

**MINUTES OF THE 2013 WEBSTER TOWN MEETING
MARCH 12, 2013 AND MARCH 16, 2013**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013 -- THE POLLS WERE OPEN FROM 10:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
TO ACT ON ARTICLES 1-6**

Moderator Robert H. Pearson, III declared the polls open at 10:00 am.

ARTICLE 1 To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

OFFICE	# YRS. TERM	NAME	# OF VOTES
Selectman	3	Mason Donovan	212
Tax Collector	1	Karen King	226
Town Clerk	1	Michele Derby	230
Treasurer	1	Mary Smith	227
Cemetery Trustee	3	Aime Silver	234
Library Trustee	3	Martin Bender	234
Trustee of Trust Funds	3	Therese Larson	227

242 Ballots Cast

ARTICLE 2: **PASSED** **YES – 198** NO – 40
Are you in favor of changing the term of the Tax Collector from one year to 3 years, beginning with the term of the Tax Collector to be elected at next year’s regular town meeting?

ARTICLE 3: **PASSED** **YES – 205** NO – 34
Are you in favor of changing the term of the Town Clerk from one year to 3 years, beginning with the term of the Town Clerk to be elected at next year’s regular town meeting?

ARTICLE 4: **PASSED** **YES – 193** NO – 45
Are you in favor of changing the term of the Treasurer from one year to 3 years, beginning with the term of the Treasurer to be elected at next year’s regular town meeting?

ARTICLE 5: **FAILED** **YES – 116** **NO – 117**
Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing *Webster Zoning Ordinance* to amend the definition of ‘Building’ as follows?

Building. Any structure having a roof and intended for the shelter, housing, or enclosure of persons, animals, equipment, or property of any kind.

ARTICLE 6: **PASSED** **YES – 142** NO – 81
Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing *Webster Zoning Ordinance* by adding the following text as a new Paragraph J to Article V, Section 8 (dealing with Personal Wireless Service Facilities), and re-designating the existing Paragraphs J, K, and L as Paragraphs K, L, and M, respectively?

J. Modification of an Existing PWSF

1. A PWSF owner/operator proposing to modify or upgrade an existing, previously approved PWSF shall submit a letter of intent to the Board of Selectmen, providing a complete and detailed description of the proposed modification.
2. If the Selectmen find that the proposed modification does not increase the height of the PWSF, and at their sole discretion judge the proposed modification to have minor impact on any other aspect of the facility, they may approve the proposed modification by majority vote.
3. In the event of such approval, written notice thereof shall be provided to the PWSF owner/operator.
4. Absent such approval, the Selectmen shall advise the owner/operator to make application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and to the Planning Board, where said application shall be considered as a new application, subject to the provisions of this ordinance and all relevant New Hampshire statutes.

**BUSINESS MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013 AT 10:00 AM
TO ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Moderator Pearson invited Clarence Jeffery, a WWII Veteran and Emma Kimball, a 4-H Member of the Merrimack County Ox Bows to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Pearson reviewed emergency exits.

Selectman Fanjoy reviewed a letter from Senator Kelly Ayotte declaring March 30th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day with a ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. Every veteran and patriot will be honored. Dorothea Young was honored as Webster's oldest resident at 104 years old.

Selectman Johnson encouraged people in the community to volunteer for Town committees and boards, as well as with Town Elections.

Moderator Pearson reviewed a handout of the Moderator's duties and the process of the meeting. Because of the large turnout of voters (332) and the restrictions on building space, speakers and a video feed were set up downstairs for the overflow of people.

The Moderator read the election results.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Twenty-seven Dollars (\$428,027) for General Government:

Executive	\$ 9,050
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	26,124
Financial Administration	144,541
Revaluation of Property	17,200
Legal Expenses	8,400
Personnel Administration	53,035
Planning & Zoning	14,692

General Government Buildings	49,510
Cemeteries	12,200
Insurance	93,175
Outside Services (Forester)	100

Moved and seconded.

Selectman Johnson made a motion to amend to increase the article to \$434,754 for General Government to accommodate a grant received to preserve old Town records. There would be no amount raised from taxation.

Moved and seconded.

