

**Town of New Hampton
First Session of the Annual Meeting**

February 8, 2017

Officials Present: Town Moderator, Ken Kettenring
Selectmen: Nathaniel Sawyer, Jr; Kenneth Mertz; Neil Irvine
Town Clerk / Tax Collector, Cynthia Torsey
Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector, Regina Adams

Others Present: Supervisors of the Checklist: Christina Pollock & Mary Tierney
Ballot Inspectors: Patricia Torsey; Dana Torsey; Nathan Torsey
Department Heads:
Police Chief, George Huckins
Fire Chief, Michael Drake
Public Works Director, James Boucher
Town Administrator, Barbara Lucas

Moderator, Ken Kettenring called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Moderator asked Police Chief Huckins to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator recognized the Board of Selectmen, who on a yearly basis presents a plaque for dedication of service. This year's award is given to Nathaniel H. Sawyer, Jr.

Selectman, Neil Irvine continued by saying that "Nathaniel "Chip" Sawyer retired from the New Hampton Police Department in November 2008. He served the town as Police Chief for 15 years. His career totals 29 years in law enforcement.

Mr. Sawyer represented the Town and Department on several different boards, committees and associations. He was the Selectmen's representative on the Planning Board, the Town's representative to the Board of Directors for Youth Services Bureau and involved in the Juvenile Justice Initiative. He served two terms on the Newfound Area School District Budget Committee. He served as President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as President of the Belknap County Chiefs of Police Association, the Newfound Area Chiefs Association and was first vice president of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police. He also volunteered countless hours to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. He was also an active member in Belknap County Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team (TAR).

He also worked as an EMT and Ambulance driver for the Fire Department. He even drove a plow truck for our Public Works Department!

He has continued to be involved in the community and has served on the Board of Selectmen for the last 6 years – 2 terms. It has been a very busy 6 years and he has given much of his personal time. We greatly appreciate his service over the years and wish him the best. We know this isn't the end of his public service – it is just in him to continue to serve his community.

We recognize his wife Lori, his daughter Kaycee and his son Nate. Congratulations Mr. Sawyer!"

The Moderator listed his guidelines for this deliberative session as follows:

- ❖ All debate is through the Moderator.
- ❖ When asking to speak please address the Moderator and state your name and the street you live on for the record.
- ❖ Non New Hampton residents or non-property owner participation requires approval of the meeting.
- ❖ You may speak a 2nd time on an article only after all others have had an opportunity to be heard.
- ❖ Motion to call the question before all have spoken requires a 2/3 vote.
- ❖ Any resident or property owner may participate in the discussions, but only REGISTERED voters in the Town of New Hampton can vote.
- ❖ Any person who is not a “registered voter” in the Town of New Hampton please stand and be identified by the vote counters.
- ❖ Motions can be made to amend the articles (without changing the purpose, eliminating the subject matter or nullifying the subject matter). You can amend the dollar amount to include zeroing out the appropriation or the article can be accepted as written to be placed on the official ballot for consideration.
- ❖ Ballot votes
 - Requires written request of 5 voters prior to voting
 - Challenge to a non-ballot vote, immediately after vote is declared, requires 7 voters
- ❖ A motion for reconsideration must be made immediately following closure of the article.
- ❖ Once discussion has closed on any article, and the meeting has proceeded to subsequent articles, there shall be no reconsideration of any article.

Selectman Mertz made a motion to allow Town of New Hampton Department Heads, who are not residents of New Hampton; Barbara Lucas and Jim Boucher, to participate in this meeting as necessary. This was seconded by Selectman Irvine. All were in favor – motioned passed.

Article #1: Election of Town Officers

- 1 Selectman 3 year term
 - Richard J. Spead
 - Mark Denoncour
 - W. Wesley Hays
- 1 Town Treasurer 3 year term
 - Karon Mertz
- 1 Trustee of Trust Funds 3 year term
 - A. Alden Hofling

The Moderator read the names who filed for office into the minutes and said that this is an announcement only and will appear on the ballot on March 14, 2017.

