

**TOWN OF GILFORD**  
**2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**ELECTIONS & BALLOT**



**VOTER INFORMATION PACKET**

You are hereby notified to meet for the Second Session of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, to be held in the Gilford Youth Center, 19 Potter Hill Road, in said Town of Gilford, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, beginning at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00am) until the closing of the polls at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00pm). The Second Session will consist of voting by official ballot to elect Town Officers and voting by official ballot on all warrant articles from the First Session, as may be amended, as follows:

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose the necessary Town Officers for the following year; to wit:

- One Moderator for a two-year term;
  - Sandra McGonagle
- One Selectman for a three-year term;
  - Dale Channing Eddy
- One Trustee of Trust Funds for a three-year term;
  - Alexandra Breed
- Two Library Trustees for a three-year term;
  - Diane Tinkham
  - Peter Ellis
- One Cemetery Trustee for a three-year term;
  - Rae Mello Andrews
- Three Budget Committee Members for three-year terms;
  - Amber LaTorre
  - Christopher Banks
  - Joshua Ritson
  - Peter Sawyer
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for a six-year term;
  - Mary Villaume
- One Fire Engineer for a three-year term
  - William Akerley

**ARTICLE 2.1** Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment Number 1** as proposed by Petition for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Gilford by changing the zoning of the 2-acre 700 Cherry Valley Road property (Tax Map and Lot number 254-072-000) from Limited Residential (LR) to Resort Commercial (RC), which property is located across from the Gunstock Ski Area entrance and adjacent to the former Arlberg Inn which is already zoned Resort Commercial? The petitioner states “rezoning of this parcel will enable redevelopment of the former Arlberg Inn property”. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this amendment.) (An official

copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at [www.gilfordnh.org](http://www.gilfordnh.org)).

*This article to amend the Zoning Ordinance was submitted by petition to extend the Resort Commercial zone to include one additional parcel of land for development purposes.*

**ARTICLE 2.2** Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment Number 2** as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Create Workforce Housing regulations by amending Article 3, Definitions, to include a definition for Workforce Housing; amending Sections 4.2.10 and 4.7.2(j) to change the use description to read "Senior Housing/Workforce Housing"; and amending Section 11.4.7, Senior Housing, to add in regulations for Workforce Housing by changing the title of the section to read "Senior Housing and Workforce Housing", allowing Workforce Housing to be developed under similar conditions as Senior Housing, changing the unit mix allowed for both Senior Housing and Workforce Housing from allowing only one (1) and two (2) bedroom units to also allowing three (3) bedroom units, creating additional minimum parking requirements specifically for Workforce Housing, and making other related changes. (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at [www.gilfordnh.org](http://www.gilfordnh.org)).

*This article to amend the Zoning Ordinance was developed and recommended by the Planning Board to incorporate Workforce Housing regulations in the Town's existing Senior Housing ordinance. It allows both uses in the same zones at the same density with the same building configurations. The primary differences would be different definitions of the two uses and slightly higher parking required for Workforce Housing. The amendments also propose allowing one, two, and three bedroom units for both Senior and Workforce Housing where only one and two bedroom units are currently allowed for Senior Housing. Workforce Housing has been described as housing intended for middle-income people such as school teachers, firefighters, police officers, store clerks, wait staff, and other individuals and families with different needs and income levels. The types of housing can include starter homes, townhouses, condominiums, and apartments. In 2022 the NH Legislature amended RSA 674:17, IV. to require that "incentives established for housing for older persons shall be deemed applicable to workforce housing development". This amendment was proposed to meet the spirit of that requirement.*

**ARTICLE 2.3** Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment Number 3** as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 22.7.1 to correct a reference to state statutes changing the reference from RSA 676:16 to RSA 676:15 so the section correctly refers to injunctive relief provisions in the RSAs. (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at [www.gilfordnh.org](http://www.gilfordnh.org)).

