

STODDARD, NH BUDGET HEARING
7PM (immediately preceding the regular meeting)
TOWN HALL AND ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82471590644?pwd=UGhIRWk0TFZEK2xGQUFVaUdPRWNzQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 7159 0644 Passcode: 066883

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ARTICLES FOR CONSIDERATION

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

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$508,734.00, for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. **Majority vote required.**

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$230,000 (gross budget) for the purchase of a new Fire Vehicle and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$180,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and appropriate \$50,000 down payment on the vehicle from the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund and raise and appropriate an additional \$40,000 for the first year bond or note payment to come from general taxation with \$40,000 raised from general taxation to fund payments over the following four years.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,600.00 for winter and summer maintenance, emergencies, and planned repairs of Town roads and bridges. **Majority vote required.**

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$225,703.00 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.**

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$116,600.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Fire & Rescue Department. **Majority vote required.**

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended amount of \$70,325.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Police Department. **Majority vote required.**

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$45,090.00 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.**

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate of \$17,000 for the Lay Monitoring, Lake Host Programs and water testing. **Majority vote required.**

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,325.00 for the operating budget of the cemeteries. **Majority vote required.**

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000.00 for providing ambulance services and other related services. **Majority vote required.**

Article 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,060.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Zoning Board of Adjustments. **Majority vote required.**

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,350.00 for the operating budget of the Stoddard Planning Board. **Majority vote required.**

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,706.00 for the operating budget of the Conservation Commission. **Majority vote required.**

Article 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended amount of \$3,900.00 for the operating budget of Emergency Management. **Majority vote required.**

Article 16: The Town of Stoddard shall vote to allow the Stoddard Fire and Rescue Department to vote on a Fire Chief and Board of Officers per RSA 154:1 on a yearly basis by ballot vote from current Stoddard Fire and Rescue members only at the May Monthly Business meeting. Applicants for Stoddard Fire and Rescue Department must complete an application and pass a state background check and a driving record check. Applicants reviewed by the board of officers will be voted on at an officers meeting. Then the Applicant will be invited to the next monthly meeting where current Stoddard Fire and Rescue members will be able to ask the applicant any questions they may have, then Members will vote to have the applicant voted in if they so choose to per RSA 154:1. Majority vote required. Waiting for input from Randy.

Article 17: 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.**

Article 18: 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.**

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,540.00, 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.**

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$900.00, for support of The Community Kitchen, Inc., located in Keene, New Hampshire. **Majority vote required.**

Article 22: 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.**

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$876.00, 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.**

Article 24: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00, for the support of Hundred Nights, Inc. located in Keene, New Hampshire for services provided to Stoddard residents. **Majority vote required.**

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000, to be placed in the Building Capital Reserve Fund, established in 2013. **Majority vote required.**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000, to be placed into the Bridge and Roadway Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. **Majority vote required.**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to encourage the Stoddard Planning Board to study the feasibility of creating commercial and/or industrial areas along the Route 9 corridor and to include any proposed areas that may result from the study to be part of the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. **Majority vote required.**

Article 28: To see if the Town will amend the optional adjusted elderly exemptions 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 \$35,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; 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 29: The Town Of Stoddard shall vote to allow the Stoddard Fire and Rescue Dept to Vote on a Fire Chief and Board of Officers per RSA 154:1 on a yearly basis by ballot vote from current Stoddard Fire and Rescue members at the May Monthly Business meeting. Applicants for Stoddard Fire and Rescue Dept must complete an application and pass a state background check and a driving record check. All applicants back ground checks and applications will be reviewed by the board of officers and voted on at the next appropriate officers meeting. Firefighter applicants recommended by the board of officers will be invited to the next monthly meeting where current Stoddard Fire and Rescue members will be able to ask the applicant any questions they may have, then vote on acceptance. Per RSA 154:1.

Article 30: To see if the Town shall approve the following Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution:

We the town of Stoddard, NH hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect household, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Stoddard's State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to Stoddard's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instruction from their constituents, by Stoddard's Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to establish an 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.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to fund the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund created at Town Meeting 2021.