The Moderator said the following Articles 2 through 7 will be read and discussed but cannot be changed as far as the wording is concerned and will appear on the ballot as written on March 14, 2017.

Article #2: Zoning Amendment #1

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Amend the criteria for the granting of a special exception to require that the building, parking and/or driveway shall not exceed 20% of the lot in the General Residential Agricultural and Rural District, 30% in the Business Commercial District 3, 40% in the Business Commercial District 2, and 50% in the Business Industrial District (BI) and Mixed Use Districts. This change makes the lot coverage requirements for special exception consistent with the requirements for permitted uses.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz and seconded by Peter Gulick.

Discussion - *Nora Foster* of Anchorage Road asked how would the 30% in the Business Commercial District 3 impact a 1 acre lot if there was a grocery store that needed a large parking lot – what would be the maximum size? Selectman Mertz said it would depend on the size of the business and size of the lot.

Nathan Torsey of Jackson Pond moved the question which was seconded by Richard Spead of Lake View Drive. All were in favor of moving Article #2.

Article #3: Zoning Amendment #2

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Remove all references to Accessory Apartments and adopt a new use permitted by Special Exception of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and to allow for one ADU for each single family dwelling, with up to 800 square feet of inhabitable space, two bedrooms and adequate parking and septic disposal system. This proposed amendment is to comply with recent State law changes.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Irvine and seconded by Selectman Mertz. There was no discussion.

Peter Gulick of Main Street moved the question which was seconded by Richard Spead of Lake View Drive. All were in favor of moving Article #3.

Article #4: Zoning Amendment #3

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Allow Agri-tourism by Special Exception in all Zoning Districts other than the Business Industrial District and define Agri-tourism as the direct sale of agricultural products, offering educational experiences, B&B accommodations and entertainment in order to contribute to the economic viability and long term sustainability of agricultural activities in New Hampton.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Chris Pollock of Hillside Drive and seconded by Selectman Mertz.

Discussion - *Chris Pollock* of Hillside Drive asked if we could spell out the wording on B & B and the Moderator said that we cannot change the wording.
Kelsey Peterson of Riverwood Drive asked what type of entertainment would be considered. The Moderator said it would depend on the event and would require a special exception.

Peter Gulick of Main Street moved the question which was seconded by Richard Spead of Lake View Drive. All were in favor of moving Article #4.

Article #5: Zoning Amendment #4

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Allow the Zoning Board to grant a special exception to reduce the setbacks for septic systems on non-conforming lots from 20 feet to no less than 10 feet unless the State of NH Department of Environmental Services grants a waiver to reduce the setback further, in which case the ZBA may consider reducing the setback to less than 10 feet.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz seconded by Wes Hayes of Seminole Avenue.

Discussion - *Nora Foster* of Anchorage Road asked if this article would override the current DES setbacks. The Moderator said that it wouldn't because the DES setbacks are less than ours. Mrs. Foster then asked if the setback would be different near a body of water. Selectman Irvine said this article is for non-conforming lots and that this article does not override the pre-existing requirements that are already in place.
Dana Torsey of Lower Oxbow Road asked if a property owner owns 100 acres would the setback be different. Selectman Irvine responded that this article is to bring the town setbacks into what the state already allows and the state already allows a smaller setback.
Nathan Torsey of Jackson Pond Road, referring to article #2, asked why is the town trying to control what we can do with our land and how big our house and parking lot can be. The Moderator said that there is a conflict and this rule is correcting the rules that are currently in place.

There was no further discussion and the Moderator asked for all in favor and not in favor by voice vote. The Moderator said the voice vote was too close to call and asked the ballot inspectors to count the show of hands. The ballot inspector results were 34 – Yes, 2 – No.

Article #6: Zoning Amendment #5

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Amend the Sign Ordinance regulations in all districts to address changes in the law which will remove or amend any language that regulates signs based on the content/message on the sign, to exempt signs of less than 2 square feet from the ordinance, and to require that notice shall be given for the placement of temporary signs.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz and seconded by Selectman Sawyer.

