

2016 TOWN WARRANT
MINUTES OF THE 2016 TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF WEBSTER
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

Moderator Robert Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:00am in the Webster Town Hall. He invited all veterans to stand and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked the residents to use the microphone when speaking and to kindly turn their cell phones off.

Sally Embley of the Webster Conservation Commission discussed Road Side Clean-up to be held on April 30 and welcomed all to participate in cleaning up the trash along the sides of Webster's roads. She noted that free pansies will be given as a thank you and that volunteers will be asked to help identify and map invasive species this year. Bill Pearson who works for State of NH DOT addressed a resident's concern about the "bamboo" growing along Battle Street. He identified it as Japanese knotweed and said the State is trying a spray to kill it off as other methods to eliminate it have not worked.

Select Board Chair Bruce Johnson thanked everyone for attending Town Meeting. He also thanked Judy Jones for all the work she did for the Town and for whom the Town Report was dedicated. He thanked Wendy (Pinkham, Finance Director), Leslie (Palmer, Administrative Assistant), Therese (Larson, Planning & Zoning Board Secretary) and Michele (Derby, Town Clerk) for their work in setting up Town Meeting.

Chairman Johnson discussed some of the changes in the final Warrant Articles due to public response at the Budget Hearing. The amount of \$2,500 was added for Old Home Day. There was a change in the order of the warrant articles, the Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust, and a minor change to 350' from 250' for the General Stark petitioned article. He explained the operating budget is down 2.78% and the estimated local tax rate is down 11%. The unassigned fund balance is estimated to be back to DRA recommendations. He highlighted a couple specific increases; one due to the four elections in 2016 and a two percent increase for employees' salaries. He pointed out a few decreases. The consulting fees for the Administrative Assistant position, the electric rates, and all of the departments have cut back their expenses. He summarized the warrant articles to be voted on and explained that Clothespin Bridge should be a two year project rather than a one year project and the warrant article will need to be amended.

Chairman Johnson shared that according to the Department of Revenue Administration the Town of Webster tax rate is lower than all five of our neighboring towns.

Jennifer Carleton and Mike Greenwood extended a thank you to the Town employees and volunteers that worked to bring Town Meeting together and running the Town smoothly.

Gordon Welch questioned Chairman Johnson related to the authority of one selectman spending money without approval of the other Select Board members.

The Moderator reviewed the rules of procedure and asked the voters if they wanted to recognize non-residents at the meeting. He called for a vote of letting a non-resident speak at the meeting. David Collins asked if the vote could be postponed until it was necessary. It was brought to the attention of all that the Town's attorney, Administrative Assistant and Financial Administrator were not residents, and they would not be able to speak if the vote was not in the affirmative.

The Moderator explained the secret ballot process and asked all speakers to use the microphone.

He explained the Moderator can be overruled by the voters and that a motion to reconsider can only be made immediately after the vote on the article.

The Moderator read the results of the Tuesday, March 8, 2016 official ballot portion of Town Meeting:

Article 1: *The Moderator read Article 1 in its entirety, To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (BY BALLOT)*

OFFICE	TERM	NAME	# OF VOTES
Cemetery Trustee	3 yrs	Aime Silver	418
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Martin Bender	422
Moderator	2 yrs	Robert Pearson III	287
		Mike Jette	184
Selectman	3 yrs	Michael Borek	386
Supervisor of the Checklist	2 yrs	Henry Bergeron	408
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 yrs	Beth-Holly LaDuke	410
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 yrs	Therese Larson	422

472 ballots cast

Article 2: *The Moderator read Article 2 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,381,745 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.*

The Moderator opened the article for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Tara Gunnigle asked how the Police Department would pay for a full-time Chief, as advertised, if the budget presented is for a part-time Chief. She questioned where the money was going to be coming from for the additional salary and benefits if a full-time Chief is hired.

