



42 Main Street
PO Box 83
Wilton, NH 03086

**VOTER'S GUIDE
EXPLANATION OF TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES
2024 TOWN MEETING**

To help voters have a clearer understanding of each topic, we have prepared the ensuing Voter's Guide for your consideration. This document is meant to explain the intent of each article and provide some background information on the topic.

If you have any questions that can be answered before the March meeting, you can submit your questions by email to the Town Administrator at wiltonta@wiltonnh.gov.

The money articles have an overall estimated Tax impact per \$1,000 of property valuation. Please remember, this is just an estimate based on a current snapshot in time using information and revenue projections that are available today. We have provided this information here to give voters an idea of what the individual items will cost if approved by voters. Tax impact information listed in this Guide will not be listed on the warrant.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS?

First, you must be registered to vote.

How do I register to vote?

1. Qualified individuals may register to vote at the March 12, 2024, election held at the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School. Polls are open 8 am to 7 pm. New voters will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form, and you will be asked to show proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile. These qualifications may be established by signing affidavit(s). Proof of identification is needed.
2. Please be aware voter registration is not conducted during the March 14, 2024, Town Meeting session. Only registered voters may vote during the Town Meeting.

Further questions may be answered at SOS.NH.GOV or by contacting your local Town Clerk.

Second, at the Voting Session of Town Meeting on March 12, 2024, voters can come to the polls anytime between 8 am and 7 pm to vote on Town Officers and zoning ballot questions. Voters cannot make any changes to the ballot questions at the Voting Session. Voters only have the option to vote “YES” to be in favor of a ballot question or “NO” to be opposed to a ballot question. Proof of identification is needed on voting day.

The votes are tallied by hand and reported the same day as the polls are open.

Third, attend Town Meeting. Town Meeting is where warrant articles are voted on. Any warrant article may be amended at town meeting before the vote for that article takes place. Most articles require a simple majority for passage. Some articles, such as bond articles and changing the purpose of a capital reserve fund, require a supermajority for passage, i.e. a 3/5ths majority or 60%.

There are no provisions for absentee voting for Town Meeting. You must be present to vote.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR THE TOWN?

The Town relies upon volunteers to serve on the various boards, committees, and commissions as members and alternate members. Some of these positions are elected, however some are appointed by the Select Board or members of the sitting board.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we proposing to place money into capital reserve funds?

Capital reserve funds are in essence savings accounts for a particular purpose. Capital reserve funds are generally used for big ticket items. Without capital reserve funds, vehicles, equipment, new facilities, or renovation of existing facilities would need to be

funded through leases or the sale of municipal bonds. Borrowing money for these purposes can add additional costs in the form of interest payments over the period of the lease or bond until those instruments are paid off.

Both capital reserve funds and borrowing money spread the cost of what is being purchased over multiple years. This minimizes spikes in the tax rate. Capital reserve funds make those payments in advance of the purchase, while borrowing spreads out the cost in the future. Appropriations to capital reserve funds are invested and earn interest. The Trustees of the Trust Funds invest and manage these funds.

What is the unreserved fund balance?

The unreserved fund balance, also known as the unassigned fund balance, is composed of two sources. The first is the surplus funds or unused funds in the Town budget for each year. Unexpended funds from the budget are transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The second source is additional revenue above what was anticipated for any particular year. These funds are also transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The NH Department of Revenue Administration, along with guidance from the Government Finance Officers Association, recommends the unreserved fund balance should be between a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 17% of general fund operating revenues.

How can I estimate the potential tax impact of a particular warrant article on my property tax bill?

The chart below illustrates several spending scenarios and what the cost would be on four different house assessments. The amounts shown under the four different assessments is the per year cost. To determine a monthly impact, divide the amount by twelve.

Example Proposed Expenditure	Estimated Tax Rate Impact Per Thousand	Example Property Assessments and Estimated Real Cost Impact Per Proposed Expenditure			
		\$150,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$450,000.00
\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.33	\$ 2.21	\$ 3.09	\$ 3.98
\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.02	\$ 2.65	\$ 4.42	\$ 6.19	\$ 7.96
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 0.04	\$ 6.63	\$ 11.05	\$ 15.47	\$ 19.89
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.09	\$ 13.26	\$ 22.10	\$ 30.94	\$ 39.78
\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.18	\$ 26.52	\$ 44.20	\$ 61.89	\$ 79.57
\$ 150,000.00	\$ 0.27	\$ 39.78	\$ 66.31	\$ 92.83	\$ 119.35
\$ 200,000.00	\$ 0.35	\$ 53.05	\$ 88.41	\$ 123.77	\$ 159.14

PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS EXPLANATION

The Planning Board is recommending amendments and additions to the Town Zoning Ordinance, as follows.

