

Further information on Warrant Articles 2 and 10

Warrant Article 2 Planning Board Amendments

The proposed amendments are for the purpose of changing the procedure for an application to grant a Special Exception or Variance to provision(s) of the Zoning Ordinance. As presently written, the Zoning Ordinance requires application to the Planning Board, which then refers the applicant to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for application, hearing and decision.

Since the Planning Board has no authority to grant Special Exceptions or Waivers, this procedure results in a separate, superfluous application to an agency with no authority to act, which, in the opinion of the Planning Board, places an undue burden on applicants. The resulting procedure will result in a single application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for such purposes. As there is currently no standard application form, one is included as part of the proposed amendments.

No change to the application procedure for an Accessory Dwelling Unit, for which the Planning Board is the designated agency, is proposed.

Re-lettering/re-numbering of Articles, Sections and paragraphs, as necessary, is also proposed, along with correction of a few minor typographical errors noted during the Planning Boards review of the Zoning Ordinance. The full text of the Draft Zoning Ordinance with the proposed amendments is available for review at the town website, orangenh.us or at the town offices at 8 Town House Road.

Warrant Article 10: Budget & Use of Unassigned Fund Balance

With FEMA reimbursements now largely complete, and the FEMA Repayment Anticipation Note (FRAN) due April 4, 2024, the Select Board will refinance that note of \$151,945.43, as permitted by the 2020 Warrant Article 6. The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend a new, three-year note, first payment due 2025, and \$84,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund Balance applied to reduce the note principal, beginning in the first year. The Unassigned Fund Balance is held by the State of New Hampshire to be used by a local government to cover unusual circumstances. The Select Board deems the financial situation arising from financing unanticipated road repairs due to the extreme weather event of July 2019 to be such a worthy use.