

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2016 AND MARCH 12, 2016**

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016: COMMUNITY HALL, BASEMENT OF THE UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, HEBRON

Moderator Peter Carey opened the polls for ballot voting on Articles 1 and 2 at 11:00 am and closed the polls at 7:00 pm.

***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 9:00 AM on Saturday the 12th of March, 2016 at the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School located at 25 School House Road in Bridgewater on the following articles. (note: the business meeting commenced on Articles 3 and beyond).*

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

***Article 2:** Are you in favor of changing the term of the elected town treasurer from one year to 3 years, beginning with the term of the town treasurer to be elected at next year's regular town meeting?*

Results for Article 2: Yes – 124; No – 13

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016: BRIDGEWATER-HEBRON VILLAGE SCHOOL, 25 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD, BRIDGEWATER

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

Moderator Peter Carey called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. After recognition of United States Armed Forces veterans in the audience and the Pledge of Allegiance, the moderator read aloud the meeting rules to the audience.

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

***Article 3:** John Dunklee moved and Bruce Barnard seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) for the purpose of removing the existing pavement from Panorama Lane, starting at 47 Panorama Lane, removing rocks protruding through the surface, install underdrains, haul in and install proper base material to prepare for repaving the road with 3" of pavement. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until March 1, 2018, whichever is sooner.*

Selectman John Dunklee spoke to the article.

Robert Brooks moved and Dian West seconded an amendment to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) for the purpose of removing the existing pavement from Panorama Lane starting at 47 Panorama Lane to repair and repave the road. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until March 1, 2018, whichever is sooner.

Robert Brooks spoke to the amendment and stated the amendment clarifies the original wording of the article. Selectman John Dunklee informed the audience the road agent spoke with excavation contractors and paving contractors to derive the cost. Selectman Patrick Moriarty further explained the selectmen added contingency funds to the quote provided by the road agent to ensure adequate funds were available to complete the project. The repaired road will meet Class V road specifications.

The amendment as presented passed by voice vote.

Article 3 as amended passed by voice vote.

Article 4: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Nadine Hession seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$80,540) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:*

Police	\$5,000
Highway	\$15,000
Fire	\$100
Ambulance	\$20,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$5,440
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$5,000
Dry Hydrant	\$10,000
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Common Tree Fund	\$5,000

Selectman Patrick Moriarty informed the audience the balance sheet in the town report is incorrect and an insert with corrected balances is available. Selectman Moriarty asked the audience to refer to page 47 of the town report for the Report of the Trustees of Trust Funds which lists the balances of the town's various trust funds and capital reserve accounts. The proposed contribution to the Fire Department Capital Reserve account is \$100 which is significantly less than previous years. Selectman Moriarty explained the town will begin making lease/purchase payments this year on the new fire truck approved at the 2015 town meeting. The selectmen discussed the reduced contribution with Fire Chief John Fischer.

Don Franklin moved and Maynard Young seconded an amendment to increase the Fire Department Capital Reserve contribution from \$100 to \$40,000. The total amount to raise and appropriate under Article 4 would increase to \$120,440.

Don Franklin spoke to the amendment and explained the town did not have enough funds in the Fire Department Capital Reserve account in 2015 to purchase the new fire truck outright. Mr. Franklin feels it would be prudent for the town to continue contributing annually to this account in a sufficient amount to purchase the next fire truck. Selectman Eleanor Lonske stated the \$100 contribution is somewhat misleading. The town will pay \$74,000 this year on the lease/purchase payments for the new fire truck. The plan is to continue contributing this same amount into the Fire Department Capital Reserve account after the lease/purchase is completed on the new fire truck. The next projected fire truck purchase is in approximately ten years.

The town warrant lists Article 4 as recommended by the selectmen by a vote of 2-1. Selectman Patrick Moriarty and Selectman Lonske support the article as originally presented with Selectman Dunklee opposed. Selectman Dunklee explained that after further discussions with Fire Chief John Fischer concerning the \$100 contribution to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, he now supports this article as originally presented.

Thomas Gump asked the selectmen to clarify the arrangement between Hebron and Groton for Hebron to provide fire and EMS services to Groton. Selectman Lonske stated the selectmen are working with Groton to increase the annual fee for fire and EMS services. Groton has a similar arrangement with Rumney to provide services and based on this arrangement, Groton will pay \$12,500 towards new fire department equipment if approved by the Groton voters. There is a difference between the amount listed in the Hebron town report and the Groton town report for fire/EMS services. This is possibly due to a late payment by Groton. Audrey Johnson asked the selectmen if the reason why the town is paying \$70,000/year for the new fire truck payment is because the town did not have sufficient funds in the capital reserve account to pay for the new truck. Selectman Dunklee replied that other fire departments are placing their fire trucks in service for 20 years and not ten years. Lease/purchase agreements are being utilized by other towns as a means to pay for large capital purchases.

The voice vote on the amendment was too close to determine and the moderator asked for a hand count. Results of the hand count: Yes – 19; No – 32.

The amendment as presented did not pass by hand count.

Barbara Brooks asked the selectmen to explain the \$5,000 appropriation to the Cemetery Tombstones and Fence Capital Reserve account. Selectman Lonske stated the funds will be used to continue the cemetery fencing and repair work to the tombstones.

