

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2018 AND MARCH 17, 2018**

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, MARCH 13, 2018: COMMUNITY HALL
(BASEMENT OF THE UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)**

Moderator Peter Carey opened the polls for ballot voting on Article 1 at 11:00 a.m. and closed the polls at 7:00 p.m.

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

RESULTS OF VOTING FOR TOWN OFFICES (ARTICLE 1) ARE RECORDED SEPARATELY.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018: PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Moderator Peter Carey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the moderator introduced town officials and read aloud the results from the ballot voting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 for town officials and the Newfound Area School District.

Selectperson Patrick Moriarty recognized and thanked retiring town officials, Moderator Peter Carey and Selectperson Eleanor Lonske, for their dedication and service to the Town. Moderator Carey proceeded to 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.**

ARTICLE 2: *John Dunklee moved and Vin Broderick seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000) to pave Stoney Brook Road. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until March 1, 2020, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.*

Selectperson John Dunklee spoke to the motion and stated the Town's highway supervisor recommended Stoney Brook Road be paved. Mr. Dunklee informed the audience Stoney Brook Road is accessed from Cooper Road and there are approximately 12-15 houses located on the road.

ARTICLE 2 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 3: *Patrick Moriarty moved and Peter Wirth seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Three thousand dollars (\$33,000) for a new police cruiser and to*

authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-Nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) from the Police Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose and to withdraw Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) from the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectperson Patrick Moriarty spoke to the article and explained no tax money will need to be raised for this article as it is funded from the Police Capital Reserve Fund and the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund. The monies in the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund are derived from special duty detail provided by the police department to tree cutting companies and other organizations requiring police services. A portion of the fees received by the Town for these services is placed into the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund.

Police Chief Travis Austin reviewed with the audience the type of all-wheel drive vehicle to be purchased which will replace the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria.

Suzanne Smith asked if the Crown Victoria were sold, would the funds be placed into the general fund or into the Police Capital Reserve Fund. Police Chief Austin stated that will depend on whether the vehicle is traded in towards the new cruiser or if it is sold outright. Chief Austin and another individual will be installing the new equipment into the new cruiser to save money. Donald Franklin asked why only \$4,000 was being withdrawn from the Police Special Detail Revolving fund when the available balance is \$21,056.

Donald Franklin moved and Sheila Oranch seconded an amendment to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Three thousand dollars (\$33,000) for a new police cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) from the Police Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose and to withdraw Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund.

Sheila Oranch asked if the capital reserve account is interest bearing and if the revolving fund is a checking account. Patrick Moriarty stated that is correct, but current interest rates are very low. Vin Broderick asked if the detail fund could be used for other purposes. Chief Austin stated the capital reserve account was specifically for cruiser related items while the detail fund could be used for other purposes.

The amendment as presented passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3 AS AMENDED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 4: *John Dunklee moved and Mark Coulson seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Three Dollars (\$63,703) to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:*

<i>Police</i>	<i>\$6,000</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>\$5,403</i>
<i>Cemetery Tombstones and Fence</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>

<i>Dry Hydrant</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Road Emergency Repairs</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Culvert Repair & Maintenance</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Security Alarm</i>	<i>\$100</i>

Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectperson John Dunklee spoke to the motion and explained this is the Town's annual article for contributions to various capital reserve accounts. The amount to be contributed to the Dry Hydrant fund is less than in previous years.

Maynard Young moved and Robert Brooks seconded an amendment to change the contribution to the Fire line from \$100 to \$25,000.

Mr. Young spoke to the amendment and informed the audience that ambulance fees received by the Town in past years were placed into the Ambulance Capital Reserve fund, but the contribution into the Fire Capital Reserve fund should be increased. A little over \$48,000 in ambulance fees was received by the Town in 2017.

Mark Coulson asked if the amendment would raise taxes. Selectperson Patrick Moriarty stated the tax rate might increase by \$.25. Selectperson Eleanor Lonske stated the Town is still making payments on the fire truck purchased a couple of years ago. Audrey Johnson asked what the approximate cost might be for the next new fire truck the Town purchases. Fire Chief John Fischer estimated that at the current rate of inflation the cost may be around \$500,000.

The voice vote on the amendment was too close to determine. The moderator asked for a hand count. The amendment as presented passed by hand count: Yes – 40; No – 24

The moderator informed the audience the article as amended would change the total amount raised and appropriated to \$88,603.

ARTICLE 4 AS AMENDED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 5: Patrick Moriarty moved and John Dunklee seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,350) for the Gazebo Programs to be funded by, Two Thousand Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$2,059) from fund balance, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) from Donations, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) from Grants and the remaining Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$8,291) to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectperson Patrick Moriarty thanked the Gazebo Committee for their commitment and work in presenting the Gazebo Programs. Everett Begor spoke to the article and reviewed Family Fun Day activities and Robert Brooks reviewed the various musical groups to perform at this summer's programs.

ARTICLE 5 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 6: Eleanor Lonske moved and Mark Coulson seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to remove the well tile from the Hebron Common and replace it with a standard wellhead and a "hydrant" for potable water and for irrigation.

This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until March 1, 2020, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectperson Lonske spoke to the article and thanked the members of the Hebron Town Common Committee and stated the committee reviewed items such as playground equipment, signage, water source, picnic tables and benches, monuments, and landscaping. Ms. Lonske explained there is currently no source of water on the Common. The type of well head to be placed would be “frost free” and about the same height as the current well tile. It still needs to be determined if the well head would be above or below ground level. The installer will be asked if the new well head should remain in the current location or be relocated closer to the gazebo. Suggestions made were to clearly identify the well head to avoid someone tripping over it and a method of keeping the well head from freezing during the winter months.

