

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Peter Carey, at 7:00 p.m. Official ballot voting for town officials and the ballot question to split town meeting into two sessions closed at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the moderator introduced town and election officials and then read aloud the meeting rules to the audience.

Mary Campbell moved and Jennifer Larochelle seconded the motion to dispense with the second reading of an article if no amendment was made – **motion passed by voice vote.**

(Note: The original wording of articles is in italics; amendments are in italics and bold; and results are in bold)

Article 1: *To choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year by official ballot. The polls will be open at 11:00 AM, and close at 7:00 PM, and the business meeting will commence at 7:00 PM on the following articles.*

Results of voting for town officials (Article 1) are recorded separately.

Article 2: *Do you approve of having 2 sessions for the annual town meeting in this town, the first session for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot and the second session, on a date set by the selectmen, for the transaction of other business?*

Results for Article 2 by ballot vote: Yes – 125; No – 74

Article 3: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Mavis Brittelli seconded the motion to see if the municipality will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$475,000 payable over a term of 60 months for the purchase of a new fire truck for the Fire Department and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be used as a down payment towards the purpose with said sum to come from the Fire Truck capital reserve fund established for this purpose. There will be no payment due in 2015 and future payments will become part of the operating budget. 2/3 ballot vote required.*

Patrick Moriarty asked Fire Chief John Fischer to speak to the motion. Chief Fischer gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the timeline of what type and when the various current fire apparatus were purchased. The town hired a consultant to help evaluate the type of truck to purchase and provide financing recommendations. The consultant recommended the town decommission the 1977 and 1987 fire trucks. The proposed new truck is a Class A pumper capable of providing an additional 1,500 gallons of water capacity and the cab could be configured to transport six (6) firefighters. The current build time for a fire truck is about 270 days.

Patrick Moriarty explained there is approximately \$300,000 in the Fire Capital Reserve Fund. The consultant recommended using \$200,000 from the Fire Capital Reserve Fund as a down payment on the new truck leaving a balance of \$100,000 in the fund for emergency purposes. This article is for a \$275,000 five year lease/purchase arrangement at approximately a two percent (2%) interest rate. Payments would be about \$60,000/year over the five year lease period. Currently, the Town of Groton

shares fire service with the town. The consultant has assisted (or will assist) in formulating a proposed cost sharing arrangement with Groton. Truck specifications will be submitted to several different companies for bids. After the bids are opened, the town will negotiate a final purchase price not to exceed \$475,000 with the company which offers the truck that best meets the town's needs. There would be no lease payment due in 2015.

Don Franklin moved and George Dengel seconded an amendment to see if the municipality will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$475,000 payable over a term of 60 months for the purchase of a new fire truck for the Fire Department and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$240,000 to be used as a down payment towards the purpose with said sum to come from the Fire Truck capital reserve fund established for this purpose. There will be no payment due in 2015 and future payments will become part of the operating budget.

The amendment as presented did not pass.

Patrick Moriarty stated the lease/purchase arrangement does not have a penalty buyout. The moderator informed the audience this article requires a yes/no ballot vote and the polls are required to remain open for one hour until 8:45 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m. the moderator read aloud the results of the ballot vote: Yes – 95; No – 20.

Article 3 passed by the required 2/3 ballot vote.

Town Offices and Refurbishment Committee Update:

Eleanor Lonske reviewed with the audience the formation of the committee, the charge presented to the committee by the select board and that the legislative body voted \$50,000 at the 2014 town meeting for the purposes of hiring an architect to prepare plans for an addition and renovations to the Academy building. Ms. Lonske asked Roger Larochelle, chair of the Town Offices and Refurbishment Committee, to provide an update of the committee. Mr. Larochelle introduced the committee members, gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the process undertaken by the committee. The primary objective is to preserve the Academy building. The committee reviewed the ways the building is used and how the building could be used. The most active use for the building is a consolidation of town functions. After a needs analysis with town employees and discussions with the architect, town employees and committee members, it was determined the current building configuration would not meet the town's needs. Mr. Larochelle stated the committee went through a deliberative process to arrive at the current recommendations.

The moderator informed the audience Articles 4, 5 and 6 relate to the Academy building.

Article 4: Eleanor Lonske moved and George Andrews seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to add to the Town Offices Expansion and Refurbishment Fund previously established.

Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and reviewed the 2010 town meeting future town hall presentation. Ms. Lonske gave a PowerPoint presentation which showed early Academy building photos and explained the town wide charrette recommended a two phase process. Audrey Johnson asked

voters to consider voting “no” on this article as it is a targeted article. Alan Barnard stated Hebron was one of the first to have the common listed on the National Historic Register. Mr. Barnard also stated the monies placed in this fund could be used for other town buildings as it was established for town offices expansion and refurbishment. Ms. Lonske replied that in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the entire discussion was about the Academy building. John Dunklee explained the proposed monies placed in this fund represent about \$.38 on the tax rate. Ileana Saros asked what type of repairs, how imminent and the cost for the repairs to the Academy building. Ms. Lonske reviewed some of the repairs and stated the Academy Building Structural Analysis Report is available on the town’s website. The cost to repair, bring the building up to code and add a full basement could be around \$600,000.

Article 4 passed by voice vote.

Article 5: *Ronald Collins moved and Curtis Mooney seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to restrict modifications to the Hebron Academy, known as the Selectmen's Office, to maintenance, repairs to preserve its integrity and structure, and to install a basement. All other modifications, extensions, or additions to not be allowed unless approved on by the voters of the Town of Hebron at a Town Meeting by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority. (Submitted by Petition)*

Ronald Collins spoke to the motion and stated he is in favor of preserving the Academy building. If this article is passed, it would be a symbolic vote only. Mr. Collins gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the use of the Academy building. There are only two academy buildings left intact in New Hampshire.

Moderator Carey read aloud an opinion by town counsel, Steven Whitley:

“I don't believe the voters at town meeting can impose a supermajority requirement on successive town meetings. So the article as written would not be binding if it passed. But even if the supermajority was changed or amended to a simple majority and it passed, it would be advisory only on the selectmen. The selectmen are given the control over management of town property (RSA 41:11-a) and I don't believe an article can take that authority away from them or override it. Now, that is the legal reasoning. For political reasons, however, if the article passed, the selectmen may be wise to consider how the public wishes this building to be used, which would likely include consideration of how town funds are to be spent and budgets drafted for upcoming fiscal years. “

Article 5 did not pass by voice vote.

Article 6: *Sheila Oranch moved and Ed Gempka seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to cease all expenditures on office expansion and Academy rehabilitation projects currently underway, and form a committee to study alternative plans for office expansion, Academy rehabilitation, town hall creation and emergency relocation center creation and to report back to the town no later than August 31, 2015 on the two proposals that meet the most needs of the town with the intent that the town will choose by paper ballot vote which alternative plan they want to pursue at the Town Meeting of March 2016. Said committee to include one representative from the Select Board, Heritage Commission, Historic District Commission, Hebron Historical Society, Planning Board to be selected by those organizations and one Hebron voter who is not on a town committee or town employee to be selected by the Selectmen. The town needs to be addressed are: (1) centralizing the town offices, (2) creating a town meeting hall, (3) creating a town emergency relocation center, (4) preserving the vibrancy of the town center, (5)*

preserving the Hebron Academy and (6) preserving the Town Common for Hebron Fair, the Gazebo Program, and other town functions. (Submitted by Petition)

Ronald Collins moved and Bill Power seconded an amendment to see if the town will vote to cease all expenditures on office expansion and Academy rehabilitation projects currently underway, and form a committee to study alternative plans for office expansion, Academy rehabilitation, town hall creation and emergency relocation center creation and to report back to the town no later than August 31, 2015 on the two proposals that meet the most needs of the town with the intent that the town will choose by paper ballot vote which alternative plan they want to pursue at the Town Meeting of March 2016. Said committee to include one representative from the Select Board, Heritage Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board to be selected by those organizations and one Hebron voter who is neither on a town committee nor a town employee to be selected by the Selectmen. The town needs to be addressed include but are not limited to: (1) centralizing the town offices; (2) creating a town meeting hall, (3) preserving the vibrancy of the town center, (4) preserving the Hebron Academy and (5) preserving the Town Common for Hebron Fair, the Gazebo Program, and other town functions."

Ronald Collins spoke to the motion. There was no discussion on the amendment. A voice vote was too close to determine and a hand count was taken.

