

2024 Warrant Article- Public Hearing
Article # 01: Election of Officials

To Elect those running for office.

ZONING WARRANT ARTICLES

Article #02: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gilmanton as follows: To amend Article VI paragraph 6. Manufactured Housing- Storage and Parking to allow for the storage and parking of one recreational vehicle in all zones and to not require that the storage or parking of the recreational vehicle meet setbacks or be parked in a driveway?

Recommended by the Planning Board: Yes

Explanatory Note:

The intent is to allow for the storage and parking of a recreational vehicle in all zones. Currently, storage and parking are prohibited in the Residential Lake Zone but allowed in all other zones. The use of recreational vehicles will continue to be prohibited in the Residential Lake Zone and continue to be seasonally permitted in all other zones.

Article #03: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Gilmanton as follows: to amend Article XVI. Definition of "Structure" to exclude a fence as a structure and do not require a fence to meet setbacks?

Recommended by the Planning Board: Yes

Explanatory Note:

The intent is to clarify that a fence does not need to meet setbacks as required by the current definition of "structure." Historically, the Town has allowed fences to be built up to the property line.

WARRANT ARTICLE

Article # 04: Operating Budget

Est tax impact \$5.505

Shall the Town 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 within the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein totaling Five Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$5,791,377.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, and Seventy Dollars (\$5,428,078.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by the previous action of the Town 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 Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: Please refer to the Budget worksheets. This article is about the budget for the Town. This article has an estimated impact on property tax of \$5.505 per \$1,000 of valuation; this is not in addition to the current tax impact. The 2024 proposed Operating Budget is 13.72% higher than the 2023 Operating Budget. The increase in this budget is a direct reflection of a 15.6% insurance increase & the request for a premium insurance package for Full-time employees instead of a request for COLA or Merit-based increase. Merit-based increases have not been given since 2019.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate for 2023 is currently at 3.7% and is subject to change by the end of the year. The 2024 Operating Budget warrant article excludes appropriations in any other (special) warrant articles.

Note: Capital reserve funds are a useful budgeting tool that allows municipalities to set money apart from the general fund for specific purposes and reduce the need to borrow (have bonded) at the time of purchase. The Town of Gilmanton has successfully utilized the Capital Improvement Plan; annual planning is required to secure its vitality.

Article # 05: Add to existing ETFs Non-Capital Expendable Trust Funds and CRFs Capital Reserve Funds

Est. tax impact \$0.292

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One-Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$165,000.00**) to be deposited in the previously established Non-Capital Expendable Trust Funds (ETF) and Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) identified below. This sum to come from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Highway Equipment	(CRF)	\$ 70,000.00
Highway Vehicle Equip/Repair	(ETF)	\$ 10,000.00
Recycling & Transfer Facility Improvement	(CRF)	\$ 30,000.00
Recycling Equipment	(CRF)	\$ 50,000.00
Transfer Station Vehicle & Equip Rep	(ETF)	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL		\$ 165,000.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: This article is for continued contributions into previously established Non-Capital Expendable Trust Funds (ETF) and Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) in anticipation of future purchases and expenses.

Information related to capital projects can be found in a Capital Improvement Plan. The Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) contains all the individual capital projects, equipment purchases, major studies, construction and completion schedules, and financing plans. The intention of the plan is to provide a working blueprint for maintaining, replacing, or updating the Town's property, equipment, and infrastructure. Consistent planning, budgeting, and annual appropriations are required to maintain an active-living Capital Improvement Plan. The current overall CIP schedule is out of date and underfunded.

