Voters Guide

Mont Vernon, NH

March 13, 2024

Mont Vernon village school 7:00PM

1 Kittredge Rd, Mont Vernon, NH 03057

**Town Meeting Functionality**

* Only Mont Vernon residents who are registered voters within Mont Vernon are entitled to participate in the meeting and vote. Town employees and representatives who are not residents may speak on matters that concern them or their position in town, but they may not vote.
* Upon arrival at Town Meeting, all registered voters must check in at the tables marked with the first letter of voters’ last name. At this time voters will receive a copy of the Town Report (if available), a copy of this Voter’s Guide (if available), and a colored voting card. This card is how you will cast your vote. If there are bond or secret ballot votes on the ballot, voters may also receive yes/no slips of paper for voting on these matters. If there are several bond or secret ballot items on the ballot, voters may receive multiple yes/no slips and an additional card to stamp off as votes are placed. Depending on the matters to be voted on, these yes/no slips may be distributed in another manner.
* Voting will be conducted by raising the colored voting card in response to the Moderators call for “in favor” or “opposed”. For a required bond or secret ballot, voting will be conducted by tearing their yes/no slip in half, lining up, and dropping either the “yes” or the “no” portion of the slip into the designated ballot box. (There will be a trash can nearby to receive the other half of your slip.) If there are multiple bond or secret ballot items, a Town representative will stamp your card to indicate that you have voted on an issue as the votes are placed. Bond votes are open for one hour. Secret ballots are open only until all present have voted. All residents, including elected officials, and your Moderator, may vote.
* Votes will be counted individually for raised card votes. Secret ballot votes will be counted by two or more designees and the decision will be announced as soon as the votes are counted and prior to the end of Town Meeting.
* As voting begins, Warrant Articles will be read aloud one at a time. Each Article must be moved and seconded. After an Article is moved and seconded, it may be explained by a member of the Selectboard or a representative of the town organization that supports the Article. Following this, the Article may be debated. These speeches may be in support of or against the currently considered Warrant Article.
* Speakers must speak from the central microphone and begin by stating their name and address in town.
* Each speaker will speak clearly, and comments will be limited to three minutes.
* **All comments must be addressed to the Moderator** and not to the audience. Cross discussions are not allowed. If a question is raised in comments, the Moderator may call forth an appropriate person to answer the question immediately after the question is raised. Otherwise, the line will proceed in order.
* Speakers may choose to make a **MOTION TO AMEND** the Warrant Article. Each such motion will be voted on before another motion to amend will be entertained. Amendments may not change the subject of a warrant article. Amendments involving budget items must include a dollar amount, which may be zero.
* No individual may speak a second time until all who wish to speak for the first time have spoken.
* These deliberations can become lengthy, if this is the case, a speaker may make a **MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION**. If seconded, a vote to call the question will immediately ensue without debate or discussion. If passed, this will end the debate and force the vote on the Warrant Article being considered. Such a motion should only be made after reasonable debate and those in line have spoken, at least once. Under Robert’s Rules, such a motion requires a 2/3 majority to pass.
* No Motion to Call the Question will be accepted by the Moderator until there has been sufficient debate on the article.
* Any Warrant Article or motion may be reconsidered during the meeting. To do so, a speaker may make a **MOTION TO RECONSIDER**. This motion can be made at any time and if passed will allow a previously considered Warrant Article or motion to be reconsidered.
* To avoid reconsideration, a speaker may make a **MOTION TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION**. This motion may also be made at any time and must be made on each article on which reconsideration is restricted. It is encouraged that this motion be made immediately following the decision of the vote on a contentious article.
* Motions so restricted will be able to be reconsidered but at a separate public meeting, held at least seven days after Town Meeting. Bond votes may only be reconsidered, if at all, at a separate public meeting.
* Motions to Pass Over, Table or Postpone will generally not be accepted, unless a good reason is put forth, and then at the discretion of the Moderator.
* Any voter may challenge any ruling of the Moderator. Majority vote decides.

**The actions taken at Town Meeting are basically three**:

* + Enact a warrant article as written; or,
  + Amend and then pass the amended warrant article; or,
  + Defeat the warrant article.