Add Downtown Residential Overlay District Where Minimum Lot Size Requirement Is Reduced

To facilitate further residential development at a higher density where appropriate, as generally recommended by the Housing Opportunity Program Advisory Committee (HOPAC), minimum lot size requirements will be reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ acre in a new Downtown Residential Overlay District. The new District will encompass the lots located in the Residential District north of NH Route 101 and east of Holt Road, as well as the lots in the Residential District with frontage on Intervale Road, in each case where Town water and sewer are available and utilized. The reduced lot size in this District will permit added density in the Town center, where the impact on the character of Wilton will be limited. In addition, many non-conforming lots will thereby become conforming.

Update Certain Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

The living area of an ADU is presently limited to 800 square feet. In response to recommendations from HOPAC, the proposed update will allow ADUs to be 800 square feet or, if larger, 25% of the living area of the larger dwelling unit (but no more than 1200 square feet). Homeowners can therefore construct larger ADUs where appropriate, potentially providing incentives to create more housing opportunities in Town.

Clarify and Conform Certain Provisions of Chapter 5, Residential District

With the introduction of a Downtown Residential Overlay District in particular, related references throughout Chapter 5 will be conformed and other requirements clarified.

Reduce the Age Requirement to 55 from 62 in the Age-Restricted Housing Overlay District

This age reduction from 62 to 55 will help facilitate the development of age-restricted housing in Town and aligns with relevant Federal guidelines and requirements. This change also implements recommendations from HOPAC.

Update Floodplain Conservation District Requirements

The NH Department of Environmental Services has prescribed these updates to conform to new FEMA requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program. If the ordinance is non-compliant, insurance coverage could be lost.

NOTE: This summary is not intended to substitute for a careful reading of the proposed amendments, which are available on the Wilton Town website. The Town will not be responsible for any inconsistency between this description and the actual text.

2024 Wilton Town Meeting Voter's Guide

To the inhabitants of the Town of Wilton in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to appear at the **Wilton Town Hall, 42 Main Street**, in said Wilton, New Hampshire, on **Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at 8:00 A.M.** to ballot for necessary Town Officers and other action required to be inserted on said official ballots.

(POLLS ARE TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 7:00 P.M.)

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. **(By ballot.)**

ZONING AMENDMENT BALLOT TEXT

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance related to the provisions of Chapter 5.0, Section 5.1, captioned "District Location," as reflected in the Zoning Ordinance amendments posted at the Wilton Town Hall and the Wilton Town Website?

Items in this amendment include but are not limited to: Amending the stated purpose of the Residential District; creating a "Downtown Residential Overlay District"; amending the provisions related to minimum lot size in the Residential District and establishing a minimum lot size in the Downtown Residential Overlay District; providing for the conversion of the existing dwellings in the Downtown Residential Overlay District into duplex family or multi-family dwellings subject to certain conditions.

Explanation: See Zoning Amendment Explanation on Page 4.

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance related to the provisions of Chapter 5, Section 5.5, captioned "Accessory Dwelling Units," as reflected in the Zoning Ordinance amendments posted at the Wilton Town Hall and the Wilton Town Website?

Items in this amendment include but are not limited to: clarifying that the addition of an accessory dwelling unit ("ADU") to an existing single-family home located in a district where residential uses are permitted does not need to comply with the requirements in Chapter 17 of the Zoning Ordinance, so long as the requirements in Section 5.5.3 are met; clarifying that new construction of single-family homes may include an ADU so long as the requirements of Section 5.5.3 are met; amending Section 5.5.3 related to the requirements that must be satisfied to allow for an ADU; clarifying that the Zoning Board of Adjustment may grant a special exception to the requirements set forth in Section 5.5.3; amending the provisions of Section 5.5.4 related to the required living area and parking for an ADU.

Explanation: See Zoning Amendment Explanation on Page 4.

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance related to the provisions of Chapter 5, captioned “Residential District”, as reflected in the Zoning Ordinance amendments posted at the Wilton Town Hall and the Wilton Town Website?

