

Hello Alton Taxpayers,

We have compiled some additional information about the proposed warrant articles you will be asked to vote on this March. We hope you find this information helpful and informative. Our goal is to provide you with the background needed to make an informed decision on voting day. Thank you for taking a look and we hope you cast your vote on March 10, 2026, at the Prospect Mountain High School.

### **Article #1: Town Officers**

This is the first part of the warrant where you choose to elect candidates on the ballot for vacant positions within Town Government.

### **Articles #2 – 8: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes**

These articles are the proposed changes to the current zoning ordinance proposed by the Planning Board. The changes have a detailed description put together for the residents on our website:

<https://altonnhdev.a2hosted.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Proposed-Zoning-Amendments-Certified-Copy-12.17.2025.pdf>

### **Article # 9: Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund \$30,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)**

These funds will be added to the existing capital reserve to pay for the accrued benefits owed to employees leaving employment with the Town, consistent with the conditions laid out in the employee manual. The fund currently has a balance of \$80,070.54. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-0).

### **Article #10: Town Operating Budget \$10,791,640.00. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$9,795,561.00. (The estimated tax impact is \$4.78).**

This year the Select Board and the Budget Committee worked very hard to present a responsible but necessary operating budget for calendar year 2026. You will notice an increase in the budget, but it is for good reason. Going in to vote please remember that this new budget includes up to a 4% merit increase for employees who have not seen an increase for two years. The largest increase is due to the addition of four full-time Fire Fighter positions and two part-time Town Hall staff that the voters passed in separate warrant articles last year and is now captured in this year's budget . If this operating budget does not pass, then these positions will be lost moving forward.

The loss of these positions will be devastating to some departments and hinder their ability to provide the level of service the Town expects. The most significant would be losing four full-time Fire Fighter positions. Without these positions our transition to a full-time department will be crippled. The Police Department will also not be able to fill the second full-time School Resource Officer position. Given that this is such an important role in the lives of our children, the department has been covering the vacancy by rotating a duty officer through from patrol. With approved funding both the Fire Department and Police Department can work on getting back to full strength and improving emergency services for the community.

Many of you may have also experienced the benefit of having an added assistant in the Clerk's office to cover busy times or when staff take time off, or the addition of a part-time building inspector to help keep the building trades moving forward with regular and timely inspections. These positions were also funded for one year by separate warrant articles passed last year. This new budget proposal includes all these positions discussed and the funding to keep them staffed moving forward.

Should we enter an unprecedented third year default budget. This would mean that each department will need to further reduce spending, eliminate any special projects, and preserve funds to cover employee wages. To preserve funds for staff wages we will need to leave vacant position unfilled yet for another year. The loss of these positions will further hinder services and likely result in a permanent reduction in staffing levels across all departments. Please consider weighing the proposed tax impact against the level of services you want our community to provide its taxpayers. In comparison to communities across the State our community provides an exceptional level of service for a much lower tax rate and with a reevaluation scheduled for this year our tax rate will only improve. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-1).

**Article #11: Water Works Operating Budget \$600,916.00 Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$590,653.00. (The estimated tax impact is \$0)**

The most important part to understand about this article is that it is completely funded by the water system users and the fees they pay throughout the year. This article does not affect the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #12: Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations \$179,500.00 to be added to the following capital reserve funds previously established. (The estimated tax impact is \$0.08)**

CRF	2026	Current Balance
Rock and Asphalt Crushing CRF	\$12,000.00	\$79,300.47
Sidewalk CRF	\$15,000.00	\$41,025.74
Senior Center Building CRF	\$20,000.00	\$40,786.00
Town Owned Parking Area CRF	\$20,000.00	\$89,547.82
Environmental CRF	\$20,000.00	\$54,869.87
Transfer Station Building & Site Improvements CRF	\$20,000.00	\$192,439.01
Jones Field CRF	\$12,500.00	\$39,361.71
Milfoil Treatment Program CRF	\$15,000.00	\$27,158.50
Alton Bay Community Center CRF	\$20,000.00	\$67,177.13
Water Bandstand CRF	\$5,000.00	\$5,150.04
Landfill Closure CRF	\$20,000.00	\$32,333.51

These funds are placed in the established capital reserves based on the projection on future projects, maintenance, and repair. By incrementally appropriating funds now, we reduce the risk of being hit with a large expense as in one year. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1-1).