ARTICLE 6 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 7: *Patrick Moriarty moved and John Dunklee seconded the motion, Shall the town adopt a single 18-month accounting period running from January 1 of the calendar year following adoption and ending June 30 of the next following year to change to an Optional Fiscal Year pursuant to NH RSA 31:94-a? (Majority vote required)*

Selectperson Patrick Moriarty spoke to the motion and stated the purpose of this article is to change the Town’s fiscal year to an optional fiscal year of July 1 – June 30. The adoption of an optional fiscal year is required for the Town to consider adopting a May town meeting (reference Article 8). In 2017 and 2018, inclement weather affected the day of voting for town officials and an ice storm occurred on the day of this year’s budget hearing. By adopting an optional fiscal year, the Town would vote on a budget in May prior to any spending occurring for the ensuing year. Currently, the Town follows a calendar year, but the budget is not voted on until March. The optional fiscal year would allow for better cash flow at the town level and for the Town to better meet its December obligations (school, county, and capital reserve funding).

Mark Coulson asked for clarification on funding the 18-month budget and if the Department of Revenue Administration has provided guidance for the transition. Mr. Moriarty explained although an 18-month budget is 50 percent more than usual, the Town should be able to make this happen without any significant changes and could take out a tax anticipation note, if needed. Ileana Saros asked what percent of the state has adopted an optional fiscal year. Selectperson Eleanor Lonske stated about 20 different municipalities have adopted this system. Suzanne Appleton asked if this was a change only for town elections and Suzanne Smith asked if the school election would remain in March. Moderator Carey stated if Article 8 is adopted, the Newfound Area School District elections would remain the second Tuesday in March and absentee ballots would be available to voters who meet the requirements to vote absentee. Town elections would be held in May. Bruce Barnard asked if the Town would be able to provide a comparative analysis for the 18-month budget period. Mr. Moriarty stated the Town will try its best to provide this information, but the format would be different due to the 18-month period. Derry Riddle asked if moving town meeting to May would impact turnout at the school district elections. Mr. Moriarty stated it would probably impact turnout, but the Town would encourage voters to participate in the March school election.

ARTICLE 7 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 8: *Patrick Moriarty moved and John Dunklee seconded the motion to see if the town will vote pursuant to RSA 39:1-a to hold its annual town meeting on the second Tuesday of May for the selection of town officers and the transaction of all other town business. The town may move the annual town meeting to May provided it has adopted a fiscal year accounting period pursuant to RSA 31:94-a. (Majority vote required)*

Selectperson Eleanor Lonske moved and Jennifer Larochelle seconded an amendment to see if the town will vote pursuant to RSA 39:1-a to hold the first session of its annual town meeting on the second Tuesday in May for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot, and, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 39:2-a previously adopted by the town, to hold the second session, on a date set by the selectmen, for the transaction of all other business. The town may move the annual town meeting to May provided it has adopted a fiscal year accounting period pursuant to RSA 31:94-a. (Majority vote required)

Ms. Lonske spoke to the amendment and explained the amendment clarifies the intention of continuing with two sessions for town meeting with one day for voting and a second day for the business meeting.

Bill Powers asked if there is a required number of days after voting for town officials that the business portion of the meeting must occur. Moderator Carey stated NH law does specify the timeframe by which voting and the business portion of town meeting must occur. Fire Chief John Fischer stated having a May town meeting will make moving equipment out of the Public Safety Building in preparation for the business meeting easier on the fire department.

The amendment as presented passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8 AS AMENDED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9: *Patrick Moriarty moved and John Dunklee seconded the motion to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$ 1,225,849) as an operating budget for the 2018 fiscal year. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all the previous articles. (Majority vote required).*

Selectperson Moriarty spoke to the motion and reviewed the operating budget and revenue sections listed in the town report with the audience and noted the beach loan was paid off in 2017. Mr. Moriarty also pointed out the notes and bonds schedule listed in the town report.

Donald Franklin mentioned Newfound Area School District voters authorized the transfer of the Academy Building to the town of Hebron at the March 13, 2018 ballot voting. Richard James asked if the proposed budget was through December 31, 2018. Mr. Moriarty replied the Town is on a calendar year for 2018 and the 18-month budget (Article 7) will be voted on in 2019. Barbara Brooks asked about the increase in legal expenses. Mr. Moriarty informed the audience the Town is still trying to resolve a boundary line dispute with an abutting neighbor to the Academy Building, thus the increase in the legal expenses line. David Hardy asked if the Town might be able to request legal expense reimbursement from the neighbor in any settlement. Mr. Moriarty stated a negotiated settlement is closer and legal expense reimbursement may be possible.

ARTICLE 9 AS PRESENTED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

OTHER BUSINESS

Robert Brooks asked for an update on the status of the Academy Building project now that the Newfound Area School District has voted to transfer the property to the Town. Selectperson Moriarty stated the transfer of the property is a housekeeping issue. Assistant Moderator Roger Larochelle recused himself from his duties to provide an update on the Academy Building renovation and expansion. Bids were submitted by three contractors, but the final bid process cannot be completed until the building has been transferred to the Town. Meridian, CCI, and Milestone have submitted bids for the project. Bids received were \$1.7 million, \$1.9 million, and \$2.1 million with CCI being the lowest bidder. Though each of the bids are more than what was appropriated at the 2017 town meeting, the Hebron Academy Advisory Committee believes the lowest bid could be in line with the project's funding once design choices are finalized.

Jennifer Larochelle moved and Sheila Oranch seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.**

A true copy of action taken at the Hebron town meeting on March 13, 2018 and March 17, 2018.

Tracey Steenbergen
Hebron Town Clerk