Chairman Johnson addressed the point of order that the article had not been moved and seconded. He stated that no motion was made to move the article or a second. He addressed Tara's question that there is additional money in the budget for the new position due to Chief Dupuis' retirement in February. He explained the Select Board will stay within the Police Department budget when making a decision on the Chief's position. Tara asked if there was a figure for the full-time Chief's salary or was it applicant dependent. Chairman Johnson stated it would depend on the applicant and their qualifications. Tara asked if because the Police budget was lumped in with the operating budget and the Police Department did not have enough money what other department would any deficiency be taken from. Chairman Johnson stated that this is his fifth year as Selectman and he has not taken any money out of another budget to put in the Police Department budget, and his intention is not to do that again this year.

David Potter asked if there was an inventory list for the Police Department. Chairman Johnson did not know the answer to this question. Selectman Borek responded that they know how many police cars and guns the Police Department has. David Potter suggested the Select Board have an inventory available at the next year's Town Meeting. George Cummings suggested an inventory be made for all departments.

Jane Difley moved Article 2 and it was seconded.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 2.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2

David Collins moved to restrict reconsideration on Article 2, seconded.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 2.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 3: *The Moderator read Article 3 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,500 to be added to the following established Capital Reserve Funds under RSA 35:1.*

Office Equipment	4,000
Fire Dept. – Air Packs	7,000
Bridge/Culvert Improvements	50,000
Fire Dept. – Dry Hydrant Repairs	2,000
Reappraisal	5,000
Town Hall Improvements	15,000
Police Cruiser	12,000
Highway Land/Building Fund	20,000
Public Safety Building	2,000
Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station	5,000
Police Equipment	1,500
Highway Equipment	7,500
Medical Equipment	2,500
Tax Maps	1,000

The Moderator opened the article for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Chairman Johnson moved to amend the article to read To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$159,500 to be added to the following established Capital Reserve Funds under RSA 35:1. The motion to amend was seconded.

Chairman Johnson explained the amendment would be to increase the Bridge/Culvert Improvements line item to \$75,000 for the Clothespin Bridge project.

There was discussion on the engineering of the bridge, the State’s 20/80 program, time limit and the specifications of the new bridge.

Barbara Corliss stated concern that the Town is not saving enough in the Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust funds. She noted the Town does not have a current Capital Reserve Plan. She stated the need for a Capital Improvement Plan that is up to date and maintained; and the need for a Budget Committee that is focused on making sure these are done.

George Hashem explained that part of the money spent comes out of the Capital Reserve Funds. About \$400,000 is being taken out of the “savings” account and being used to pay expenses. Eventually the Town will need to pay to replenish those Capital Reserve Funds.

Jennifer Carleton asked if there is a plan for immediate repairs to improve the current condition of the Clothespin Bridge and how will that be paid for. Road Agent Emmett Bean responded that he will continue to repair the bridge with coal patch and steel.

The Moderator called for a vote to amend the article.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amended article.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 4: *The Moderator read Article 4 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$67,000 to add to the following established Expendable Trust Funds per RSA 31:19-a.*

Compensated Absences	27,000
FD Equipment	40,000

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Point of order was raised by Karen King who moved the article and it was seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion. With no discussion the Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 5: *The Moderator read Article 5 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$165,000 for Highway Road Preservation.*

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

The article was moved and seconded.

With no discussion the Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 3, 4 and 5

David Collins moved to restrict reconsideration on Articles 3, 4 and 5. The motion was seconded.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 3, 4 and 5.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 6: *The Moderator read Article 6 in its entirety, To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000 for engineering design work, construction and purchase of a replacement bridge to replace Clothespin Bridge and to authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the bridge replacement is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. This is a Special Non-Lapsing Warrant Article.*

Chairman Johnson made a motion to amend the article to read: "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the engineering design work, including survey, borings, permitting, engineering, and developing a Request for Proposals, for the replacement of Clothespin Bridge and to withdraw \$75,000 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the bridge work is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner."

The amendment was seconded.