Moderator called for a voice vote to amend Article 7 to \$434,754. (The increase would be in the Election, Registration & Vital Statistics line item to be \$32,851.)

Amendment to Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Moderator called for a voice vote on the amended article.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-three Dollars (\$318,353) for Public Safety:

Police	\$209,834
Police – Special Detail	1,500
Ambulance	26,041
Fire & Medical	76,178
Emergency Management	2,700
Building Inspection/Septic Reviews	2,000
Other Public Safety	100

Moved and seconded.

Selectman Johnson responded to a question from the floor for an update on the Police Department from last year’s Town Meeting. “I hoped to look closely at the PD and bring something back at Town Meeting this year.... Honestly the inquiry in late June that was intended to the Selectmen took immediate attention and effort. I believe that the other Selectmen and the Chief agree that I, for one, wish to move investigations to be completed as quickly as possible, to resolve all issues and move on. Doing so would have allowed time and effort on following through with what I had hoped to do; however the investigations, to be honest with you, to be complete and thorough, took much longer than hoped.”

Don Koberski made a motion to remove the Police Department budget from Article 8 and vote on that line item separately.

Moved and seconded. Discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote. It was too close to determine and a hand count was called.

Amendment failed by hand count. – Yes 83 – No 196

Jon Pearson made a motion to zero out Article 8.

Moved and seconded. There was discussion by many voters against this motion. Mutual aid agreements require that each town contribute to the other town. Should Webster eliminate the police and fire budget, the other towns with a mutual aid agreement with Webster, would no longer have an obligation to provide mutual aid to Webster.

Moderator called for a hand count to the motion to amend Article 8 to zero it out. Motion failed. There was a motion from the floor to accept Article 8 as written with no discussion.

Moved and seconded.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 8.

Moved and seconded.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-three Dollars (\$377,783) for Highways, Streets and Sanitation:

Highways and Streets	\$185,048
Highway Block Grant	62,735
Hopkinton-Webster Landfill Transfer Station	130,000

Moved and seconded.

Discussion on whether Lake Road will be fixed this year. Road Agent Emmet Bean said it was first on the agenda and will be taken care of.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eight Dollars (\$54,608) for the following:

Health Department	\$ 325
Health Agencies	3,400
CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children	250
Welfare Department	3,900
Community Action Program	4,182
Parks & Recreation	2,700
Penacook Community Center	500
Library	35,351

Patriotic Purposes – Old Home Day	3,000
Conservation Commission	500
Agricultural Commission	500

Moved and seconded.

No discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy-eight Dollars (\$58,178) for repayment of Long Term Debt and TAN interest:

Principal – Long Term Bond	\$40,000
Interest – Long Term Bond	17,178
TAN – Interest	1,000

Moved and seconded.

No discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum up to \$32,000 to purchase and equip a 2013 Ford utility vehicle all-wheel drive, and to trade in a 2005 Ford Crown Vic towards the purchase price. This sum is to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve established for this purpose at the 1983 Town Meeting and no amount will be raised from taxation.

This is a Special Warrant Article

Moved and seconded.

It was discussed that at the 2010 Town Meeting when the police cruiser was replaced the decision was made to keep the old vehicle until it was no longer usable and then dispose of it. Why, now, are three cruisers needed in a town our size? Concern was expressed regarding the current Policy whereby the officers are able to take cruisers home resulting in a lot of additional mileage being put on the cars.

Chairman Cummings explained that the cruisers are allowed to be taken home to allow for a faster response to emergencies. In return, the Town does not have to pay On-Call Time.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to help offset the cost of the bond for “Funds to Repair Dam” passed at the Pillsbury Lake Water District Special Meeting held August 5, 2006.

Moved and seconded.

David Klumb, President of the Pillsbury Lake Water District, gave a brief history of the new dam and asked the Town to vote yes on this article. The \$10,000 that the Town would pay results in a tax rate of \$.04/\$1,000 of assessed valuation. Pillsbury Lake's portion would be \$.23/\$1,000. There is public access to Pillsbury Lake via the Fish & Game boat ramp. He encouraged the Town to vote yes on this article.