**The four tools we will use to do this are as follows**:

1. Motion to Amend an article. Only one amendment at a time and no amendments to amendments will be allowed. Amendments may not change the subject of a warrant article. Amendments involving budget items must include a dollar amount, which may be zero.
2. Motion to Call the Question. This will end debate, if passed. It should only be made after reasonable debate and those in line have spoken, at least once. Under Robert’s Rules, such a motion requires a 2/3 majority to pass.
3. Motion to Reconsider or Restrict Reconsideration. Reconsideration may take place at any time, and so may a motion to restrict it.
4. Point of Order. If your moderator errs in a procedural matter, a speaker exceeds their allotted time and has been so advised by the Moderator, or an attendee is disruptive, a Point of Order may be raised, and should be done so immediately.

Please make the first three motions from the microphone; a Point of Order may be raised from your seat.

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." **Thomas Jefferson, Former U.S. President and Founding Father of the U.S.**

**Understanding the Town Warrant**

The final pages of this document include the Town’s Warrant for this year. This can be found in the beginning pages of the Town Report as well. The first page of the Warrant will list the voting sessions dates, times, and locations as well as the governing body’s certification. Subsequent pages will list each Warrant Article and the results of the Selectmen’s and Budget Committee’s vote on each.

Only in this Voters Guide will you find tax impact information listed under each Warrant Article. This is provided to help voters make a more educated decision in respect to how the passage or failure of each Warrant Article will affect them individually. The statement “per thousand” refers to the assessed value of a homeowner’s home. See below for example:

**\*Tax impact is calculated “per thousand” in reference to assessed home values\***

**Impacts incurred on these voting results will affect the autumn tax bill in 2024.**

**Tax impact will change on the same dollar amount from year to year as the total valuation of the town changes. For tax impact purposes in this voting session, the total town valuation is $339,533,638.00. This means 2024 tax impact will be calculated at a rate of .10 per 34,000.00 of new money raised through taxation.**

**\*\*\*\***

**Example: A warrant article raising $25,000.00 of new money would be calculated as follows:**

**$25,000.00/$34,000.00 = .74 x .10 = .07 per thousand tax impact**

**\*\*\*\***

**The current tax rate is $29.04. Yearly taxes can be calculated as follows:**

**Home assessed at $350,000.00 = 350 x $29.04 = $10,164.00**

**-OR –**

**Home assessed at $350,000.00 = $350,000.00 x 29.04/$1000.00 = $10,164.00**

\*The approximate average home assessed value in Mont Vernon is $350,000.00.\*

To inquire of your homes current assessed value, you may call the Town Hall at 603-673-6080 Monday -Thursday 9am-3pm.

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|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | | **Mont Vernon** | | | | The inhabitants of the Town of Mont Vernon in the County of Hillsborough in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows: | | | | **First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)** Date: March 12, 2024 Time: 7:00 am through 7:00 PM Location: Mont Vernon Village School  Details: Articles 1 & 2  **Second Session of Annual Meeting (All Other Business)** Date: March 13, 2024 Time: 7:00 PM Location: Mont Vernon Village School Details: Articles 3 - 16 | | | | **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION**  We certify and attest that on or before February 26, 2024, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at the Mont Vernon Village School and that an original was delivered to Belinda Yeaton, Town Clerk. | | | | **Name** | **Position** | **Signature** | | John F. Quinlan, Jr. | Chair, Selectmen |  | | John M. Esposito | Selectman |  | | Howard D. Brown | Selectman |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |

**Article 01 Election of Town Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

**Article 02 Amend Zoning Regulations - Floodplain Management**

Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment number 20 proposed by the Planning Board for the Mont Vernon Zoning Ordinance – Floodplain Management as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program:

A) Sections I 706 Certification, I 709 Special Flood Hazard Areas, I 713 Definitions with

major changes being:

1. Wording and terminology, SEE BELOW

(strikethrough text means delete text; highlighted text means add text)

**ARTICLE 7 - Floodplain Management**

**I-701 - PURPOSE**

Certain areas of the Town of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire are subject to periodic flooding, causing serious damages to properties within these areas. Relief is available in the form of flood insurance as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Therefore, the Town of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire has chosen to become a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program and agrees to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-488, as amended) as detailed in this Floodplain Management Ordinance.

This Ordinance establishes a permit system and review procedure for development activities in the designated flood hazard areas of the Town of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire.