Discussion - *Nora Foster* of Anchorage Road asked if this article would do away with the current size restriction. Selectman Mertz responded by saying that it does not necessarily change the size of the signs that are permitted in various zones, it does exempt signs of less than 2 square feet. Selectman Mertz said this article is an intent to get some grasp on the temporary signs that are placed, which does not require a permit, but you do need to notify the town that a sign will be erected so the town can see how long that sign has been in place.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive expressed concern on this warrant article. Selectman Mertz responded by saying that this article is mainly for temporary signs not permanent signs. Selectman Mertz said that 2 temporary signs are allowed per lot. Selectman Irvine said that this zoning amendment came about because of a Supreme Court case limiting the language and this was the best language we could come up with that you didn't need a sign permit to have an entrance and exit sign or no trespassing sign.

Patricia Torsey of Lower Oxbow Road asked if she needed to get permission to put out a yard sale sign. Selectman Mertz said that you did not need permission but you do need to notify the town.

Ruth Gulick of Main Street had a question on the wording of the article. The Moderator said that the wording cannot be changed but if you read the actual ordinance it is much clearer.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive moved the question which was seconded by Peter Gulick of Main Street. All were in favor of moving Article #6.

Article #7: Zoning Amendment #6

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

Amend the ordinance to remove Flags from the definition of Signs and add a separate definition and section under General Provisions that will permit Flags in all zoning districts. In the Mixed Use District, Business Commercial Districts 2 & 3 and the Business Industrial District, the combined area of all flags on a lot may not exceed 40 square feet and only two (2) flags are permitted on a lot.

The Planning Board recommends this amendment.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Paul Tierney of Huckleberry Road and seconded by Wes Hays of Seminole Avenue.

Discussion - *Dana Torsey* of Lower Oxbow Road asked if this would affect the Town House flags. Selectman Irvine said that being a Municipality we would be exempt. Selectman Mertz said that in the previous language flags were exempt. Selectman Mertz said the new Supreme Court ruling said you could not exempt a flag so by the new definition the flag doesn't count towards your signage. *Nathan Torsey* of Jackson Pond Road made a comment regarding new law changes. The Moderator said that this article does not apply to agricultural or rural but applies to the business districts. Selectman Irvine answered by saying having this law a business cannot have a 100 foot flag advertising something. If a business closes, their sign will stay there until the next business comes in to take its place.

Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator said that this is strictly for commercial districts and if this particular amendment fails it will remain part of the definition of signs and the town would be faced with including the square footage.

Peter Gulick of Main Street moved the question which was seconded by Richard Spead of Lake View Drive. All were in favor of moving Article #7.

Article #8: Town Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling two million seven hundred and twenty-three thousand and two hundred thirty seven dollars and no cents (\$2,723,237.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be two million six hundred and eighty five thousand and two hundred forty nine dollars and no cents (\$2,685,249.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action by the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriation contained in ANY other warrant articles. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. Selectman Irvine made a motion which was seconded by Selectman Mertz. Selectman Irvine proposed an amendment which was seconded by Selectman Sawyer and the Moderator read the amendment as follows:

“Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling two million seven hundred and eighteen thousand and sixty five dollars and no cents (\$2,718,065.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be two million six hundred and eighty thousand and seventy eight dollars and no cents (\$2,680,078.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action by the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant does not include appropriation contained in ANY other warrant articles.”

Selectman Irvine explained the amendment is to reduce the operating budget by \$5,172.00. It was discovered as we were going through the preparation of the budget that the interest on debt service was counted twice, which is the reason for the amendment. There was no further discussion on the amendment.

The Moderator ask for those in favor of the amendment. All were in favor. Amendment Passed.