Article #06: Exterior Painting & Rot Repair Academy Building-Town Offices

Est. tax impact \$0.209

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$118,000.00) for the exterior painting and rot repair at the Academy Building Town Offices. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

***Explanatory Note:** The purpose of the article is to provide the exterior and interior paint and to repair the areas of rot that are found on the building during that process. The building's exterior is scheduled to be painted every five years and is currently off the recommended schedule; the last time the exterior building was painted was in 2017.*

Article # 07: Add to existing Non-Capital Reserve Fund- Infrastructure Repairs & Upgrades

Est. tax impact \$0.177

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be deposited in the Infrastructure Repairs and Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund previously established by the 2022 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee:

***Explanatory Note:** The purpose of the article is to add to the Infrastructure Repairs & Updates Capital Reserve Fund specifically for road repairs. This fund presently has \$75,832.97 (amount subject to change.)*

Article #08: Purchase Police Cruiser

Est. tax impact \$0.133

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) to purchase, equip, and prepare for service a new Police cruiser. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the Police Cruiser is complete or until December 21, 2025, whichever comes first. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

***Explanatory Note:** The purpose of this article is to replace the 2014 cruiser, which is ten years old with 100,000 + miles, with a new, fully equipped police cruiser for the Police Department per the schedule of the Capital Improvement Plan.*

Article # 09: Add to existing Welfare ETF Non-Capital Expendable Trust Fund

Est. tax impact \$0.027

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be deposited in the Welfare ETF Non-Capital Expendable Trust Fund previously established by the 2001 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to fund the Non-Capital Reserve Fund, which is used if the welfare line item in the operating budget amount is depleted. The current cap for this fund is \$50,000.00.

The current amount in the fund is approximately \$29,000.00 (amount is subject to change)

Article # 10: Add to existing Capital Reserve- Forestry Vehicle Replace Fund

Est. tax impact \$0.203

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (115,000.00) for the purpose of a Forestry pickup truck equipped with a fire pump skid tank and snow plow package. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the equipment is complete or until December 21, 2025, whichever comes first. This amount to come from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to replace the 2006 unit.

Article #11: Add to existing Capital Reserve- Repair, Replace, Purchase Fire EMS Vehicle Fund

Est. tax impact \$0.088

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be deposited in the Repair, Replace, Purchase Fire EMS Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established by the 2001 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to contribute to the account for the ongoing savings for the projected purchase of the Town ambulance in 2031.

The current amount in the fund is 56,538.12 (amount is subject to change)

Article #12: Add to existing SCBA Replacement Fund

Est. tax impact \$0.018

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be deposited into the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established by the 2011 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to contribute to the account for the ongoing savings for the scheduled replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses of the Fire Department in 2033.

The current amount in the fund is \$24,657.86 (amount is subject to change)

Article # 13: Add to existing Fire Radio Replacement Account

Est. tax impact \$0.018

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be deposited into the Fire Radio Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established by the 2015 Town Meeting. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to contribute to the account for ongoing savings, maintenance, repairs, and replacement of radio equipment. The current amount in the fund is \$1,883.87 (amount is subject to change)

Article # 14: Elected Official Pay

No Tax Impact

To see if the Town will vote to require that any alteration to the compensation for an elected official to be approved by the vote of the Town Meeting by an individual warrant article. Further, to see if the Town will vote to allow elected officials to participate in the Town-provided health insurance benefits for a single-person plan and in the New Hampshire Retirement System, if otherwise eligible under RSA chapter 100-A, provided that such official meets all requirements for a full-time employee as defined in the Town of Gilmanton Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and maintains time cards reflecting such hours worked.

Effective on Passage

Explanatory Note: The purpose of this article is to limit the compensation and benefits due to elected officials during their term in office, require future changes to compensation and benefits to be done by a warrant article through Town Meeting, and ensure that officials that seek to participate in the New Hampshire Retirement System or in Town benefits such as leave, and health insurance, record the number of hours worked to ensure eligibility for those benefits.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #15: Increase the number of Cemetery Trustees

No Tax Impact

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 289:6,I, to increase the number of Cemetery Trustee Board members from three members to five members. If approved, two additional trustees shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one for one year and one for two years. Thereafter, subsequent trustees shall be elected by ballot at the annual town meeting to replace those whose terms expire. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by Cemetery Trustees: Yes

Article #16: Add to existing Town Building Repair and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund
Est. tax impact \$0.035

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be deposited into the Town Building Repair and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund, previously established by the 2010 Town Meeting, and to further name the Board of Selectmen agents to expend from said fund. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Notes: The purpose of this article is to use the current fund for ongoing repairs and maintenance to town buildings, naming the Board of Selectmen as agents in order to care for the building as the needs arise.