Chairman Johnson wanted to make it clear that next year's warrant will include the balance of this project. The goal is to present a specific plan at next year's Town Meeting.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to amend the article.

AMENDMENT PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amended article.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 7: *The Moderator read Article 7 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 for project planning and engineering design work related to road improvements and culvert replacement on Bashan Hollow Road and authorize the withdrawal of \$7,500 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No funds will be raised from taxation.*

The article was moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Susan Rauth stated the article included two projects on Bashan Hollow Road. One is to replace the culvert at the end of the road near Deer Meadow Road and the other is to cut back the existing bank and trees at the corner to improve the line of sight. The land to be cut back is in an easement that is held by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. She asked if the Society had granted permission for the project. Chairman Johnson stated permission had not been granted at this point. She asked the Select Board for a breakdown of the two projects. Chairman Johnson stated a majority of the culvert work has been completed and the bulk of the article is for the engineering of the line-of-sight project. Susan Rauth suggested the money could be better spent on other road projects in Town. Road Agent Emmett Bean explained the money asked for in the article finishes up the engineering for the projects. Susan Rauth stated that Bashan Hollow Road is a scenic road and it requires a second hearing conducted by the Planning Board before the work could be accomplished. Susan Roman asked how much has already been spent on this project for the engineer. Road Agent Emmett Bean estimated \$12,000 has been spent for engineering. Chairman Johnson stated the actual work on the road will be coming out of the Road Preservation Fund. Susan Roman asked how the Town is prioritizing the road projects and how they are decided. Road Agent Emmett Bean responded that the Select Board had asked him for a ten-year plan. He explained that in his planning the condition of the road is taken into consideration as well as safety; that includes corners or trees.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 8: *The Moderator read Article 8 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for guardrails on Bashan Hollow Road and authorize the withdrawal of \$8,000 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No funds will be raised from taxation. This article is contingent upon the affirmative vote of Article #7; if Article #7 is not passed this Article will be passed over.*

The article was moved and seconded.

Chairman Johnson stated the Select Board did not recommend this article explaining they did not think the expenditure was necessary.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 9: *The Moderator read Article 9 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for project planning, engineering design work and construction work related to Pond Hill Road and Lake Winnepocket storm water runoff management and sediment pollution removal and authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No funds will be raised from taxation.*

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Andrea Morrill noted many of these articles are saying “not raised by taxation” and commented that money will need to be raised at some point.

Chairman Johnson stated the money taken from Capital Reserve Funds this year is \$33,000. There is \$315,000 in that Capital Reserve Fund.

Martin Bourque asked for an explanation on the project. Road Agent Emmett Bean explained that Pond Hill Road has turned into a brook bed and comes down over the hill to the boat ramp and into the lake. The run off is contaminating the lake and the culvert pipe is filling with sediment and rusting. The concern is for maintaining the water quality of the lake and access to the properties on the other side of the culvert.

David Klumb suggested the money come from the Highway Road Preservation Fund rather than the Bridge and Culvert Improvement Capital Reserve; for this article and the next.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 10: *The Moderator read Article 10 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for permitting and engineering design work related to layout improvements of the Sand and Salt Shed access road and driveway area to allow for more efficient sand/salt storage that will be closer to the road and away from the river and to authorize the withdrawal of \$8,000 from the Highway Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. No funds will be raised by taxation.*

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

There was no discussion and the Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 11: *The Moderator read Article 11 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for repairs to the Fire Department Ambulance and to authorize the withdrawal of \$40,000 from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. No funds will be raised by taxation.*

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Rob Wolinski provided some history on the article. The current ambulance is a 20 year old vehicle with 18,000 miles. Originally, there were two options on replacing the ambulance. One was to purchase a new one with funds withdrawn from the Capital Reserve funds or fixing the current one. He explained the frame and doors of the ambulance would be repaired along with the suspension system. Rob explained the price of a new, smaller ambulance would be \$180,000.

Tom McWilliams made a motion to take the \$40,000 and add it to the Emergency Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund to increase the balance so that next year we can buy a new ambulance.

