

**Budget Hearing/Public Hearing
February 4, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Fuller Town Hall**

Selectmen Present: Ron A. Scott, Jr, Charles Goulet and Harry Juergens.

Public Present: Maryann Lister, Rene & Gini Routhier, Marcel Goulet, Chuck Stinson, Suzanne Goulet, Vanessa Toner, Kyle Haley

Harry Juergens called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Harry Juergens read all the Warrant Articles.

Stratford

The inhabitants of the Town of Stratford in the County of Coos in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time: 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Location: Fuller Town Hall

Details: The voting on Article 1 will be by official ballot

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Transaction of All Other Business)

Date: Saturday March 14, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Fuller Town Hall

Details: To consider Articles 2 through 14

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION

We certify and attest that on or before Feb 9, 2026, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at Fuller Town Hall and that an original was delivered to Stratford Selectboard.

Name	Position	Signature
Harry R. Juergens	Selectmen Chair	
Charles V. Goulet	Selectmen	
Ronald A. Scott	Selectmen	

Article 01 To choose officers

To choose by non-partisan ballot the following officers: 1 Selectboard Member (3 Year Term); 1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3 Year Term); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Library Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 Year term); 1 Town Moderator (2 Year Term).

Yes

No

Article 02 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,019,006 for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article. Majority vote required

Yes No

Article 03 Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,670 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 04 Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 05 Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 06 Recycling Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 07 Add Money to Lawn Mower CR Fund

To see if the Town of Stratford will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Lawn Mower Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Board Recommendations)

Yes No

Article 08 Government Buildings ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Government Buildings Maintenance ETF previously established. Recommendations required. (Majority vote required.)

Yes No

Article 09 Appropriate to Recreation Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Recreation Revolving Fund. These funds will be specific to upgrading/replacing the Hollow park equipment. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 10 Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to be added to the previously established Cemetery Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 11 To do Road work on Stevens Terrace

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,510 for Stevens Terrace Infrastructure and Roadway improvements and authorize the withdrawal of \$29,755 from the Highway and Bridges Capital reserve Fund and \$29,755 to come from general taxation. (Board Recommends)

Yes No

Article 12 Donation Cohos Historical Society

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Cohos Historical Society in showing support of the Town in helping to match grants for the restoration of the Marion Blodgett Museum in Stratford Hollow.

Yes No

Article 13 Donations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,432 in donations to the following groups: \$500, North Country Home Health & Hospice; \$1,000, Northern Human Services; \$1,655, Tri-County CAP; \$500, Helping Hands; \$500, Colebrook Food Pantry; \$777, Backpack Program; \$250, CASA; \$250, Stratford Old Home

Day, Inc. to be funded by general taxation.

Yes No

Article 14 Any other business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting and to hear reports from any agents or committees heretofore chosen.

Yes No

Mr. Juergens, asked if anyone, from the public, had any questions concerning the Warrant Articles.

A question was raised regarding the rising cost of Personnel Administration. The board explained that now that we no longer use a contractor and instead employ a town employee for the Water and Sewer Departments, insurance and retirement benefits have increased. However, this change will result in a reduction in the Water and Sewer budgets for this reason. Previously, we paid the contractor the same amount, but those costs were not allocated to separate accounts.

Goulet/Juergens/Scott, Jr (3/0 approved) motion to adjourn at 7:15PM.