Article 4 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 5: Selectman Eleanor Lonske moved and Mark Coulson seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to add to the Town Offices Expansion and Refurbishment Fund previously established.

Selectman Lonske deferred to Roger Larochelle, chair of the Hebron Academy Committee, to speak to the article. Mr. Larochelle stated the committee is in favor of this article and in 2017, the town will be asked to fund the balance required to begin construction on an addition and the refurbishment of the Academy Building. There is approximately \$450,000 currently in the fund.

Article 5 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 6: Selectman Patrick Moriarty moved and Ronald Collins seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six Dollars (\$67,236) for the purpose of participation in the Pre-Disaster Planning for Historic Properties Project with this amount to be covered by a grant from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. No amount to be raised through taxation.

Selectman Patrick Moriarty deferred to Ronald Collins to speak to the article. Mr. Collins explained the particulars of the grant. The project will also produce flood plain and forest fire hazard surveys. The

grant has been approved by the state of New Hampshire and has been forwarded to the US Department of the Interior for approval.

Article 6 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 7: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Suzanne Smith seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-Four (\$11,264) for the Gazebo Programs. Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$2,344) to be withdrawn from fund balance, One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) from Donations and Grants, and Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$7,420) of that amount is to be raised by taxes.*

Selectman Patrick Moriarty deferred to Everett Begor, Gazebo Program Coordinator, to speak to the motion. Mr. Begor reviewed the upcoming summer programs and explained the amount requested is down slightly.

Article 7 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 8: *John Dunklee moved and Nadine Hession seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) from the town's unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2015 to perambulate the town line between Groton and Hebron with no amount to be raised by taxation. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until March 1, 2018, whichever is sooner.*

Selectman John Dunklee spoke to the motion and explained this was also discussed and voted on at the 2015 town meeting, but it was voted as a lapsing article. The town of Groton will vote on appropriating their portion at their town meeting.

Article 8 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 9: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Ronald Collins seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty-Five Dollars (\$2,585) for the purchase of the Atrium Express System for Hebron Library automation. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the software is operational or March 1, 2018, whichever is sooner.*

Selectman Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and then deferred to William Powers, former Library Trustee. Mr. Powers explained the software will allow a patron to access the library's card catalog and state of New Hampshire resources from any internet connection. The software is hosted on an off-site server.

Article 9 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 10: *John Dunklee moved and Vincent Broderick seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following capital reserve fund entitled "George Road Relocation" created in 2008, with said funds and any accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the general fund per RSA 35:16-a.*

Selectman John Dunklee spoke to the motion and informed the audience the landowner the town was working with on the road relocation onto North Shore Road was not willing to pay for additional

information required by the town's engineer. Due to this requirement, the landowner decided to change the subdivision and the road project was abandoned. Bruce Barnard asked the selectmen if the capital reserve funds could be used to relocate the portion of George Road just beyond the Jaques property to create better site distance from George Road onto North Shore Road. The town has a 70-foot easement at this location. Selectman Dunklee stated the capital reserve fund was created to relocate the George Road entrance onto North Shore Road at the top of the Sanborn Hill area of North Shore Road. There is currently \$15,536 in the fund.

Article 10 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 11: *John Dunklee moved and Martha Twombly seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$15,536) to be added to the Road Emergency Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. Said sum to come from the general fund.*

Selectman John Dunklee spoke to the motion and explained the funds appropriated in this article are the same amount as in Article 10.

Article 11 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 12: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Elaine Gump seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to discontinue the capital reserve fund entitled "Charrette Fund" created in 2011 with said funds and any accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to be transferred to the general fund per RSA 35:16-a. The Design Charrette has been completed.*

Selectman Eleanor Lonske spoke to the motion and explained the design charrette has been completed. The current balance in the fund is \$0.00.

Article 12 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 13: *Eleanor Lonske moved and Ronald Collins seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Historic District Commission to assume the composition and duties of the Heritage Commission per RSA 674:46-a, V.*

Selectman Eleanor Lonske deferred to Ronald Collins, Chair of the Heritage Commission, to speak to the motion. Mr. Collins read aloud to the audience comments submitted by David Brittelli, Chair of the Historic District Commission, who was unable to attend town meeting. Mr. Collins informed the audience that both commissions have had a difficult time finding enough individuals willing to serve on the two commissions. Both commissions support the town's decision to become a Certified Local Government.

Article 13 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Article 14: *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 Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars (\$1,194,533) as an operating budget for the 2016 fiscal year. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all the previous special or individual articles.*

Selectman Patrick Moriarty spoke to the motion and explained this article is the general operating budget of the town. The increase in the budget is almost solely due to the lease/purchase payment for the fire truck approved at the 2015 town meeting.

Article 14 as originally presented passed by voice vote.

Other Business: Moderator Carey read aloud the results of the March 8, 2016 ballot voting. William Powers was thanked for his work as a Library Trustee. The town report was dedicated to Everett and Kathy Begor and they were recognized for their work throughout the Newfound Area. Mary Campbell thanked the Hebron Fire Department for the 911 numbering sign program.

Moderator Carey took a straw poll of the audience members about where and on what day to hold the 2017 town meeting (results were not tabulated).

Ronald Collins moved and Nadine Hession seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.

A true copy of action taken at the Hebron Town Meeting on March 8 and March 12, 2016.

Tracey Steenbergen
Hebron Town Clerk