

Jim Maggiore
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Larry Miller
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April 3, 2020

James P. Gerry
Director, Municipal and Property Division
New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration
Governor Hugh Gallen State Office Park
109 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Director Gerry,

Following the results of the official ballot vote on March 10, 2020 the Town of North Hampton identified that the total appropriations voted exceed the maximum allowable appropriations based upon the Budget Committee's original recommendations after adjustment for fixed charges as calculated on the MS-737 Supplemental Schedule.

We understand according to RSA 32:18 the total amount appropriated at any annual meeting shall not exceed by more than 10 percent the total amount recommended by the Budget Committee for such meeting and that in official ballot referendum municipalities, the recommendation of the Budget Committee made for the first session of the meeting shall be used for determining the 10 percent limitation. We also recognize the statutes do not address in any terms what actions are to be taken or the manner in which total voted appropriations will be reduced in the event total voted appropriations exceed the maximum allowable appropriation.

As a result of the absence of statutory guidance as to what happens if the total voted appropriations exceed the Budget Committee's recommended budget by more than 10 percent, we respectfully request that you allow the Town of North Hampton Select Board to reduce the appropriation contained within Article 9 – New Public Library Building from a gross appropriation of \$3,900,000 to an amount equal to or less than \$3,594,774. Said reduction of at least \$305,226 would ensure the total appropriations are reduced to an acceptable level in accordance with RSA 32:18. As a means to establish the new gross appropriation for Article 9 the North Hampton Public Library Board of Trustees shall solicit sealed bids by advertising and/or direct mailings, in similar fashion to the bid procedures contained within the Town's purchasing policy.

The Select Board respectfully requests that the actions to remedy the situation noted above be permitted. As noted by the official ballot votes, and the recommendations of the Budget Committee, it is the wishes of a supermajority of the Town of North Hampton's registered voters and a majority of the Budget Committee to be able to move forward with this project without invalidating numerous other critically essential financial warrant articles that also passed by vote at the ballot.

We appreciate your consideration of this plan to address the overage and look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

The North Hampton Select Board

Jim Maggiore, Chair

James Sununu, Vice Chair

Larry Miller, Member