

Town of South Hampton

2025

Annual Meeting Minutes

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of South Hampton, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs, held on March 11, 2025 at the South Hampton Town Hall, the following business was transacted:

Moderator Pamela Noon announced that the ballot boxes had been inspected and were found to be empty. She declared the pools open at 11:00 a.m. Ballot Clerks for the day were Leigh Condon, Jude Daley, Alycia Burchette, and Christine Conant. There were 186 ballots cast off 704 registered voters

Article 01 To choose the necessary Town Officers for the ensuing years

1) Selectmen	3-year term	Brent Peters 59 Votes James VanBokkelen 122 Votes
1)Tax Collector	3-year term	Andrea Condon 177 Votes
1) Treasurer	3-year term	Heidi Burke 173 Votes
1) Budget Committee	3-year term	James Kime 168 Votes
	Write Ins:	Denis Blair 1 Votes Tom Andruskevich 1 Votes
1) Trustee of the Cemetery	3-year term	Angela Racine 177 Votes
1) Trustee of the Trust Fund	3-year term	William Hodge 171 Votes
	Write Ins:	Nick Tully 1 Votes Micky Mouse 1 Votes
1) Trustee of the Library	3-year term	Courtney Langlois 172 Votes
1) Auditor	2-year term	16 Write Ins
		Position to be appointed by Selectboard

Article 02 Aquifer Protection District

Are you in favor of the adoption of Warrant Article 02 to the Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: To amend Zoning Ordinance Article VIII – Aquifer Protection District by revising the existing language and inserting new language. The intent of the proposed revisions is to increase protection of public and private drinking water sources through expanding groundwater protections to all public water systems in South Hampton, providing clearer justifications and definitions for terms related to groundwater protection, adding performance measures and design requirements to reduce risk to groundwater resources, and providing clearer administrative procedures.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board support the passage of this warrant article.

Passed YES 148 – NO 38

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Results of School District Election:

School Board Member	3 year term	Lauren Jurta 141 Votes
	Write Ins:	Peter Distefano 1 Votes
		Nick Tully 1 Votes
School District Moderator	2 year term	Kim Roessiger 141 Votes
School District Clerk	2 year term	Rebecca Ford 145 Votes
Article 1 – Operating Budget	YES 93 Votes	NO 83 Votes
Article 2 – 8 th Grade Trip	YES 67 Votes	NO 110 Votes
Article 3 – Building Maint.	YES 120 Votes	NO 56 Votes
Article 4 – Special Education	YES 112 Votes	NO 64 Votes
Article 5 – Discontinue Tech ETF	YES 132 Votes	NO 44 Votes

The polls were closed at 8:00 p.m.

The following Wednesday night, March 12, 2025, Moderator Kimberly Molin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Eleanor Batchelder Gym. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Molin invited the members of the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, and Town Clerk's Office to introduce themselves

Article 03 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$1,327,564 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>
Operating Budget	\$1,327,564	\$1,175,055	\$1,076,345
Warrant Articles	\$110,266	\$125,058	\$125,058
Special Warrant Articles	<u>\$68,717</u>	<u>\$9,000</u>	<u>\$9,000</u>
Total Appropriations	\$1,506,546	\$1,309,113	\$1,210,403
The Selectmen's operating budget is an increase of approximately 12.98% from last year.			

Ron Preston made the motion to accept the article on the operating budget of \$1,076,345. Eric Worthen seconded the motion. Dennis Blair, chair of the Budget Committee, introduces the two budget lines primarily responsible for the large budget increase this year; waste management and winter road maintenance. Eric Worthen further explained the increase in the winter road budget due to the resignation of the Road Agent and the need to contract out for snow removal. Ron Preston assures the residents that efforts will be made to find a better option for Snow Removal. Lee Knapp explains that the cost of trash disposal and recycling disposal is going up. Clarification questions were asked by several residents. Dennis Blair made a motion to reduce the Winter Road Maintenance line item by \$20,000, Will Hodge seconded. Eric Worthen spoke in opposition to this amendment. Dennis Blair withdrew the motion. The original article was voted on and passed as written with YES 52, NO 4.

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At this time, Dennis Blair made a motion to change the order of the warrant articles. Will Hodge seconded this motion. The proposed change was Article 4 read after Article 18, Article 5 after Article 4, Article 9 after Article 5. This motion was voted on and passed, YES 54, NO 2.

Article 06 Cruiser Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a 4-year lease agreement in the amount of \$45,483 for the purpose of leasing a 2025 Ford Interceptor Cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,717 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 6 was read as Article 4.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, seconded by Eric Worthen. Ron Preston explained the article and invited Chief of Police, Robert Roy, to speak further. It was voted to allow Robert Roy to speak. He explained that the prices would only go up. The article was voted and passed, YES 59, NO 1.

Article 07 Salt Shed Renovation ETF

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Salt Shed Renovation EFT created in 2019. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. The fund's account balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$12,074.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 7 was read as Article 5.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, seconded by Eric Worthen. Ron Preston explains that the salt shed will not be used by the town moving forward. Residents expressed concern about losing the building. Alice VanBokkelen clarified that this was simply condensing funds to the Town Facilities Maintenance ETF, no decisions were being made about the building. The article was voted and passed, YES 59, NO 1.

Article 08 Town Facilities Maintenance ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,074 to be added to the Town Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. If Article 07 fails, Article 08 is null and void.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 8 was read as Article 6.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, seconded by Eric Worthen. Pete Distefano made a motion to split the \$12,074 between the Recreation Areas Capital Reserve Fund and the Town Facilities Maintenance ETF, Lee Knapp seconded.. The amendment was voted and passed, YES 47, NO 9.
The amended article was voted and passed, YES 51, NO 7.

