

STRAFFORD, NH  
TOWN MEETING – MARCH 31, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 13, 2007 at the Strafford Elementary School in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator Pro-tem Diane Waldron to act on Articles 1 through 4 of the 2007 Town Warrant by ballot vote.

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

The 187<sup>th</sup> Strafford Town Meeting, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2007, but postponed due to weather, was called to order again at 8:42 am on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at the Strafford Elementary School by Moderator William Lord, to act on Articles 5 through 30.

Moderator Lord welcomed all to the meeting and explained the rules of the meeting. The Boy Scouts did a small presentation and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before the Articles were addressed, Selectman Joann Brown presented plants to exiting Selectman Gloria Creamer and exiting Treasurer Bertha Huckins to honor their many years of service. A presentation was also conducted for exiting Fire Warden Glen Pierce to honor his 24 years of service.

The Moderator announced the results of the March 13, 2007 Town Meeting as follows:

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

Voters on the checklist .....	2,902
Votes cast .....	622
Selectman – Three Years	
Lynn Sweet .....	184
Library Trustee	
David Bengier .....	504
Trustee of the Trust Fund	
Charles Burnham (write-in).....	28
Town Clerk	
Diane Waldron .....	576
Town Treasurer	
Laurie Bibeau.....	553
Road Agent	
Greg Messenger.....	569

2. To add a new Article 1.4.6 Water Protection Overlay District to protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater on Town of Strafford and Strafford School District properties, with a particular emphasis on protecting existing and potential future sources of water as a common resource for the use and benefit of Strafford residents and of the natural ecosystems of which they are a part.

YES – 472    NO - 106

3. To amend and clarify Article 1.7 Non-Conforming Use by adding language to clarify the criteria used by the Board of Adjustment for reviewing a request for Special Exception for cases involving the change or expansion of non-conforming uses, lots or structures.

YES – 369 NO – 170

4. To amend Article 1.4.3 Conservation Development by eliminating the minimum acreage requirement for creating a conservation development under Section 1.4.3 D (1).

YES – 225 NO – 317

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$215,000. for capital improvements to the following roads including drainage, shoulder work and overlay:

- a. Whig Hill Road - from the intersection of Route 202A approx. 1 mile, including Aspen Drive.
- b. Browns Pasture Road - from the intersection of Water Street to the end of existing Pavement, approx. .9 mile.
- c. Tasker Hill Road - from the intersection of Water Street to the Northwood town line, approx. .8 mile.
- d. Spencer Lane - from the intersection of Province Road, in its' entirety, approx. .2 mile.

The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .44)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Stephen Leighton addressed the article. No discussion.

The Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000. to be placed in the non-capital reserve fund created in 2004 for the purpose of funding any future bridge repairs/construction. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .01)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article. After brief discussion the moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,500. for the repair and/or replacement of the Huckins Road bridge. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. The intent of this article is to use this appropriation in conjunction with the \$12,000. raised by Article 15 in 2006 for the same purpose. Total cost of the project is \$25,500. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .03)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article. No Discussion

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 \$376,355. for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Net estimated tax impact after grant and revenues \$ .73)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article.

After lengthy discussion and questions, Bob Fletcher made motion to move the question. The Moderator announced that the question had been called and required a 2/3 vote to pass.

A vote was taken to call the question and carried.

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

9. To see if the Town will authorize the hiring of a full time officer and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,265 to cover this position and benefits. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .11)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to amend the article to read:

“To see if the town will authorize the hiring of a full time officer and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,632. to cover this position and benefits. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.06).

Chief Young is proposing this amendment because if the article is approved, it will take time to find the right candidate and fill the position. It is unlikely that this would be accomplished before the end of June.

The Moderator read the amendment.

Chief Young addressed the amendment to the article. After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the amendment. Vote taken to amend the article as read and carried.

There was lengthy discussion on Article 9 as amended. A motion was made to call the question. Vote taken and carried.

The Moderator re-read the question as amended.

A vote was taken on Article 9. The Moderator asked for vote counters.

Vote on Article 9 carried: YES - 109 NO - 93

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000. for the purpose of purchasing a police vehicle and equipment and authorize the use of \$1,500. in trade in value with the balance of \$22,500. to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .05)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton and Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article. There was no discussion.

The moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000. for the purpose of purchasing stop signs, speed limit signs, posts and costs associated with installation of the same. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .01)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Steve Leighton addressed the article. After brief discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$188,140. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .39)  
Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Fire Chief Loren Pierce addressed the article.

After lengthy discussion, Steve Bulger made a motion to amend the article to read:  
“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,400. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Jim Forsyth seconded the motion. Moderator Lord read the amendment.

A vote was taken to amend the article and failed.

Gerry Waldron moved the question. Vote taken to move the question and carried.

Moderator Lord read the article as originally written. Vote taken and carried.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000. for an addition and improvements to the Bow Lake Fire Station (incl. bathroom, showers, laundry area, tanks for storage of waste for later pump out, and furnace) and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$100,000. from the capital reserve fund established under Article 7 at the 2005 Town Meeting for this purpose. No funding to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .00)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Moderator Lord referred back to article 35 of last year. The article read:  
“...the Selectmen meet with the school board at least 4 times between this date and the next Town Meeting, to engage in joint facilities planning and report back to the voters at the next annual Town Meeting”

The Moderator felt it was an appropriate time to hear the report since article 13 is a capital improvement.