**I-702 – ESTABLISHMENT**

This ordinance adopted pursuant to the authority of RSA 674:16, shall be known as the Town of Mont Vernon Floodplain Management Ordinance. The regulations in this ordinance shall overlay and supplement the regulations in the Town of Mont Vernon Zoning Ordinance and shall be considered part of the Zoning Ordinance for purposes of administration and appeals under state law. If any provision of this ordinance differs or appears to conflict with any provision of the Zoning Ordinance or other ordinance or regulation, the provision imposing the greater restriction or more stringent standard shall be controlling.

The following regulations in this ordinance shall apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its “Flood Insurance Study for the County of Hillsborough, N.H.” dated September 25, 2009, or as amended, together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps dated September 25, 2009, or as amended, which are declared to be a part of this ordinance and are hereby incorporated by reference. (*Amended 8/24/10*)

**I-703 – PERMITS**

All proposed development in any special flood hazard area shall require a permit. This ordinance shall be administered by the building inspector.

**I-704 - CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

The Building Inspector shall review all building permit applications for new construction or substantial improvements to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. If a proposed building site is located in a special flood hazard area, all new construction or substantial improvements shall:

a. be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent floatation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy,

b. be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage,

c. be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages,

d. be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

**I-705 - WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

Where new or replacement water and sewer systems (including on-site systems) are proposed in a special flood hazard area the applicant shall provide the Building Inspector with assurance that these systems will be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the systems into flood waters, and on-site waste disposal systems will be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during periods of flooding.

**I-706 - CERTIFICATION**

For all new or substantially improved structures located in special flood hazard areas, the applicant shall furnish the following information to the Building Inspector:

a. the as-built elevation (in relation to mean sea level ~~National Geodetic Vertical Datum~~) of the lowest floor (including basement) and include whether or not such structures contain a basement.

b. if the structure has been flood proofed, the as-built elevation (in relation to mean sea level ~~NGVD~~) to which the structure was flood proofed.

c. any certification of flood proofing.

The Building Inspector shall maintain the aforementioned information for public inspection and shall furnish such information upon request.

**I-707 - OTHER PERMITS**

The Building Inspector shall not grant a building permit until the applicant certifies that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by federal or state law, including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U. S. C. 1334.

**I-708 – WATERCOURSES (or WETLANDS)**

1. In riverine situations, prior to the alteration or relocation of a watercourse the applicant for such authorization shall notify the Wetlands Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and submit copies of such notification to the Building Inspector, in addition to the copies required by the RSA 482-A: 3. Further, the applicant shall be required to submit copies of said notification to those adjacent communities as determined by the Building Inspector, including notice of all scheduled hearings before the Wetlands Bureau and the Mont Vernon Planning Board.

2. The applicant shall submit to the Building Inspector certification provided by a registered professional engineer assuring that the flood carrying capacity of an altered or relocated watercourse can and will be maintained.

3. The Building Inspector shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any floodway data available from Federal, State, or other sources as criteria for requiring that all development located in Zone A meet the following floodway requirement:

"No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development are allowed within the floodway that would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood discharge."

**I-709 - SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

1. In Zone A the Building Inspector shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any ~~100-year flood elevation~~ base flood elevation data available from any federal, state, or other source including data submitted for development proposals submitted to the community (i.e., subdivisions, site plan approvals). Where a base flood elevation is not available or not known for Zone A, the base flood elevation shall be determined to be at least 2 feet above the highest adjacent grade.
2. The Building Inspector's ~~100-year flood elevation~~ base flood elevation determination will be used as criteria for requiring in Zone A that:
   1. All new construction or substantial improvement of residential structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the ~~100-year flood elevation~~ base flood elevation.
   2. That all new construction or substantial improvements of non-residential structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the ~~100-year flood level~~ base flood elevation; or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall:
   3. be flood proofed so that below the ~~100-year flood elevation~~ base flood elevation the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water.
   4. have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and
   5. be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section.
3. All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within special flood hazard areas shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the ~~100-year flood elevation~~ base flood elevation; and be securely anchored to resist floatation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors.
4. All recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zone A shall either:
   1. be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days.
   2. be fully licensed and ready for highway use; or,
   3. meet all standards of Article I-703 of this ordinance and the elevation and anchoring requirements for "manufactured homes" in Article I-709 (2) (c) of this ordinance.
   4. ~~All recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zone A shall either:~~

A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices and has no permanently attached additions.

