

**MINUTES OF THE 2017 TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF WEBSTER  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017**

*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.*

*Sally Embley of the Webster Conservation Commission discussed Webster's 5<sup>th</sup> Road Side Clean-up to be held on April 29 and welcomed all to participate in cleaning up the trash along the sides of Webster's roads.*

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

*The Moderator explained all questions would go through the Moderator and debate would be limited to 3-5 minutes per individual. He asked the residents to be respectful and refrain from personal attacks. He stated he would not accept motions that limit debate and would not take the agenda out of order. He would accept motions to restrict reconsideration. Nonresidents that wish to speak would be dealt with if the need arose. He explained that Article 3 required a 2/3 majority ballot vote and voting would remain open for one hour.*

*Select Board Chair Bruce Johnson thanked the Library Trustees for donating the large projector screen in the Town Hall. Chairman Johnson presented a recap of accomplishments in the last year and reviewed the 2017 warrant via a Power Point presentation. The unassigned fund balance is above Department of Revenue's recommendations. The tax rate remains lower than Webster's five neighboring towns. The overall operating budget is up 1.49%. The tax rate last year was 5.87/1,000 and this year would be 5.85/1,000. No Expendable Trust Funds would be funded for 2017.*

*Select Board Member Mike Borek spoke of voting down Article 6 related to Clothespin Bridge and to place the \$177,000 into the Bridge Culvert Capital Reserve Fund in Article 5 to use in the future for the bridge project.*

*The Moderator read the results of the Tuesday, March 14, 2017 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
Selectman	3 yrs	Nanci Schofield	267
Selectman	1 yr	Bruce Johnson	173
		Sarah Kimball (write in)	142
Town Clerk	3 yrs	Michele Derby	299
Treasurer	3 yrs	Mike Jette	255
Tax Collector	3 yrs	Karen King	285
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 yrs	Judith Jones	292
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Nancy Pitchall-French	287
Cemetery Trustee	3 yrs	Brenda Silver	285

**321 ballots cast**

Article 2: Webster Zoning Ordinance - ADU *The Moderator skipped the reading of Article 2 and presented the ballot results,* Are you in favor of adoption of the following zoning amendment as proposed by the Planning Board, for the existing *Webster Zoning Ordinance* dealing with the regulating of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's), formerly known as Accessory Apartments?

In Article II Definitions:

Replace **Accessory Apartment** with the following:

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).** A residential living unit that is within or attached to a single-family dwelling, and that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies.

In Article V Special Exceptions:

Replace section 5. with:

**5. Accessory Dwelling Units.** An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) may be permitted by special exception for new construction or existing dwellings if the following conditions and standards are met:

- A. Only one ADU shall be permitted on a lot and the ADU may not have more than seven hundred and fifty (750) square feet of gross floor area.
- B. The ADU must provide independent living facilities for one or more persons that include provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.
- C. The ADU shall be within or attached to the structure containing the principal dwelling unit. Detached accessory dwelling units are prohibited.
- D. Either the ADU or the principal dwelling unit shall be the principal residence and legal domicile of the owner of the property.
- E. An interior door shall be provided between the principal dwelling unit and the ADU. The ADU shall have an exterior entry door separate from that of the primary dwelling, except that both units may use a single such door via a shared hallway or vestibule.
- F. The proposed unit must meet all relevant life safety and sanitary codes, including at least two means of egress leading to safe and open space at ground level.
- G. The ADU shall make provision for adequate water supply and sewage disposal service\in compliance with RSA 485-A:38 *Approval to Increase Load on a Sewage Disposal System*, and regulations adopted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.
- H. The applicant shall submit a written request for approval of an ADU to the Webster Select Board. The Select Board shall refer the applicant to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the applicant shall submit a site plan and a floor plan to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, in accordance with that Board's procedures.

