

**2024 TOWN OF LITCHFIELD WARRANT
STATE OF 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 3, 2024 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 **March 12, 2024 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

Town Moderator	1 Position	Three (3) Year Term
Selectmen	1 Position	Three (3) Year Term
Budget Committee	2 Positions	Three (3) Year Term
Cemetery Trustee	1 Position	Three (3) Year Term
Checklist Supervisor	1 Position	Six (6) Year Term
Trustee of Trust Funds	1 Position	Three (3) Year Term
Library Trustee	1 Position	Three (3) Year Term
Library Trustee	1 Position	One (1) Year Term

ARTICLE 2 - ZONING AMENDMENT No. 1

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 504.00 Home Occupations to provide clearer standards for all home occupations, to distinguish between home occupations that require Planning Board approval and those that do not require Planning Board approval, and to provide specific standards for

family and adult day care related home businesses.

Recommended by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 3 - ZONING AMENDMENT No. 2

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 Section 1100.00 Floodplain Conservation District to address changes to the National Flood Insurance Program related to Floodplain Development as recommended by the NH Office of Planning and Development.

Recommended by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 4 - ZONING AMENDMENT No. 3

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 2200.00 Stormwater Management Ordinance to to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and procedures in order to minimize damage to public and private property and infrastructure; safeguard the public health, safety, environment and general welfare; protect aquatic resources and wildlife habitat; protect the quality and health of water resources; conserve groundwater supplies; and, foster climate change resiliency.

Recommended by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 5 - OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town 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 **\$7,883,051**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$7,874,828** 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 2024 tax rate impact: **\$0.09**.

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

Recommended by Budget Committee (9-0-0)

ARTICLE 6 - HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH AGENCIES

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,350** to support Human Services

and Health Agencies providing services to the Town of Litchfield. **Estimated 2024 tax rate impact: \$0.02** (Majority vote required)

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

ARTICLE 7 - PLOW TRUCK LEASE PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six (6) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$177,402 for the purpose of lease purchasing a plow truck with equipment and attachments for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,567 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. The first year’s payment in the amount of **\$29,567** shall come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Estimated 2024 tax rate impact: **\$0.00**. Estimated tax impact for 2025: \$0.02. (Majority vote required)

2024	2025	2026	2027	2027	2028	Total
\$29,567	\$29,567	\$29,567	\$29,567	\$29,567	\$29,567	\$177,402

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

ARTICLE 8 - ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN HOURS

Shall the Town vote to increase the weekly hours of the Assistant Librarian #2 position from 8 hours per week to 24 hours per week effective April 1, 2024 for an estimated annual wage, benefit and other related costs of \$14,563 and further vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,696** for wage, benefit and other related costs for the period of April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. **Estimated 2024 tax rate impact: \$0.01**. (Majority vote required)

Wages & Benefits	2024	2025
Wages	\$9,936	\$13,612
SSI	\$616	\$844
Medicare	\$144	\$197
<i>Total</i>	\$10,696	\$14,653

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)
Not Recommended by Budget Committee (4-5-0)

ARTICLE 9 - PROPERTY REVALUATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$25,000** to be placed in the Property Revaluation

Expendable Trust Fund as previously established? This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. **Estimated 2024 tax rate impact: \$0.00.** (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (4-1-0)
Recommended by Budget Committee (9-0-0)

ARTICLE 10 - TO ESTABLISH A RECREATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation expendable trust fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the maintenance and repair of Recreation Equipment, Facilities and Systems and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to be placed in the fund; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. **Estimated 2024 tax rate impact: \$0.00** (Majority vote required)

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

ARTICLE 11 - POLICE CONTRACT

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Selectmen and the Council 93 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2024	\$42,012
2025	\$39,794
2026	\$36,860

and further to raise and appropriate \$42,012 for the current 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. **Estimated 2024 tax impact \$0.03** Recommendations required. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)
Recommended by Budget Committee (9-0-0)

ARTICLE 12 - REPLACEMENT OF ONE POLICE CRUISER

To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$70,000.00** to purchase and equip one new police model cruiser. Selection and purchase of said vehicle to be the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen in their discretion, if determined to be necessary and in the best interest of the Town. Purchase of said vehicle to be by competitive bidding. **Estimated 2024 tax impact \$0.06.** (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)
Not Recommended by Budget Committee (3-6-0)

ARTICLE 13 - ADDITION OF FULLTIME HIGHWAY WORKER

To see if the Town will vote to hire a full time Highway Employee effective 1 April, 2024 at an estimated annual salary and related costs of \$93,179 and further to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,945** for wages and benefits for the period of April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. If this article passes, it will reduce or eliminate expenditures from the Cemetery, Library Landscaping, and Highway Seasonal Work line items in the Operating Budget because those duties will be assumed by the new employee. **Estimated 2024 tax impact \$0.06.** (Majority vote required)

Wages & Benefits	2024	2025
Wages	\$42,666	\$58,594
NHRS	\$5,773	\$7,928
Health	\$24,242	\$32,323
SSI	\$2,645	\$3,632
Medicare	\$619	\$849
Workers Comp		\$1,846
Total	\$75,945	\$105,172

Recommended by Library Trustees (3-0-0)
Recommended by Cemetery Trustees (3-0-0)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-2-0)
Recommended by Budget Committee (5-4-0)

ARTICLE 14 - LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY POWER

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Litchfield Community Power Plan, which authorizes the Selectboard to develop and implement Litchfield Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7). The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in Litchfield. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0)

Article 15 - EASEMENT

To see if the town will vote to authorize the sale of an access easement to Public Service Company of New Hampshire, doing business as Eversource Energy, across the property located at 13.5 Brickyard Drive (Tax Map 9, Lot 42) under such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems appropriate. (Majority vote required)

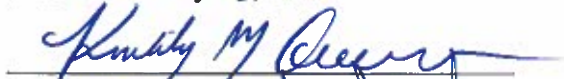
Article 16 - BY PETITION

To see if the town will reduce budget 01-4241.20 Code Enforcement and 01-4411.10 Health Department to \$1.00 annually. In the case they have been paid more than \$1.00 at the time of the vote, further payment will be immediately suspended. The new level to be enacted immediately.

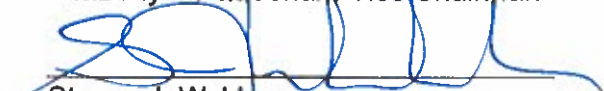
GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AT SAID LITCHFIELD THIS 29th DAY OF JANUARY 2024



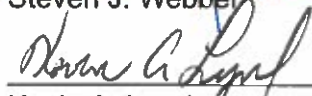
F. Robert Leary Sr., Chairman



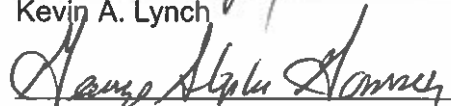
Kimberly M. Queenan, Vice Chairman



Steven J. Webber



Kevin A. Lynch



G. Stephen Gannon

Litchfield Board of Selectmen