Items in this amendment include but are not limited to: removing obsolete parentheticals related to prior amendments; clarifying that a duplex family dwelling includes single-family dwellings with an accessory dwelling unit, under Section 5.1, “Permitted Uses”; amending Section 5.1(c) to remove obsolete parentheticals and replace the phrase “new construction” with dwelling; Amending Section 5.1(d) to identify the provisions related to the Cluster Development Ordinance; amending Section 5.2.3 related to setbacks in the Residential District; adding parking requirements within the Residential District; clarifying when special exceptions are required and to amending the requirement provisions related to home occupations in Section 5.3; amending the provisions related to road frontage and setbacks for houses of worship in Section 5.3.4; and amending the provisions related to schools and day care centers in Section 5.3.6.

Explanation: See Zoning Amendment Explanation on Page 4.

5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance related to the provisions of Chapter 10, captioned “Floodplain Conservation District”, as reflected in the Zoning Ordinance amendments posted at the Wilton Town Hall and the Wilton Town Website?

Items in this amendment include but are not limited to: clarifying that the “Floodplain Conservation District” is the “Floodplain Development Ordinance” for the Town and is intended to be read as a whole with the rest of the Zoning Ordinance; updating that the definitions section of Chapter 10 to incorporate new definitions, remove obsolete definitions and parentheticals, renumber the various definitions, and clarify that the definitions only apply to Chapter 10; incorporating the definitions and amended defined terms into the remainder of Chapter 10; clarifying the authority of the Building Inspector to issue building permits within the Floodplain District; providing a new method for the Building Inspector to determine Base Flood Elevation in Zone A; updating the requirements for recreational vehicles located within Zone AE; clarifying the requirements for new construction or substantial improvements within the Floodplain District; clarifying the existing notice requirements for the alteration of a watercourse; clarifying the requirements for obtaining authorization to alter a watercourse; updating the Regulatory Floodway requirements; clarifying the procedure for appeals and requests for variance and adds requirements to variance requests in accordance with Federal requirements; adding notification requirements for the ZBA to inform applicants that variances allowing construction below the Base Flood Level will result in increased premiums to flood insurance and increased risk to life and property, in accordance with Federal requirements; and removing obsolete language and parentheticals throughout Chapter 10.

Explanation: See Zoning Amendment Explanation on Page 4.

6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board, to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance related to the provisions of Chapter 13, captioned “Age-Restricted Housing District”, as reflected in the Zoning Ordinance amendments posted at the Wilton Town Hall and the Wilton Town Website?

Items in this amendment include but are not limited to: updating the Title to “Age-Restricted Overlay District”; updating the occupancy age limit from at least 62 years of age to at least 55 years of age; clarifying the requirements for parking within the Age-Restricted Overlay District; clarifying the requirements for safety features within the Age-Restricted Overlay District; clarifying the requirements for the floor area of ancillary facilities within the Age-Restricted Overlay District; clarifying the procedure for change of use within the Age-Restricted Overlay District; removing obsolete language and parentheticals throughout Chapter 13; and making additional textual revisions for the purposes of clarity.

Explanation: See Zoning Amendment Explanation on Page 4.

Town Meeting Warrant Text

You are further notified to appear at the **Wilton Lyndeborough Cooperative High School Cafeteria** (57 School Road) in said Wilton, New Hampshire on **Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.** to act on the following:

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended sum of Six Million Four Hundred and Sixty Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Two and 00/100 Dollars (\$6,460,532.00) for **general municipal operation for the year 2024**. Said sum does not include the appropriations contained in special or individual Articles addressed separately. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

Estimated Tax Impact: TBD

Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this Article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The Town anticipates a minimum of Three Million Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Eight-Hundred Seventy-Three and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,478,873.00) in offsetting revenue to be received to offset this appropriation. Overall, this operating budget request represents an approximate 6.9% increase from last year’s operating budget with the majority of increases attributable to personnel cost increases. Notably, the Select Board approved an increase to the town’s contribution for healthcare plans from 85% to 90%, as well as an across the board 4% COLA increase for town employee wages and volunteer position stipends, and a 1% spot merit/wage adjustment pool increase for certain positions. These increases are assessed as necessary to keep up with inflation and keep the town’s employment pool relatively competitive with other communities. Other changes include spot increases to Highway/Public Works area spending, and

having to bear the full-weight of Ambulance Service increases without having extra funds dispersed from the Ambulance revolving fund for temporary relief. Please note that the overall total taxation increase request before voters is down 10% due to a reduced warrant article load.

