

A Simple Explanation from CNHT

“Eye on Granite State government”

Annual Meetings How The Town Budget Is Written

Like meetings found in many New England states many New Hampshire localities conduct an annual meeting to approve items of spending and other matters of concern to the voters. Warrant articles are proposals for specific spending items and such matters that require a vote for enactment.

At the annual meeting after voting approval for all the items included in the budget a vote is held to approve the budget. If it passes it becomes the law of that town for the ensuing year and is the amount used to compute the tax rate for assessing taxes on the property owners.

In an SB2 community there is a different approval method. The annual meeting decides which items are approved to be placed on the ballot. SB2 requires that there then be a day long polling to allow all the property owners to have a say in the budget approval. Absentee ballots are also allowed.

Default Budget - should the voters not approve the budget the town will be left with a default provision for spending. The default budget will be the operating portion of the previous years budget and no capital items are allowed for inclusion.

[Further information on Town Meetings is found in RSA’s 39 and 40. Information on Towns, Cities, Village Districts and Unincorporated Places is within RSA’s 31 thru 53E.]

Remember that you’re entitled to have your voice heard. A few persons at a town meeting can have a large effect on the outcome of the process.

Protect your property, defend what you have earned from the malicious or misinformed efforts of those who are supposed to be representing you.

Think about seeking and serving in a public office.

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