**YES – 215**

**NO -- 57**

Article 3: Solar Array. *The Moderator read Article 3 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,260 (gross budget) to construct a municipal solar panel array and surrounding 8' chain link fence with a 12' gate on Town land located between the Blackwater River and the soccer field, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$115,260 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon as well as apply for, obtain and accept Federal, State Grants or other forms of aid and assistance which may be available for said project. It is estimated that the Town will receive a State PUC Commercial Rebate of \$29,640 and realize a net savings in the costs of electric power generation from the solar array. (2/3 ballot vote required)*

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*Select Board Chair Johnson thanked the Energy Committee for bringing this cost-savings proposal to the Town. He explained a bank note that will cover the cost of the project is set to start January 2018. No additional money will be spent in 2017. Next year's electricity cost will go towards the bank note. There is a 5-year return on investment.*

*The Moderator opened Article 3 for debate. George Cummings questioned the Moderator about the lack of a motion and second. Moderator Pearson explained he would announce the article, have the Select Board respond and then open for debate.*

*After a long discussion of the location, safety, construction, aesthetic and guarantee the Moderator called for a motion on Article 3. Article 3 was moved and it was seconded. The Moderator asked the voters for a motion to accept Article 3 or defeat it. David Collins made a motion to accept the article as written and it was seconded. The Moderator opened the polls for voting at 11:02am for one hour.*

Article 4: Operating Budget of the Town *At 11:26 the meeting resumed and the Moderator read Article 4 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,402,304 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.*

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*Chairman Johnson summarized the increases and decreases in the operating budget resulting in an overall 1.49% increase.*

*The Moderator opened Article 4 for debate.*

*There was a request for an explanation regarding the varied salary raises and Chairman Johnson replied a 4% standard was used for most employees. Town policies were brought up and Select Board Member Borek explained the Board would be reviewing the policies in the coming year.*

*Therese Larson made a motion to move on to the operating budget and it was seconded. The Moderator rejected the motion and allowed further discussion on Article 4.*

*At 11:57 the Moderator announced there was five more minutes before the polls closed for the ballot vote on Article 3. More discussion continued.*

*At 12:05 the Moderator called for a recess to count the ballots cast for Article 3. Chairman Johnson requested voters decide whether to recess or continue with the meeting. The Moderator called for a vote to continue with the meeting and received an affirmative result.*

*After more discussion focused on town policies rather than the budget Kern Jackson pointed out they should be brought up under Article 11: To Transact any other business.*

*Dan Nudd called to move the question. The Moderator explained that would require a 2/3 vote*

*and that he did not want to suppress debate.*

*Dan Nudd made a motion to move the question.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a hand-count vote on the motion to move the question. In lieu of counting the hand vote the Moderator called for a voice vote of those opposed with one vote in opposition; the 2/3 majority was met to move the question.*

*The Moderator called for motion from the floor to accept Article 4.*

*The motion was moved and seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote.*

***PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.***

***Restrict Reconsideration of Article 4***

*David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 4, seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 4.*

***PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.***

***Article 5: Add to previously established CRF*** *The Moderator read the first sentence in Article 5 (omitting each individual fund amount), 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.*

Fire Dept. – Air Packs	3,000
Bridge/Culvert Improvements	75,000
Fire Dept. – Dry Hydrant Repairs	2,000
Reappraisal	5,000
Police Cruiser	12,000
Emergency Apparatus	40,000
Public Safety Building	5,000
Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station	3,500
Police Equipment	1,500
Highway Equipment	7,500
Medical Equipment	5,000

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*Chairman Johnson made a motion to add \$177,000 to the Bridge/Culvert Improvements line for a total of Article 5 of \$336,500.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*The Select Board clarified the \$177,000 would be shifted from Article 6 due to the fact they are not ready for the Clothespin Bridge project. Select Board Member Borek explained they need to look not just at replacing the bridge but at the approaches and State Aide options.*

*The Moderator called for vote to amend the article.*

***AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.***

*Kim Fortune wanted to add money to a Capital Reserve Fund that was not listed in the article.*

*Town Attorney Bart Mayer clarified it would be an invalid motion because the specific fund was not listed and citizens were not warned that subject would be brought up.*