*This article to amend the Zoning Ordinance was developed and recommended by the Planning Board to correct a typographical error.*

**ARTICLE 2.4** Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment Number 4** as proposed by the Gilford Planning Board for the Gilford Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend paragraph b. of Section 23.5, Duration of Permit, to change the time period within which a variance must be utilized from one (1) year to two (2) years from the date of approval so the time frame coincides with NH RSA 674:33 I-a,(a); and amend Section 23.6, Penalties, by adding the following sentence, “The penalties set forth herein shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies available to the Town at law or equity.” (An official copy of the entire proposal is on file at the Town Clerk’s Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at [www.gilfordnh.org](http://www.gilfordnh.org)).

*This article to amend the Zoning Ordinance was developed and recommended by the Planning Board to extend the time period within which a variance must be utilized and to incorporate an additional legal statement to give full notice of the possible consequences of a zoning violation.*

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred fifty thousand dollars, (\$650,000), for construction of a new Town Beach Bathhouse; and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred fifty thousand dollars, (\$650,000), of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and furthermore, to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? (3/5 vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to authorize the borrowing of money (up to \$650,000) to build a new Town Beach Bathhouse (see concept drawing below). The existing building was built around 1963 and the plumbing and electrical systems do not meet current codes, which means the current systems are difficult to repair. The building also does not comply with ADA requirements and it has asbestos which needs to be removed along with pest damage and other “old age” issues. The new building being proposed is slightly larger to allow for more storage of lifeguard materials. The kitchen will have a new ventilation system with fire suppression, but plans call for re-using the existing sink, griddle and hot water heater. A survey of residents in 2023 showed overwhelming support (70%) for continuing to have a concession stand. There will be 6 unisex bathrooms and 1 family bathroom that also serve as changing rooms. The new facility will have outdoor showers for folks to rinse off sand. All building designs will be vandalism resistant. The most recent price quote received is for \$705,000. The Town has about \$80,000 available from funds that were approved by the voters in 2023 and there are some remaining federal grant funds (\$30,000±) from covid relief that will be used to raze the existing building. The bond will be for 20 years with an estimated impact on the tax rate of two cents per year. The Capital Improvements Planning Committee, Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee had previously approved raising \$900,000 for this new building, but as inflation and prices come down, the Town was able to obtain a lower cost estimate.*



**ARTICLE 4:** 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 \$19,681,211? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$17,956,716 which is the same as last year, except for certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Board of Selectmen may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is commonly referred to as the sweep article – it is used to fund all personnel and operating expenses for the year. The budget preparation process began last September with intense scrutiny by the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee, (over the course of many meetings with a goal of keeping the tax rate as low as possible while providing essential government services), followed by opportunities for public input at a public hearing and the Deliberative Session. It should be noted that this year’s budget has no new positions being added, but total personnel costs have increased by \$932,680 (9%), mostly due to increases in wages, retirement, and health insurance costs. The Town is obligated to pay for wage and benefit increases provided to the two labor unions for cost items in collective bargaining agreements that were previously approved by the voters in 2023. The operating portion of the budget is up \$1,497,759 (22%). A summary of those budget increases is listed below. If the budget is defeated, the default budget will be adopted and a total of \$1,724,495 in proposed spending will need to be eliminated. This would likely result in all special projects being canceled, along with fewer road improvements and reduced levels of customer service with some potential public safety impacts. If the budget is approved, it is estimated the municipal tax rate will increase by thirty-three cents (from \$3.39 to \$3.72). If the proposed budget fails to be approved, the estimated tax rate will be \$3.25. Lastly, the municipal portion of the tax rate is about one-third (33%) of the total tax bill, with the remaining portions being local education (46%), state education (12%) and county (9%).*

	<u>CHANGE FROM FY2023</u>	
FULL-TIME WAGES	+\$410,092	+7.1%
PART-TIME WAGES	+\$80,555	+15.13%
OVERTIME	-\$827	-0.2%
HOLIDAY PAY	+\$11,629	+10.5%
SS/MEDX TAXES	+\$16,092	+4.6%
RETIREMENT	+\$64,419	+4.33%
HEALTH INSURANCE	+\$336,669	+23.9%
DENTAL INSURANCE	+9,803	+12.1%
LIFE & DISABILITY INSURANCE	+\$3,805	+9.0%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS</b>	<b>+\$932,680</b>	<b>+9.0%</b>
ELECTRICITY	-\$34,700	-17.7%
HEATING & VEHICLE FUELS	-\$17,042	-6.5%
ELECTIONS	+\$10,142	+83.4%
FIRE TRUCK LEASE	+\$150,000	+100%
TECHNOLOGY	+\$35,389	+26.5%
OTHER INSURANCES	+\$31,706	+8.1%
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	+\$280,300	+15.3%
SPECIAL PROJECTS	+\$712,898	+2,066%
WINNI RIVER BASIN PROGRAM	+\$250,592	+26.6%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>+\$1,497,759</b>	<b>+21.9%</b>