Discussion - *Bill Gilson* of Mountain Vista Drive asked about the interest of \$5,000 listed under the tax anticipation note and do we borrow on a regular basis. Selectman Irvine said no. Mr. Gilson then asked have we borrowed on a tax anticipation note and when was the last time. Barbara Lucas answered that it was about 4-5 years ago for projects such as when you have a large expense, if you have grant money, that is anticipated and have to pay first before you receive the grant reimbursement which can affect your cash flow and also if tax bills are mailed late, that can also affect the cash flow.

Dana Torsey of Lower Oxbow Road asked if we could borrow money without the wording. Barbara said no.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive asked if the number had to be \$5,000. Barbara Lucas said no - if it is \$1 and borrowing has to be done the Board of Selectmen have the ability to vote to transfer money into it from other budgets.

Ingrid Heidenreich of Main Street - asked if DRA had a number we could use. Barbara Lucas answered no, but there is for overlay and DRA does recommend that you have a tax anticipation appropriation.

Selectman Irvine moved this portion of the discussion so that he could get into the operating budget which was seconded by Richard Spead of Lake View Drive. All were in favor.

Selectman Irvine continued to explain the budget in detail and discussed the 4 main components of the tax bill – Town (37%), School (45%), State (12%) & County (7%), and explained that only the Town portion was the subject of tonight's deliberative.

Discussion - *Bill Gilson* of Mountain Vista Drive asked if Public Works had a highway improvement program in place for the roads. Jim Boucher said that we do not have a long term plan in place as we don't know what the available funds will be, which comes from the Highway Block Grant, that we get from the state and at that time we determine what roads need the most attention. Mr. Gilson said he feels the road are deteriorating. Selectman Irvine said it takes roughly \$1M to fix 1 mile of road depending on the condition it is in and we have 26 miles of paved road. *Dana Torsey* of Lower Oxbow Road said that when Gordon Huckins was road agent he had a plan set up and repaved every mile of road in town. *Richard Spead* of Lake View Drive said it seems that the town is training police officers and they don't stay around very long and wonders why the budget does not include any more compensation for the Officers. Selectman Irvine said that the Chief had included some pay adjustments in his budget and referred to the Chief. Chief Huckins said the Town is still below the average for pay round the area and it has been that way for a number of years. Mr. Spead asked if the Town was losing money by training the officers and then they do not stay. Chief Huckins said that was correct. Selectman Irvine said that all small Municipalities have this problem and new this year the Police Department has a policy that when a new officer comes on board that they sign a contract for three years. Mr. Spead said the Police Department should be making more money as the responsibility is getting greater. Chief Huckins said the Board did make an adjustment recently but we are still off and need to do something to keep the people we have. *Dana Torsey* of Lower Oxbow Road asked why wasn't the interest going down and the principal going up. Selectman Irvine said it changes on a monthly basis and over the year we are locked into the payment. *Richard Spead* of Lake View Drive asked if the loans/bond were in the same bank. The answer was no. *Ashley Bureau* of Birdrunner Road asked if there are any plans to expand the recycling program to take more categories of plastics, etc. Jim Boucher said that they are restricted because of the size of the facility and do have a bailer on the warrant this year.

The Moderator asked if the second would like to speak and the answer was no. There was no further discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #8 as amended to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #9: Appropriation for PSB loan payment

Shall the Town raise and appropriate twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to partially pay the fourth year's bond payment on the Public Safety Building and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of this amount from the Fire Department Special Revenue Fund, which was authorized to be used for this purpose in 2011? The remainder of the annual bond payment (\$145,636.40) is included in the Operating Budget Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer and seconded by Selectman Irvine.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive moved the question which was seconded by Selectman Sawyer. All were in favor of moving Article #9 to be placed on the March 2017 ballot.