There was discussion against the article by Martin Bourque. The money would be better spent on the whole Town. MJ Turcotte explained that without the Pillsbury Lake water assessment it would result in a significant loss of assessed value resulting in a higher tax burden to the rest of the Town.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) for road pavement preservation.

Moved and seconded.

There was discussion on how much road this covers with a response that this amount does not go very far and will need to be increased in the future.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Don Boddiford expressed concern about the increased travel of large trucks over Deer Meadow Road and the amount of damage to the roads.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Dollars (\$163,000) to be added to the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds:

Office Equipment	1,000
Fire Dept. – Air Packs	7,000
Bridge Improvements	20,000
Fire Dept. – Dry Hydrant Repairs	2,000
Reappraisal	1,500
Town Hall Improvements	20,000
Police Cruiser	15,000
Highway Land/Building Fund	25,000
Fire Truck	48,000
Fire Department – Bunker Gear	5,000
Public Safety Building	5,000
Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station Fund	3,000
Cemetery Improvement Fund	1,000
Police Equipment	2,500
Highway Equipment	2,500

Medical Equipment	2,500
Tax Maps	2,000

This is a Special Warrant Article

Moved and seconded.

Andrea Morrill made a motion to move \$15,000 from the Police Cruiser line to the Highway Land/Building Fund line. The bottom line of the Article would not change.

Moved and seconded to zero out Police Cruiser line and move the \$15,000 to the Highway Land/Building Fund. Chief Dupuis spoke against this motion. There was a question from the floor asking if there is Town-owned land that could be used for a Highway Building instead of purchasing land. Chairman Cummings said this has been considered and at this point, nothing has been decided.

Moderator called for a voice vote to the amendment.

Amendment passed by voice vote.

Moderator called for a voice vote to the amended article.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) to be added to the previously established Expendable Trust Funds:

Police Vehicle Maintenance	2,000
Highway	5,000
Fire Department Equipment	5,000
Highway Building Maintenance	5,000
Compensated Absences	5,000

This is a Special Warrant Article

Moved and seconded.

No discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$29,420) for the purpose of the 2013 Town Wide Re-evaluation of Property and to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Reappraisal Capital Reserve established for this purpose at the 1977 Town Meeting and no amount will be raised from taxation.

This is a Special Warrant Article

Moved and seconded.

Administrative Assistant Judy Jones explained the Revaluation of Property in Article 7 is for general assessing work vs. total revaluation/resetting of all property values in this article.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be put in the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve established in 1997. This is the trade-in amount received for the 1991 Emergency One Fire Truck. This sum is to come from Unreserved Fund Balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised from taxation.

This is a Special Warrant Article

Moved and seconded.

Fire Chief Colin Colby addressed a question from the floor as to whether it was cost effective to buy a refurbished truck vs. buying a new truck. Historically the Fire Department replaces a truck every 20 years. Going forward the plan is to trade in fire trucks every 25 years. NFPA sets the standards and the committee preferred to go with the new standards. Next time a truck is to be replaced, refurbishing it will be considered.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum up to \$3,000 for the installation of solar lights on the Town Hall and Veteran's Memorial flagpoles.

Moved and seconded.

No discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Roger Becker made the motion to restrict reconsideration on all articles up to and including Article 19.

Moved and seconded.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to offer for sale, as adopted at the annual Town Meeting of 1994 per RSA 80:42 III and 80:80 III, to abutters only those lots owned by the Town located in the Pillsbury Lake District, with the stipulation that the lots be merged with the existing abutting lot and no further lot-line adjustment will be allowed. The price will be determined by the Board of Selectmen at the time of sale. The property available is as follows:

Map 10-4-63

Map 10-5-18

Moved and seconded.

No discussion.

Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 21. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Tara Gunnigle suggested the Town form a Police Advisory Board similar to Boscawen's to be a liaison between the people of the Town, the Police Department and the Select Board as a way to bring a divided Town together

Fire Chief Colby thanked the Town for their support and urged residents and past firefighters to become members of the Fire Department.

Police Chief Dupuis mentioned that you should not be afraid to approach him with a complaint.

Outgoing Chairman George Cummings was recognized for his service to the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Derby".

Michele Derby
Town Clerk