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Article 10 Town Roads Paving CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Town Roads Paving Capital Reserve Fund created in 2001, under RSA 35:1.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 10 was read as Article 7.

Eric Worthen motioned to accept, seconded by Lee Knapp. Eric Worthen explained that many of the town roads are in need of patching or repaving and that these funds would be for future restoration projects. The article was voted and passed, YES 61, NO 0.

Article 11 Accessible Voting

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of programing the One-4-all Voting Tablet.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 11 was read as Article 8.

Ron Preston motioned to accept; Eric Worthen seconded. Angela Racine explained that state law requires we use a tablet to provide accessible voting options for all elections and there is a cost associated with it. The article was voted and passed, YES 61, NO 2.

Article 12 Revaluation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,192 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 12 was read as Article 9.

Ron Preston motioned to accept; Eric Worthen seconded. Ron Preston explained that revaluations are required by the state, and we raise funds annually to mitigate the cost. Article was voted on and passed, YES 57, NO 1.

Article 13 Fire Gear

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Gear Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 4-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 13 was read as Article 10.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, Eric Worthen seconded. Fire Dept. Lt. Kat Racine explained that fire gear has a limited lifetime and must be updated regularly. This article was voted on and passed, YES 62, NO 1.

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Article 14 Fire Dept. Vehicles and Equipment Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicles and Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 4-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 14 was read as Article 11.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, Eric Worthen seconded. Ron Preston explained how valuable our fire department is to the town. Fire Dept Lt. Kat Morrill explained that this is a standard annual addition to the fund to keep up with the rising costs or replacing vehicles. The article was voted and passed, YES 61, NO 0.

Article 15 Fire Dept Building Maintenance

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Department CIP Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 15 was read as Article 12.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, Eric Worthen seconded. Ron Preston explained that we own the building and need to continue to maintain it. The article was voted and passed, YES 61, NO 0.

Article 16 Cemetery Maintenance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 16 was read as Article 13.

Ron Preston motioned to accept, Eric Worthen seconded. Angela Racine explained that the funds are for ongoing maintenance as well as surveying and mapping recently donated land. The article was voted and passed, YES 58, NO 0.

Article 17 Documents Preservation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Documents Preservation Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 17 was read as Article 14.

Ron Preston motioned to accept; Eric Worthen seconded. Ron Preston explained that we have lots of old documents that we want to maintain and restore. James VanBokkelen spoke to how valuable and

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extensive our records are and Angela Racine explained that we are saving up and cataloging everything so it can all get digitized in one large group. The article was voted and passed, YES 60, NO 1.

Article 18 Recreation Areas

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Recreation Areas Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 4-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 18 was read as Article 15.

Ron Preston motioned to accept; Eric Worthen seconded. Angela Racine explained that these funds are for larger restoration projects coming up. This article was voted and passed, YES 54, NO 3.

Article 04 Acquire Property

To see if the Town shall adopt the provisions of RSA 41:14-a authorizing the select board to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings, after submitting any such proposed actions to the planning board, the conservation commission, and the historical district commission for recommendations, as may be applicable, and upon receipt of said recommendations, to hold two (2) public hearings on the proposed acquisition, sale, demolition or disposal. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0 Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

Article 4 was read as Article 16.

Ron Preston motioned to accept the article, seconded by Eric Worthen. Ron Preston explained that this article must pass in order for the Selectmen to have any authority to deal with the issue of the Old Barnard School, which must either be torn down or restored. He went on to explain that there is a plan to restore the building at no cost to the town, but that in the event that that plan did not come to fruition, the town would be responsible for the cost of the demolition. There were many clarifying questions asked by residents. James VanBokkelen explained that he planned to form a Trust to purchase the building from the town and that the trust would restore the building. He shared his vision for the future use of the building as a space for hosting events that are not well suited to be hosting in the Town Hall. This article was voted and passed YES 58, NO 0.

Article 05 Demolition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of offsetting the cost of demolition of the old Barnard School Building located at 3-1 Hilldale Ave, should demolition become necessary and further to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for that purpose to come from the Town Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Board of Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0
(Majority vote required)

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Article 5 was read as Article 17.

Ron Preston motioned to accept this Article. Seconded by Eric Worthen. Ron Preston explained that this money would only be used in the event that the restoration plans fell through and the town had to pay to demolish the building. Lee Knapp explains that due to the asbestos in the building, demolition has been quoted at \$100,000 by three separate contractors. Dennis Blair made a motion to reduce the raised and appropriated sum to \$0, Will Hodge seconded. Peter Oldak spoke in favor of the amendment, urging residents to have faith in James VanBokkelen's plan to restore the building. The amendment was voted and passed, YES 32, NO 19.

The article was voted on as amended and passed, YES 41, NO 7, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.

Article 09 Town Facilities Maintenance ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Town Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommendations: Selectmen 3-0, Budget Committee 5-0

(Majority vote required)

Article 9 was read as Article 18.

Ron Preston motioned to accept; Eric Worthen seconded. Dennis Blair moved to amend the article with an increase of \$25,000 to the appropriated sum. Will Hodge seconded. James VanBokkelen spoke in support of the amendment, considering the changes made to article 5. The amendment was voted on and passed, YES 43, NO 4.

The amended article to raise and appropriate \$75,000 was voted and passed, YES 45, NO 2

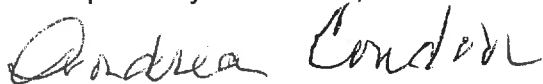
Article 19 To transact any other business.

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

At this time Ron Preston recognized Lee Knapp and Dennis Blair for their years of service to the town. Will Hodge also thanks Dennis Blair for his 32 years of service to the town and James VanBokkelen thanks Lee Knapp for his service.

Eric Worthen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Preston. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Condon
Town Clerk