The motion to amend Article 11 was seconded.

The Moderator called for a vote to have the Town Attorney’s opinion on this motion to amend.

Passed by voice vote.

Attorney Michael Courtney weighed in that the motion to amend would not be permissible because

it would be changing the warrant article completely and therefore unlawful.

The Moderator denied the motion as out of order.

Barbara Corliss suggested an option of looking for a surplus ambulance from another town. George Cummings recommended voting affirmative on this article so the repairs can be completed and that the equipment could be in service. Fire Department member Ryan Dubuc stated the ambulance, as is, would not pass inspection but could pass with a few minor repairs paid for through the Fire Department's budget.

Heather Fairchild asked to move the question.

John Martin, who was in line, asked how long the repairs would last.

Fire Chief Emmett Bean responded that the repairs would last "off to our graves".

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 12: *The Moderator read Article 12 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$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.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Martin Bourque spoke against this article. David Collins spoke in favor of this article. Andrea Morrill asked how long the bond will last. David Klumb responded that the bond is in its 10th year of a 20-year bond.

David Klumb moved the question.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Zero out Articles 7, 9 and 10

David Klumb made a motion to zero out Articles 7, 9 and 10 and direct the Select Board to take the funds for those projects from Road Preservation Capital Reserve Fund.

Motion was seconded.

Chairman Johnson explained Article 10 referencing the sand and salt shed. Some of the money for this project will be taken from the Road Agent's regular budget. The \$8,000 from the article would be for the permitting and engineering design work. Sue Roberts explained the articles in the motion are for the engineering. If it is taken out of the operating budget and Road Preservation Fund, it means there will be that much less road work that will get done in Town. Scott Swezey asked if there was money left from the 2015 Road Agent's budget, due to the mild winter, that could be used for these projects. Chairman Johnson replied there are many road projects to complete.

Harold Janeway moved the question.

Point of order was raised as to whether the motion was seconded. John Clark responded that he did second the motion but after hearing the discussion withdrew his second to the motion.

The Moderator called of a second to the motion. Seconded.

Sue McGinnis clarified the motion was to zero out articles 7, 9 and 10 and take the money from the \$165,000 in the Road Improvement Fund. Which would mean the Road Improvement Fund would have \$40,500 less in it to do road improvements because it would be used to do the design work for the articles that were zeroed out. Road Agent Emmett Bean brought up the three sections completed on Little Hill Road need a one-inch overlay (\$50,000) and Dustin Road needs to be

grader shimmed (\$70,000-\$80,000) if an outside contractor completes it. To keep costs down, the Road Agent's crew will do this project. He also mentioned the Bashan Hollow Road project will be coming out of the \$165,000. He spoke against the motion.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 6-12

David Collins moved to restrict reconsideration on Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, seconded.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11 and 12.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 13: *The Moderator read Article 13 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to offer for sale, as adopted at the annual Town Meeting of 1994 per RSA 80:42 III and 80:80 III, to only those Pillsbury Lake District abutters whose lot is developed, those lots owned by the Town located in the Pillsbury Lake District, with the stipulation that the lots be merged with the existing Pillsbury Lake District developed abutting lot and no further lot-line adjustment will be allowed. The price will be determined by the Select Board at the time of sale. The properties available are as follows:*

Map 10-1-48 (Windsor Terrace)

Map 10-1-61 (Windsor Terrace)

Map 10-4-72A (New Hampshire Drive)

Map 10-5-70 (Rogers Drive)

Map 10-5-75 (Rogers Drive)

Map 10-6-42 (Manchester Drive)

Map 10-6-43 (Manchester Drive)

(Map 10-6-42 and Map 10-6-43 to be sold as a block)

