



"WARRANT LITE" VOTER GUIDE

What went up? What went down? We only include lines here that have either increased or decreased and have *excluded school budgets* since these are a little too complicated to explain in just one line!

Department	↑ ↓	Explanation
135 Accounting	↑	Increase in cost for contracted services
141 Assessors	↑	Increase in contract with RRG - Regional Resource Group
145 Treasurer-Collector	↑	Increase in postage and software
145 Treasurer-Collector Wages	↑	Increase in hours for new Treasurer/Tax Collector and Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector
150 Town Admin. Wages	↑	COLA (3% for all employees)
151 Legal	↑	Anticipated need for more legal services
159 Information Technology	↑	Increase in contract with Sourcepass (new IT vendor)
161 Town Clerk	↑	Slight increase for postage and supplies
161 Town Clerk Wages	↑	Stipend increase
162 Registrars	↑	Slight increase in supplies
163 Elections	↑	Increase due to number of elections in FY27
163 Elections Wages	↑	Increase due to number of elections in FY27
171 Conservation Commission	↑	Slight increase for dues and training
193 Town Insurance	↑	Always increases
210 Police	↑	Software, dues, supplies and vehicle maintenance increases
210 Police Wages	↑	COLA
220 Fire Wages	↑	COLA
291 Emergency Management	↑	Price for Blackboard Connect (town reverse 911) went up slightly
292 Animal Control	↓	Incorrect number for the assessment from the Sheriff's office last year
422 Highway Wages	↑	COLA
423 Snow & Ice Wages	↑	COLA
433 Transfer Station	↓	Decreased trash and bulky tonnages coming in to the transfer station
433 Transfer Station Wages	↑	COLA
512 Board of Health	↑	Increase in contracted services and supplies
512 Board of Health Wages	↑	COLA
541 Council on Aging	↑	Increase (long overdue!) to be able to provide more services
543 Veterans	↑	Increases in both benefits and assessment from Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans
830 FRCOG	↑	Increases in the costs for the FCCIP (inspection services) and highway services
900 Employee Costs	↑	Very large increased costs in retirement and health benefits

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

3. Have the legal authority to set the salaries of elected officials? Boilerplate language recommended by town counsel (we do this every year).
4. Allow the Treasurer and Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements? This is a required article which allows the Treasurer and Collector to enter into agreements with banking institutions, which is a basic function of the position. Technically a yes vote grants three years permission to do so; in reality rather than track this every three years, it is added annually to the warrant.
5. Allow the Selectboard to apply for grants? Allows the Selectboard to pursue any and all grants that don't explicitly require a town meeting vote or appropriation of town funds. A YES vote means the town can apply for grants outside of town meeting; a NO vote means all grant applications have to be approved by town meeting vote.
6. Spend \$30,000 on flooring at the Grammar School? A YES vote would transfer \$30K from free cash for the necessary replacement of flooring at Conway Grammar.
7. Transfer funds from the Fire Truck Stabilization Fund in order to purchase a new pumper? The town has received a USDA earmark grant of \$700K for a new pumper; estimated cost is \$850K, so \$150K from this fund would bring us up to the purchase price.

8. Add funds to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund? We're purchasing a new ambulance from this existing account; a YES vote would put money back into the fund for the next ambulance purchase in 10-15 years.

9. Add money to the Highway Stabilization Fund? Town voted to create this fund last year to save up for highway department equipment in the same way we save for big-ticket items like a fire truck, ambulance, etc. A YES vote would add \$150K from free cash.

10. Spend \$100,000 from free cash on a new truck for the highway department? The truck's hydraulic pump needs to be replaced with an electronic pump. The hydraulic pump has been replaced 8 times because the oil tank is not mounted high enough. At 75K miles and by only replacing the cab and chassis while maintaining the bed, it is best to replace the truck instead of continuing to service the hydraulic pump due to poor design.

11. Spend \$230,000 from free cash on a buck loader? The emissions system for the loader has been a continuous issue that keeps the loader out of service. Loaders are heavily used vehicles throughout the year, to include for snow plowing.

12. Spend \$14,000 from free cash to complete the streetlight project? Town voted last year to expend money purchasing streetlights from Eversource and decommissioning some to advance our "dark skies community" initiative. We have received some grant funding, but require a final \$14K to complete the project, which is projected to have a project payback of 4.1 years and a total 20 Year Net Project Savings of \$ 199,848.

13. Transfer funds from the Ambulance Receipts Fund to the Ambulance Department? The Ambulance Receipts fund holds revenue generated by ambulance calls; this is just a technical vote to transfer that money back to the department to help cover operating expenses.

14. Spend \$5000 on a new copier for town offices? The existing copier is on its last legs; this newer (used) copier/printer will actually save us money because we'll be able to handle large print jobs in-house instead of sending them out and paying for printing.

15. Contribute money to the OPEB Trust Fund? See glossary. Contributing annually to this fund for future town retirees is recommended by the state and also improves Conway's standing as being responsible in planning for the future.

16. Transfer funds from free cash to pay for tax title expenses? The funds pay for registry filing fees, advertising fees and legal fees. Most of these fees are eventually collected from the taxpayer, but the town has to pay them up front, which is why the town has to have this account.

17. Transfer funds from free cash to pay for our loan on the highway garage? It's good to pay our debts. The town currently has \$668,101.00 left in principal and interest payments.

18. Set aside funds for future revaluation work? We do this every year. State law requires that all property in the town be assessed within ten percent of market value every five years, so a portion of the cost of the revaluation is set aside annually.

19. Support our local library? This is the least amount required to allow Field Memorial Library to participate in the state CW/MARS system.

20. Authorize the spending limits on each of our revolving funds? This currently has to be voted annually.

22. Amend bylaws to accurately reflect the number of members on the Finance Committee? The way the bylaw currently reads indicates a membership of six vs. five; this change also clarifies that the committee makes recommendations on capital expenditures (the town does not currently have a Capital Improvements Committee).

23. Amend bylaws to include public parking areas in the winter parking ban? A yes vote extends the ban on overnight winter parking on public roadways to public parking lots.

24. Amend zoning bylaws to redefine dwelling units? A yes vote would clarify the definition of a dwelling unit. This was in part driven by the new regulations on ADUs.

25. Amend zoning bylaws to clarify the requirements for driveways? A yes vote clarifies regulations for any driveway with more than dwelling on it, instead of having two sets of regulations, one for two dwellings and one for more than two. This was in part driven by the new regulations on ADUs.