1. For all new construction and substantial improvements, fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are permitted provided they meet the following requirements:
   1. the enclosed area is unfinished or flood resistant, usable solely for the parking of vehicles, building access or storage.
   2. the area is not a basement; and
   3. shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwater. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria: A minimum of two flood openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwater.

**I-710 - VARIANCES AND APPEALS**

1. Any order, requirement, decision, or determination of the Building Inspector made under this ordinance may be appealed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as set forth in RSA 676:5.
2. If the applicant, upon appeal, requests a variance as authorized by RSA 674:33, I ~~(b)~~, the applicant shall have the burden of showing in addition to the usual variance standards under state law that:
   1. the variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, or extraordinary public expense.
   2. if the requested variance is for activity within a designated regulatory floodway, no increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge will result; and
   3. the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
3. The Zoning Board of Adjustment shall notify the applicant in writing that:
   1. the issuance of a variance to construct below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as $25 for $100 of insurance coverage; and
   2. such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with a record of all variance actions.
4. The community shall:
   1. maintain a record of all variance actions, including their justification for their issuance; and
   2. report such variances issued in its annual or biennial report submitted to FEMA's Federal Insurance Administrator.

**I-711 - SEVERABILITY**

The invalidity of any section or provision of this Ordinance shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof.

**I-712 - ENFORCEMENT**

It shall be the duty of the Board of Selectmen (or their designee) to enforce and administer the provisions of this Ordinance in accordance with RSA 676.

**I-713 - DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply only to this Floodplain Management Ordinance and shall not be affected by the provisions of any other ordinance of the Town of Mont Vernon.

1. "Area of Special Flood Hazard" is the land in the floodplain within the Town of Mont Vernon subject to a one percent or greater possibility of flooding in any given year. The area is designated as ~~Zone A on the FHBM or as~~ Zone A on the FIRM.
2. "Base Flood" means the flood having a one-percent possibility of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
3. “Base Flood Elevation” (BFE) means the elevation of surface water resulting from the “base flood.”
4. "Basement" means any area of a building having its floor subgrade on all sides.
5. "Building" - see "structure".
6. "Development" means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavating, or drilling operation or storage of equipment or materials.
7. "FEMA " means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
8. “Flood" or "Flooding" means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
   1. the overflow of inland or tidal waters, or
   2. the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
9. ~~“Flood Hazard Boundary Map” (FHBM) means an official map of a community, issued by the Administrator, where the boundaries of the flood, mudslide (i.e., mudflow) related~~
10. ~~erosion areas having special flood hazards have been designated as Zone A.~~
11. “Flood Insurance Rate Map” (FIRM) means an official map of a community, on which the Administrator has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
12. “Flood Insurance Study” (FIS) means an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of mudslide (i.e. mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards.
13. Flood Opening means an opening in a foundation or enclosure wall that allows automatic entry and exit of floodwaters. See FEMA “Technical Bulletin 1, Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures.”
14. "Floodplain" or "Flood-prone area" means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of "Flooding").
15. "Flood proofing" means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures that reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitation facilities, structures and their contents.
16. "Floodway" - see "Regulatory Floodway".
17. ~~"Functionally dependent use" means a use that cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking and port facilities that are necessary for the loading/unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building/repair facilities but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.~~
18. "Highest adjacent grade" means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.
19. "Historic Structure" means any structure that is:
    1. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
    2. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered Historic District or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered Historic District;
    3. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
    4. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
       1. by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, or
       2. directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
20. "Lowest Floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided, that such an enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.
21. "Manufactured Home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. For floodplain management purposes the term "manufactured home" includes park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles placed on site for greater than 180 consecutive days. This includes manufactured homes located in a manufactured home park or subdivision.
22. “Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision” means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.
23. "Mean sea level" means the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum to which base flood elevations shown on a community’s Flood Insurance Rate Maps are referenced.
24. “New construction” means, for the purposes of determining insurance rates, structures for which the start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of an initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later, and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain management purposes, new construction means structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.
25. ~~“100-year flood" - see "base flood"~~
26. "Recreational Vehicle" is defined as:
    1. built on a single chassis.
    2. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection.
    3. designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
    4. designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel or seasonal use.
27. "Regulatory floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.
28. "Special flood hazard area" - see "Area of Special Flood Hazard"
29. “Structure" means for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.
30. "Start of Construction" includes substantial improvements, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or part of the main structure.
31. “Substantial damage" means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
32. "Substantial Improvement" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:
    1. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
    2. Any alteration of a “historic structure,” provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a “historic structure.” ~~any combination of repairs, reconstruction, alteration, or improvements to a structure in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds fifty percent of the market value of the structure. The market value of the structure should equal:~~
    3. ~~the appraised value prior to the start of the initial repair or improvement, or~~
    4. ~~in the case of damage, the value of the structure prior to the damage occurring. For the purposes of this definition, "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure.This term includes structures that have incurred substantial damage, regardless of actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include any project for improvement of a structure required to comply with existing health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions or any alteration of a "historic structure", provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure".~~
33. “Violation” means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community’s flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required under I-706 or I-709(2)(b) of this ordinance is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.
34. "Water surface elevation" means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum, where specified, of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains. *(Added 3/10/09)*