**Article #13: Fire Stations Capital Reserve \$300,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.13)**

These funds will be added to the CRF for future improvements and repairs to the Fire Department buildings throughout town. The fund currently has a balance of \$644,363.25. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-0).

**Article #14: Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01.)**

These funds will be added to the CRF for future improvements and repairs to the highway garage. The fund currently has a balance of \$137,042.55. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0) Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2-3-0).

**Article #15: Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.04)**

These funds will assist with the cost of repair/replacement of Town owned bridges. Currently the bridge in need of the most immediate attention is the north side Roberts Cove Road bridge #193/289. The last estimate to replace the bridge is \$375,000.00. The fund currently has a balance of \$327,415.01. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-0).

**Article #16: Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund \$75,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.03)**

The retaining rock wall from the public boat docks to the swimming area needs extensive repair. The retaining wall is deteriorating at the water level due to age and wave action. The Town has repaired portions of the wall over the last few years, but a lot more work will need to be done. The fund currently has a balance of \$85,760.25.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0-0).

**Article #17: Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$25,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)**

These funds will be used to purchase replacement vehicles and equipment when needed for the Grounds and Maintenance Department, which maintains thirty-eight Town properties. Department performs general maintenance of Town properties and buildings; plowing; mowing; trash removal at all Town buildings and public parks; turf management and custodial care of Town buildings. The fund currently has a balance of \$79,531.37. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-0).

**Article #18: Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)**

These funds will be added to the Capital Reserve fund for future improvements to the Town Hall Building, such as mechanical upgrades, interior improvements, and exterior enhancements or improvements. The fund currently has a balance of \$63,601.98 Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #19: New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)**

This fund is used for the expansion and maintenance of the New Riverside Cemetery, Located on Suncook Valley Highway. The expansion will include additional burial lots, and columbarium relocation and expansion. This will also include future expansion of the maintenance facilities at the cemetery. The fund currently has a balance of \$126,851.85. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2-0). (Majority vote required)

**Article #20: Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund \$1,450,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.64.)**

These funds are used to continue the pavement preservation and road rehabilitation practice which aligns with our Road Surface Management System and manages costs to the town by performing these practices. The fund currently has a balance of \$182,275.88. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

Category	Cost
Paving Program	\$848,142
Chip Sealing	\$400,065
Mill Pond Allocation	\$100,000
Hermit Road Remaining Work	\$50,000
Fog Seal Treatments	\$109,346
Total Program Cost	\$1,507,553
Remaining for culverts, gravel, incidentals	\$124,722

**Article #21: IT Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)**

These funds are used for large-scale IT hardware and software needs and emergencies over time, thereby reducing any significant impact they would have on the annual budget. The fund currently has a balance of \$72,524.00. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0-5-0).

**Article #22: Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$35,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)**

These funds will be used to fund future Police Department equipment needs. This would include the purchasing, repairing, and replacing items such as body worn cameras and the cloud storage costs. The fund currently has a balance of \$30,000. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #23: Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund \$40,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02.)**

This is to establish a new Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, repairing, and replacing police vehicles; and to raise \$40,000.00 to be placed in this fund to augment the funding of the police department fleet and emergency equipment. Since 2014, the police department has utilized the Police Detail Revolving Account to fully fund its fleet. Due to the increased costs of both police vehicles and emergency equipment upfitting, the Police Detail Revolving Account does not produce enough revenue to sustain the entire fleet. This fund will be used in conjunction with the Police Detail Revolving Account to purchase vehicles and emergency equipment. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #24: Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund \$126,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.06.)**

