

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 10, 2022 AND MAY 12, 2022**

Note: The original wording of articles is in *italics*; amendments are in *italics* and **bold**; and the results of voting on an article are **bold** and CAPITALIZED.

**TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022: COMMUNITY HALL**

**ARTICLE 1:** *To choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year by official ballot, including one (1) Selectman (3) year term; one (1) Moderator (2) year term; one (1) Library Trustee (3) year term; one (1) Trustee of Trust Funds (3) year term; one (1) Supervisor of the Checklist (6) year term; one (1) Auditor (2) year term.*

**ARTICLE 2:** *Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment No.1 as proposed by the Hebron Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as follows: [ON THE BALLOT]*

*To amend the Hebron Zoning Ordinance by adopting Hebron Solar Ordinance Appendix B.*

Moderator Roger Larochelle opened the polls at 11:00 a.m. and closed the polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 for ballot voting on Article 1 for the election of town officers and Article 2 for the zoning amendment. Voting was conducted in the Community Hall (basement of the Hebron Church) with 122 election day and absentee ballots cast.

**RESULTS OF VOTING FOR TOWN OFFICES (ARTICLE 1) AND ZONING AMENDMENT (ARTICLE 2) ARE RECORDED SEPARATELY.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022: TOWN COMMON**

Moderator Roger Larochelle declared the 231<sup>st</sup> town meeting open at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2022 upon the ringing of the Union Congregational Church bell. The Moderator asked attendees to notice the United States' flag displayed on the Common was at half-mast to honor the approximately one million individuals who have died during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Moderator introduced town officials, the police chief, and the fire chief to the attendees. He further asked attendees who serve on a town board or committee to stand and be recognized.

Selectman Paul Hazelton recognized retiring Fire Chief John Fischer for his 47 years of service as fire chief to the town of Hebron. There will be a more town-wide formal recognition of Chief Fischer within the next few months. Selectman Hazelton provided a history of the fire department at the beginning of Chief Fischer's tenure. The professional volunteer fire department the town now has is a direct result of the countless hours of Chief Fischer's time and his vision for the department. After a well-deserved standing ovation for Chief Fischer, the new fire chief, Jamie Moulton, was introduced to the attendees. Chief Fischer read aloud a letter dated June 4, 1975 from the then Board of Selectmen appointing him as "temporary" fire chief. Chief Fischer then presented the fire chief's white helmet to Chief Moulton symbolizing the passing of the chain of command to Chief Moulton.



Retiring Fire Chief John Fischer  
presenting the "White Helmet" to  
new Fire Chief Jamie Moulton

The Moderator reviewed with the attendees the meeting rules and the process for asking questions and submitting amendments. Copies of the meeting rules were available for attendees at the Supervisors of the Checklist's table. The results of the Tuesday, May 10, 2022 voting for town officials and the zoning amendment were reported by the Moderator.

There were approximately 84 attendees at the meeting.

Jennifer Larochelle moved and David Hardy seconded the motion to dispense with the second reading of a warrant article if no amendment was made – **the motion passed by voice vote.**

### **WARRANT ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 3:** *Selectman Patrick Moriarty moved and John Dunklee seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Moriarty spoke to the motion and explained the treasurer's position requires a certain skill set. The current treasurer recommended to the Select Board the town should consider an appointed treasurer rather than an elected treasurer.

### **ARTICLE 3 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 4:** *Selectman Richard James moved and Suzanne Smith seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen Dollars (\$5,815) for the purchase of two (2) driver feedback radar speed signs. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman James spoke to the motion and informed the attendees the town owns one non-functioning portable speed sign. Due to cost of repairs for the portable sign, it is more cost effective to replace the portable sign with two semi-permanent signs. The proposed new signs have solar panels and would be installed at two separate locations reminding drivers to "slow down." The signs would provide feedback data to the Hebron Police on what time of the day patrolling may be needed. Police Chief Austin will determine where to install the signs with the high traffic areas targeted (probably Route 3A and North Shore Road).

