

## 2020 WARRANT ARTICLES TOWN OF LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield in the County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified that the first session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on **February 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** for explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA §40:13, IV. You are hereby notified that the second session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on **Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock** in the forenoon for the choice of Town Officers elected by official ballot to vote on questions required by laws to be inserted on the official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA §40:13, VIII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will be open on said date at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and will not close earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

### ARTICLE 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

<b>3 Budget Committee</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>
<b>1 Cemetery Trustee</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>
<b>1 Checklist Supervisor</b>	<b>6 Year Term</b>
<b>2 Library Trustee</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>
<b>2 Selectmen</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>
<b>1 Town Clerk / Tax Collector</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>
<b>1 Town Moderator</b>	<b>1 Year Term</b>
<b>1 Trustees of Trust Fund</b>	<b>3 Year Term</b>

### ARTICLE 2 - DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Amend Section 310.00 DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, Note 4, to change the square Footage for a shed needing to meet the minimum ten (10) foot side and rear setback from 192 square feet to 200 square feet.

Recommended by Planning Board

**ARTICLE 3 - PLANNING BOARD CONDITIONAL USE**

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

Amend Sections 603 (Special Exceptions – Highway Commercial), 703 (Special Exceptions - Southwestern Commercial District, 803 (Special Exceptions – Northern Commercial District), 953 a through c (Special Exceptions Northern Commercial/Industrial Service District) and 1003 a through c (Special Exceptions Southern Commercial/Industrial Service District) to permit Gasoline Sales, Automobile Service and Repair and Fast Foods Restaurants with Take-Out and/or Drive-Through Service by Conditional Use Permit granted by the Planning Board **rather than** as a Special Exception under the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Recommended by Planning Board

**ARTICLE 4 - ELECTRONIC SIGNS**

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

Amend Section 1500.00, Signs, to provide specific requirements for electronic signs.

Recommended by Planning Board

**ARTICLE 5 - 2020 OPERATING BUDGET**

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 in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$7,064,927**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$7,035,661** which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Litchfield 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. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.03**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (8-1-0)

**ARTICLE 6 - FULL TIME HIGHWAY EMPLOYEE**

To see if the Town will vote to hire a full time Highway Employee effective July 1, 2020 at an estimated annual salary and related costs of \$71,928 and further vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,964** for wages and benefits for the period of July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.04**.

<b>Wage &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Wages	\$18,720	\$37,440
Health (family)	\$13,340	\$26,680
Dental (family)	\$792	\$1,584

NHRS	\$2,090	\$4,180
SSI	\$828	\$1,656
Medicare	\$194	\$388
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,964</b>	<b>\$71,928</b>

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)  
 Recommended by Budget Committee (7-2-0)

**ARTICLE 7 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM LEASE PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of **\$700,000** to replace and expand the public safety radio communication system. The first payment is not required until 2021. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**.

**Note: Payments In Arrears**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$151,411</b>	<b>\$151,411</b>	<b>\$151,411</b>	<b>\$151,411</b>	<b>\$151,411</b>	<b>\$757,055</b>
<b>Tax Impact</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)  
 Recommended by Budget Committee (7-2-0)

**ARTICLE 8 - LIBRARY EARNED TIME ACCRUAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be placed in the Library Earned Time Accrual Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.01**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)  
 Recommended by Budget Committee (8-1-0)

**ARTICLE 9 - HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH AGENCIES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** to support Human Services and Health Agencies providing services to the Town of Litchfield. If approved, the Health and Human Services Funding Committee will review funding requests and submit recommended funding amounts to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.02**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)  
 Recommended by Budget Committee (8-1-0)

**ARTICLE 10 - GENERAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a General Assistance Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of providing financial assistance to individuals in need pursuant to RSA 165:1 and to raise and appropriate **\$10,000** for said fund; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.01**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (8-1-0)

**ARTICLE 11 - OLD TOWN HALL PAINT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to paint the exterior of the Old Town Hall. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (6-3-0)

**ARTICLE 12 - PLOW TRUCK PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$100,000** to purchase a plow truck with equipment for the Highway Department. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (7-2-0)

**ARTICLE 13 - BUILDING SYSTEMS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be placed in the Building Systems Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (9-0-0)

**ARTICLE 14 - TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to be placed in the Technology & Communication Expendable Trust Fund as previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Estimated 2020 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (9-0-0)

**ARTICLE 15 - NON BINDING VOTE - COMMUNITY CENTER DESIGN**

Are you in favor of the Recreation Commission investigating the need to construct a community center, investigating the cost of such a center, and developing drawings and designs of such a center?

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

**ARTICLE 16 - BY PETITION**

Per RSA 72:39-a and RSA 72:27-a we the people of Litchfield, NH would like to modify the elderly exemptions to the following:

The elderly exemption based on assessed value of their home for qualified property owners 65 years of age up to 75 shall be \$85,000 (dollars), from 75 years of age to 80 shall be \$140,000 (dollars), age 80 and up shall be \$190,000 (dollars) and the income of a single person to \$45,500 and married couples to \$55,000.

To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real-estate is owned by such persons spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the single tax payer must not have a net income of more than \$45,500 (dollars) or, if married, a combined net income of \$55,000 (dollars) and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000 (dollars) excluding the value of the persons residence or, if married, combined assets shall not be in excess of \$300,000 (dollars). The combined net asset amount for married persons shall apply to a surviving spouse until the sale or transfer of the property by the surviving spouse or until remarriage of the surviving spouse.

***Note: Assuming the same number of eligible recipients and property valuation this will cost an additional \$50,729 with an estimated 2020 tax rate impact of \$0.06.***

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0-1)

**ARTICLE 17 - BY PETITION**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Veterans' Tax Credit and the All Veterans' Tax Credit from \$300 to \$750 per year?


***Note: Assuming the same number of eligible recipients this will cost an additional \$174,498 with an estimated 2020 tax rate impact of \$0.19.***


Not recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

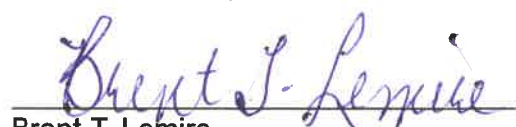
Not recommended by Budget Committee (4-4-1)


GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AT SAID LITCHFIELD THIS 23rd DAY OF JANUARY 2020

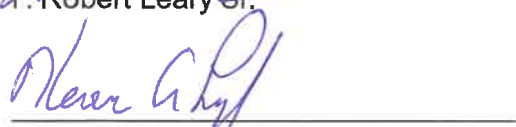
ORIGINAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Webber, Chairman

  
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Kurt D. Schaefer, Vice Chairman

  
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Brent T. Lemire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
F. Robert Leary Sr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin A. Lynch

**Litchfield Board of Selectmen**