

STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING
MARCH 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator Pro Tem Diane Waldron to act on Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the 2011 Town Warrant by ballot vote.

The ballots were cast and the meeting recessed at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of tallying the votes.

The meeting was called to order again at 8:35 a.m., on Saturday March 12, 2011 at the Strafford School Gymnasium by Moderator William Lord , to act on articles 4 through 18.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Boy Scouts.

The Moderator read the results of the March 8, 2011 election.

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

Voters on the checklist	3,257
Votes cast	473
Library Trustee – Three years	
Anne O. Smith.....	423
Road Agent – One year	
Greg Messenger	436
Selectman – Three years	
JoAnn Brown.....	190
Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three years	
Michelle Bengier	400

The Moderator discussed the rules and proper conduct of the meeting.

Selectman Stephanie Gray presented a “State of the Town” presentation.

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendments to the existing Town of Strafford Zoning and Land Use Ordinances, as proposed by the Planning Board:

“To amend Article 1.4.3 “Conservation Development” by adding expanded guidelines for determining lot density, adding revised guidelines based on soils for determining lot size calculations, clarifying requirements for open space, and by clarifying the application process for conservation development projects. Also, to add a new definition Article 1.14.19 BUILDING ENVELOPE that defines building envelope as the area within which structures shall be located, as used in the proposed revisions to lot size requirements for Conservation Development.”

YES – 241 NO – 183

Article #2 carried.

3. “By petition of the undersigned registered voters of Strafford, NH; by the authority of NH RSA 673:2, II(b); to see if the town will vote to change Planning Board members from appointed to elected, effective the next regular town election. The Planning Board will continue to have five members, who shall be elected pursuant to subparagraph 2.” (by petition.)

YES – 357

NO – 93

Article #3 carried.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000. to be placed in the non-capital reserve fund created in 2004 for the purpose of funding any future bridge repairs/construction.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray made a motion to amend the article to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000. to be placed in the non-capital reserve fund created in 2004 for the purpose of funding any future bridge repairs/construction.”

There was no discussion. Moderator Lord read the article as amended. Vote taken on the amendment and carried. Vote taken on the article as amended and carried.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$221,000. for Capital Improvements (Drainage work, culverts, gravel and paving) of the following roads at the discretion of the Road Agent, as funding permits:

- a. Whig Hill Road – From the intersection of Barberry Lane to the intersection of Sunny Oak Terrace (Approximately .3 miles)
- b. Pinewood Drive (Approximately .2 miles)
- c. Wingate Road – From the intersection of Leighton Corner Road to the intersection of Barn Door Gap Road (Approximately 1.7 miles)
- d. Huckins Road (Approximately .4 miles)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken on the article and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for reflective road signage and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Stephanie Gray addressed the article.

After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken on the article and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$216,260. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After one brief question from Irving Johnson the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,487. to be used for the final payment of any balance due on the two year lease purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to own the new Forestry vehicle authorized by Article 6 in 2010.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Stephanie Gray addressed the article. With no discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken on the article and carried.

9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a four year lease agreement for \$165,000. for the purpose of leasing to own a new ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000. for the first year's payment for that purpose. Furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of \$100,000. from the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting to be used for the first year's payment. This lease contains an escape clause. No funding to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray made a motion to amend the article to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three year lease agreement in the amount of \$176,000. for the purpose of leasing to own a new ambulance and to authorize the trade-in of the old ambulance to lower the lease/purchase agreement amount by such trade-in value; further to raise and appropriate \$113,966. for the first year's payment with such sum to be withdrawn from the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. No funding to come from general taxation.”

Motion to amend seconded. Moderator Lord clarified the amendment.

After discussion, Moderator Lord re-read the amended article. Vote taken on the amendment and carried.

Don Clifford then made a motion to amend the article to read:

“to not trade in the current ambulance and to put in out for bid”

Motion to amend seconded. After lengthy discussion Moderator Lord re-read the amendment. Vote taken on the amendment and failed.

After more discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article as originally amended. A vote was taken on the article as originally amended and carried.

10. To see if the Town will vote establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for construction of a new Crown Point Fire Station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray made a motion to see if the Town will vote to “table” article 10 asking to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for construction of a new Crown Point Fire Station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000. to be placed in this fund.

