



TOWN OF SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

33 GEREMONTY DRIVE, SALEM, NH 03079

(603) 890-2120 · FAX: (603) 890-2220

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Joseph R. Devine, Town Manager

MEMO

DATE: December 11, 2024

TO: Salem Town Council

FROM: Joseph R. Devine, Town Manager

RE: Overview of 2025 Proposed Warrant Articles for Council Review

As we approach the upcoming deliberations, I would like to provide an overview of several proposed warrant articles for your consideration and eventual vote. These articles represent key initiatives for the Town of Salem in 2025 and reflect both ongoing and new priorities aimed at addressing infrastructure, operational, and community needs. Below is a summary of the articles:

- 1. Arlington Pond Preliminary Watershed-based Plan (CWSRF)**
 - **Amount:** \$100,000
 - **Tax Impact:** None (Forgivable Loan)
 - This initiative involves securing a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to support the Arlington Pond Watershed project. As this is a forgivable loan, it will have no direct tax impact on residents while addressing important environmental concerns.
 - This article will be discussed again on January 15th since it is treated the same as a bond.
- 2. 2025 Road Program**
 - **Amount:** \$3,400,000
 - **Tax Impact:** \$0.5061
 - The Road Program continues our commitment to maintaining and improving Salem's roadways. This program is critical to ensuring safe and efficient travel throughout the town.
- 3. Municipal Equipment Purchases and Facility Improvements**
 - **Total Amount:** \$277,840
 - **Tax Impact:** \$0.0433
 - This article includes funding for essential equipment and facility upgrades, as outlined below:
 1. **Skid Steer:** \$34,900
 2. **Repair Rear Parking Lot at Central Fire:** \$100,000
 3. **Large Garage Lifts:** \$71,712.67
 4. **Town Hall/Fire Department Flooring:** \$46,926.34
 5. **Hose House Windows:** \$24,300
4. These items are necessary to maintain the Town's infrastructure, improve safety and functionality for employees, and ensure continued efficient operations.
- 5. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**
 - **Amount:** \$50,000
 - **Tax Impact:** \$0.0060
 - This appropriation is aimed at addressing the Town's long-term OPEB liabilities and ensuring financial sustainability.



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6. Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)

- **Amount:** \$50,000
- **Tax Impact:** \$0.0074
- This funding contributes to the reserve account for future capital improvements to municipal facilities, ensuring we can proactively manage infrastructure needs.

7. Library Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)

- **Amount:** \$8,000
- **Tax Impact:** None
- This article supports ongoing efforts to maintain and improve library services and infrastructure.

8. Adoption of Salem Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan

- **Amount:** None
- **Tax Impact:** None
- This will authorize the Town Council to develop and implement a Salem Community Choice Aggregation Program as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E)

9. Redistricting for Voting Districts

- **Amount:** \$55,000
- **Tax Impact:** \$0.0082
- This initiative seeks to address voting district boundaries, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and improved accessibility for residents.

Additionally, the library has indicated they may pursue a citizen petition to allocate \$15,000 to their Building Capital Reserve Account to address needed elevator repairs.

These articles reflect a balanced approach to addressing immediate needs while planning for the future. I look forward to discussing them in more detail during our upcoming meetings. Please let me know if additional information or clarification is required for any of the articles.

2025 Warrant Article Summary

**Town of Salem -
2025 Warrant Articles**

Art #	Purpose	Amount	Tax Impact
1	Election of Officers		
2-6	Charter Amendments (1-5)		
7	Arlington Pond Preliminary Watershed-based Plan CWSRF	100,000	-
8	2025 Operating Budget	73,569,114	5.3293
9	2025 Road Program	3,400,000	0.5061
10	Facilities Improvements	277,840	0.0414
11	OPEB	50,000	0.0060
12	Facilities CRF	50,000	0.0074
13	Library CRF	8,000	-
14	Adopt Community Choice Aggregation Plan	-	-
15	Redistricting	55,000	0.0082
Total 2025 Town Proposed Warrant Articles		77,509,954	\$5.8984
Total 2025 Proposed Warrant Articles		77,509,954	\$5.8984
2024 Tax rate			\$5.660
Increase			\$0.24
Increase %			4.21%

Article 02: Charter Amendment 1:

Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter Amendment 1 below relative to amending Section 3.2 of the Charter by clarifying the timeline for the Town Council's organizational meeting?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Description:

The proposed amendment relates to Section 3.2 of the Town Charter by specifying that the Town Council's organizational meeting shall occur within ten (10) calendar days following the certification of the annual town election results. The amendment further clarifies the timeline for the Councilors to take their oaths of office, adopt rules, and conduct business required by law or ordinance.

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment to Section 3.2:

§ 3.2 Organizational Meeting

The Councilors shall meet in their capacity as the Council within ten (10) calendar days following the [certification](#) of the annual town election results for the purpose of taking their respective oaths of office, adopting rules, and transacting business required by law or ordinance to be addressed at such a meeting.

Article 03: Charter Amendment 2:

Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter Amendment 2 below relative to amending Section 3.3.1 of the Charter to clarify the residency qualifications for Town Council candidates and further create a new Section 3.3.5 requiring candidates to file a declaration of candidacy in?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Description:

The proposed amendment relates to Section 3.3.1 of the Town Charter by clarifying the qualifications for candidates running for the office of Town Councilor. The amendment removes the section requiring the candidate to be a resident of Town for at least one(1) calendar year.

Additionally, the amendment incorporates language pursuant consistent with state law requiring candidates to file a formal “declaration of candidacy” as part of their eligibility for office.

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment to Section 3.3:

§ 3.3 Qualifications of Councilors

§ 3.3.1 Residency and Domicile

To be eligible for election to the office of Town Councilor, a candidate must be 18 years of age, and a resident of the Town ~~for at least one (1) calendar year before the election~~. If a Councilor or any elected or appointed official establishes a domicile in another location outside the Town boundary lines, the office shall be declared vacant and shall be filled as provided by this Charter.

§ 3.3.5 Declaration of Candidacy

Consistent with state law, a candidate must file a “declaration of candidacy” with the Town Clerk to qualify for the office of Town Councilor.

Article 04: Charter Amendment 3:

Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter Amendment 3 below relative to amending Section 8.7 of the Charter to align penalties for violations of the Charter with statutory authority and remove language creating enforceable misdemeanors?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Description:

The proposed amendment relates to Section 8.7 of the Town Charter by updating the language regarding violations and penalties to align with state law. The amendment removes the provision that makes willful violations of the Charter misdemeanors, as the Town does not have the statutory authority to create enforceable misdemeanors.

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment to Section 8.7:

§ 8.7 Violations and Penalties

All willful violations of provisions of this Charter, unless otherwise provided, are hereby declared ~~to be misdemeanors, and all such~~ violations and all violations of town ordinances for which no other punishment is provided shall be punishable by a fine in accord with state statutes.

Article 05: Charter Amendment 4:

Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter Amendment 4 below relative to deleting § 2.10 of the Charter regarding campaign finance reporting?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Description:

This amendment relates to § 2.10 of the Town Charter, which requires the Town Council to adopt a Town Ordinance mandating campaign finance reporting for candidates and interest groups participating in municipal elections. The proposed amendment deletes § 2.10 entirely from the Charter.

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment to Section 2.10:

§ 2.10 Campaign Finance Reporting

~~The Town Council shall adopt (within 1 calendar year of the adoption of the Charter), as a Town Ordinance, a requirement that candidates and interest groups participating in municipal elections shall file a report with the Town Clerk detailing the donations and expenses incurred during a municipal election. These reports will be made public by the Town and available to all citizens of Salem.~~

Article 06: Charter Amendment 5:

Shall the Town of Salem approve the amendments to Article 6 of the Town Charter to revise and enhance the Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed Officials (EAOs), providing clearer definitions, roles, and expectations? These amendments clarify the exclusion of Town employees from Article 6, establish mandatory annual ethics training for EAOs, and ensure more comprehensive guidance to support the Ethics Committee's responsibilities.