8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-One and 00/100 Dollars (\$62,531.00) for the purpose of paying the fourth-year lease payment for the **Fire Engine 1 Lease**, which is a ten-year lease-purchase agreement approved by Article #8 of the 2021 Town Meeting. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.11 per thousand (\$11.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this Article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This lease was authorized at Wilton's 2021 Town Meeting with an escape clause. Voting "Yes" on this article means authorizing the Select Board to continue to pay the lease on Engine 1, which will enable outright ownership at the end of 10 years if continued. Voting "No" would mean the town would have to return the vehicle, lose out on owning the vehicle outright at the end of the 10-year lease, lose out on the \$200,061 already paid, and that the Fire Department and community would no longer have easy access to the technical capacity this vehicle provides.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$29,000.00) for the purpose of making the seventh-year lease payment (of the seven-year lease approved by Article #14 of the 2018 Town Meeting) on the **Highway Department's 2019 International 10-Wheel Dump Truck**. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.05 per thousand (\$5.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This lease was authorized at Wilton's 2018 Town Meeting with an escape clause. Voting "Yes" on this article means authorizing the Select Board to continue to pay the lease on the vehicle in question, which will enable outright ownership at the end of the 7-year lease term if continued. Voting "No" would mean the town would have to return the vehicle, lose out on owning the vehicle outright at the end of the 7-year lease term, and that the Highway Department would lose the technical capability this vehicle provides, especially with regards to plowing and material moving.

- 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-Two and 00/100 Dollars (\$13,762.00) for the third-year payment for the **Highway Department 2022 Ford Pickup Truck**, which is a five-year lease-purchase agreement approved by Article #5 of the 2022 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.02 per thousand (\$2.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This lease was authorized at Wilton’s 2022 Town Meeting with an escape clause. Voting “Yes” on this article means authorizing the Select Board to continue to pay the lease on the vehicle in question, which will enable outright ownership at the end of the five-year lease term if continued. Voting “No” would mean the town would have to return the vehicle, lose out on owning the vehicle outright at the end of the 10-year lease term, and that the Highway Department would lose the technical capability this provides, especially with regards to plowing and its use as a multi-use utility vehicle.

- 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 7-year lease agreement in the amount of up to Two Hundred Sixty-Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$260,000.00) for the purpose of a lease/purchase of a **Highway Department Six Wheel Dump Truck** and to outfit said Six Wheel Dump Truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$45,000.00) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains a non-appropriation clause. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.08 per thousand (\$8.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this Article 5-0-1)

Explanation: Wilton authorized the purchase of a six-wheel dump truck for plowing at the 2008 town meeting, and the intent of this article is to replace it. The vehicle in question requires expensive maintenance and regular parts replacement to keep functioning, and during Capital Improvement Plan review, Highway Department personnel recommended advancing the procurement of a replacement for this year. The sum recommended in the article is a relatively recent estimate for replacing the vehicle with a fully-outfitted equivalent Six Wheel Dump Truck in today’s dollars. It would be utilized for plowing, and hauling material in the off season. If the vehicle ends up being less expensive to procure than anticipated, the remaining unspent funds would pass into unassigned fund balance.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$125,000.00) for the purpose of **extending a water main from Forest Road at Riverwalk Park up Gregg Street, for providing a sprinkler system to the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library as required by state fire regulations.** Said water main extension to include a hydrant for the benefit of the Library, the Congregational Church, and the residences of the Gregg Street neighborhood. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first. Monies to come from general taxation. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.22 per thousand (\$22.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board does not recommend this article 1-2-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 4-0-3)

Explanation: In May 2021, the Wilton Library Trustees were notified that the use of the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library's basement as a place of assembly was in violation of the State Fire Code due to existing structural conditions. To continue the basement's usage as a place of assembly, installing a sprinkler system was subsequently identified as the most acceptable solution. To accomplish this, a second water line connection from the Wilton Water System was determined to be needed. The Select Board then committed \$120,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act SLFRF funds to the project. It was anticipated that any gap beyond the \$120,000.00 would be covered by the Water Commission. Subsequently, the Library Trustees agreed to commit funds to produce engineered plans for the water line project, which envisioned a water main extension route of going underneath Forest Road, up Gregg Street, to the back of the library. This was analyzed by the past and current Water Commission personnel and the Library Trustees' consultant, Meridian Engineers, as the ideal solution for the project. After receiving the engineered plans, the Town then bid out the project competitively according to common procurement standards. The bids ultimately came back substantially higher than were originally discussed in 2021/2022. This triggered months of debate about how to proceed and hypothetical alternatives - such as going under the front lawn of the library versus Gregg Street to potentially save costs. Ultimately, it was decided by a majority vote of the Select Board to put this option before voters in 2024, yet not to recommend it. The sum of \$125,000.00 specified in this article represents the gap between the lowest bid received and the current \$120,000.00 in ARPA funds dedicated by the Select Board to the project. Voting "Yes" means appropriating the \$125,000.00 to pay for the project as bid. Voting "No" would mean the Select Board would not have the funds to perform the project as planned, and executing a solution in 2024 would likely not occur. Currently, the Library still operates the basement according to temporary accommodation approved in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's office, however, that exception is contingent on steady progress on the proposed plan to remove the fire code violations. If progress is not made, it is not guaranteed that the current temporary accommodations will be allowed to continue. Overall, the Library currently heavily utilizes the space: the only ADA-compliant bathroom is in the basement (accessible via elevator); the basement houses the library's child