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

FIRE STATION IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000
SWAIN ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT	\$600,000
FIXED RADAR SIGN	\$3,200
CULVERT STUDY	\$25,000
DPW FLEET DIAGNOSTIC SOFTWARE	\$5,000
SOLID WASTE CENTER PAVING	\$54,000
LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS	<u>\$10,200</u>
	\$747,400

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-two thousand dollars, (\$172,000), to purchase a light duty DPW pick-up truck with plow and accessories? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for the replacement of a 2015 Ford F550 Truck with a new, similarly sized vehicle to come with a hydraulically operated bed, plow, wing plow and sander in accordance with a replacement schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The existing vehicle and equipment will likely be traded-in to reduce the purchase price.*

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, (\$150,000), to purchase a used DPW excavator with accessories? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for the replacement of a 2005 Volvo excavator with a pre-owned, smaller sized vehicle that is used for roadside ditching and other street maintenance projects in accordance with a replacement schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The existing excavator will likely be traded-in to reduce the purchase price.*

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand nine hundred dollars, (\$2,900), to be added to the Police Dog and Training Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018?  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money to a dedicated capital reserve fund for the next time the Police Department has to purchase and train a new K-9 animal. The fund has a current balance of \$18,363 as of 12/31/23. The original intent was to raise (and thereafter maintain) a total of \$29,000 by depositing \$2,900 a year for 10 years. It is likely a new Police dog will be needed within the next few years. The estimated impact on the tax rate is less than one hundredth of a cent (<\$0.001).*

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, (\$150,000), to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018, which has a balance of \$30,986.95 on 12/31/23? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for sidewalk improvements along Belknap Mountain Road to extend the granite curbing from the Elementary School past Pine Grove Cemetery up to Hawthorne Way, to coincide with planned road improvements in accordance with a project schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The estimated cost of this sidewalk project is \$175,000 and whatever funds are leftover will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund for future sidewalk projects.*

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2018, which has a balance of \$63,182 on 12/31/23? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money as part of a three-year plan for the eventual purchase (in 2025) of a new fund accounting software program in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The estimated cost of the software is \$150,000 and whatever funds are leftover will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund for future technology related projects.*

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000), to be added to the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money to be used for unanticipated building repairs of an emergency nature such as a furnace failure, roof leak, hot water tank replacements or similar issues. The current balance in the fund is \$32,841 as of 12/31/23. The Town typically appropriates \$20,000 per year in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. In 2023, a total of \$32,926 was expended from this fund for building repairs.*

**ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars, (\$175,000), to be added to the Public Works Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2020? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money to be used for the design (architectural and engineering services) of a new DPW building that is scheduled to be constructed in 2026 (upon future approval by the voters). The existing building was constructed in 1975 and has many deficiencies. The funds being requested this year will pay for approximately 50% of the final design with the remaining 50% to be completed in 2025 (upon a future appropriation vote next year of \$250,000). The current unencumbered balance in the fund is \$21,448 as of 2/1/24. The plans for this project are being overseen by a citizen committee and funding needs have been developed in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate.*



**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, (\$35,000), to be added to the Fire Water Supply Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008 for town-wide fire suppression purposes? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for maintenance on the fire ponds and repairs to the dry fire hydrants on Wild Acres Road and Weeks Road along with the construction of a new dry fire hydrant on Belknap Point Road. (Dry hydrants means they are not connected to a pressurized water source.) The estimated cost for these projects is \$125,000. The current balance in this fund is \$91,971 as of 12/31/23. Any funds that are leftover will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund for future fire water supply projects. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate.*

