



"WARRANT LITE" VOTER GUIDE

Non-partisan! Prepared by citizen volunteers! **YOU** can contribute next year!

Articles — Each of these is asking “Should the town...?”

1. Support the establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund for the Frontier Regional School District?

Capital requests from Frontier are assessed during the budget season and voted on at town meeting. This article allows for the creation of a capital stabilization fund, which may be funded not just with town assessments but also with funds from other sources, such as School Choice and E & D, which is the school's version of Free Cash. A yes vote would mean that the town authorizes the Frontier Regional School District to create a capital stabilization fund. Money can only be spent from the capital stabilization fund if $\frac{2}{3}$ of the School Committee approves.

2. Purchase a replacement vehicle for the Fire Department? The Fire Chief's current vehicle is a hand-me-down from the Police Department that requires an estimated \$5K worth of work to keep running next year alone. In addition, the current vehicle has limited size and towing capacity, extending response time to certain types of rescue calls (e.g., water rescues that require use of the inflatable boat). A yes vote would allocate up to \$50K for the purchase of a newer vehicle with greater size and towing capacity.

3 & 4. Purchase a chipper and chip box for the Highway Department? The most recent interpretation of state law by town counsel is that town is responsible for the removal and disposal of any trees that fall on town roadways. The cost of removal and associated treework by a subcontractor is estimated to potentially cost \$90K annually, which is roughly the cost of equipment that would allow the Highway Department to perform this work themselves. A yes vote would allow the town to purchase chipping equipment for the Highway Department; a *no* vote would mean that we will need to budget for subbing this work out to a private contractor on an on-going basis.

5. Repair the transfer station landfill cap? This is work that's necessary every few years because the transfer station is built on top of an old wood pile that's continually sinking into the ground. The transfer station is inspected annually, and this repair is required by MassDEP per a prior inspection.

6 & 7. Pay past-due bills that were inadvertently not invoiced in FY2022? Neither bill was submitted by the vendor on time to be paid during FY 2022, but the work was performed in that fiscal year and therefore the funds are owed.

8 & 9. Create a special revenue fund out of which to compensate police officers for overtime? Currently the officers who perform outside detail work have to wait until the contracting vendor pays the town. It can sometimes take weeks and even months for police officers to receive this compensation. A yes vote would allow the town to set up a special fund to be “seeded” with Free Cash, so that these payments can be made to the officers on the regular payroll schedule. The town would collect the funds owed by the vendors as usual and deposit them to the special fund. The initial \$10,000 is needed to cover costs until the vendor pays the town. Although the town would assume liability in collecting the payments from vendors, nonpayment has been extremely rare in recent history.

10. Have greater flexibility in approving real estate tax exemptions? Currently senior, low-income personal exemptions for real estate have annual fixed income limits of \$25K for an individual or \$40K for a couple. A yes vote would allow the Board of Assessors to increase the income limit by the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)—meaning low-income seniors could make more than \$25/40K annually and still qualify for an exemption.

11. Ask for special legislation to allow for the recall of elected officials? Hard to believe, but there is currently no way to remove an elected town official from office prior to the expiration of their term. A yes vote would ask the state to approve special legislation allowing for a formal recall process—so, for instance, a school committee member, selectperson, town clerk, etc. could be removed from office if the town deemed it was appropriate. Without this legislation we are essentially stuck with an elected official for the duration of their term.