and young adult collections; possesses a bank of public computers mainly used by children; and hosts various parts of the library's youth programming. Not having temporary Fire Code accommodations, let alone a long-term solution, will permanently endanger any current use for the space beyond passive storage.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Six Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$26,000.00) for the purpose of **repairing the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library's walkway entrance**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

Estimated Tax Impact: \$.05 per thousand (\$5.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The raised walkway entrance at the rear of the library on Gregg Street has reached a level of severe deterioration after numerous years, and is approaching a condition where it will need to either be closed or repaired. The Library Trustees paid approximately \$36,000.00 for a portion of the repair work this past year with existing funds, and voting "Yes" on the current sum in the article is meant to cover the next phase of repairs. Voting "No" will leave the condition of the walkway as is, and further deterioration could prevent the town's only ADA Compliant entrance for the library unusable, and the only ADA compliant bathroom is on the first floor. The Library Repair Capital Reserve Fund has approximately \$70,000.00 in its balance, but was described during the Capital Improvement Plan development process as hoping to support a major library roof project anticipated in the near future. Similarly, the Trustees describe other funds they control as unable to be committed to the project currently due to other commitments, such as the anticipated basement sprinkler system.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$150,000.00) to be placed in the **Dam Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**, previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

Estimated Tax Impact: \$.27 per thousand (\$27.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

Explanation: This fund was changed in 2022 from one that covers merely one dam to be applicable to all dams in town. Currently, there are two dams that require major repairs and/or mitigation: Sand Hill / New Reservoir Dam and Frog Pond Dam. In 2023, Wilton was delayed from progressing on Sand Hill / New Reservoir Dam due to emergency measures imposed by the NH Dam Bureau due to concerns about extra leaking. The Town was required to install siphons to manage water at certain prescribed levels, and place stone on the slope and toe of the dam to weigh it down. After engaging in a protracted monitoring regimen, the town eventually received approval to proceed as it had intended due to assessment that

the additional leaking isn't considered to be a near term threat. Subsequently, the town finally received an official high hazard dam determination and indication that it will be eligible for a FEMA High Hazard Dam mitigation grant when sought. Currently, the intent is to begin final solution design during 2024 for Sand Hill / New Reservoir Dam simultaneously with conducting a dam removal study for the Frog Pond Dam as directed by the Select Board. There is currently around \$350,000 in the fund, and it is estimated that mitigating the hazards posed by Frog Pond Dam and Sand Hill / New Reservoir Dam will cost in excess of a million dollars regardless of the option selected.

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

15. To see of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the **Emergency Communications Project Capital Reserve Fund** that was established by Article #14 of the 2023 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.04 per thousand (\$4.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This warrant article is a continuation of an emergency services plan to eliminate outstanding communications problems in the southern portions of Wilton. The article was originally pegged at \$80,000.00 in the year's capital improvement planning process to fully support what is assessed to be a permanent solution that would include installation of a new communications tower. However, the town as of yet has not been able to secure an agreement for an appropriate location, and the Select Board has opted to reduce the amount requested this year, which will reduce burdens on tax payers in the short term, but also allow continued progress and preparation for a final solution in the near future.

16. To see of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be placed in the **Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** established by Article #13 of the 1984 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.07 per thousand (\$7.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: During the town's capital improvement planning process, several near-term Highway Department proposals were discussed to replace critical equipment or expand its capabilities. One project identified in particular, that of eventually procuring a wheeled or tracked excavator, has been ear-marked as

particularly desirable. Regardless, the cost of leasing equipment has elevated significantly compared to previous years, so beginning to store money for future vehicle or equipment procurements is identified as a wise move to reduce costs on future major purchases. There is currently approximately \$87,000 in the fund.