Article #10: Evaluation of the Grange Building

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for the evaluation, potential acquisition and relocation of the “Grange” building to its original location on the town property at 86 Town House Road, next to the Old 1798 Town House and gather sufficient information about the building to present to a Special Town Meeting later in 2017? Information will consist of research on potential uses by public and private organizations, estimates for repairs, hazardous materials survey, a plan for possible future improvements, etc. and negotiate the acquisition of the building to present such findings to a Special Town Meeting in May/June of 2017 for a final determination by the voters on acquiring the building. The Grange was originally built in 1826 on town property next to the Old 1798 Town House and was relocated in the mid 1800’s and then again in 1911 to its present site on Main Street. The current owner is the New Hampton Community Church, which has determined it does not have a use for the building and plans to demolish it in the fall of 2017. This article will be contingent on the passing of the Warrant Article # 11. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer which was seconded by Wes Hays of Seminole Avenue. Selectman Sawyer explained the article by saying that the Board learned a very short time ago that the Church who has owned the building for over 10 years was going to tear the building down. Selectman Sawyer said that the history of the “Grange” building is significant to the town and the building used to be next to the Town House and was moved years ago. Selectman Sawyer said that we would like to do a study to make sure that this is a viable option for the Town so as not to cost us a lot of money down the road.

Discussion -

Bill Gilson of Mountain Vista Drive asked why we cannot make it a historic building.

Selectman Irvine said that we are not the owner and went on to say the current owners are the ones that would have to pursue it.

Nora Foster of Anchorage Road asked why the Town House is not used for additional uses as it is only used a few times a year.

Peter Gulick of Main Street and President of the New Hampton Historical Society said if you change the use of the Town House building it will change what the building is and that would destroy the character of the building. He said it is the building where we held our first town meetings and elections and historically it is very significant in the history of our Town and as soon as you change the building you have lost the historical value. Mr. Gulick said this is a true historical building, it is 200 years old and has been moved 3 times and once it is gone it is gone and to put it back where it originally started two centuries ago couldn’t be a better thing for this town.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive asked if the \$4,000.00 would be to look for grants as well. Selectman Sawyer said that this article is mainly to look for asbestos, lead paint, etc. in the building and as far as looking for grants that is what the next article will accomplish when the 3 person committee is set up. Mr. Spead asked if the Church gave the Town a deadline and the answer was August of 2017.

Megan McGrauth of Winona Road asked if the Grange would be restricted for uses as the Town House is. Selectman Sawyer said that it would be up to the 3 person committee.

Eduard Van Lingen of Riverwood Drive asked is the property where this building is being moved to large enough to accommodate events. The Moderator said yes and that it is located next to the Town House and currently there is a stone memorial plaque saying that this is where the building was originally. Barbara Lucas said that it is a 5 acre lot so there is sufficient land area but further investigation needs to be done as to the placement. Mrs. Lucas said the original location has quite a bit of ledge and needs to be explored.

Nathan Torsey of Jackson Pond Road asked when the Church decided to demolish this building did it come down to one person or a board. Selectman Sawyer said it was the Board of Deacons.

The Moderator asked if there was any further questions and there were none.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #10 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #11: Grange Building Acquisition and Relocation

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to acquire, relocate and make necessary repairs to the building known as the "Grange" which was originally built in 1826 on the town property next to the Old 1798 Town House and further authorize the expenditure of any private donations (\$10,000 has been pledged as the first donation), state or federal grants, or other funding that may become available to offset this appropriation? This article will be contingent on the passing of the Warrant Article #10 and an affirmative vote at the Special Town Meeting in May/June of 2017 to acquire and relocate the building. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2018. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer which was seconded by Selectman Irvine. Selectman Sawyer explained the article by saying that the initial idea is to move the building and put it on a foundation estimated to be about \$150,000. Selectman Sawyer said that the goal is to do a fundraising event to raise money for this project as well as accepting donations. Selectman Sawyer said if we had fundraising events and we did not reach the goal we would have to return the money back and then we would lose the building. Selectman Sawyer said we do have a \$10,000 pledge and would like to receive more donations.

The second, Selectman Irvine said the reason we made this a non-lapsing fund to the end of 2018 is hopefully to accomplish this in the time period that has been set - our best estimate is yes we can could get it done before snow falls at the end of next year.

