SAMPLE OF THE TOWN WARRANTARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON WITH EXPLANATIONS AS PRESENTED AT THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION ON January 30, 2010
VOTING - MARCH 9, 2010
ASHLAND SCHOOL GYM
POLLS OPEN 9 AM T0 7 PM

Article 1:
To choose all of the following officers for the year ensuing:

(2) Selectman for three year term
Dennis Potter, Jeanette I. Stewart, Bobbi Hoerter, Stephen Lake
(1) Town Trustee of the Trust Funds for three-year term
Richard Ogden
(1) Library Trustee for three-year term
Alice Staples
(1) Electric Commissioner for three-year term
Kendall L. Hughes
(1) Water and Sewer Commissioner for three year term
Alan Cilley, Anne Lamson
(1) Town Moderator for two year term
Philip Preston
(1) Supervisor of the Checklist for six year term
MaryAnn Reinholz
(2) Budget Committee member for three-year term
Christine Austin, Paul Branscombe, Stephen Lake
(2) Budget Committee member for two year term
Bruce LaRiviere

Article 2: Zoning

Amendment 1. Are you in favor of amending the Town of Ashland Zoning Ordinance Article 6.4a to comply with NH RSA 676:7 and 6.4b to comply with NH RSA 674:33?

This change to the zoning ordinance is necessary to comply with the amended state law.

Article 3.

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as an operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 $6,589,684. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be $6,441,706 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; or the governing body 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.

The proposed 2010 general town budget totals $2,573,668; electric $3,448,435; sewer $341,195; water $226,386.

The default budget would be general town $2,446,176; electric $3,443,887; sewer $339,771; water $211,872.

Article 4.

Shall the Town delegate the duties and responsibilities of the cemetery trustees to the board of selectmen?

RSA 289:6 requires that Town have cemetery trustees. The duties of these trustees do not overlap with the duties of the trustees of the private cemetery known as "Green Grove Cemetery".

Article 5.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Sixty Eight Thousand dollars ($68,000) to purchase a new six wheel one ton dump truck. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the truck is purchased or by December 31, 2011 whichever occurs first. (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend)(Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

It would be the intention of the town to sell the 1998 Ford 550 at auction or by sealed bid and the revenue from the sale would be revenue to the general fund under "Sale of Town Equipment".

Article 6.

If Article 5 fails will the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Highway Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Four Thousand Dollars ($34,000) to be placed in this fund and to further appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend)
(Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

It is the intention of this article to create a capital reserve fund for the purchase of a highway truck in case the voters decide in article 5 not to fund the entire purchase this year.

Article 7.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars ($35,000) to be deposited into the existing Highway Sidewalk Plow Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new sidewalk plow in the future. (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

This CRF(Capital Reserve Fund) was created by vote of the town at the March 2008 meeting and currently has a total of $35,000 plus interest in the fund. The cost of a new sidewalk plow is estimated to be $125,000. The current sidewalk plow that is in use is a 1987 Holder and has several repairs over the last few years.

Article 8.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000) for the purpose of starting the process of updating the Town of Ashland Master Plan. (Majority vote required) (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

The preparation of a master plan is a major responsibility of the planning board (RSA 674:1), and it should serve as an aid to the planning board in the performance of its other duties. The board may elect to undertake the job itself or may engage professional assistance in completing some or all of the planning elements. This is a huge undertaking for a volunteer board and the funds that are being asked for would provide for outside assistance during the process. The current comprehensive master plan is dated 1984. Having an up to date master plan is an essential component when applying for outside grants.

Article 9.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars ($110,000) for the purpose of street improvements. (Majority vote required) (BOS voted 5-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

Several town streets are in need of repair, if this article were to pass the highway agent upon consultation with the Board of Selectmen would decide which streets would be first to be upgraded with the funds available.

Article 10.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser. (Majority vote required) (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

This new cruiser would replace the 2005 Crown Victoria which has over 100,000 miles of service.

Article 11.

Shall the Town vote to decrease the membership of the Planning Board (as defined in RSA 673:2) from 7 full voting members to 5 full voting members?

In 1950 the town voted to establish the planning board to consist of seven full voting members (6 appointed and 1 selectman ex officio). The Planning Board has not been at full membership for several years and this action would enable the membership to act on cases with a quorum of three members.

Article 12.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Ashland Fire Department. (Majority vote required) (BOS voted 4-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

The Ashland Fire Department has been designated as the Emergency Operation Center for the town. At this time there is no generator on the premises that would get operations up and running in case of an emergency.

Article 13.

To see if the Town will vote to deposit 50% of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax)with a cap of $5000 into the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II.

This will take revenue funds collected from the general fund and put them into the conservation fund to be used by the Conservation Commission.

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to employ a weekly part-time Firefighter/EMT position for the Fire Department and to raise and appropriate $11,024 to compensate that part-time position in 2010. This position will start May 1, 2010 and would be scheduled for 16 hours per week. (BOS voted 4-1 to recommend)(Budget Committee voted 4-4 to recommend)

Article15.

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Accrued Leave Time Non Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1- c for the purpose of paying accrued vacation and sick time to employees who are paid through the town's general operating budget upon leaving their employment with the town. $27,876.00 to be appropriated from Fund Balance, and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. (BOS voted 5-0 to recommend) (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend)

The purpose of establishing this fund is to be able to have funds available when and if an employee [funded through the general operating budget] leaves employment with the town. Personnel polices dictate what accrued benefits are due to the employee. This money will not come from general fund taxation.

Article16.

Petitioned Warrant Article
To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

> *Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage".*

Article17.

Petitioned Warrant Article
Are you in favor of decreasing the board of selectmen to 3 members?

Article18.

Petitioned Warrant Article
Do you authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint the Chief of Police?

Article19.

Petitioned Warrant Article
Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?

Article 20.

Petitioned Warrant Article
To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the Default Budget to the Municipal Budget Committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14.

Article 21.

Petitioned Warrant Article

To see if funding for Grafton County Senior Citizens Council INC. services for Ashland residents is not approved through the regular Town Budget process we request that $5000 be raised and appropriated to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council INC. for services for Ashland residents in 2010. These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. In 2009, Grafton County Senior Citizens Council INC provided services for 142 Ashland residents, and the cost of providing these services was $100,328.49. (Budget Committee voted 8-0 to recommend) (Board of Selectmen voted to 5-0 to recommend)