102,611.00	95,144.00
Financial Administration	105,971.00	84,678.00	112,019.00	108,215.00
Legal Expenditures	30,000.00	18,591.00	28,000.00	30,000.00
Personnel Administration	486,721.00	410,893.00	535,737.00	531,807.00
Planning & Zoning	44,151.00	9,994.00	35,151.00	35,151.00
General Government Buildings	132,009.00	87,673.00	131,939.00	132,509.00
Cemeteries	34,186.00	25,146.00	39,374.00	34,186.00
Insurance	128,261.00	106,315.00	147,159.00	147,159.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	9,473.00	7,762.00	9,929.00	9,929.00
Other General Government	113,271.00	101,592.00	123,303.00	113,271.00
Police	1,346,008.00	1,112,790.00	1,424,206.00	1,398,791.00
Ambulance	89,463.00	89,463.00	93,509.00	93,509.00
Fire	505,667.00	433,230.00	629,587.00	530,101.00
Building Inspection	73,254.00	54,720.00	79,152.00	75,633.00
Emergency Management	1,004.00	521.00	504.00	1,004.00
Other Public Safety - Town Details	500.00	1,246.00	500.00	500.00
Highways & Streets	1,106,387.00	837,353.00	1,103,511.00	1,106,387.00
Street Lighting	7,000.00	4,006.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal	20,151.00	13,646.00	22,251.00	22,251.00
Health Administration	2,629.00	785.00	2,758.00	2,629.00
Animal & Pest Control	22,412.00	18,841.00	23,609.00	22,611.00
Health Agencies & Hospitals	5,875.00	5,875.00	5,875.00	5,875.00
Direct Assistance	15,500.00	331.00	15,500.00	15,500.00
Intergovernmental Welfare Payments	4,471.00	4,471.00	4,471.00	4,471.00
Parks & Recreation	131,870.00	85,274.00	138,657.00	125,015.00
Library	215,309.00	172,266.00	214,812.00	208,194.00
Patriotic Purposes	6,500.00	6,628.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Conservation Commission	6,149.00	643.00	4,684.00	6,149.00
Principle - Bonds & Notes	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Interest - Bonds & Notes	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	120,908.00	120,909.00	48,214.00	48,214.00
Road Reconstruction	600,000.00	599,852.00	600,000.00	600,000.00
Recreation Improvements	1.00	90,814.00	35,720.00	1.00
Library & Buildings Improvements	13,000.00	6,011.00	20,000.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$5,755,747.00	\$4,840,455.00	\$6,035,729.00	\$5,795,712.00

**** Expended 2021 Column is as of January 31, 2022 and does not reflect final year-end adjustments, postings or accrued expenses.**

2022 Town of Auburn – Proposed Budget Summary

The proposed 2022 operating budget of \$6,035,729 as presented by the Auburn Budget Committee represents a bottom line increase of \$279,982 (1.13%) from the approved Town budget for 2021. The estimated tax rate impact on the Town portion of property taxes would be a **decrease** of \$0.12 to support this proposed budget. — representing the third consecutive year the Town tax rate would be reduced.

Some highlights of the proposed budget that will continue to allow for the same level of quality services the residents of Auburn have come to expect include.

- The **Elections and Registration** budget reflects an increase due to there being three elections in 2022, where there were only local March elections in 2021.
- The **Personnel Administration** budget reflects a \$49,721 increase due, in part, to a 6.2% rate increase for the employer's share of health insurance costs, 1.5% rate increase for dental and increased rates for NH Retirement System costs mandated by the State of NH.
- The **Cemetery** budget has been increased by \$5,000 due to ongoing treatment to address grub infestation, as well as some improvements to some cemetery markers and headstones.
- The **Insurance** budget reflects an increase of \$19,000 due to Workers' Compensation and Property and Liability costs due to recent claims experience.
- The **General Government** budget reflects an increase of \$10,000 due to increased heating fuel, electricity and some equipment and software licensing fees.
- The **Police Department** budget has been increased by approximately \$78,000 due to increased fuel costs, increased costs associated with cruisers and equipment, the absorbing of approved union contract expenses in 2021 and increased rates for NH Retirement System costs mandated by the State of NH.
- The **Fire Department** budget reflects an increase of approximately \$124,000 — half of which is a one-time cost of \$76,000 to replace the ageing portable radios that support the firefighters. Other increases include maintenance costs for fire apparatus and increased rates for NH Retirement System costs mandated by the State of NH.
- The **Highway** budget reflects a nearly level-funded budget, but with funds allocated a little differently including increased funding for the annual shimming and overlaying of Town roads and the statewide cost increase for road salt.
- The **Recreation** budget reflects an increase of approximately \$7,000 mainly to support the opening of the former Severance School property for community use and recreation programs.
- The **Capital Expenditures** budget reflects one time cost of \$20,000 for continued work on evaluating potential future expansion of the library inclusive of a community center feature.
- The **Recreation Improvements** account reflects an increase of nearly \$36,000 for the final stage of lighting of the softball field at Eddows Recreational Fields.
- The overall **Town Budget** includes the potential for Step Increases (2%) for Town employees, in addition to a general cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 5.25% for all non-union employees.