Results of the hand count: Yes – 62; No – 35. The amendment as presented passed.

Mr. Collins spoke to the original article as amended and provided background information of when monies have been set aside, the various building committees formed and some of the building ideas presented in the past. Mr. Collins reviewed a process which could be used by a potential committee to evaluate building proposals, determine town needs and present a report at the 2016 town meeting. This process would hopefully result in a 2/3 majority vote on any building project.

Don Franklin stated he was on the 2009/2010 Town Hall Planning Committee. He and another committee member toured several town halls. The committee basically determined a building similar to the current Academy addition might best meet the needs of the town, but the proposed location was on the same property as the Public Safety Building.

The Academy building is on the National Historic Register and may be added on to, but the Department of the Interior has strict rules pertaining to building additions.

Eleanor Lonske stated the town did not receive a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and without the LCHIP grant, the potential project could cost upwards of \$1,000,000.

After considerable discussion, Sheila Oranch moved and Jennifer Larochelle seconded the motion to move the question. The motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator Carey read aloud an opinion by town counsel, Steven Whitley:

"I don't believe the direction to cease all expenditures would be binding on the selectmen even if passed. The formation of a committee however likely would be binding, but the selectmen would not have to follow any of the recommendations made by the committee. I realize this was petitioned so it

cannot be changed to separate these two directives out or to eliminate one or the other without being amended at the meeting, but thought you should have some context for that discussion.”

Moderator Carey explained to the audience, a request for a secret yes/no ballot was submitted.

Article 6 as amended did not pass by secret ballot: Yes – 40; No – 70.

Article 7: *John Dunklee moved and Bruce Barnard seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to establish a Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of installing dry hydrants throughout the town and future maintenance of the hydrants and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.*

John Dunklee spoke to the motion. The Hebron Fire Department completed a study of the dry fire hydrants in the town and determined more hydrants are needed. There are locations in town where if a fire occurs water would need to be trucked to the scene. Fire Chief John Fischer reviewed how dry hydrants function and that 23 potential dry hydrant sites were identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Article 8: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Mavis Brittelli seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$13,500) to pave Church Lane. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by March 1, 2017, whichever is sooner.*

Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and presented a picture of the current condition of Church Lane. Improved drainage would be included as part of the paving process. One resident mentioned the water lines and the common lights electrical lines should probably be placed in conduit. As part of the paving process, the road will be moved slightly resulting in loss of some of the Common area.

Article 8 passed by voice vote.

Article 9: *John Dunklee moved and George Andrews seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to perform the necessary upgrades including ditching, new culvert and move back the roadside embankments, and to pave 515’ of George Road. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by March 1, 2017, whichever is sooner.*

John Dunklee spoke to the motion and explained this article is for maintenance purposes. The upgrades and the 515’ of paving are from the corner of Route 3A to near Cilley Road.

Article 9 passed by voice vote.

Article 10: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Bruce Barnard seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Emergency Repairs Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of emergency repairs to town roads and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.*

Patrick Moriarty spoke to the motion and stated this article is to set aside monies for emergency road repairs.

Article 10 passed by voice vote.

Article 11: *John Dunklee moved and Travis Austin seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to establish a Culvert Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of culvert repairs and maintenance and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.*

John Dunklee spoke to the motion and explained to the audience that during 2014, a major emergency culvert repair was paid from the town's general budget. This article will allow for emergency repairs while not affecting the Town Highway Department budget.

Article 11 passed by voice vote.

Article 12: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Robert Brooks seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to establish a Police Department Special Detail Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. And further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to be placed in this Fund.*

Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and explained this article is a general bookkeeping item. Currently, Special Detail revenues are deposited into the general fund. Chief Austin explained what constitutes a Special Detail. The detail is charged out at a higher rate with the police officer receiving additional pay. The officer's wages are paid from the Police Department budget. Special Detail revenues can be deposited into a Police Department Special Detail Revolving Fund and then transferred to be spent in the current year. Fuel used by the cruiser for Special Detail is paid from the Police Department budget, but some of the monies in the Special Detail Revolving Fund could be used if the fuel is traceable to the Special Detail.

Article 12 passed by voice vote.