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000), to be added to the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation. A portion of these funds is intended to be used to convert some more Village Field lights to LED. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for repairs and maintenance of Town recreation facilities. Past expenditures have included tennis court resurfacing, dugout repairs, playground equipment maintenance, ice rink facility maintenance, and LED lighting conversions. This fund will eventually be used to replace the fencing around the Town Beach for an estimated cost of \$75,000. The current balance in the fund is \$60,409 as of 12/31/23. The Town typically appropriates \$20,000 per year in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. In 2023, a total of \$29,549 was expended from this fund for recreation facility maintenance.*

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000), to be added to the Glendale Boat and Launch Ramp Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? This sum to come from surplus fund balance. This money represents Glendale Permit revenues that were previously collected and deposited into the general fund and no amount to be raised from new taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for repairs and maintenance of the Glendale Facility such as dock repairs and ramp improvements. Future funding needs include restroom repairs and the eventual repaving of the parking lots. The current balance in the fund is \$65,880 as of 12/31/23. The Town typically appropriates \$20,000 per year in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no*

*impact on the tax rate. In 2023, a total of \$39,692 was expended from this fund for Glendale facility maintenance. Also in 2023, the Town collected \$24,875 for Glendale Permits and \$42,918 in boat registration fees that were deposited into the general fund.*

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$125,000), to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1989? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for the purchase of a new fire engine in 2028 at an estimated cost of \$1 million in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The current unencumbered balance in the fund is \$474,830 as of 12/31/23.*

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000), to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1990? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for the purchase of a new front-end loader in 2026 (to replace a 2011 Volvo Loader) at an estimated cost of \$284,000 in accordance with a schedule that was reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The current balance in the fund is \$221,716 as of 12/31/23.*

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-eight thousand dollars, (\$58,000), to be added to the Lakes Business Park Capital Trust Fund previously established pursuant to the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement that was approved under Article 18 of the 2001 Annual Town Meeting? This sum to come from surplus fund balance and no amount to be raised from new taxation.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money in compliance with the terms of an agreement that was approved by the voters in 2001. These funds are used for infrastructure improvements in the business park such as paving and utilities. Funds will be drawn from the existing \$4.3 million surplus fund balance, which means there will be no impact on the tax rate. The current balance in this fund is \$718,360 as of 12/31/23. In 2023, a total of \$105,410 was expended from this fund to repave Hounsell Avenue. It is anticipated that the last available lot in the business park will be sold in 2024 and the Selectmen will then be seeking to negotiate an amendment to the agreement with the City of Laconia.*

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to be added to the Sewer Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007? This sum to come from sewer fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article is intended to allocate money for unanticipated sewer system repairs, to include pump house failures, sewer line breaks, permitting and engineering. The sewer fund balance comes from user fees only (no tax dollars). The current balance in the fund is \$171,733 as of 12/31/23.*

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars, (\$21,000), (a level funded request), to Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) for the delivery of high-level access to mental health care? In addition to comprehensive mental health services, residents have access to the LRMHC Mobile Crisis Response Team that will report to a mental health emergency wherever the individual is located whether that be at home, work, school or elsewhere in the community. Services are provided to anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay. LRMHC is designated by the State of New Hampshire as the community mental health center serving Belknap and southern Grafton Counties. We served 3,622 children, families, adults and elders in fiscal year 2023; 179 were Gilford residents. LRMHC provided \$11,777 in charitable care to Gilford residents. (Submitted by petition)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article, as submitted by petition, is intended to provide funds to an outside agency for which the Town has no oversight. The Town has previously approved similar funding requests for this organization for many years. The impact on the tax rate if approved will be \$0.0058.*

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), to Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association for the purpose of supporting hospice care, nursing, therapy and aid care to homebound residents who are at medical or social risk, and immunization services? (Submitted by petition)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article, as submitted by petition, is intended to provide funds to an outside agency for which the Town has no oversight. This is the first time this organization has requested funds from the Town. The impact on the tax rate if approved will be \$0.0028.*

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-four thousand dollars, (\$24,000), to support the operations of Granite VNA, (formerly Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice), a local agency that provides visiting nurse services, hospice care, and pediatric care to residents of the Town of Gilford, NH? This past year residents of Gilford received 4,372 home visits from Granite VNA. Town funds are used chiefly to support hospice

care, pediatric care to children at medical or social risk, wellness clinics, bereavement support groups and immunization services. (Submitted by petition)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article, as submitted by petition, is intended to provide funds to an outside agency for which the Town has no oversight. The Town has previously approved similar funding requests for this organization for many years. The impact on the tax rate if approved will be \$0.0066.*

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000), for the continuation of services to low-income residents of Gilford through the Laconia Resource Center of the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.? The Town of Gilford has supported the Laconia Area Center for many years. The services that the area center provides include fuel and electric assistance, a food pantry, and weatherization assistance. Last year the Town of Gilford residents received a total of \$498,072.80 worth of services from the Community Action Program. (Submitted by petition)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)  
Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0)

*This article, as submitted by petition, is intended to provide funds to an outside agency for which the Town has no oversight. The Town has previously approved similar funding requests for this organization for many years. The impact on the tax rate if approved will be \$0.0028.*

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Town vote to rescind the cemetery plot sales allocation formula as enacted under Article 19 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, and in place thereof, vote to allocate twenty-five percent (25%) of the fees from the sale of cemetery plots to be deposited into the Cemetery Trust Fund for perpetual care per RSA 289:9, with the balance of seventy-five percent (75%) to be deposited into the general fund of the Town to offset annual maintenance expenses pursuant to RSA 289:2-a.

*This article is intended to replace the previous system of allocating \$100 from the sale of cemetery lots to the general fund and the balance to the perpetual care fund with a system that allocates more money being used to offset cemetery maintenance expenses.*

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed Gilford Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan; and furthermore, authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement the Plan as specified therein pursuant to RSA 53-E:7. (An official copy of the entire proposed plan is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and on display at the meeting place on the date of the Town Meetings and may be viewed at [www.gilfordnh.org](http://www.gilfordnh.org).)

*This article is intended to reduce electric supply rates for most Gilford utility customers and provide for options to increase the use of renewable energy supplies for people who want to do that.*

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall the Town vote to adopt and modify the following elderly tax exemptions as authorized by RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b; by increasing the income limits for eligibility and exemption amounts as follows:

- Single income limit from \$25,000 to \$35,000
- Married income limit from \$35,000 to \$45,000
- Single asset limit from \$90,000 to \$100,000
- Married asset limit from \$90,000 to \$110,000
- Age 65-74 exemption amount (if eligible) from \$45,000 to \$55,000
- Age 75-79 exemption amount (if eligible) from \$60,000 to \$70,000
- Age 80+ exemption amount (if eligible) from \$75,000 to \$85,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

*This article is intended to recognize the impact of inflation on people who might otherwise be eligible for tax exemptions. These limits have not been changed since 2003.*

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall the Town vote to increase the optional veteran's tax credit for service-connected total disability from \$2,000 to \$4,000, said amount to be subtracted each year from the property tax on the principal place of abode of the disabled person or the surviving spouse pursuant to RSA 72:35.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

*This article is intended to provide enhanced tax relief to disabled veterans. These limits have not been changed since 2004.*

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey to The Home Possible Project, Inc., a 9 (+/-) acre parcel of land situated at Alvah Wilson Road and more particularly referenced at Tax Map 227, Lot 13; for the sum of one dollar, (\$1.00), under such other terms and conditions as the Selectmen may deem to be in the best interest of the Town; provided that this conveyance shall be for the exclusive purpose of housing for developmentally disabled adults with a reversion clause in the event that such housing is not constructed on the site within a reasonable timeframe as may be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

*This article is intended to constitute a generous and charitable commitment from the Town towards the construction of a non-profit housing project for developmentally disabled adults with appropriate restrictions and conditions to ensure it is not used for any other purpose. This land abuts Route 11A, Alvah Wilson Road and Sprucewood Drive. The land to be conveyed was acquired by the Town in 1973 by means of a land swap and has remained in an undeveloped state since that time with no foreseeable municipal use in the near future. Prior to this development taking place, the project will need to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment through various public hearings, in addition to whatever reviews and permits may also be required by the State of New Hampshire.*