The motion to table was seconded. A vote was taken to table article #10 and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of Fire Department special details. All revenues received for Fire Department special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town’s general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.

Suzie Morgan asked that when we site RSA’s, the actual RSA be put on the warrant. This was requested last year, and was overlooked on this year’s warrant. The Selectmen agreed to make sure this was done on future warrants.

After brief discussion on the article Steve Bulger made a motion to amend the article to read: “Money in the fund up to \$20,000. be allowed to accumulate from year to year and any amounts in excess of \$20,000. be returned to the general unreserved fund balance”.

The motion to amend was seconded. After lengthy discussion Moderator Lord read the article as amended.

After more discussion a vote was taken on the amendment and failed.

After additional brief discussion a vote was taken on the original article and carried.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$443,994. for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Chief Young addressed the article. There was no discussion. Vote taken on the article and carried.

13. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the future purchase of police vehicles and associated equipment and to raise and appropriate \$12,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article. There was no discussion. Vote taken on the article and carried.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. for the revaluation/statistical update of the Town and to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000. from the Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose by Article 11 in 2010. The balance of \$25,000. to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.

After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken on the article and carried.

15. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Non-Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of funding unanticipated costs associated with future fuel/oil purchases for Municipal use and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray made a motion to amend the article to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to establish a Non-Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of funding unanticipated costs associated with future fuel/oil purchased for Municipal use and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. To be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend ”.

The motion was seconded. After lengthy discussion a vote was taken on the amendment and carried. Moderator Lord read the article as amended. Vote taken on the amended article and carried.

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500. to repair the wooden guard rail located in the parking lot of the Bow Lake Grange.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After one brief question Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken on the article and carried.

17 . To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,111,458. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 66,563.
Election & Registration.....	22,891.
Financial Administration.....	68,767.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	37,268.
Legal Expenses.....	10,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	33,510.
Planning and Zoning.....	7,000.
General Government Building.....	27,300.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	27,250.
Insurance.....	39,500.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,266.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,605.
Contingency Fund.....	15,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	10,890.
Ambulance.....	1,000.
Emergency Management.....	2,500.
Building Inspection.....	16,500.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	346,500.
Street Lighting.....	4,300.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	234,060.
Animal Control.....	3,200.
Health Inspector.....	400.
Rochester District Visiting Nurse Assoc.....	3,991.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	28,180.
Community Action.....	1,750.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers Health Services.....	1,699.
CHANCES.....	2,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	15,472.
Library.....	67,379.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,800.
Conservation Commission.....	225.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
TOTAL.....	<u>\$ 1,111,458.</u>

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,111,458. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray made a motion to amend the article as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,146,458. For general Town operations.

The intent of this amendment is to add \$35,000. to the line for General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance increasing it from \$346,500. to \$381,500 to help offset funds already expended from the 2011 budget due to winter storms to date.

The motion to amend was seconded. Stephanie Gray addressed the amendment.

After a brief question from Mary Dempsey regarding the article, she asked about the “pay as you throw” program which was brought before the town 2 years ago. Stephanie addressed the question and said that a study was done and it was recommended that Strafford not do pay as you throw because we do a good job recycling, and pay as you throw would have a negative benefit.

After the above brief discussion Moderator Lord read the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

Moderator Lord re-read the amended article. Vote taken on the amended article and carried.

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

Don Clifford made a motion to address the amount of “trash” signs that are posted around town. Can we come up with a town ordinance that would limit the amount of signs that are allowed to be posted in Town? Stephanie Gray said that the Selectman agree and the next Board of Selectman will address it. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion and carried.

Irving Johnson voiced his desire to have SB2 in Strafford. The suggestion was out of order and could be addressed on next year’s warrant.

Moderator Bill Lord asked Kurt Wuelper to step in as Moderator so that Bill could address the residents. Bill commended Greg Messenger on the good work he does as Road Agent in Strafford, then made a motion requesting the Selectmen look into creating an ordinance that would address the “stray lights” in town. The ordinance would eliminate the stray, bright lights in Strafford. The motion was seconded. After brief discussion a vote was taken on the motion and carried.

Bob Perry commented that Town Meeting democracy is transparent and that he would oppose SB2.

A vote was taken to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 am. and carried.

Given under my hand and seal, this 12th day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eleven.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk