

## 2026 DELIBERATIVE SESSION NOTES

The Danbury Deliberative Session was held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7PM. Below are the warrant articles as amended during the meeting and a brief summation of the discussion that took place at the meeting. We encourage you to attend next year to assist in the final presentation of the warrant articles to be printed on the ballot.

### Article 01: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS

### Article 02: OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town vote to 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 \$2,094,364.39? Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$1,871,647.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustment required by previous action of the Town of Danbury 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 operation budget only.

(\$2,105,904.39 Recommended by Selectmen) (\$2,094,364.39 Recommended by Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer Jessica spoke to the article.*

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Jen Kastick - Why does the police department's wage show an increase of \$15,000. This is to hire an additional part time officer. We have one part-time officer, and we are hoping to hire a second for a total of 24 hours of coverage. The Chief will work an average of 30 hours a week.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Jen Kastick - How many volunteers does the Fire Dept have? About 20. We did around 250 calls for service last year.

Kris Martin - Why does the Budget Committee recommend \$5000 less than the selectmen? It was felt that it was a big jump from not quite \$11000 to \$30,000. Kris Martin made a motion to increase the stipend line by \$5000, seconded by Brenda Hatch. There was some discussion on how the stipend was to be distributed. They are discussing this with the select board and are thinking of having a set amount per call responded to per month.

**Amendment passed.**

**TRANSFER STATION:** Motion by Michael Maines to change the Recycling Line from \$25,000 to \$36,450 to purchase a 30 yard, covered recycling container for the purpose of storing and shipping out aluminum cans. Seconded by Tricia Taylor.

Michael Maines - Right now we are sorting the cans by hand which is very labor intensive. Having this container will save us around \$6000 a year in labor, fuel and shipping. In the past several years we have made around \$14,000 recycling aluminum cans.

**Amendment passed.**

The Article was read with the amended numbers:

Shall the Town vote to 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 \$ 2,110,814.39? Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$1,871,647 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustment required by previous action of the Town of Danbury 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 operation budget only.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)

Article passed with the amended numbers.

### Article 03: SAFETY SERVICES CAPITAL RESERVE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the SAFETY SERVICES BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer. Kris Martin: I would like to know why this is not recommended by the Budget Committee. Karen Padgett: The Budget Committee recommended \$100,000. We can't say we support it because we recommend a different amount.*

Article passed as written.

### Article 04: PURCHASE HIGHWAY TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of a highway truck and authorize the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the HIGHWAY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND created for that purpose. The balance of \$100,000 is to come from general taxation. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.*

Article passed as written.

#### **Article 05: BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by Melissa Suckling.*

*Jessica:: Right after deliberative session last year, the selectman got a letter for our Bohannon Road project. The Bohannon Road project that the state is going to do we have to have twenty percent share. They're estimating the bridge now is going to cost one point seven million, so our share will be three hundred and forty five thousand dollars. So, we need to put that money away because we do not have enough in our budget to pay that extra hundred and twenty grand that they threw at us.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 06: LEASING POLICE VEHICLE**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$80,000.00, payable over a term of 3 payments, for the purpose of the acquisition of a police cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose, under the provisions of RSA 33:7-e or other applicable law. Said lease agreement having been approved and containing an escape clause (non-appropriation clause) Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by Ashlynn Comeau.*

*Discussion by Jessica Hatch: The chief came to us and told us one of our vehicles were not too hot, So we need to purchase another one. It probably should have been replaced before now. So he came to us with several quotes, and in discussion of it all, thought of this lease thing, This town's never done a lease, but there's neighboring towns who do do it and thought that this would be a better move for us and then at the end of it, you own it. Our oldest cruiser is 8 years old which is average life depending on how much use it gets.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 07: POLICE VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the POLICE CRUISER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established. If Article 06 (Police Cruiser Lease) passes, this warrant article shall be passed over and be null and void. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 08: GOVERNMENT BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the GOVERNMENT BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 09: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the. HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established. Article 04 (Purchase Highway Truck) passes, this warrant article shall be passed over and be null and void. Majority vote required.

(Recommended by Selectmen)(Recommended by the Budget Committee)

*Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by Ashlynn Comeau.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 10: ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to the GENERAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. Furthermore, to name the board of selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Two-thirds (2/3) vote required.

**(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)**

**Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.**

*Discussion by Jessica Hatch: So, originally we tried to start this road construction capital reserve fund. But after the discussion here, it was changed to only be used for Ragged Mountain projects and nothing else. So, we would like to keep that fund there for future to put a little bit of money in there for other road projects that we might need in the future. The DRA said we need to change the name. This is to change that name just to be the General Road Construction Capital Reserve.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 11: ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – FUNDING**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. Majority vote required.

**(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)**

**Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer. Discussion by Jessica. We are just asking to put \$10,000. In this fund to keep it open.**

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 12: FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to add to the previously established FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. Majority vote required.

**(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)**

**Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by Ashlynn Comeau.**

*Discussion by Jessica Hatch: We have not put anything away for the fire truck capital reserve for quite a few years. We did deplete that fund in 2022; we bought a used truck. So we are asking to start putting money away to put toward the purchase a new truck.*

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 13: REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to be added to the PROPERTY REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND previously established for the state mandated revaluation of the municipality. Majority vote required.

**(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)**

**Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. This is something we do every year so we do not have to come up with the total sum on the fifth year.**

**Article passed as written.**

#### **Article 14: TERMS FOR SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt three-year staggered terms for Supervisors of the Checklist, as authorized by RSA 41:46-a, as amended by 2025 NH HB 151, so that one Supervisor of the Checklist is elected each year; with current Supervisors to complete their existing terms. Majority vote required.

**Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.**

*Discussion by Jessica Hatch: Right now supervisors of the checklists are a six-year term. The House had changed some laws in Concord to turn them into three-year terms so it's not such a long six-year term for them.*

**Article passed as written.**

## **Article 15: CHANGE ELECTED ROAD AGENT TO BE AN APPOINTED POSITION**

**To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint the Road Agent as allowed under RSA 231:62. If approved this change will not take effect until Town Meeting 2027. Majority vote required.**

**(Recommended by Selectmen)**

***Motion to move the article by Jessica Hatch, seconded by James Farmer.***

*Amendment by Twila Cook, seconded by Brenda Haynes to change the year from 2027 to 2029. Amendment passed. Amendment by Ruby Hill seconded by Jessica Hatch - This change will not take effect until the elected Road Agent's term ends unless the elected Road Agent vacates the position prior to the term ending, in which case the selectmen can appoint a replacement. Amendment passed. The moderator read the Article as amended:*

**To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint the Road Agent as allowed under RSA 231:62. If approved this change will not take effect until the Road Agent's term ends unless the elected Road Agent vacates the position prior to that term ending. in which case the Selectmen can appoint a replacement.**

**Article passed as amended.**

## **Article 16: PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE FOR TOWN AUDIT**

**To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of hiring a certified public accounting firm to perform a professional audit of the Town's financial records for the fiscal year 2026, including all incidental and related expenses; and to authorize the Select Board to contract for such services on such terms and conditions as they deem in the best interest of the Town; or act on anything relative thereto. Majority vote required.**

**(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by Budget Committee)**

***Motion to move the article by Tracy Feinauer, seconded by Lenny Ryan.***

*Tracy Feinauer spoke on the article. Lenny and I did the audit this year and it was very confusing. A lot of money passes through this town, and we don't believe anything is wrong, but a real audit would verify our findings and if we had an auditor come in and do a complete audit it would be helpful down the road when the town needed to get a grant or a bond. A complete audit helps you get a bond with a lower interest rate.*

**Article passed as written.**

## **Article 17: PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE TAX IMPACT**

**Shall the Town vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. Majority vote required.**

***Motion to move the article by Karen Padgett, seconded by Don Haynes.***

*Karen spoke on the article. This was my petition warrant article, and it just says that if there's money involved in a warrant article, including the operating budget that attached to that, at the end of the warrant article, it would say, "The estimated tax impact of this article is a dollar fifteen per thousand. The selectmen would figure out what the estimated tax impact is. It is just an estimate, but I am not trying to stop spending or encourage spending. I just think it's more transparent when you know.*

**Article passed as written.**

## **Article 18: PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MERGER STUDY**

**To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Department Merger Study Committee for the purpose of studying the feasibility, costs, benefits and impacts of merging the Town's Police Department with one or more neighboring municipalities' police departments; and to authorize the Select Board to appoint 7 members to said committee, representing relevant stakeholders including municipal officials and the public: to charge the committee with evaluating operational efficiency, financial impacts, staffing, service levels, governance structures, legal considerations, and public safety outcomes; and to require the committee to report its findings and recommendations to the Select Board and the Town at a future Town Meeting or public hearing by a date certain; said committee to be advisory only and to have no authority to bind the Town to any merger or contractual obligation. Majority vote required.**

***Motion to move the article by Ruby Hill, seconded by Jen Kastick.***

*Tim Martin: Another committee is not going to solve any problems. Other towns around us claim to have full time chiefs but the reality is no one has 24/7 coverage and the cost to try is a lot more than what we are spending now. I think we need to give the new chief a try in his new hours and see how it goes. Maggie Winn: Could the people put together a committee without the selectboard appointing them? Amendment by Maggie Winn: Change the word appoints to allows. Seconded by James Farmer. Amendment passed by a show of hands. The moderator read the Article with the amendment.*

**Article passed as amended.**