



TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM
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April 16, 2026

Reconsideration of Article 11 Town Meeting March 10, 2026.

Article 11 Acquire Fitzwilliam Village Water District

To see if the Town will vote to

- 1) Authorize the Select Board to acquire the water system and the real and personal property of the Fitzwilliam Water District (“Water System”);
- 2) Establish and operate the Water System as a Town water precinct as provided by RSA 38
- 3) Authorize the Town to assume the District’s bonds and noted with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust (“DES”) for the acquisition and construction of improvements to the Water System;
- 4) Raise and appropriate the total sum of \$1,721,000.00 (gross budget) by the issuance of not more than \$1,301,000.00 in bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) for these purposes; with the sum of \$420,000.00 to be provided from grants the DES Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund; and
- 5) Authorize the Select Board to accept and expend additional grant funding and unanticipated revenues and
- 6) Take such other actions as reasonably necessary for the above purposes.

This article shall be subject to and contingent and effective upon the completion of both the following conditions:

1. Adoption of one or more Warrant Articles by the Fitzwilliam Village Water District to dissolve and to authorize its District Commissioners to convey its real and personal property to the Town; and
2. The execution and delivery of an agreement upon terms acceptable to the Select Board and the Fitzwilliam Village Water District Commissioners, to transfer of the District's operations and real and personal property to the Town, or, to otherwise dispose of the same.

A 2/3 majority vote is required per RSA 38.4

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, not recommended by the Budget Committee)

Moderator Head opened the meeting at 7:00pm after the Water District Informational meeting. Moderator Head went over "housekeeping" rules. Moderator Head read the Article. Moderator Head opened the floor. Stated that he had in his hand a written Motion to postpone the vote.

Suzanne Gray spoke on the Article. Spoke on needing more information and stated that we need more.

Corinne Chaisson rebutted the option. Stated that postponing would not solve anything. Stated that the Commissioners are resigning and the Water District would go into the court. It would die.

D. Drugg spoke on feeling we are against the wall on this issue. Agree with tabling the motion.

G. Wittenborg spoke on the "sales pitch" of this Article. The Water District will not die. 48 users to pay half of the usage does not seem feasible.

Town Counsel spoke with the approval of the meeting. Explained that the Water District is a completely separate from the rest of the Town.

G. Heald asked that part of the Article is that they would decide how things go AFTER the vote. Why was this not resolved before. He urges the meeting to vote on the Article tonight.

L. Leblanc stated not to postpone; we should decide tonight.

Town Counsel stated that she doesn't believe we can postpone the Article. She doesn't know when the Article could be voted on again; an Article that is different than the one tonight.

L Leblanc said that the people of the District should step up to help themselves.

E. Durmer supports the project. Should we table or move forward? He would like to move forward.

D. Pinney made a comment that the District will still exist after this meeting. Stated the estimate being discussed tonight isn't anywhere near the estimate he had heard at the water District meeting. He heard 3-4 million dollars.

K. Craig user of the Water District stated we should try to keep this together. Stated she is disappointed in her community. Believes we should take care of each other.

W. Pine appreciates the volunteers. Would like to see it voted on tonight.

D. Pinney read RSA 52-41.

B. Young believes the Town does care about neighbors. Stated that she and several others have gone to The Board of Selectmen meetings for several months and asked questions regarding the Water District and the Board has answered "We don't know". There are citizens who have wanted questions answered and haven't gotten any.

C. Chaisson said she has NOT gotten any emails from citizens.

Selectmen M. Nolan said that the Board has asked questions and have been trying to get answers. The meetings that were implied being non-public is not true.

L. Leblanc called the question. Motion 2nd. The motion at hand is to "postpone indefinitely".

Motion made to recess until 8:05pm made. Motion failed.

Motion made to postpone the Article indefinitely. Voice vote was too close to call. Went to a ballot vote. Ballot boxes were shown to be empty and voting began. All ballots were cast and last call came at 8:37pm. All ballots were cast by 8:38pm.

Counting of the ballots began. Vote was:

YES 86

NO 124

Motion failed.

C. Porter made the motion to accept the Article as written. Motion 2nd.

R. Young explained the Article as he understood it. He stated that the entire Town cannot be held responsible for the water with Town; it's against the NH Constitution (time was called and another resident gave his time to Mr. Young)

1.3 million dollar bond cannot be sustained by 99 users. It's that simple. Put in a well for the Town properties and have the remaining people do their own (one resident said).

Town Counsel clarified a couple points if Art. 11 doesn't pass the Town may be authorized to take over—don't know what will happen.

L. Leblanc stated it seems it is a clash of world views...people in need not being helped. He says that it's the people who use the Water that should step up – not the Town.

R. Young commented on the Town taking over the Water District.

C. Hagstrom explained the reason the Budget Committee did not support. He stated it was lack of information.

C. Chaisson and E. Durmer spoke in favor of the Article.

D. Pinney spoke against the Article.

D. Johansson spoke for the Article.

Motion made to call the question; motion 2nd. Motion passed.

Article 11 was read again.

Ballot vote began at 9:41p. Ballot collection closed at 10:41p.
Motion made to not reconsider. Motion passed by voice vote.

Results:

YES 88 NO 102

Motion failed.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 10:51p

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L. Wood
Town Clerk, Fitzwilliam