



The meeting started at 8pm to enable registered voters to finish checking in. The Moderator went over rules to the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was started by John S Cobb, TSGT USAF Ret. There was an Introduction of head table. The Moderator explained that Article 22,23,25, requested as ballot votes, will be done after article 6. The ballots were color coded with the corresponding color-coded sign on the ballot boxes.

Article 01 Election of Officials

To choose by non-partisan ballot Two Selectman for a term of three (3) years each; a Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years; a Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years and a Moderator for a term of two (2) years.

Article 02 Announce Results of Article 1

To announce the results of the balloting on Article One.

Article 1 & 2

There were 677 ballots, Fred Garofalo 298, Steve Robbins 279, declared winners, other candidates were Tom Friel 246, Glenn English 230, Gary Hebert 154, Chuck Fenn 72; Moderator was Alfred Holden 644; Carol Norcross 635, Marie Bigelow 633, all three unopposed and declared winners. School Elections were Moderator for 1-year Alfred Holden 623, School Board for 3 years Nate Swain 546, Don LoCascio 515, and School Board 1-year Chuck Fenn 304.

Article 03 Election of Cemetery Commissioner

To choose a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.

Matt Taylor nominated Robert Rutherford for re-election, seconded by Mike Lavoie. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 04 Acceptance of Annual Reports

To hear the reports of the Selectmen, Town Manager, Treasurer, Cemetery Commissioners, Airport Commissioners, Recreation Commissioners, Heritage Commissioners, Conservation Commissioners, and any other Town officers and committees heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article moved by Archie Steenburg, seconded by Doug Teschner. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 05 Appointment of Advisory Budget Committee

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Moderator to appoint an Advisory Budget Committee to review the Town Manager's preliminary budget and to present to the Selectboard their recommendations as to any modifications thereto.

The article moved by Robert Roudebush, seconded by Sandi Pierce. There was no discussion. The article passed.



Article 06 Operating Budget 2019

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million One Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Six Dollars (\$4,136,006) for general municipal operations. This Article does not include special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required).

The article moved by Darwin Clogston, seconded by Howard Hatch. There was no discussion. The article passed. Robert Roudebush made a motion to advance articles 22, 23, and 24, seconded by Mike Bonanno. The Moderator explained the process. The motion passed.

Article 22 was read; Mike Conrad moved the article; seconded by Robert Roudebush; there was no discussion.

Article 23 was read; Mike Conrad moved the article, seconded by Sandi Pierce. Lora Goss asked for some back ground on this. TM spoke regarding a discussion last summer, the vision to action forum, and surveys showed there was desire to merge them under the town. There was a discussion with North Haverhill Fire Dept and Haverhill Corner Fire Dept regarding the pros and cons. This article gives it to town people to decide. Peter Cataldo asked for clarification of a yes or no answer. The Moderator asked the North Haverhill and Haverhill Corner Chiefs to speak. Ed Ballam asked the audience to be cautious to a quick decision. Mike Conrad asked if other towns have precincts with separate fire dept. Chief Blanchard gave the example of Newbury VT. Fred White, Wells River Fire Dept, confirmed it is run by the town not the precinct. TM explained Fire stations will still stay the same but under one dept. This transition would be more equitable and collaborative use of the departments. Nate Lang asked clarification on fire department pay. TM explained fire chiefs are paid by the precinct and there is a potential for inequities. George Hemway asked the impact of these changes to residents. Jonathan Hobbs said let the precincts vote first then look at this next year. Ed Ballam echoed Jonathan Hobbs. TM stated last year all three precincts put on their warrants, both Haverhill Corner and North Haverhill voted yes, Woodsville tabled theirs. A survey stated that 67% of the town is interested in merging. Richard Clifford spoke in support. Rick Ladd is looking for the definition of "relinquishing assets". He supported Ed Ballam's statement. Gary Scruton, if all passes, the plan is by statue to take a year, is this a done deal tonight or will we vote again next year. TM said we have a minimum of one year or more to create a new structure for the fire dept. Chief Blanchard stated the town pays for all the gear, trucks, payroll, etc., but if it stays under the precinct, you have less of a say in that happens. Regis Roy, "relinquish" is a scary term, it means giving up something and she is concerned about promises. Moved and seconded, article passed to cease and convey.

Article #24 was read. Mike Conrad moved the article, seconded by Lynn Wheeler. The Moderator recognized Senator Guida who presented to the Town of Haverhill. He told the audience that the SB developed an amendment to the formula of highway funding, brought into question regarding some deficiencies with Woodsville Precinct. He sent out a letter to 600 residents of Haverhill, explaining the issues. Melissa Gould spoke in support of Woodsville. Mark Johansson asked if this responsibility would fall on Haverhill. Senator Guida said the audit would be the responsibility of Woodsville Precinct. Melissa Gould shared her conversations with DRA. Marilyn Blaisdell asked why Woodsville had not done audits. Point of order from Gary Scruton to move the discussion back to the highway merger. Ed Ballam spoke as well. Richard Guy, spoke about arrangements of changing the board structure with the water and light and fire districts, and audits done by local auditors or certified auditors. Paul Forcier also asked for the discussion to go back to the article. The discussion was moved by unknown, and seconded by Lynn Wheeler.