2022 Town of Auburn - Default Budget Summary

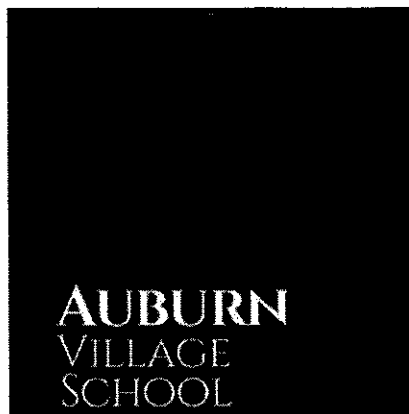
The proposed 2022 operating budget of \$6,035,729 as presented by the Auburn Budget Committee represents an increase of \$279,982 from the approved Town budget for 2021. The estimated tax rate **decrease** in the Town portion of property taxes would be \$0.12 to support this proposed budget.

Under the "SB 2" budgeting process, should the proposed budget not be adopted, then a default budget of \$5,795,712 would take effect. The default budget, as developed by the Auburn Board of Selectmen, represents a decrease of \$240,017 from the approved budget for 2021, and would result in an estimated decrease of approximately \$0.40 in the Town portion of property tax rate.

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 2021. 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, the voter's prior approval of the lease / purchase of a new rescue vehicle for the Fire Department, etc.) are added to the budget.

Highlighted below are some of the major differences between the Proposed 2022 Default Budget and what is contained in the proposed 2022 Operating Budget:

- The **Legal Expenses** budget would remain at the 2021 level of \$30,000, which is \$2,000 higher than the Proposed Operating Budget amount.
- The **Election, Registration and Vital Statics** budget would be \$7,000 less than what is anticipated is required in a year when there are three elections instead of the one in 2021.
- The **Cemeteries** budget would be set at the 2021 level of \$34,186, reducing their budget and planned improvement work by \$5,000.
- The **General Government** budget would be \$10,000 underfunded from the proposed 2022 amount of \$123,303.
- The **Fire Department** budget would be reduced by nearly \$99,000, which would affect both personnel and the detailed preventative repair and maintenance program of Department apparatus and equipment. Also, it would not provide for the replacement of half the Department's portable radios which alone is a \$76,000 expense.
- The **Parks & Recreation** budget would be set at nearly \$13,000 less than requested, putting into doubt the Town's ability to open the Severance School property for programs and community use.
- The **Library** budget would be reduced by approximately \$8,000 from what was requested, affecting some planned programs and activities.
- The **Recreation Improvement** budget would be reduced to \$1.00 which would eliminate the potential for a specific one-time capital project of adding lights to the softball field at Eddows Recreational Fields.
- The **Library and Building Improvements** budget would be reduced to \$0.00, eliminating the \$20,000 proposed to assist in the development concepts and plans for a future library expansion / community center facility.
- The overall **Town Default Budget** does not include the potential Step Increases (2.0%) and Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 5.25% for non-unionized 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 wage increases.



AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING

To choose candidates for School District Offices.

FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
Three Years
Vote for not more than TWO

Jason Tyburski
Alan Villeneuve

_____ (Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER
Three Years
Vote for not more than ONE

Linda M. Zapora

_____ (Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR
Three Years
Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas Lacroix

_____ (Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK
Three Years
Vote for not more than ONE

_____ (Write-in)

3. Shall the Auburn School District 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 \$16,385,584? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$16,072,997, 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 approximate \$406,567 decrease in the proposed operating budget is due to:

- ⇒ A reduction in student transportation costs,
- ⇒ A reduction in the number of students attending Pinkerton Academy,
- ⇒ A reduction in Special Education costs,
- ⇒ An increase in health insurance rates,
- ⇒ Addition of .5 FTE World Language teacher,
- ⇒ Year 3 of the collective bargaining agreement with the teaching staff, and
- ⇒ Wage and benefit increases for non-union staff

A **"Yes"** vote would approve the proposed 2022-2023 operating budget totaling 16,385,584 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

2022 Estimated Tax Impact: Local Education - \$12.92
State Education - \$ 1.37

A **"No"** vote would not approve the proposed operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee and would result in the default budget totaling 16,072,997, calculated by the School Board, being adopted.

2022 Estimated Tax Impact: Local Education - \$13.21
State Education - \$ 1.37

**AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022 APPROVED BUDGET and 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Department	Approved 2022	Proposed 2023
<i>Instruction</i>		
Regular Programs	8,212,710.00	8,137,593.00
Special Programs	3,031,663.00	2,563,666.00
Other Programs	75,430.00	75,685.00
<i>Support Services</i>		
Student Support Services	790,638.00	783,400.00
Instructional Staff Services	317,357.00	183,475.00
<i>General Administration</i>		
Other School Board	43,522.00	46,886.00
<i>Executive Administration</i>		
SAU Management Services	348,507.00	382,812.00
School Administration Service	491,994.00	609,830.00
Plant Operations and Maintenance	662,690.00	872,605.00
Student Transportation	929,335.00	845,859.00
Support Service, Central and Other	218,804.00	224,334.00
<i>Non-Instructional Services</i>		
Food Services Operations	226,367.00	220,354.00
<i>Facilities Acquisition and Construction</i>		
Site Acquisition	-	-
Architectural/Engineering	-	-
<i>Debt Service</i>		
Debt Service - Principle	670,000.00	705,000.00
Debt Service - Interest	504,147.00	469,085.00
<i>Fund Transfers</i>		
To Food Service	10,000.00	-
To Other Special Revenue	265,000.00	265,000.00
To Capital Projects	-	-
To Expendable Trusts/Fiduciary Funds	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 16,798,164.00	\$ 16,385,584.00
WARRANT ARTICLES		
Building Expendable Trust Fund	-	-
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 16,798,164.00	\$ 16,385,584.00

TOWN OF AUBURN AND AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND BALLOT VOTING

AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL

March 8, 2022

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



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

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