

**Background:** The Town of Arrowsic makes donations to a variety of non-profit organizations and has traditionally grouped the contributions in a single warrant article at the Town Meeting. Concerns were raised in 2012 that this made it difficult for residents to discuss and debate particular items, leading the Select Board to consider whether all donations should be in separate warrant articles. In 2013, the Select Board chose not to create separate warrant articles because it would add to the number of articles and because they judged that most of the proposed donations were not controversial, even the new ones.

**The purpose of this policy** is to provide guidance to the Select Board when preparing the warrant articles related to donations in the interest of fairness and transparency.

### **Policy**

The Select Board will consider the following criteria when deciding which donations to propose to the town:

1. that organizations should be not-for-profit;
2. that we should have an explicit request from the organization (though we can contact organizations that we've supported in the past if we haven't received a request);
3. that we prefer financing groups that provide important services to our community (e.g. mental health, library, public radio) or are part of local quality of life (e.g. lighthouses, land conservation); and
4. give priority to groups that rely more on local funding (e.g. Sweetser rather than the national Red Cross).

When preparing the warrant articles for Town Meeting related to donations, the Select Board will:

- indicate in the Annual Report which organizations are listed for the first time, and
  - create a separate warrant for new donations that are particularly large or likely to be of interest by residents for discussion.
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