Voters were given directions with the paper ballots and voting started.



Article 07 Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Buildings Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Selectboard supports this article (5-0). (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved by Don Hammond, seconded by David Joslin. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 08 Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Selectboard supports this article (5-0). (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved by Steve Corzelius, seconded by David Lackie. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 09 Add money to Vehicle CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Selectboard recommends this article (5-0). (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved by Steve Corzelius, seconded by Don Hammond. TM spoke in support; in the past the funds were used for variety of vehicle and this last year bought the loader. The article passed.

Article 10 Discontinue HRA Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the HRA Expendable Trust Fund created in 2019. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Mike Simpson, seconded by David Lackie. A question from the audience asking for the amount of money. Jennifer Boucher, financial officer, stated the fund was established last year to offset expenses with employee's HRA. The balance is \$30,171.51. Since the plan for insurance is changing, there is no need for this fund. The article passed.



Article 11 Non-Profits

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six dollars (\$75,776.00) to support the following non-profit organizations. (Majority vote required.)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$ 1,000.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health	\$ 6,000.00
Second Chance Animal Rescue	\$ 1,500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	\$15,000.00
RSVP Volunteer Center	\$ 1,000.00
Horse Meadow Senior Center	\$24,000.00
Visiting Nurse & Hospice	\$ 6,000.00
White Mountain Mental Health.....	\$ 6,012.00
Tri-County Community Action - Energy Services	\$ 4,000.00
Burch House	\$ 2,234.00
Bridge House Shelter & Veterans Advocacy	\$ 2,000.00
Tri-County Community Action - Homeless Outreach...	\$ 2,334.00
Good Shepherd Good Pantry	\$ 4,695.00
Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall.....	\$ 1.00

The article was moved by Mike Roberts, second by William Daly. Wayne Fortier made an amendment to increase Court Street Arts by \$8,499. He stated the town has supported Court Street Arts for many years. The budget committee recommended to keep the \$8,500 in the budget. Michelle Reagan seconded the motion to amend the increase. Paul Forcier asked for clarification of funds being used. Wayne Fortier spoke that the \$8500 was for operating budget. Paul Forcier asked the amount in the past that was given to CSA. Darwin gave those values. David Heintz spoke in support of CSA and the amendment. Christina Fuersbach spoke in support and read the MOA with the town. David Robinson Jr. spoke on behalf of the budget committee. They were in support of the amount, but did ask CSA to seek funds from other communities since they do participate as well. Nate Swain spoke in support. Darwin Clogston explained the \$1 in the line item was so the voters could change the amount if desired. Lynn Wheeler gave some history of the Alumni Hall and supported the CSA. Mariann Aldrich moved the discussion seconded by Steven Corzelius. Vote on amendment to add \$8,499 to the dollar. The amendment passed. Amended amount of the article to \$84,275. A motion was made to accept for new amount The motion was moved by Lesa Lakeman-McDonald and seconded by Doug McDonald. The article passed.

Article 12 Modify the Disabled Veteran’s Credit

Shall the town increase the optional tax credit for Service Connected Total Disability pursuant to RSA 72:35 on residential property from \$2,000 to \$4,000? (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Robert Roudebush; seconded by Sandi Pierce. There was no discussion. The article passed.



Article 13 Adopt Disabled Exemption

Shall the town ADOPT the provisions of RSA 72:37-b exemption for the Disabled, to provide for an exemption of \$5,000 from real estate property taxes for qualified individuals. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$13,400 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$20,400, and own net assets not in excess of \$35,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Steve Wheeler, seconded by Kevin Van Norden. Lora Goss asked why there was a price difference on vets as one amount and this as another. Christ Fagnant asked what the criteria was. Matt Bjelobrk explained the criteria is the same as directed by the federal government. Paul Forcier asked for more clarification. Kevin Shelton asked how many would this effect. Matt Bjelobrk felt the impact would be mostly on those that qualified. Mike Marshall asked why is this a warrant, and if denied will this tie the town to court actions? Jennifer Boucher explained there are many who inquired if this is offered by the town. This is part of the assessing contract so there shouldn't be additional costs to the town. Nate Swain moved questions; second by Steve Corzelius. The article passed.

Article 14 Increase Board of Selectmen Pay

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) for the purpose of increasing the annual stipend for each member of the Board of Selectmen from \$1,500.00 per year to \$3,000.00. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Melissa Gould, seconded by Lynn Wheeler. Mariann Aldrich made an amendment to change the amount to \$1. Paul Forcier seconded the amendment. The amendment was defeated. Paul Forcier spoke. The article was defeated.

Article 15 Create Cellular Broadband Expansion CRF and to Name Agents

To see if the town will vote to establish a Cellular Broadband Expansion Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for exploring options for and expanding cellular broadband within the Town and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Board of Selectmen recommend this article (3-2). (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved by Doug Teschner, seconded by Steve Wheeler. Kevin Shelton spoke regarding HEEC and in support of this article. The discussion was moved by Don Hammond and seconded by Steven Corzelius. The article passed.