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Description

The proposed amendments to Article 6 of the Town Charter aim to modernize and clarify the Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed Officials (EAOs). Key changes include:

- Refined Definitions: Ensuring consistency in the use of terms such as EAOs and excluding Town employees from the provisions of this Article.
- Annual Training Requirement: Mandating the Ethics Committee to provide annual training for all EAOs to strengthen understanding and adherence to ethical standards.
- Enhanced Ethics Committee Roles: Clarifying processes and responsibilities of the Ethics Committee, including investigation protocols, advisory opinions, and complaint handling.
- Alignment with Intent: Reinforcing the original goals of the Charter to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability among public officials.

These revisions are designed to better support ethical governance and uphold public trust in Salem's government.

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment to Article 6:

§ 6.1 Preamble

It is the policy of the Town of Salem to uphold, promote and demand the highest standards of ethics and conduct from all of its officials, whether elected **or** appointed. All members of the Town Council, Boards, Commissions, and Committees (hereafter Elected / Appointed Officials (EAOs)) shall maintain the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fairness in discharging their public duties, and never abuse their positions or powers for improper or personal gain. **EAOs are bound to uphold the**

Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this state and to carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state and municipality and thus to foster respect for all government.

§ 6.2 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for the ethical standards of conduct for Elected /Appointed Officials (EAOs). The citizens expect public servants and volunteers to act in the best interest of the Town. EAOs should be loyal to the lawful objectives expressed by the residents/citizens, as applicable, and the programs developed to attain those objectives. The citizens expect EAOs to disclose any personal, financial, or other interests in matters affecting the Town that come before them for action. The citizens expect EAOs to remove themselves from decision making if they have a conflict of interest. The citizens expect EAOs to be independent, impartial, and responsible to their fellow townspeople in their actions. The citizens expect that the Town's official decisions and policies be made through the proper channels of government in full compliance with NH RSA 91-A. The citizens expect that public office or a volunteer position in the Town is not to be used for personal gain. It is important that the public has confidence in the integrity of its government and that EAOs have an opportunity to protect their personal reputation. This code establishes a process by which one may obtain guidance regarding potential ethical issues, and it establishes a course of action for resolving disputes in a manner that is fair to all of the parties involved.

§6.3.2 No Conflicts of Interest

- A. EAOs of the Town of Salem shall avoid conflicts of interest. An EAO shall not participate in any matter in which they, or a member of their family, have a personal or financial interest that may directly or indirectly affect or influence the performance of their duties. In such instances, they shall recuse themselves from discussion and decision-making. Recusal means to remove themselves completely from all further participation in the matter in question. EAOs who have been recused shall immediately leave the room or shall seat themselves with the other members of the public who are present. When recused, they shall not participate in further discussions, unless they clearly state for the record that they are doing so only as a general member of the public. As a recused person, they shall not deliberate or vote on the matter in question.
- B. No EAO shall engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of their official duties or would tend to impair their independence of judgment or action in the performance of their official duties.

C. No board, committee or commission member EAO shall appear in their official capacity on behalf of any private interest(s) before any agency of the Town.

D. No EAOs may appear before Town agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of their duties as a representative of the electorate or in performance of public or civic obligations. However, no EAO shall receive any gift or compensation that is contingent upon a specific action by a Town agency.

§ 6.3.6-7 Use of influence.

No EAO shall attempt to use or threaten to use personal or political influence to secure any benefit. "Personal influence" under this section shall mean any activity inconsistent with recognized practices allowed by the laws of the State of New Hampshire and the Town of Salem.

§ 6.3.7-8 No Improper Gifts

No EAO shall accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing or promise, from any person, firm or corporation which to their knowledge is interested directly or indirectly in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the Town, nor shall any such EAO accept any gift, favor or thing of value that may tend to influence them in the discharge of their duties or grant in the discharge of their duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. As used in this section "valuable gift" shall mean a gift exceeding \$50 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year. "Valuable gift" shall not include tickets or free admission from any source to a charitable or ceremonial event provided that acceptance of any tickets or free admission as permitted by this section shall be limited to \$250 in the aggregate from any single source during any calendar year.

§ 6.3.8-9 Disposition of Fees

No EAO of the Town shall collect any fees, salaries, or other payments in connection with official duties for personal use, except as provided for by ordinance or State Law.

§ 6.3.9-10 A Duty to Cooperate

All EAOs of the Town of Salem shall cooperate with the Ethics Committee regarding any complaint or inquiry alleging violation of this Code of Ethics.

§ 6.3.10-11 Fair and Equal Treatment

Acting in their official capacity, all EAOs of Town government shall give each and every person fair and equal treatment. No EAO shall in the course of their official duties give or deny any person special consideration, advantage, or treatment as a result of the person's public status, position, sex, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin.

§6.3.11 12 Future Employment

- A. No EAO of the Town shall solicit, negotiate for, or promise to accept employment with any person, firm, or corporation with which the EAO's Council or Board is engaged on behalf of the Town in the transaction of business which is, or may be, affected by the EAO's official action during their term.
- B. No elected officer may become employed by the Town within one year after their term of office ends.
- C. This section shall not apply to employment as a poll worker at any federal, state, or local election.

§6.3.12 13 Municipal Code

Nothing in this charter shall prohibit the Town Council from establishing more stringent or specific ethics rules in a Municipal Code.

§ 6.5 Exclusions

The provisions of this Code of Ethics shall not be interpreted so as to bar:

- A. Any EAO who is a Resident of the Town of Salem from fully participating in any public proceeding conducted by the Town.

§ 6.6 Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall: Educate EAOs of the Town government regarding the provisions of the ethics code; Provide advice and counsel to EAOs regarding ethical issues with which they are confronted; and hear and resolve ethics complaints, which are filed against EAOs. officials, and board members and employees of Town government.

Article 07: CWSRF Loan - Stormwater Management Planning \$100,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$100,000, plus interest, for the purpose of stormwater planning work to improve receiving water quality through the development of a watershed management plan for Arlington Pond, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to further authorize the Town Council to offset a portion of said appropriation by applying for and accepting a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan, it being understood that repayment of the loan may include up to 100% principal forgiveness. This project is contingent upon approval of a CWSRF loan application. Requires a 3/5 ballot vote.

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This project includes tasks to assist the Town in improving the water quality of Arlington Pond, which has a listed impairment on the most recent Integrated List of Waters for cyanobacteria. The project includes the development of a broader watershed management plan that would examine the causes and sources of pollution within the Arlington Pond Watershed, estimate pollutant loadings and required reductions to restore designated uses of the water body, identify management measures, discuss future funding sources, foster public engagement, and present an overall project schedule for implementation.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: Loan – Principal Forgiveness

Rate Impacts: \$0.00

Article 08: 2025 Operating Budget \$73,569,114

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 with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$73,569,114? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$62,713,012, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Town Council may hold one (1) special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommendations: Town Council: With

Budget Committee:

Background: This article provides funding for the recurring annual operating costs of providing a broad range of public services to the community. Please review the financial report and recommendations of the Budget Committee detailed in the warrant as shown on the MS-737 Form. The operating budget is a "bottom line budget" by law in New Hampshire. Therefore, the final vote taken on this article will be based on the aggregate appropriation.

Originator:

Town Council

Funding Source:

Property Tax

Rate Impact:

\$5.33

Water Rate

\$4.55

Sewer Rate

\$5.45

DRAFT

Article 09: 2025 Road Construction and Engineering Program \$3,400,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,400,000) to be added to the Roadway Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1990 for the purpose of repair and/or reconstruction of existing roads, associated drainage improvements, right-of-way work as necessary, and engineering? Shall the Town further authorize the Town Council to accept any and all State Aid or other revenue source that may become available for this work and to take any other action relative thereto including acquiring or conveying interests in real property necessary to complete the work? The funds will be used for the improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, drainage, and associated attributes as necessary for complete streets engineering and construction of roads as outlined in the Annual Road Program.

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: Within the context of the Annual Road Program, capital road rehabilitation and reconstruction continue towards a goal of improving overall road conditions within the Town. Road Program priorities are generally guided by road condition and PCI (pavement condition index) ratings, traffic volumes, and opportunities to coordinate road construction with other projects. A majority of the funds are dedicated to construction, with a portion of the funds being allocated to engineering design of other main roads. This overall approach enables the Town to execute a well-coordinated construction project, and at the same time, prepare/maintain a healthy backlog of design projects that will be ready for reconstruction in subsequent years.

Efforts will focus on all or part of the following streets:

Road Reconstruction:

Duffy Ave - Kelly Rd to Barron Ave

Dwight Ave – Dyer Ave to Morrison Ave

Morrison Ave – Taylor St to Dwight Ave

Valeska Ln – Cross St to Dead End

Kiowa Rd – Samoset Dr to Cul De Sac

Lawrence Rd (Sidewalk/Drainage) – Veterans Memorial Parkway to Town Village Drive

Road Maintenance (Mill/Overlay):

Olive Ave – Lou Ave to Bannister Rd

Lou Ave – Townsend Ave to Johnson Ave

Robert Ave – Dawson Ave to Highland Ave

Teague Dr – Parker Cir to Damascus Dr

Damascus Dr – Corinthian Dr to Teague Dr

Asbury St – Millville St to Cul De Sac

Dominic Dr – Lawrence Rd to Cul De Sac

Harmony Ln – Millville St to Cul De Sac

Meisner Cir – Meisner Rd to Cul De Sac

Dawson Ave – School St to Johnson Ave

*Dewey St – Dyer Ave to Dead End
Zachary's Crossing – E Broadway to Autumn Woods Rd
Ashwood Ave – Redwood Rd to Birchwood Rd
Joyce Heard Ave – Streeter Ave to Spencer Ave
Silverthorne Dr – Golden Oaks Dr to Cul De Sac
Jennings Rd – N Main St to Dead End
Hampshire St – S Broadway to Mass State Line
Waldron Rd – Kelly Rd to Meredith Rd*

Preservation:

*Castle Ridge Rd – Braemoor Woods Rd to Cluff Rd
Cole St – Lawrence Rd to Dead End
Shepard Ave – Ackerman St to Garrison Rd
Birch Rd – Old Rockingham Rd to Jill Rd
Jill Rd – Pumping Station Rd to Dead End
Gail Rd – Birch Rd to Cul De Sac
Eagles Nest Ridge – Castle Ridge Rd to Cul De Sac
Orchard Ter – N Policy St to N Policy St
Peggy Ln – Lucille Ave to Veronica Ave*

*Originator: Tow Council
Funding Source: Property Tax
Rate Impact:*

Article 10: Municipal Equipment Purchases and Facility Improvements \$277,840

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$277,840) for the purpose of funding the following municipal facility improvements and equipment purchases:

- Purchase of a skid steer for Municipal Services: \$34,900
- Paving the rear parking lot at Central Fire: \$100,000
- Purchase of large garage lifts for the Fleet Division at Municipal Services: \$71,713
- Replacement of flooring at the Fire Station and Town Hall: \$46,927
- Replacement of windows at the Hose House (Old Fire Station): \$24,300

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This article funds essential municipal equipment and facility improvements aimed at maintaining the Town's infrastructure and supporting operations. The skid steer will improve efficiency in municipal services, while paving, flooring, and window replacements will enhance safety, usability, and maintenance of Town facilities. The garage lifts will support the Fleet Division by improving vehicle maintenance capabilities.

*Originator: Town Council
Funding Source: Property Tax
Rate Impact: \$0.0375*

Article 11: OPEB Trust Fund \$50,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the OPEB Trust Fund, previously established in accordance with New Hampshire RSA Chapter 31:19-c for the purpose of paying for other post-employment benefits to employees and their beneficiaries after their termination of service as provided in the law and administrative expenses, with \$40,000 to come from the taxation, \$5,000 from the sewer fund, and \$5,000 from the water fund?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This article provides funding for a trust fund for other post-employment benefits other than pensions. Credit rating agencies as well as the auditors want to see that the Town annually funds an OPEB trust fund. Regularly funding an OPEB trust will help maintain the Town's AAA credit rating as well as reduce the liability on the Town's financial statements. The money in the account can only be used as allowed by RSA Chapter 31:19-c. This fund will allow the Town to earn interest to help pay for future obligations. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) will be appropriated from the Sewer Fund and Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) will be appropriated from the Water Fund with the remainder to come from taxation.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: Taxation and Water/Sewer Fund

Rate Impact: \$0.01

Article 12: Town Facility Maintenance & Improvement Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Town Facility Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2021 for the purpose of future repairs, improvements, and/or replacement for all municipal facilities?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This article provides funding for a capital reserve fund for unanticipated building repairs that occur during a year. Examples include HVAC failure and replacement, roof repairs, etc. This fund may also be used for capital improvements to town buildings as well as a funding source to build new municipal facilities. The purpose of this fund is not to be used for land acquisition. With aging municipal facilities it is prudent to have a funding source to pay for unexpected repairs and plan for upgrades that will occur in future years.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: Property Tax

Rate Impact: \$0.01

Article 13: Kelley Library Capital Reserve Fund \$8,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to be placed in the Kelley Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010 for the purpose of funding capital improvements to the building from unassigned fund balance?

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This article funds a transfer to the Kelley Library Capital Reserve Fund. In 2024 the Library received an incentive check in the amount of \$8,000 from Liberty Utilities as a result of their furnace upgrade. The warrant article would allow that money to be placed in the capital reserve fund. This warrant article will be funded with unassigned fund balance.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: Unassigned Fund Balance

Rate Impact: \$0.00

DRAFT

Article 14: Adoption of Salem Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan

Shall the Town of Salem vote to adopt the Salem Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan which authorizes the Town Council to develop and implement a Salem Community Choice Aggregation Program as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E)?

This program would allow the Town to provide Salem residents and businesses access to competitive markets for supplies of energy and related energy services. Majority vote required.

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee: N/A

Background: The Town Council voted to enter into a Community Power Consultant Agreement with Freedom Energy Logistics / Colonial Power Group and establish an Electric Aggregation Committee (i.e. Energy Committee) on September 9, 2024. On September 30, 2024, the Electric Aggregation Committee (i.e. Energy Committee) unanimously voted to accept the draft Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan and present it to the Town Council. Pursuant to RSA 53-E, the Energy Committee held two public hearings on November 4, 2024 and December 2, 2024 through the regular Town Council meetings. If approved, the Town Manager and Town Council would be allowed to establish a Community Choice Aggregation Program pursuant to the provisions of the Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: N/A

Rate Impact: N/A

Article 15: Redistribution of Election Districts \$55,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to cover expenses associated with implementing a redistribution of the Town's election districts? This redistribution plan includes reducing the number of polling places from five to four by closing the Soule School polling district, relocating the Senior Center polling district to the Woodbury School, and renumbering the districts to ensure they are consecutive.

Recommendations: Town Council:

Budget Committee:

Background: This article funds the redistribution of Salem's election districts to enhance efficiency and better align with current voter needs. By reducing the number of polling places and consolidating resources, the Town seeks to improve accessibility, reduce operational costs, and ensure a streamlined election process. The renumbering of districts ensures consistency and clarity for all voters.

Originator: Town Council

Funding Source: Property Tax

Rate Impact: \$0.01