Article 13: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Mavis Brittelli seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$55,540) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:*

<i>Police</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Highway</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Ambulance</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Assessment Services</i>	<i>\$5,440</i>
<i>Cemetery Tombstones and Fence</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and mentioned the Fire Department consultant hired by the town recommended retaining \$100,000 in the Fire Capital Reserve Fund thus the lower amount being contributed to the fund.

Donald Franklin moved and John Fischer seconded an amendment to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety five thousand four hundred and forty dollars (\$95,440) to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

*Police - \$5,000
Highway - \$15,000
Fire - \$40,000
Ambulance - \$20,000
Communications - \$5,000
Assessment Services - \$5,440
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence - \$5,000*

Donald Franklin spoke to the motion and stated it is prudent to continue contributing monies into the Fire Capital Reserve Fund. John Fischer mentioned the town should continue setting aside monies towards the next new fire truck. Patrick Moriarty informed the audience this could raise the tax rate.

Amendment #1 passed by voice vote.

John Fischer moved and Maynard Young seconded an amendment to increase the Police Capital Reserve from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

John Fischer spoke to the motion and explained increasing the amount contributed to the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund would allow the Police Department to more easily purchase the next new police cruiser.

Amendment #2 passed by voice vote.

The article as amended by Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 would increase the total monies contributed to the capital reserve funds to \$96,440.

Article 13 as amended by Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 passed by voice vote.

Article 14: Patrick Moriarty moved and George Andrews seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to perambulate the town line between Groton and Hebron; Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be paid by the Town of Groton and Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500) to be raised by taxes.

Patrick Moriarty spoke to the motion and provided a brief overview of the history of perambulating town lines. Sheila Oranch asked for an explanation of the process of perambulation. Alan Barnard, a local land surveyor, stated GPS would be used and the boundary lines would be marked.

Article 14 passed by voice vote.

Article 15: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Suzanne Smith seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Dollars (\$12,549) for the Gazebo Programs. Three Thousand One Hundred and Forty-Five Dollars (\$3,145) to be withdrawn from fund balance, Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) from Donations and Grants, and Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Four Dollars (\$7,404) of that amount is to be raised by taxes.*

Everett Begor, Gazebo Program coordinator, spoke to the motion and reviewed the programs scheduled for this summer.

Article 15 passed by voice vote.

Article 16: *Eleanor Lonske moved and George Andrews seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to update the furniture at the Hebron Library. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the furniture update is completed or by March 1, 2017, whichever is sooner.*

Ralph Larson moved and Bill Powers seconded an amendment to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to update the furniture at the Hebron Library. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the furniture update is completed or by March 1, 2017, whichever is sooner.

Ralph Larson spoke to the motion and explained the proposed furniture to be purchased is specifically designed for library use.

The amendment passed by voice vote.

Article 16 as amended passed by voice vote.

Article 17: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Mark Coulson seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars (\$1,126,292) as an operating budget for the 2015 fiscal year. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all the previous articles.*

Patrick Moriarty spoke to the motion and explained there are slight increases in the Fire Department and Police Department budgets as well as a 42 percent increase in the Library budget.

Ralph Larson moved and Bill Powers seconded an amendment to Article 17 by adding \$4,500 to the 2015 budget. The additional \$4,500 is to be added to the Library Expense Budget, Account 4550.

Ralph Larson spoke to the amendment and also addressed the 42 percent increase in the Library budget. Mr. Larson stated this amendment is for the library to be open two additional hours on a weeknight and for a library assistant. Hiring an assistant would provide the librarian more time to interact with patrons and to have two employees available during open hours.

Eleanor Lonske stated the Select Board supports the library but does not support this amendment. Mr. Larson stated the librarian spends considerable time one-on-one with patrons.

The amendment as presented did not pass by voice vote.

Robert Brooks asked for an explanation concerning the increase in cemetery appropriations. The increase was due to repair/replacement of the fence. This was reimbursed from the Cemetery Tombstones and Fence Capital Reserve Fund. Alan Barnard asked why the Hebron Refuse District bond expenditures listed in the town report is more than what is listed in the bond payment schedule. The town report is in error.

Article 17 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Roger Larochelle moved and Maynard Young seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

A true copy of action taken at the Hebron Town Meeting on March 10, 2015.

Tracey Steenbergen
Hebron Town Clerk