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

**AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

*The Moderator announced the results of the ballot vote for Article 3: Solar Array. There were 174 votes cast and a 2/3 majority would need at least 115 votes.*

**ARTICLE PASSED BY BALLOT VOTE: YES – 123 NO -- 51**

Article 6: Removal & Replacement of Clothespin Bridge *The Moderator read Article 6 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$575,000 for the removal and replacement of Clothespin Bridge and authorize the withdrawal of \$398,000 from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$177,000 is to come from general taxation. 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, 2018, whichever is sooner.*

*The Moderator opened the article for discussion.*

*Harold Janeway made a motion to table Article 6 and it was seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a card vote to table Article 6.*

**ARTICLE TABLED BY 2/3 MAJORITY CARD VOTE.**

Restrict Reconsideration of Article 5 and 6

*Roger Becker made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 5 and 6, seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 5 and 6.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Restrict Reconsideration of Article 3

*Julie Nudd made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 3, seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 3.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 7: Highway Road Preservation *The Moderator read Article 7 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 asked the Select Board for comments.*

*The Moderator opened the article for discussion and/or amendment.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 8: Guardrails on Bashan Hollow Road *The Moderator read Article 8 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000 for Guardrails on Bashan Hollow Road.*

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*Chairman Johnson explained the Select Board was not in agreement on this article with 1-Yes; 1-No; and one Abstention. Select Board Member Schofield said she was in favor of the guardrails because of the liability risk to the Town. The plan was to use wooden guardrails to fit in with the*

*needs for a scenic road. Select Board Member Borek was the abstention because of the vote of the Town at last year's Town Meeting. Chairman Johnson explained he was opposed because the plans to replace the culvert in that area did not include guardrails thus reducing the Town's liability.*

*There was further discussion from the voters about the liability to the Town and steel vs. wooden guardrails. Someone pointed out the article was to raise the funds for the guardrail and not necessarily to determine what type of guardrail would be used. The Select Board would decide what type would be used.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 9: Pillsbury Lake Water District – Bond Help *The Moderator read Article 9 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.*

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*With no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 10: Restoration/Painting of the Old Meeting House *The Moderator read Article 10 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of ongoing restoration/painting of the Old Meeting House.*

*The Moderator asked the Select Board for comments.*

*Chairman Johnson explained this article was requested by the Historical Society.*

*Marjorie Blanchette, President of the Webster's Historical Society stated the 1791 Meeting House is the "oldest meeting house in Merrimack County." The Town's support would help preserve the buildings, historical documents and artifacts for future generations. She explained the Meeting House is in need of restoration/painting with the highest bid being \$192,420 and the lowest bid \$103,464. The plan for repairs would be to do one side at a time.*

*Tara Gunnigle made a motion to amend Article 10 to increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000.*

*The motion to amend was seconded.*

*The Moderator called for vote to amend the article.*

**AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 10 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

*Mike Jette asked for clarification on the type of organization the Historical Society was and where the funds would be held. Marjorie Blanchette confirmed the group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the funds for restoration are held in a separate account.*

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

**AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 7, 8, 9 & 10

*Roger Becker made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 7, 8, 9 & 10, seconded.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 7, 8, 9 & 10.*

**PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 11: To transact any other business *The Moderator read Article 11 in its entirety, To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

*Nancy Webster suggested that next year the Moderator have available written rules for clarification of how he was to run the meeting.*

*Gordon Welch would like to see a committee or board to oversee all policies and procedures for the Town and all written contracts associated with the Town.*

*Tara Gunnigle was disappointed in the solar panel array photo on the cover of the Town Report and stated it should be relevant to the Town.*

*Heather Fairchild addressed the Select Board, as voted by the Town, and said they should not abstain from a vote unless they have a conflict.*

*Julie Nudd made the motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded.*


*Fire Chief Emmett Bean mentioned the ambulance was outside if anyone wanted to see the repairs that were made from funds raised last year.*

*The Moderator called for a voice vote.*

**PASSED BY VOTE.**

*Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
Michele Derby  
Town Clerk