

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2013**

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

(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 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m., and the business meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. on the following articles.*

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

ARTICLE 2: *Thomas Gump moved and Eleanor Lonske seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$5,950) to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. Said sum to come from the fund balance available for transfer on December 31, 2012. This amount represents the amount received from the sale of the 1986 Ford F800 and Everest Curl Plow. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Mr. Gump spoke to the motion and explained the equipment was sold at auction and \$5,950 represents the proceeds. The Select Board recommends adding the proceeds to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund to be used for future highway equipment. No discussion occurred.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: *John Fischer moved and Thomas Gump seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-One Thousand Dollars (\$31,000) for a new 2013 Police Vehicle and authorize the withdrawal of that sum from the Police Capital Reserve Account created for that purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Mr. Fischer spoke to the motion and informed the audience this article is to replace the Ford Expedition currently used by the Police Department. The Expedition has 72,000 miles but in its current condition, it will not pass inspection. Repairs totaling \$6,000 would be necessary to make the vehicle roadworthy. The dealer will give a \$4,000 trade-in allowance for the Expedition towards a Ford Explorer with a high performance engine. The cost of the Explorer is around \$26,000 with an estimate of \$4,000 to \$4,500 to reconfigure and equip the new vehicle.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: *Bob Brooks moved and Kathleen Fleming seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$11,600) for the Gazebo Programs. Six Thousand One Hundred and Ninety-Four Dollars (\$6,194) of that amount is to be raised by*

taxes, Three Thousand Four Hundred and Six Dollars (\$3,406) from fund balance, and Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) from Donations and Grants. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Mr. Brooks spoke to the motion and reviewed the various musical groups to perform at this year's summer concerts along with the schedule of Family Fun Day activities. No discussion occurred.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: *Thomas Gump moved and Eleanor Lonske seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to pave Stone Gate Road and make drainage improvements. This is a two-year non-lapsing article. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Mr. Gump spoke to the motion and described the location of Stone Gate Road. He reviewed the condition of the road and some of the drainage problems as well as the location of the buried utility lines. Paving the road should help with some of the debris and gravel washing into the lake. If this article is approved, the town will be responsible for paving approximately 465 feet of road with Stonegate Association responsible for paving the association's beach parking area at the bottom of the road near the lake. James Bivona, Stonegate Association representative, stated the association has been working with the State of NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to improve drainage along the state road. A paved curb will be installed before the parking area to divert water runoff away from the lake. Discussion ensued as to the exact location of the utility lines. Several townspeople suggested the Highway Supervisor contact the various utility companies to determine the location of the utility lines and whether the lines need to be relocated prior to paving. Mr. Bivona mentioned that paving the road should reduce the amount of sand washing into the catch basins. The NHDOT is responsible for cleaning the catch basin on state road with the association responsible for cleaning the basin on their property. Bruce Barnard recommended the Selectmen review the road acceptance documentation to determine if the town is responsible for maintenance of the catch basin on the association's property.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: *John Fischer moved and Thomas Gump seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to add the Bridge House Shelter to the list of annually supported Health Agencies and to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for said agency. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

John Fischer spoke to the motion and stated Hebron contributes around \$14,000 annually to different health and human agencies along with several local hospitals. Mr. Fischer reviewed the Bridge House Shelter's mission and purpose and explained the organization provides services other than housing. The organization is currently raising funds for a new facility to assist homeless veterans. This article if approved will support the organization's day-to-day ongoing efforts.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Thomas Gump seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500) to remove and properly dispose of the small building on the Town Forest property. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Ms. Lonske spoke to the motion and explained where the building is located. The Conservation Commission has requested better parking and signage for the Town Forest property. The building does not contain asbestos and cannot be moved due to structural issues. Barbara Brooks asked if the fire department could burn the building as part of a training exercise. Fire Chief Fischer stated that controlled burns have become very complex due to various regulatory issues. Ms. Lonske stated the town's highway department would demolish the building. The \$5,500 warrant article cost is less than what a commercial demolition company would charge.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: *John Fischer moved and Eleanor Lonske seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to install modular locking - partitions and shelves in the old fire station for secured storage of Town property. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

John Fischer spoke to the motion and explained where in the building the locking partitions would be located. A PowerPoint slide of a representative sample of the modular partitions was shown. The modular partitions are portable, have sliding doors in the various compartments and are 4' wide by 24' in length by 8' tall. The cost of the units is \$2,500 with the additional \$1,500 for installation and removing the old shelving. Items belonging to the Hebron Historical Society, the Gazebo Program and the town will be stored in the partitions. The Hebron Historical Society has signed a hold harmless document with the town so the town has no liability in the event of damage to the Society's belongings. Mr. Fischer mentioned the building is equipped with an alarm system which has a digital communicator.