This is to establish a Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statistical update revaluation of the Town every five years pursuant to RSA 75:8-a. and to raise \$126,000.00 to be placed in the fund. RSA 75:8-a requires the Town to conduct a property revaluation at least every five years. Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for Revaluation allows the Town to distribute this recurring cost over the full revaluation cycle rather than funding it entirely in a single revaluation year. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #25: Fire Department Occupational Health Screenings Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.00.)**

This will establish a Fire Department Occupational Health Screenings Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of providing fire department personnel with comprehensive job-related medical examinations and early detection health screenings and to raise \$10,000.00 to be placed in the fund. Firefighters face higher rates of cancer because of repeated exposure to carcinogens in smoke, soot, gear and fireground environments. Cancer screenings are essential to detect disease before symptoms develop. Annual exams help firefighters stay fit for duty while also identifying chronic and acute health issues early, especially cancers, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory illness. Because cancer is the leading cause of occupational death among firefighters, these annual exams are critical checkpoints. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Article #26: Nonprofits \$60,625.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$0.03)**

Alton Community Services	\$18,000.00
American Red Cross	\$2,000.00
Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc.	\$2,000.00
Granite VNA & Hospice	\$12,000.00
Community Action Program (CAP)	\$3,300.00 * (10k requested reduced for rent owed)
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$500.00

Lakes Region Mental Health Center fka Genesis	\$15,750.00
Life Ministries, Inc.	\$3,000.00
New Beginnings	\$1,575.00
Waypoint fka Child and Family Services	\$2,500.00

These are the total amount of funds requested for the non-profit organizations that the Town has worked with and normally supports over the last several years. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0-5-0).

**Article #27: Town Hall Metal Roof \$100,000.00 (The estimated tax impact is \$.0)**

Over that last several years, the Town Hall roof has suffered damage from wind and rain. We have invested approximately \$18,000.00 in repairs to the ridge cap, replacing shingles, repairing small holes, and repairing lead flashing. These storms have caused water stains and damage to areas in the building, most noticeably on the large meeting room ceiling. This area has already been repaired, primed, and painted once. Unfortunately, another storm came through last year blowing shingles off causing more water damage. We are asking the taxpayers to allow the purchase and installation of a metal roof. With \$55,000.00 to come from the Clough-Morrill Trust and the remaining \$45,000.00 to come from the Town Hall Capital Reserve. This article is asking for voter support for the project, but the funds will not be raised through further taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0).

**Articles #28 – 30: Petition Article**

The last three articles are petition articles brought forth by registered voters and supported by at least 25 verified voters in the community.

**Article #28: Petition Article**

New Hampshire communities value strong public schools and responsible use of public funds for education. Therefore, the voters of Alton, New Hampshire, are asked: Shall we call on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring the Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and by limiting eligibility to families with demonstrated financial need? This is a petition article.

**Article #29: Petition Article**

New Hampshire thrives when state funding fairly supports local communities. Therefore, the residents of Alton are asked: Do we call on the New Hampshire Legislature to protect local taxpayers by ensuring adequate state revenues for essential services, and by avoiding policies that shift costs onto local property taxpayer? This is a petition article.

**Article #30: Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, Petition Article**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA Chapter 79-E “Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive”. The Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79-E) is a New Hampshire state law that encourages investment in downtowns and village centers and allow cities and towns to offer temporary property tax relief to owners who undertake substantial rehabilitation of buildings in designated areas, primarily downtowns, town centers, or village centers. The goal is to encourage investment in these areas, revitalize underutilized buildings, and promote economic vitality. This is a petition article.

# Town of Alton 2026 Voter's Guide



Thank you for taking a look and we hope you cast your vote on March 10, 2026, at the Prospect Mountain High School 7 am to 7 pm.