Discussion - *Richard Spead* of Lake View Drive asked how much is the Church selling the building for. Selectman Irvine said that the Church was donating it to the town. Barbara Lucas explained why this article is appropriating money now is that the Board of Selectmen wanted additional time to really do the investigation to present it to the voters at a special town meeting because we cannot appropriate money at a special town meeting.

Bill Gilson of Mountain Vista Drive said he has had experience with these types of projects and they do not come in on time or on budget. Selectman Sawyer said bottom line is if we don't raise the money, we will lose the building and with the time frame the town was given this was the best way to do it. Selectman Sawyer went on to say the way this happened was out of sequence as we were not aware of what was going on and in order to try and salvage something out of it, this was the best way to try and do this under our legal system.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive recapped the article by saying we need the \$4,000 to see if it is feasible and if it is feasible to go and ask the voters for \$150,000 and if it is not feasible then we lose the building. The answer was yes.

Nora Foster of Anchorage Road asked if the town had approached the Church to purchase the building in the past. The answer was no. Mrs. Foster said the building has been sitting there unused for quite some time. Selectman Irvine said the Church had good intentions when they first acquired the building. The Board of Selectmen only became aware of their plans to raze the building and expand the parking lot when they came in for a demolition permit. We then went to the Church to express the historic significance of the building and asked for a stay to

give us the opportunity to pursue this and the Church has been very accommodating through this whole process. Selectman Irvine said if we don't do this article now and everything goes ok with article 10, we will have to wait until March of 2018 to ask for the money to go forward.

Patricia Torsey of Lower Oxbow Road said that you don't really have to worry about the condition of the building considering its age as years ago it was used 3-4 times a month its entire life and hasn't deteriorated.

The Moderator asked if there was any further questions and there were none.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive moved the question which was seconded by Paul Tierney of Huckleberry Road. All were in favor of moving Article #11 to be placed on the March 2017 ballot.

Article #12: Committee for Management of the Grange Building

Shall the Town create a three (3) member committee, consisting of a two (2) citizen members and a selectman or their designee, and delegate the authority to manage the use of this building? This article will be contingent on the passing of the Warrant Article # 10 and an affirmative vote at the Special Town Meeting in May/June of 2017 to acquire the building.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer which was seconded by Selectman Mertz. There were no questions.

Richard Spead of Lake View Drive moved the question which was seconded by Peter Gulick of Main Street. All were in favor of moving Article #12 to be placed on the March 2017 ballot.

Article #13: Surplus/Used Equipment and Vehicle Trust Fund

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Surplus/Used Equipment or Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund, established in 2015 for this purpose? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz seconded by Selectman Irvine. Selectman Irvine explained the article by saying currently there is \$20,087.85 in this fund. Selectman Irvine said initially this fund was set up if a vehicle that we rely on was to break down we would have the ability with these funds to replace the vehicle without having to wait until the following year.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #13 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #14: Highway Department Road Grader Lease/Purchase

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement for the lease and purchase of a Highway Department Road Grader, with a plow and wing, for a total cost of three hundred thirty one thousand nine hundred dollars (\$331,900), and to raise and appropriate sixty one thousand dollars (\$61,000) for the first year's payment? This lease agreement will contain an escape clause. The balance of \$270,900 will be offset by a trade in value of the 1986 Road Grader at \$40,000 and the remainder of \$230,900 to be financed through the lease/ purchase agreement. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Irvine and seconded by Selectman Sawyer. The Moderator referred the article to the Public Works Director, Jim Boucher.