The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: *Thomas Gump moved and Eleanor Lonske seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$73,440) to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:*

<i>Police</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Highway</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Ambulance</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>Assessment Services</i>	<i>\$5,440</i>

Recommended by the Selectmen.

Thomas Gump spoke to the motion and explained there was a warrant article in 2012 to create an Assessment Services Capital Reserve account. The account was created to equalize the annual amount of monies set aside for assessing services as the current contract has a balloon payment due at the end of the contract.

John Fischer proposed an amendment seconded by Bruce Barnard to increase the contribution to the Fire Capital Reserve account from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Fischer spoke to the amendment and explained when the Fire Department was relocated to the Public Safety Building the town's fire trucks had the capacity to carry 5,000 gallons of water. Currently,
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the town only has 2,250 gallons available as the 35 year old fire truck is inoperative at this time. The company which manufactured the 35 year old truck is out of business and the department is having difficulty locating the parts to repair the truck. The newest fire truck the town owns is 10 years old and the cost to replace the truck would be around \$360,000. The cost to purchase a new truck with a 2,500 gallon capacity would be approximately \$400,000. There is currently \$220,000 in the Fire Capital Reserve account and at the current contribution schedule, the town cannot keep pace with the annual cost increase in fire trucks. Mitch Manseau of the Capital Improvement Program Committee (CIP) stated the committee recommended a \$43,000 contribution into the Fire Capital Reserve account. Mr. Fischer mentioned the department is starting to find more problems with the current equipment due to the age of the equipment. George Bolln asked if the town should borrow funds to purchase a new truck. Mr. Fischer explained a lease/purchase situation is one popular method to obtain a new truck. Mr. Manseau stated the CIP thinks the capital reserve accounts are underfunded and the town should seriously review funding of these accounts.

The amendment to increase the contribution to the Fire Capital Reserve account passed by voice vote.

The article as amended passed by voice vote.

Article 10: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Thomas Gump 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. Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Ms. Lonske spoke to the motion. She explained the history of the town buildings around the common and reviewed some of the recent problems with the buildings such as mold, wildlife residing in the ceilings and crawl spaces, water leaks and heating. The charette report and recommendations prepared by Plan NH were discussed along with the architectural analysis and assessment report of the Academy Building (currently the Selectmen's office). The Selectmen would like to begin discussions with architects concerning potential renovations, etc.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 11: *Sheila Oranch moved and Thomas Gump seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Ninety-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$1,093,783) as an operating budget for the 2013 fiscal year. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all the previous articles.*

Thomas Gump spoke to the motion and explained the Selectmen have worked hard to keep the operating budget slim. Mr. Gump provided a PowerPoint presentation showing a graph of the operating budget over the last eight years. The various town departments have also worked diligently to keep budget increases to a minimum.

The article passed by voice vote.

Other Business:

District 8 State Representative Suzanne Smith updated the townspeople on proposed legislation concerning the state's energy plan, in particular concerning wind farms. Proposed legislation involves
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energy transmission, wind power, burying transmission lines and state energy corridors. Selectman Gump informed the audience legal counsel advised the town to not issue a statement regarding proposed wind farms in the Newfound area in the event a wind farm matter is brought before any of the town's boards.

Moderator Carey presented different options to the audience regarding locations to hold town voting and meeting. Possible options were holding voting and the meeting at the Community Hall, holding voting at the Community Hall with town meeting at the Bridgewater Hebron School or voting at next year's town meeting to hold the town election and meeting on different days. After discussion, the general consensus was to continue holding town voting and meeting on the same day at the Public Safety Building. It was suggested parking space could be increased by paving the area to the right of the Public Safety Building.

Mary Campbell thanked town officials for their work. Moderator Carey thanked Curtis Mooney for his service to the town on the Board of Selectmen and on the Planning Board. John Fischer was recognized for his time on the Select Board during February and March. Town employees, Karen Corliss and Elita Reed, were thanked for their work in the Selectmen's office.

Roger Larochelle moved and Ray Norton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

A true copy of action taken at the Hebron Town Meeting on March 12, 2013.

Tracey Steenbergen
Town Clerk