

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Polls open 11 AM – 7 PM on May 10, 2022

To the inhabitants of the Town of Stoddard in the County of Cheshire in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Stoddard Town Hall, 1450 Route 123 North in said Stoddard on Tuesday, the eleventh (11th) day of May 2022 next, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon (11:00 AM) to act upon the following article:

Article 1: To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

BUSINESS MEETING MAY 17, 2022

FURTHER; you are hereby notified to meet at the James Faulkner Elementary School, Lucy B. Hill Community Room, in said Stoddard on Tuesday, the eighteenth (18th) day of May 2022, next at seven of the clock in the evening (7:00 PM) to act upon articles 2 through 31.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$619,716.00 for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$286,300.00 for winter and summer maintenance, emergencies, and planned repairs of Town roads and bridges. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$226,750.00 for all recycling, solid waste and related expenses for the ensuing year for the Stoddard Transfer Station, use of the Washington Transfer Station by certain residents and for hazardous waste disposal services provided by the City of Keene. **Majority vote required. Recommended by Board of Selectmen.**

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$124,301.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Fire & Rescue Department. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$111,781.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Police Department. **Majority vote required. Recommended by Selectmen.**

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$47,061.00 for the operation of the Davis Public Library. [Per RSA202-A:11, the funds raised and appropriated, other than payroll and utilities, shall be paid over to the Library Trustees pursuant to a payment schedule as agreed upon by the Library Trustees and the Selectmen.] **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,250.00 for the Lay Monitoring, Lake Host Programs

and water testing. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,345.00 for the operating budget of the cemeteries. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$36,001.00 for providing ambulance services and other related services. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,550.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Zoning Board of Adjustments. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,611.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Planning Board. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,440.00 for the operating budget of the Conservation Commission. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,400.00 for the operating budget of Emergency Management. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve fund previously established. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800.00 to Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services to support the continuance of visiting nurse and home health services being provided to the residents of Stoddard. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,717.00, for Monadnock Family Services, a non-profit agency which provides quality mental health services to residents of Stoddard, which is requesting said amount to help underwrite the cost of services provided to residents. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600.00, for support of The Community Kitchen, Inc., located in Keene, New Hampshire. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00, for support of the New Hampshire Region of the American Red Cross. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,173.00, for support of Southwestern Community Services. [Explanation: A non-profit agency which facilitates fuel assistance, weatherization and other related services to residents of Stoddard.] **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 21: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00, for the support of Hundred Nights, Inc. located in Keene, New Hampshire for services provided to Stoddard residents. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00, to be placed in the Building Expendable Trust, established in 2013. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00, to be placed into the Bridge and Roadway Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. **Majority vote required. Recommended by a majority of the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 24: To see if the Town will amend the optional adjusted elderly exemptions (per RSA 72:39-a) from property tax to the following:
To qualify for the elderly exemption, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three consecutive years as of April 1 of the tax year in which application is made; own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married for at least five consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of less than \$45,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$67,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$95,000, excluding the value of the person's residence.

The optional exemptions, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be as follows:

For a person 65 years of age up to 75 years:	\$50,000.
For a person 75 years of age up to 80 years:	\$70,000.
For a person 80 years of age or older:	\$80,000.

Article 25: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to fund the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of funding unexpected, emergency expenses for repairs or other items as determined by the Selectmen, costing over \$5,000.00. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appointment by the Selectmen, rather than the election of a Town Treasurer per RSA 41:26E. The current Treasurer will fill out her

elected term. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 27: To see if the Town of Stoddard will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of funding CVTC services. This amount represents the Town of Stoddard's portion of the funds needed to support CVTC, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto. **By petition. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 28: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 in support of the purchase of 40 acres, more or less, of land located on the shore of Highland Lake, referred to as the "Wilson Project:. **Majority Vote Required.**

Article 29: The Town of Stoddard shall increase the Veterans and All Veterans tax credit from \$250.00 to \$500.00. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Article 30: Pursuant to RSA 72:28-cThe Town of Stoddard shall adopt the Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service in the amount of \$500.00 which shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the qualifying service members' residential real estate as defined in RSA 72:29, II.

To qualify for the tax credit for combat service, a person shall be a resident of this state engaged at any point during the taxable period in combat service as a member of the New Hampshire national guard or a reserve component of the United States armed forces, called to active duty. For purposes of this section, and in accordance with Internal Revenue Service Publication 3, Armed Forces Tax Guide, "combat service" shall mean military service in one of the following areas:

(a) An active combat area as designated by the President in an Executive Order, for which the service member receives special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger as certified by the Department of Defense.

(b) A support area as designated by the Department of Defense in direct sustainment of military operations in the combat zone, for which the service member receives special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger as certified by the Department of Defense.

(c) Service in a contingency operation as designated by the Department of Defense, for which the service member receives special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger as certified by the Department of Defense.

IV. The application for the tax credit under this section shall be accompanied by the service member's military orders, and shall include such information as may be required for the assessor's office to verify the dates of combat service.

V. A tax credit for combat service shall be in lieu of, and not in addition to, the optional veteran's tax credit under RSA 72:28 or the all veterans' tax credit under RSA 72:28-b. The service member shall be eligible for the credit in each tax year in which the combat service occurs, but the credit may be prorated in the second tax year based on the duration of combat service. **Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**