Mr. Boucher said the current grader we have is a 1986 and is 30 years old and 4 years ago we put \$40,000 into it for the motor itself and it also has many other issues. He said we purchased the grader for \$130,000 and we will be getting a trade-in of \$40,000. Mr. Boucher said he believes it's a great opportunity now as the grader is still worth something.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #14 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #15: Purchase of Highway Truck w/plow and sander

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifty nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$59,500) for the purchase of a truck with a plow and sander for the Highway Department to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of \$51,400 from the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1969 and the remaining balance (\$8,100) from taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer seconded by Selectman Mertz. The Moderator turned this article over to Mr. Boucher who explained the truck we currently have was purchased from the state surplus for \$3,000 and had 140,000 miles on it. He said now the mileage is 260,000.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #15 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #16: Repair or Replacement of Town Bridge(s)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Town Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, created by Town vote in 2008 under RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of repairing or replacing town owned bridges? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz and seconded by Selectman Irvine. The Moderator turned the article over Mr. Boucher. Mr. Boucher said that in the past 10 years we have done 3 bridges through the State Bridge program. Last year we did the bridge on Coolidge Woods road because it was a red listed bridge and cost around \$140,000, much less than the cost through the State Bridge program. Mr. Boucher said we have one red listed bridge left which is located on Brook Road. Selectman Irvine said that currently the Bridge fund has a balance of \$272.49.

Discussion - *Dana Torsey* of Lower Oxbow Road asked if we spent \$90,000 on re-assessment this year - did the assessment go up or down and how much. *Barbara Lucas* said that it went up about \$5,000,000. Mr. Torsey pointed out that if everything passed, then the taxes would actually go down.

There was no further discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #16 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #17: Purchase Baler for Recycling Center

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to purchase a baler for the Transfer Station/Recycling Center to be offset by a grant from the NH the Beautiful, if the grant is not received the article will be funded by general taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Mertz seconded by Selectman Irvine. The Moderator turned the article over to Mr. Boucher and he said that this would be an additional baler that would reduce the number of barrels currently having to be stacked until there was enough material to bale, making for a much safer workplace.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #17 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #18: Purchase of Police Portable Tablets

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$15,500) to purchase two (2) Portable Tablets and four (4) mounting brackets for the Police Department? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer and seconded by Selectman Mertz. The Moderator turned the article over to Chief George Huckins. Chief Huckins said that currently there are no computers in the cruisers and with this technology it would make the job a lot safer and more cost efficient as we would be able to scan driver's licenses and scan the bar code on registrations.

Discussion - *Bill Gilson* of Mountain Vista Drive asked if the Town could establish a policy that under a certain dollar amount it didn't have to appear as a warrant article but be included in the operating budget. Selectman Sawyer said the Boards policy is that any amount over \$10,000 generally we do as a warrant article as it gives the tax payers the opportunity to be involved where their money is going.

There was no further discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #18 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #19: Fire Department/EMS Defibrillator

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for the final payment of a two year lease/purchase agreement for the purchase of a Fire Department Defibrillator and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of \$16,000 from the Fire Department Special Revenue Fund, with no amount from taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Chief Michael Drake and seconded by Selectman Mertz. Chief Drake explained the article by saying that this is the second payment for the defibrillator for ambulance 2.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #19 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #20: Fire Department Equipment of Radios & Pagers

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand one hundred and forty dollars (\$10,140) for the purchase of replacement radios and pagers for the Fire Department and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of \$10,140 from the Fire Department Special Revenue Fund, with no amount to be raised from taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (2-0-1) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Chief Michael Drake and seconded by Selectman Mertz. Chief Drake explained the article by saying we did this last year and the plan is to continue working on replacing the radios & pagers gradually.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #20 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #21: Repair, Replace or Install Dry Hydrants

Shall the town vote to establish a Fire Department Dry Hydrant Repair or Installation Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the repair, replacement or installation of dry hydrants and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 8. The Selectmen recommend (3-0) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Chief Michael Drake and seconded by Selectman Mertz. Chief Drake explained the article by saying that an inventory was taken of the existing dry hydrants in the community and saw that they were lacking in maintenance and repair work. The intention is to install dry hydrants around the community and work with land owners that have a pond.

Discussion - *Dana Torsey* of Lower Oxbow Road asked if the Fire Department went around this year to look at ponds. Chief Drake said they did an evaluation in 2009 where a study was done of existing pond locations. Dana said that some of the ponds on his property were dry this summer. Chief Drake acknowledged that this was a challenging year for water due to the drought conditions.