### **ARTICLE 4 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 5:** *Selectman Patrick Moriarty moved and Paul Hazelton seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$101,970) to reclaim, repair, and repave Bear Mountain Road. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until May 15, 2025 or until the project is completed, whichever occurs first. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Moriarty spoke to the motion and stated each year the town identifies and targets one town road to repair/improve. The Highway Supervisor recommended Bear Mountain Road this year.

### **ARTICLE 5 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 6:** *Selectman Richard James moved and George Bolln seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to reclassify a portion of Berea Road pursuant to RSA 231:22-a from a Class VI Road to a Class V*

*Road from the intersection of West Shore Road to the large culvert on Berea Road. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman James spoke to the motion and explained the school bus has had some difficulty navigating Berea Road. The town police and highway departments also approve of the road reclassification. The change in classification will allow the town to legally expend monies to maintain and repair the road. Camp Berea maintains the road from the large culvert to the camp area.

#### **ARTICLE 6 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 7:** *Selectman Paul Hazelton moved and Jennifer Larochelle seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) to hire an engineering firm to complete a Dredge & Fill application in order to be able to dredge the mouth of the Cockermouth River and to dredge the material from the river. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until May 15, 2025 or until the application has been approved, whichever occurs first. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Paul Hazelton spoke to the motion and stated the Selectmen have worked diligently with the Beach Committee to address the leaves and debris that wash up onto the town beach. Dredging a portion of the Cockermouth River which is located near the town beach may help alleviate the problem with the volume of leaves and debris being deposited onto the beach each spring. The town has consulted with an engineer about the permitting process through the NH Department of Environmental Services. The engineer should provide the town with recommendations to address any potential impacts to wildlife and the environment. A concern brought up was the possibility of spreading invasive species during the dredging process. Volunteer Lake Hosts and Weed Watchers through the Newfound Lake Region Association are providing constant monitoring during the spring, summer, and fall. Dredging would occur at the mouth of the river probably in the spring with the dredged material possibly hauled offsite or placed in the beach parking lot area.

#### **ARTICLE 7 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 8:** *Selectman Patrick Moriarty moved and Everett Begor seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$8,100) for a trailer to house the Gazebo Program equipment. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until May 15, 2025 or until the trailer is purchased, whichever occurs first. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Moriarty spoke to the motion and informed the attendees the trailer would house all the Gazebo Program equipment. The Gazebo Program Committee researched the type of trailer that could accommodate the equipment. In the past, Mr. Begor's truck has been used to move the equipment from the old fire station to the Common to be used at the Gazebo Programs. The trailer will keep all the equipment in one area and easily transport the equipment without handling the equipment multiple times. It has not been decided at this time where the trailer will be stored.

#### **ARTICLE 8 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 9:** *Selectman Richard James moved and Everett Begor seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$24,450) for the Gazebo Programs for 2022 and 2023 with: \$12,225 to be raised by taxes, \$1,000 from anticipated*

*Donations and Grants, and \$11,225 to come from fund balance. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until June 30, 2022. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

The Moderator pointed out to the attendees the bulletin boards on display listing the 2022 and 2023 Gazebo Programs scheduled. Selectman James explained the Gazebo Programs are the highlight of the summer, provide entertainment, and for people to socialize. Everett Begor, Gazebo Program Committee member, stated that the Gazebo Program warrant article presented at the 2021 town meeting was not written as a non-lapsing warrant article thus the monies for the 2022 programs would lapse upon the June 30, 2022 fiscal year end. This article includes the money for the 2022 and 2023 programs. Mr. Begor explained the committee has to plan a year and a half ahead for programs due to fiscal year constraints.

#### **ARTICLE 9 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 10:** *Patrick Moriarty moved and Paul Hazelton seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$99,000) to be added to the capital reserve funds and reserve funds as follows:*

*Police \$8,000*

*Highway \$20,000*

*Fire \$20,000*

*Ambulance \$15,000*

*Communications \$5,000*

*Assessment Services \$14,000*

*Cemetery Tombstones and Fence \$2,000*

*Road Emergency Repairs \$5,000*

*Culvert Repair & Maintenance \$5,000*

*Preservation of Town Records \$5,000*

*(Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Moriarty spoke to the motion and informed the attendees the town has been diligent in setting monies aside for future purchases and town needs. The Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund is fully funded for the purchase of the next ambulance. The Trustees of the Trust Funds have done a good job in investing the town's capital reserve funds. The amount to be funded in this budget was increased over last year with more money allocated to the Highway Fund. There have been problems with the current Highway Department truck, and the Selectmen felt it would be prudent to increase funding to the Highway Fund to prepare for replacement of the truck.

#### **ARTICLE 10 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

**ARTICLE 11:** *Selectman Paul Hazelton moved and John Hilson seconded the motion to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) for the purposes of retaining an architect and other professionals to develop construction ready plans for a proposed library/community center. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until June 30, 2025 or until the project has been completed, whichever occurs first. (Majority Vote Required) Recommendations by the Selectmen*

Selectman Hazelton spoke to the motion and explained the current library building is poorly built. The town is also in need of a large meeting space to hold town meetings and other town functions. The old town clerk/tax collector building is located next to the library, and the Town Space Needs Committee studied the feasibility of joining the two buildings together to form a new library. Due to structural issues with the two buildings and building footprint size, it was determined that the town would be better served by constructing a joint library/community center. The location proposed by the Town Space Needs Committee is by the old fire station and the adjacent parking lot area between the old fire station and the Hebron Store. The proposed meeting area in the building would accommodate up to 200 people with handicap access and a commercial grade kitchen. The building would also serve as the town's emergency center. If a new library/community center is constructed, there is someone interested in the library building and the old town clerk/tax collector building, but it is purely speculative at this time.

Many of the concerns expressed by attendees were parking and the sight distance onto Groton Road at the proposed site. Mike Riess, Chair of the Town Space Needs Committee, stated a part of the reason for hiring a civil engineer would be to study the parking issues and make recommendations to the town. Mr. Riess met with a NH Department of Transportation (DOT) representative to review the site distance issue, and the DOT does not currently have a concern. If this warrant article is approved, an engineer would study the proposed site and determine if the site is suitable. The construction ready plans could be adapted for either the proposed site by the old fire station or at the Public Safety Building property if the townspeople wanted to move the library/community hall site to that location. The old fire station building could possibly be torn down to allow for additional parking space or the building could potentially be moved to the Public Safety Building site and continued to be used for storage. The Town Space Needs Committee has started the process of exploring the option of moving the old fire station building.

Due to the number of questions and discussion concerning this article, the Moderator asked for a hand count:

Yes Votes – 69; No Votes – 15

#### **ARTICLE 11 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY HAND COUNT**

**ARTICLE 12:** *Selectman Patrick Moriarty moved and Selectman Paul Hazelton seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars (\$1,557,754) as an operating budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all previous articles. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen*

Selectman Moriarty spoke to the motion and asked attendees to reference pages 6, 12, and 13 of the town report to review the budget. There is approximately an eight percent (8%) increase in the budget. The proposed budget has increases in the legal line item and in the Fire Department budget due to the uncertainty of staffing. The Fire Department has several new people who have qualified as EMS staff members. If the operating budget is approved, the town portion of the tax rate would increase by approximately \$1.00 per thousand of evaluation.

#### **ARTICLE 12 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Don Franklin asked about the current Newfound Area School District funding formula being studied. Selectman Moriarty stated the Article 5 Committee has begun the study process. Bill Luti was appointed by the Select Board as Hebron's representative to the committee.

Linda Fischer mentioned the Fire Department and the EMS Squad will hold an ice cream social on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. to celebrate EMS week.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Jennifer Larochelle moved and Suzanne Smith seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. – the motion passed by voice vote.**

A true copy of action taken at the Hebron Town Meeting held on May 10 and May 12, 2022.

Tracey H. Steenbergen  
Hebron Town Clerk