17. To see if the town will vote to discontinue the **Police Station Roof Repair Capital Reserve** established by Article #16 of the 2023 Town Meeting. Said funds remaining, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: None

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The Police Station roof replacement was originally planned to be funded over the course of multiple years. However, pricing received from refreshed estimates, assessments on the immediacy of some components needed, and project synergy opportunities, meant the Select Board felt comfortable utilizing existing, unspent PD funds in 2023 to completely replace the roof. This effort will close off the CRF fund created last year and return any unspent funds – anticipated to be under \$100,000 left over from interest proceeds – to the town's coffers.

18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the **Unanticipated Legal Expense Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by Article #17 of the 2023 Town Meeting. The monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.02 per thousand (\$2.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This fund is intended to help mitigate the impact of unanticipated or emergency type legal expenses the town may face. The Select Board didn't feel the need to expend from the fund in 2023, and the overall current intent is to allow the fund to grow gradually to eventually become a significant emergency reserve to relieve the town's normal legal budget(s) if the need ever arises.

- 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$35,000.00) to be added to the **Town Hall Fire Protection Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by Article # 30 of the 2018 Town Meeting. The monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.06 per thousand (\$6.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This request is part of an ongoing funding effort to pay for a sprinkler system in the second floor of the town hall. In 2023, the town completed a spec design of the anticipated system, and may bid out and even execute the project in 2024 or 2025 if existing monies in the fund prove sufficient. Design-build estimates accumulated over the past several years have ranged from approximately \$100,000.00 to in excess of \$180,000.00, but were without the benefit of specifications set by the town. Likewise, the cost of materials and labor is anticipated to have increased. There is currently approximately \$106,000 in the fund.

- 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$85,000.00) to be added to the **Town Hall Repair Project Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by Article # 8 of the 1994 Town Meeting. The monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.15 per thousand (\$15.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this Article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The Town of Wilton procured an existing condition report that offers an opinion of probable cost for near-to-midterm projects for the Town Hall at close to \$800,000.00 on the higher end of the scale. This report can be found on the town’s website on the Select Board’s page. Previously, it was anticipated that the most immediately needed project was likely repair and mitigation treatments on the building’s cupola, but leaking issues with the slate roof may potentially require immediate attention. There is currently around \$180,000.00 in said Capital Reserve Fund, and an estimated funding delta of approximately \$200,000.00 if the high-end estimates for projects anticipated to be covered by this fund hold true. Repair and renovation of the Town Hall is believed to be eligible for an LCHIP grant or grant, and the fund can be used for matching, but would obligate the town to follow certain restrictions for years or potentially in perpetuity.

21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$75,000.00) to be placed in the **Public Works Garage Building Capital Reserve Fund** established by Article # 14 of the 2017 Town Meeting. Monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.13 per thousand (\$13.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 2-1-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This Capital Reserve Fund is meant to assist the town's anticipated design and building of a new highway garage facility. The current facility is facing critical code issues and is assessed to be insufficient for current and future town operations. In 2023, the Select Board and a previously appointed volunteer Highway Garage Committee explored several notable land siting options, and performed a number of assessments on future needs and how to utilize the current facility in conjunction with a future facility. The Select Board did not come to a definitive agreement on a site, but has approved beginning to engage specialist consultants with regards to planning and design. A new facility of any size is estimated to cost millions of dollars and will likely require long-term bonding to execute. There is currently approximately \$480,000 in the fund.

22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be added to the **Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** established by Article #6 of the 1995 Annual Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.09 per thousand (\$9.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: According to the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the Fire Department Tanker 1 is due replacement in 2025. The current vehicle is 31 years old and far beyond the recommended replacement cycle of 25 years. The vehicle provides critical support to Department operations, its primary function is to carry 2000 gallons of water to support rural fire suppression and brush fire extinguishment. There is currently around \$5000 in this Capital Reserve Fund.

23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund** established by Article #14 of the 2014 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.02 per thousand (\$2.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The town is required to perform a revaluation at least every five years; the last revaluation occurred in 2021 while the next is anticipated in 2026. There is currently approximately \$20,000.00 in the fund.

24. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the **Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by Article #21 of the 2018 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.03 per thousand (\$3.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee Recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The Fire Department's Air Packs need to be replaced regularly. This request supports the replacement plan as designed by the Fire Department.

25. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$36,970.00) to be added to the **Bridges Capital Reserve Fund** established by Article #12 of the 1984 Town Meeting. The monies to come from the unassigned fund balance, or to take any other action relating thereto. This sum represents the balance of funds granted to the town by the State of New Hampshire in 2023 for the purpose of municipal bridge work. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: None

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee Recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: This article moves state highway block grant funds received last year that must be used on municipal bridges into the fund. Currently the Town of Wilton has three state aid bridges on the NHDOT 10-year plan (King Brook Road Bridge, Old County Farm Road Bridge Over Blood Brook, and Temple Road Bridge Over Blood Brook). Additionally, the town has two pedestrian bridges on the 10-Year plan slate of projects; one inserted several years ago through a community application process and another through a successful Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) grant application. State Bridge Aid Programmed bridges typically cover 80% of bridge costs, while other sources found by the town will cover the remaining 20%; the pedestrian bridges are anticipated to be funded in similar proportions. Notably, the town was selected to receive American Rescue Plan Act derived MOBIL funding that is anticipated to completely cover construction phase costs for the Old County Farm Road Bridge Over Blood Brook. As of today, the town is advancing on the long-delayed King Brook Road Bridge design phase process, and is choosing to pursue seeking to cover limited restoration of the northerly Stone Arch Bridge on Old County Farm Road using federal MOBIL funds. In all, using the latest estimates, although the town's Bridges fund can cover a great deal, additional budget requests are anticipated as needed due to the funding delta. There is currently around \$820,000 in the fund, millions of dollars of bridge

work to be conducted, and State Bridge Aid Reimbursement can take years to be received due to the highly structured nature of the “Local Public Agency” (LPA) project format the town is required to follow.

26. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 31:95-h to modify the purpose of the existing **Police Special Detail Revolving Fund**, established by Article #19 of the 2021 Town Meeting, to include expenditures for all costs related to police special details, for the maintenance and replacement of police vehicles, and for police special duty expenditures related to equipment. **(2/3 vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: None

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: In 2023, the town received an opinion that it could not utilize the Police Special Detail Revolving fund as previously written to cover the purchase of Police vehicles that aren't utilized solely for Police details. This proposed modification is anticipated to allow for that contingency. The concept is to utilize accumulated excess Police special detail funds – the assessed administrative and vehicle fees – to buy a general PD cruiser that could be utilized for general service as well as Police details, saving taxpayers money by not having to submit a request on the town's warrant or within its operating budget. Additionally, town legal counsel advises that a 2/3 majority vote is unnecessary for this warrant article to pass.

27. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Stormwater Expendable Trust Fund** per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, and replacing stormwater infrastructure and for other actions related to the control and management of stormwater. Further, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance, and to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: None

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee Recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: The Federal Water Quality Act of 1987 recognized that runoff from urban areas and industrial sites pollutes surface waters. To address these stormwater discharges, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits using a two-phased approach. The Phase I and Phase II regulations were published in 1990 and 1999, respectively.

Phase II regulates “small municipal separate storm sewer system” or “small MS4” discharges in urbanized areas; “stormwater discharge associated with small construction activity”; and municipally owned “Stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity” that were exempted from regulation during Phase I. The

Town of Wilton was assigned its permit under the Phase II expansion, and is considered a “new permittee” under current management schemes. A new permit cycle is in the process of being revealed in 2024, which may heavily alter expectations from the EPA on permittees such as Wilton.

Overall, the MS4 Program represents a federal and state imposition of a whole bevy of responsibilities and infrastructure obligations on a permittee, and the lack of consistent direct financial support means in essence the program is largely an unfunded mandate the permittee has to manage on its own. While Wilton personnel have done a great deal with existing resources, obligations are cascading, and the town faces the common reality facing much bigger communities of falling behind on these efforts.

The purpose of this request is to create a fund that would assist in capacity building efforts, such as procuring specialty consultants and services regarding permit management, day-to-day stormwater management tasks that might arise throughout the year, and beginning to prepare for much bigger future costs: A Stormwater Asset Management Grant procured by the Town of Wilton that was finished in 2023 estimates that it will take approximately \$16,000,000.00 to replace the town’s entire stormwater system. Even if the most cost-effective paths are chosen and those estimates prove high, this effort will ultimately require not only comparatively massive future physical infrastructure replacement costs, but also capacity building through increased consultant spending and allocation of staff/personnel time.

28. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Town Hall ADA Expendable Trust Fund** per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of performing such repairs and improvements to the Town Hall to increase handicap accessibility and comply with all applicable accessibility laws. Further to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Sixteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$16,000.00) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation, and to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.03 per thousand (\$3.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee Recommends this article 5-0-1)

Explanation: For many years, the Wilton Select Board has heard requests to implement additional handicap accessibility projects at town hall, particularly at its entrances. One project in particular has gone through years of discussion: Improving the Town Clerk Main Street entrance. This is a relatively complex endeavor that’s gone through a number of proposed iterations, but has never been approved. This fund would be utilized to fund design and implementation of a final solution, and is expected to take approximately 5 years to fully fund and complete. Higher end recent estimates place the project cost as originally designed as around \$80,000.00 in today’s dollars.

29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) for **outfitting the Police Station roof with a photovoltaic solar power system**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. **(Majority vote required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: \$.18 per thousand (\$18.00 per \$100,000 of property value)

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee Recommends this article 3-1-2)

Explanation: The Wilton Police Station has long been considered a potential candidate for a roof-mounted solar installation to reduce electricity costs. Most estimates received for the most efficient systems available anticipate a 6-7 year simple pay back, meaning that immediately for next year, the electricity budget for the building will be proportionally reduced due to net metering, and the savings will pay for itself within several years if immediate and complete town ownership of the array is assumed without financing.

30. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **“Wilton Falls Building Management” Revolving Fund** pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, and redeveloping the building and grounds associated with Wilton Tax Map and Lot J-105 and its associated deeded parking on Tax Map and Lot J-104-1. All revenues received by the town for ownership of the building from rents, leases, fees, and/or charges for services received from tenants or other users or occupants of the above-referenced lots, as well as an amount equal to all or a portion of all taxes or payment-in-lieu-of-tax payments received from the users or occupants of the above-referenced lots as the Select Board shall designate, will be deposited into the fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town’s general fund balance. And further, to raise and appropriate the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in that fund, monies to come from the unassigned fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Select Board, and no further approval will be required by the Town Meeting to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which this fund was created. **(Majority Vote Required.)**
Estimated Tax Impact: None.

Explanation: In response to a deeded parking space allocation inquiry for another project, town personnel received word that the owner of the “Wilton Falls Building” (7 Burns hill Road) – a Land Trust established by Kimball Physics Founder Chuck Crawford – was interested in fully transferring ownership of the Wilton Falls Building and its 40+ deeded parking spaces at the Police Station to the Town of Wilton. The Select Board subsequently received a letter outlining the process for a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the transfer, and the Select Board has approved the Town Administrator and Legal counsel to negotiate a draft for their consideration. Although that negotiation is incomplete as of the writing of this explanation, establishing this revolving fund is recommended as a tool to help

manage the building efficiently should the town acquire ownership of the building in coming years. In essence, it would allow the current substantial incomes received from current business tenants to be stored in a revolving fund to pay into the town's coffers the equivalent of assessed taxes owed, and utilize the rest for maintaining and managing the property. The building is currently assessed at \$435,600.00 in value, and current yearly building income from rents and leases is assessed at significantly outstripping management and utility costs. While the Building Inspector indicates the present condition of the building is sound, redevelopment costs are assessed as significant. Likewise, more pressing Fire Code violations are assessed as needing to be addressed immediately, but are anticipated to be covered by building income if they aren't taken care of before potential acquisition. The \$25,000.00 amount from unassigned fund balance is intended to be seed money for immediate needs if required. Voting "Yes" would enable the creation of this fund for the purposes summarized in this explanation, while Voting "No" would mean, if the building is acquired, the town would have to use existing budget lines until next year's budget cycle. If the town does not acquire the building, this fund would merely remain as created until dissolved, with the only additional monies coming from any interest on the fund's balance. If closing the fund becomes desirable, that would be accomplished at a future town meeting where all remaining funds would then transfer into the town's general fund or another purpose approved by voters.

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)

(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-1)

31. To see if the Town will vote to approve the designation of Old County Farm Road in Wilton, New Hampshire, as a Scenic Town Road in accordance with RSA 231 - 157. The designation as a Scenic Road will extend in its entirety, from the intersection with the Burton Highway to the intersection with NH Route 101.
Estimated Tax Impact: None.

Explanation: This is a petition warrant article. Scenic road designations have practical effects on the process by which property owners can alter their properties along municipally designated scenic roads.

32. To accept the report of Agents, Auditors and Committees or Officers heretofore chosen to pass any vote relating thereto.
33. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.