**Article 03 Appointment of Town Treasurer**

Shall the Town vote to change the office of Town Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position in accordance with RSA 41:26-e. Such appointment shall be made in accordance with RSA 669:17-d by the Board of Selectmen. Such appointment shall be made in writing and shall include the compensation to be paid. If approved, the person holding the elected office shall continue to hold such office until the next annual town election following the vote.

(Majority vote required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee did not consider this article.*

**There is no tax impact for this article.**

**Article 04 Elderly Exemption**

To see if the Town will modify the Elderly Exemption from property tax in the Town of Mont Vernon, based upon assessed value for qualified taxpayers, as follows: for persons 65 years of age up to 74 years of age $104,000; for persons 75 years of age up to 79 years of age $156,000; for persons 80 years of age or older $206,000. To qualify a person must have been a State resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. The person must reside in the residence. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of less than $65,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than $65,000 and must not own assets in excess of $125,000, excluding the value of the persons residence (including 2 or 5 acres as zoned), one personal vehicle and one registered farm vehicle.

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee supports this article.*

**Tax impact for this article is determined by usage and eligibility.**

**Article 05 Construction of New Library Building**

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of $5,990,000 (gross budget) for the construction of a new library building on land owned by the Town; for equipping and furnishing said building, for site development, architectural and other service fees; and for any other items incidental thereto and necessary for said construction.

Said appropriation to be raised in part by the issuance of $2,120,000 of bonds or notes, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof.

The balance of said funds shall be raised as follows:

* Capital Reserve Funds

To authorize the withdrawal from the Library Capital Reserve Fund created for the above stated purpose as follows:

$80,207 from the Town sub-account and $214,397 from the Daland Matching funds sub- account.

* Gifts to the Town

To authorize the Select Board to accept the following gifts to the Town in support of the above stated purpose:

* The Sophia G. Daland Trust in the amount of $855,000,
* The Friends of the Daland Memorial Library in an amount of $42,000 and
* The Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation in an amount not less than $2,678,396.
* Any State, Federal, or any other aid that becomes available for the above stated purpose; and to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept any such federal, state or other aid, if any, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project. And to authorize the Select Board to take any other necessary action or pass any other vote relative to the above stated purpose. And further to raise and appropriate ($55,000 for the first debt service payment on the bonds).

The building will be owned by the Town of Mont Vernon and will house the public library, known now and in the future as the Daland Memorial Library.

Town funds voted in this article will partially match NEH Challenge Grant (CHA-286624) funds.