Article 16 Purchase Credit Card Reader for Airport

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and installing a credit card reader for the Dean Memorial Airport fueling system. This device will help to ensure the safety of all pilots landing at the airport by ensuring they have access to fuel at all times and will help to increase fuels sales. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Don Hammond; seconded by Nate Lang. Bob St. Pierre addressed reimbursement and questioned the revenues listed as zero. TM explained about revenues from the airport house rentals which was raised due to condition of building. The intent of a card reader is to make the purchase of fuel at the airport more accessible which brings in a profit. There have been many improvements of the town owned airport. The airport is located in the seat of Grafton County and the goal is to get it more sustainable again. Grant monies are available, which in the past have been sold for 5% to other airports in need. That is not an option anymore. Bob St Pierre would like to see the revenues etc. of the airport to see how it effects the town. TM stated the airport could make money by selling fuel, renting the airport hangers, and tie down fees for airplanes. The Airport Technician is available at the airport now. Mike Conrad asked about moving the fuel farm. TM responded that an inspection of the fuel farm showed it has about 5 years use left. The other issue is how the planes travel to get fuel. All of which could be paid for by the grant monies, but the town has to address safety issues first. Credit card machine would be able to use immediately. Nate Lang moved question, seconded by Steve Wheeler. All were in favor. The article was defeated.

Article 17 Safety Scoping Study & Aviation Safety Easement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$241,500.00) for the purpose of performing a safety study at the Dean Memorial Airport and to acquire Aviation Easements for FAA compliance. Two Hundred Thirty Thousand dollars (\$230,000.00) to come from Airport Improvement Grant Funds and the balance to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Don Hammond; seconded by Archie Steenburgh. The voice vote was close, so the moderator moved to stand up for each vote and will be counted. The article passed.

Article 18 French Pond Road Reconstruction

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$550,000.00) for the purpose of reconstruction of French Pond Road. Three Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) to come from the Highway Construction/Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and the balance to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Mike Roberts, seconded by David Lackie. Paul Forcier asked for clarification. TM and the Road Agent looked at French Pond Road and this article refers to a 2-mile section that needs repair. David Robinson Jr. clarified the use of monies from capital reserve. The article passed.



Article 19 Clark Pond Road Bridge Construction

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty dollars (\$635,530.00) for the purpose of replacing the failed culvert on Clark Pond Road with a new bridge. Four Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Five Hundred Thirty dollars (\$497,530.00) to come from FEMA and One Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand dollars (\$138,000.00) to come from NH DOT grant. No amount will be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by unknown; seconded by Doug McDonald. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 20 Lease/Purchase Highway Grader

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a Five (5) year lease agreement in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a new highway grader, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Don Hammond, seconded by Steve Corzelius. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 21 Lease/Purchase Highway Dump Truck

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a Two (2) year lease agreement in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a new highway dump truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Don Hammond, seconded by Paul Forcier. There was no discussion. The article passed.

Article 22 Haverhill Corner Fire Department

To see if the town will vote to accept the control of the Haverhill Corner Fire Department and all fire related assets. Furthermore, to agree to fully accept the obligation to operate and maintain the Fire Department as a Department of the Town. This article is contingent upon a vote from the Haverhill Corner Precinct relinquishing its control over the Fire Department and its fire related assets. (Majority Vote Required)

The results were listed as Yes 164, No 129. The article passed.

Article 23 North Haverhill Fire Department

To see if the town will vote to accept the control of the North Haverhill Fire Department and all fire related assets. Furthermore, to agree to fully accept the obligation to operate and maintain the Fire Department as a Department of the Town. This article is contingent upon a vote from the North Haverhill Precinct relinquishing its control over the Fire Department and its fire related assets. (Majority Vote Required)

The results were listed as Yes 165, No 127. The article passed.



Article 24 Highway Department Merger

To see if the town will vote to accept from the Woodsville Fire District ownership of its highways, to include its storm drains not connected to the sewer system, as well as any highway assets purchased with money distributed to them through general taxation by the Town. This would not include its sewer system, storm drains connected to the sewer system, or its buildings. Furthermore to agree to fully accept the obligation to operate and maintain said highways. This article is subject to an affirmative vote from the Woodsville Fire District to transfer said ownership and assets to the Town and to approval from the New Hampshire General Court. (Majority Vote Required.)

The results were listed as Yes 168, No122. The article passed.

Article 25 Take any other action

To take any other action that may legally come before this meeting.

The Selectboard Chair, Darwin Clogston, gave a thank you to Melinda Boutin for her work on delinquent taxes; a thank you to Tom Friel for his work on the Select Board. The final budget meeting was not advertised properly so there will be another meeting, for a procedural defect, to be held at a later date. There was discussion about moving the Town Meeting back to Saturday. Doug Teschner made a motion to move the meeting and seconded by Archie Steenburgh. The moderator stated the Town Meeting will be scheduled on a different Saturday than the school. Doug Teschner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Archie Steenburgh. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie G. G. G.