Article # 17: Establish a Town Forest Maintenance Fund

No Tax Impact

To see if the Town will vote to establish a special forest maintenance fund, pursuant to RSA 31:113, and to authorize the placement of any proceeds from the management of the Town forests, up to a total balance amount of \$25,000.00, into said fund. Said monies to be allowed to accumulate from year to year and to name the Conservation Commission as the agent to expend from such fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Recommended by the Conservation Commission: ____

Explanatory Notes:

This fund would allow revenues from forest management of up to \$25,000.00 to be deposited for the management and maintenance of the designated Town Forest. Any money above that cap would go into the general fund.

Article # 18: Establish Management/Control of Invasive Species in Public Water Bodies

Est. tax impact \$0.044

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of the management, control, and remediation of aquatic invasive species, to be known as the Public Water Body Reclamation Expendable Trust Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to put into this fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Explanatory Notes:

The purpose of this request is to establish a fund that can be utilized as the need arises to help remediate, control, and manage the aquatic invasive species in all public water bodies in the Town of Gilmanton. Historically, this request has come through requests from local non-profits that would individually ask for funds. The intention is for the request to come to the Board of Selectmen for funding and replace individual warrant article requests for each non-profit/association every year. Currently, there are two groups that request funding for this purpose: the Rocky Pond Association and the Shell Camp Pond Management Group.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Explanatory Note – Articles #19 through # 27: The Town has placed donations to non-municipal entities in separate warrant articles rather than as part of the operating budget.

Article #19: By Petition-Support the Gilmanton Year-Round Library

Est. tax impact \$0.083

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Seven Thousand, One-Hundred Dollars (\$47,100.00) for partial funding of operating expenses of the Gilmanton Year-Round Library for Fiscal Year 2024. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #20: Support the Gilmanton 4TH of July Association

Est. tax impact \$0.011

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500.00) to support the Gilmanton 4th of July Association, a community organization, for the continuation of Gilmanton's 4th of July Parade, Fireworks, and other events. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #21: Support the Gilmanton Youth Organization

Est. tax impact \$0.010

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for the purpose of supporting the Gilmanton Youth Organization (GYO), a recognized 501C(3) charitable organization that is operated for the express purpose of organizing and administering high-quality sports programs for the school-aged children of the Town of Gilmanton, as well as the continued operation, maintenance, and development of GYO Park. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #22: Support the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association

Est. tax impact \$0.007

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association for the purpose of maintaining trails that are open to the public in a safe condition for use by snowmobilers, hikers, cross-country skiers, and equestrians in the Town of Gilmanton. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #23: Support the Gilmanton Iron Works Private Library

Est. tax impact \$0.002

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the Gilmanton Iron Works Library, a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #24: Support the New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse

Est. tax impact \$0.002

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of supporting New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse, which provides 24-hour crisis support, operates a shelter, and provides counseling for domestic/sexual assault victims. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article #25: Support the Community Action Program

Est. tax impact \$0.009

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the continuation of services to the low-income residents of Gilmanton through the Laconia Area Center of Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article # 26: Support the Lakes Region Mental Health Center

Est. tax impact \$0.013

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to support the Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC), formerly known as Genesis, which provides integrated mental and physical health care to area residents with mental illness. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: ____

Article # 27: Support the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH

Est. tax impact \$0.002

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH, which provides, recruits, trains, and supervises volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the New Hampshire court system. This amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Yes

Recommended by the Budget Committee: _____

RESOURCE GUIDE- *Items will be in the Voter's Guide*

The following information has been added to give the voters the background information on the community's standing to include

- Local Demographics
- Tax Rate History
- Current Tax Rate Pie Chart
- Current Exemptions and Credits Received
- Tax Rate Comparison within Belknap County
- FAQ
- Health Trust information and fact sheet for public understanding