(3/5 ballot vote required)

*The Selectmen voted 2 in favor and 1 abstention.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**2024 Tax Impact will include the first interest payment of $55,000.00 at .16.**

**Tax Impact on a $2,200,000.00 30-year LEVEL DEBT Bond will start in 2025 at .42, reducing year over year until the final payment in 2054 with a tax impact of .38.**

**Total repayment on this type of bond at the estimated rate of 4% will be $3,830,600.00.**

**Tax Impact on a $2,200,000.00 30-year LEVEL PRINCIPAL Bond will start in 2025 at .53, reducing year over year until the final payment in 2054 with a tax impact of .22.**

**Total repayment on this type of bond at the estimated rate of 4% will be $3,555,000.00.**

**Article 06 Construction of Access Road**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $683,600 (gross budget) for the construction of an access road to the new cemetery and proposed library, including parking lots for said library, and to authorize the issuance of $683,600 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept any such federal, state or other aid, if any, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other necessary action or pass any other vote relative to the above stated purpose. And further to raise and appropriate ($17,500 for the first debt service payment on the bonds)

(3/5 ballot vote required)

*The Selectmen support this article*

*The Budget Committee 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**2024 Tax Impact will include the first interest payment of $17,500.00 at .05.**

**Tax Impact on a $700,000.00 20-year LEVEL DEBT Bond will start in 2025 at .17, reducing year over year until the final payment in 2044 with a tax impact of .16.**

**Total repayment on this type of bond at the estimated rate of 3.5% will be $991,725.00.**

**Tax Impact on a $700,000.00 20-year LEVEL PRINCIPAL Bond will start in 2025 at .20, reducing year over year until the final payment in 2044 with a tax impact of .11.**

**Total repayment on this type of bond at the estimated rate of 3.5% will be $962,500.00.**

**Article 07 New All-Wheel Fire Truck**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,400,000 (gross budget) for the purchase of a new all-wheel fire truck. Said appropriation to be raised in part by an Assistance to Firefighters Grant of $1,000,000. To authorize the withdrawal of up to $400,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose to be combined with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to be the agents to expend the Capital Reserve Funds. Recommendations required from the Fire Chief and Board of Fire Wards. No new tax dollars are to be raised for this purchase. If grant is not received, the article will be null and void.

(Majority vote required).

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**There is no tax impact for this article.**

**Article 08 Add to Fire Truck Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $95,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose.

(Majority vote required.)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .28.**

**Article 09 Highway Block Grant**

To see if the Town of Mont Vernon will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $94,050 for the purpose of reconstruction of Town roads. To be offset by anticipated Highway Block Grant funds. Further, if the full amount is not received, the remaining difference will be raised in taxation. This special article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the purpose is completed or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

(Majority vote required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee supports this article.*

**There is no tax impact for this article.**

**Article 10 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Construction of a new Sand/Salt Shed and the Future Expansion/Construction of Public Works Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Works Buildings Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the construction of a new sand/salt shed and the future expansion/construction of Public Works buildings and to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said funds. Recommendations required from Public Works Director.

(Majority Vote Required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .07.**

**Article 11 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Department of Public Works Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of future Department of Public Works vehicle and equipment replacement for the benefit of the Town, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommendations required from the Public Works Director.

(Majority Vote Required)

*The Selectmen support this article*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .07.**

**Article 12 Add to Capital Reserve Fund for Town Hall Rehabilitation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $50,000 to add to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund for the use of repairs, rehabilitation, and renovation of the Town Hall under the provisions of RSA 35:1. These funds may be used as grant match funds for the repair, rehabilitation, or renovation of the Town Hall or for repair, rehabilitation or renovation expenses not funded by grants.

(Majority Vote Required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .15.**

**Article 13 Add to Capital Reserve for Radio Upgrades**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 to be added to the Town Wide Radio Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of upgrading the 1st Responder radios. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommendations required from the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

(Majority vote required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .07.**

**Article 14 Establish Capital Reserve PPE/SCBA**

To see if the town will vote to establish a PPE/SCBA Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment: Firefighting bunker gear, helmet) and SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). To raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 for the purpose of replacing this equipment as needed. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommendations required from the Fire Chief and Board of Fire Wards.

(Majority Vote Required)

*The Selectmen support this article*

*The Budget Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .07.**

**Article 15 Operating Budget**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,955,192.00 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

(Majority vote required)

*The Selectmen support this article.*

*The Budget Committee voted 5 in favor, 2 against.*

**The tax impact for this article is .80.**

**Article 16 Act Upon Reports**

To act upon the reports of all Town Officers, Agents, Auditors, Committees, Commissions, etc. and raise and appropriate any money relative thereto.

**Article 17 Other**

To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.