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Martin Bourque questioned how much revenue the sale of these lots would generate. Chairman Johnson responded these lots were on the warrant last year and were not sold, and the sale price would need to cover all fees.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 14: *The Moderator read Article 14 in its entirety, I hereby request the Town of Webster, NH to upgrade approximately 350 feet of General Stark Drive, currently a Class VI road, to a Class V or Class IV road, with approval of the Town Road Agent. I further request that the Town accept the responsibility to maintain this stretch of upgraded road.*

Submitted by Petition

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Martin Bourque stated that in passing this article it is opening a door for a lot more roads to be made available which means more cost by the Road Agent for maintenance, plowing and grading. He added he did not believe any additional taxes would help cover the costs. Alisa Mullen, the

petitioner; spoke of her concerns of accessing her property if she is not allowed to maintain the road herself and the accessibility of emergency vehicles. Road Agent Emmett Bean “if you do for one, you have to do for all” and there are other Class VI roads with houses that would cost a lot of money to bring back to a Class V road. He cautioned on “opening a big can of worms”. When asked if he was for or against the article he responded the Town needs to decide. The Moderator asked Road Agent Emmett Bean what the land owners’ responsibility was in maintaining the road. It was Road Agent Bean’s opinion that it was considered a long driveway and the responsibility of the homeowner. Alisa Mullen stated she is willing to help absorb some of the cost to bring the road up to a Class V road. There was more discussion in favor of this petitioned article. Heather Fairchild asked about the Town’s liability in damage to a vehicle or themselves regarding maintaining the road and how much money would it cost to fix the road. Town council agreed with Chairman Johnson when he responded that it would be the liability of the individual. Road Agent Emmett Bean stated it would be approximately \$10,000 to fix 800’ of the road to allow for the plow truck to drive through and not have to turn around in the driveway. Tom Mullins explained the history of the roads in Pillsbury Lake. Years ago the developers came to the Town and deeded the roads to the Town on a certain plat. He said not all the roads were on the plat and that is why some of the roads belong to Pillsbury Lake. He cautioned against approving this article because of the other residents living on Class VI and private roads, and it would be a lot of money to bring their roads to a Class V road.

Road Agent Emmett Bean asked where the \$10,000 he said to fix the road would be coming from as there is no money mentioned in the article. If it came out of the Highways and Roads budget then another project would have to be pushed back. Chairman Johnson responded it would be the Select Board’s task to pay for the project out of the existing money.

Alisa Mullen asked for a ballot vote. The Moderator asked if the five voters were present but suggested first calling for a voice vote to weigh the voters’ response. She was agreeable to a voice vote.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 15: *The Moderator read Article 15 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 32:24, to establish a Budget Advisory Committee.*

Submitted by Petition

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion.

Tara Gunnigle explained the purpose and process of a Budget Advisory Committee.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 13 and 14

George Cummings made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 13 and 14.

Moved and seconded.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 13 and 14.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Andrea Morrill asked what the actual role of the Budget Advisory Committee was. Select Board Member Mike Borek said committee members would provide advice. There were comments against the article stating the Town does not need more government, and comments in favor of the article as it would help the Select Board and would be advisory only.

David Collins moved the question.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 16. *The Moderator read Article 16 in its entirety, To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

George Cummings asked for a round of applause to all Town volunteers and employees and drew attention to the Town Report's new format.

Trisha Blake asked if there could be a walk-through gate to use at the cemeteries when the gates are closed. Chairman Johnson directed her to speak with the Cemetery Trustees.

Ryan Dubuc explained fire permits were available in the back of the room.

Cindy Farr requested the departments' budgets be separated similar to the 2011 Town Report and to use the DRA (Department of Revenue) recommended format. Chairman Johnson responded that some sections were done using DRA format but said they would refine it next year for any missing things. He also stated the Town voted against breaking the budget out by department at last year's Town Meeting.

Gordon Welch asked the status of the vacant Select Board Member's position. Chairman Johnson replied the position would be appointed by the remaining Select Board members until the 2017 election. He had met with five people, and the Select Board will make a nomination at the next Select Board meeting.

Daniel Nudd made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOTE.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Derby
Michele Derby
Town Clerk