There was no further discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #21 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #22: Appointment of a Town Treasurer

Shall the town vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer, with the appointment being made in March 2018 in accordance with RSA 669:17-d?

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Irvine and seconded by Selectman Mertz. Selectman Irvine explained the article by saying with an elected Treasurer you don't know the qualifications or experience that person has on how to handle the towns' money. He said we have been very fortunate for the last few years to have a good treasurer. Selectman Irvine said given the responsibilities of the position the Board felt it was appropriate to have the opportunity to have a look at their resume, qualifications, and to have a background check. If this article passes the appointment would be in March 2018 as that is the way the RSA is written.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #22 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article #23: All Veteran's Credit

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be (\$500), the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Selectman Sawyer and seconded by Selectman Irvine. Selectman Sawyer explained that with the current law you had to have certain medals, conflicts or wars to receive this credit. With this article, all veterans would receive the credit.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #23 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

Article 24: Petition for Replacing Playground at NHCS

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to support the replacement of the New Hampton Community School's playground? An independent playground safety auditor has advised the school that the structure should be replaced due to safety and accessibility concerns and significant wear and tear. This one-time donation to the New Hampton Community School Parent Teacher Organization will help to offset the cost to purchase new equipment and create a more engaging play space. As the only community playground in New Hampton, this playground will be enjoyed by many. (BY PETITION) The Selectmen do not recommend (0-3) this appropriation.

The Moderator read the article. The article was moved by Nora Foster and seconded by Megan McGrauth. Mrs. Foster explained the article by saying that the playground is 23 years old and has significant wear & tear and also has rust. The school had an auditor come and they reported two pages of issues and said it was time to replace it. The school district said that they will not fund it. The PTO is looking at a playground

for \$50,000 is asking for a one time donation and will be installed in the fall. Mrs. Foster said the playground is used after school and in the summer by residents.

Discussion - *Wes Hays* of Seminole Avenue asked why the selectmen did not recommend this article. Selectman Irvine said speaking for himself personally that the school accounts for 57% of our taxes and it is private property. Selectman Irvine said for the town to contribute to a private piece of property when we already pay taxes to the school is why he does not support this article, but he does support what the PTO is trying to do. He feels that it is the responsibility of the School Board as he does not feel it should be an additional burden on the residents through the town portion of property taxes as they already pay taxes to the school district & state property tax. *Chief Drake* said that his family had played on the playground for years and should move the article and let the voters decide. Selectman Irvine said since this is a petition warrant article it will go on the ballot for a vote by the townspeople. *Selectman Sawyer* speaking for himself said that the primary use of the playground is for the school and why did the school neglect it and let it fall into disrepair and why should we pay for what they didn't do. Selectman Sawyer agreed that it needs to be fixed or removed as it is a significant liability. *Nathan Torsey* of Jackson Pond Road asked if it mattered where the money came from on the pie chart and Selectman Irvine said it is not on the pie chart. *Ashley Bureau* of Birdrunner Road - ???????? *Nora Foster* of Anchorage Road said that a donor contribution has been set up and they are trying to get businesses to donate \$5,000 which is a platinum sponsorship. Mrs. Foster also said a bench or a tree can have a plaque added to it as well. *Megan McGrauth* said that at the school deliberative session last week it was amazing to her how much money the school district does not have and she said the playground is just not on their minds. She said no matter how much you should say the school district should pay for it - this is our town and our kids and the kids voted for a new playground. *Pat Schlesinger* of Birch Way said that the playground was compared to the fitness trail. *Regina Adams* of Dana Hill Road asked if the playground would still be dedicated to Mrs. Salmon. Nora Foster said no and the current playground would be removed.

There was no further discussion.

The Moderator asked those in favor of approving Article #24 to appear on the March 2017 ballot please say Aye. The ayes have it unanimously.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Mertz made a motion which was seconded by Selectman Irvine to adjourn. Vote was unanimous and the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Cynthia M. Torsey
New Hampton Town Clerk