Judy Witcher addressed the committee's report. She read part of the master plan. She read the goal of the committee.

Moderator Lord asked if there was any discussion on the report. At this time Gerry Waldron made a motion to amend article 13 to return \$300,000 to the general fund.

Moderator Lord stated that this would be out of order. This must be a warrant article next year that must be voted on.

After lengthy discussion on Article 13 a motion was made to move the question and seconded. Vote taken and carried.

Moderator Lord re-read Article 13. Vote taken and carried.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,530. to be used for the final year's payment on the five year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing to own a new ambulance. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$16,530. from the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting for this purpose. No funding to come from general taxation. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .00)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Fire Chief Loren Pierce addressed the question. There was no discussion.

The Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year lease agreement for \$375,000. for the purpose of leasing to own a new 3000 gallon Class A pumper/tanker and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000. for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .17)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Chief Pierce addressed the article.

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

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000. to be placed in the capital reserve established in 2005 for the future purchase of a fire truck. **THIS ARTICLE WILL BE RESCINDED IF ARTICLE 15 FOR A NEW PUMPER/TANKER PASSES.** The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .16)

Article 15 carried so this article is rescinded.

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500. for the demolition and removal of the buildings on Town owned property located at 77 Canaan Road (Map 4, Lot 80). Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .01)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Steve Leighton addressed the article. There was no discussion.

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

18. To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairs and/or replacement of the Town owned dock located on Water Street 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 funds in this fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .04)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Gloria Creamer addressed the article. There was no discussion.

The moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500. for a donation to the American Red Cross. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.001)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After brief discussion a vote was taken. The Moderator asked for vote counters.

Article 19 carried: YES – 72            NO – 56

20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500. for a donation to the Homeless Shelter of Strafford County. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .001)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After very brief discussion a vote was taken. The Moderator asked for vote counters.

Article 20 carried: YES – 66            NO – 65

21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500. for a donation to Chances (Children’s Alternatives and Non-Court Solutions). The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$ .005)

Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

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

22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,147,197. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 62,475.
Election & Registration.....	16,300.
Financial Administration.....	64,925.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	36,500.
Legal Expenses.....	24,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	31,765.
Planning and Zoning.....	8,500.
General Government Building.....	16,500.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	26,750.
Insurance.....	36,700.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	2,920.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,364.
Contingency Fund.....	15,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	10,890.
Ambulance.....	5,000.
Emergency Management.....	1,500.
Building Inspection.....	20,000.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	285,000.
Street Lighting.....	3,500.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	258,932.
Animal Control.....	4,000.
Health Inspector.....	400.
Rochester Rural Visiting Nurse & Hospice.....	5,037.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	26,000.
Community Action.....	1,500.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers of Strafford County.....	956.
Parks and Recreation.....	17,500.
Library.....	61,282.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,500.
Conservation Commission.....	750.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
Debt Service (Landfill Closure).....	75,559.
Transfer Station/Recycling Center Monitoring .....	15,000.
TOTAL.....	\$ 1,147,197.

[The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,147,197. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.] The Selectmen recommend this article.

(Estimated tax impact after local revenues \$ .60)

(All estimated tax impact figures applied to money articles do not reflect further adjustments for shared revenues from State of NH, surplus, and war service credits; total adjustments are estimated to reduce the total tax rate impact by an additional \$ .89)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After lengthy discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

23. To see if the Town is in favor of implementing a “pay as you throw” program at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. If approved, the Selectmen will return with a report to the 2008 Town Meeting on the feasibility and costs associated with this process and an article requesting authorization and funding, if appropriate.

The moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Joann Brown addressed the article. After lengthy discussion a motion was made to move the question and seconded. Vote taken and carried.

The Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

24. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the use of Snackerty Road (a.k.a. Church Road) as a public way pursuant to RSA 231: 43.

The Moderator read the article.

Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to table the article and seconded.

Vote taken to table and carried.

25. “The undersigned residents of Strafford hereby request that Northwood Road from the intersection of West Province Road, west to the Northwood town line be designated as a scenic road in accordance with RSA 231:157. The purpose is to encourage the preservation of the rural and historic nature of the byway.” (By petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Shirley Brownell addressed the article. With no further discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

26. “The undersigned residents of Strafford hereby request that JoAlCo Road from intersection with Province Road, West to Webber Road be designated a Scenic Road in accordance with RSA 231:157. The purpose is to encourage the preservation of the rural and historic nature of this byway.” (By petition.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

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

27. “The undersigned residents of Strafford hereby request that Mousam Road from intersection with Parker Mountain Rd. (Rte. 126) to its end be designated a Scenic Road in accordance with RSA 231:157. The purpose is to encourage the preservation of the rural and historic nature of this byway.” (By petition.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Liz Evans addressed the Article. She requested that this article be tabled at this time. Motion made and seconded. Vote to table carried.



28. “To see if the Town will vote to change the classification of Scruton Road from Class VI highways to a Class A trail, as authorized by RSA 231-A:1 which read as follows:

A class A trail shall be a full public right-of-way, of indefinite duration subject to public trail use restrictions. It shall not have the status of a publicly approved street, and shall not be used as a vehicular access for any new building or structure, or for the expansion, enlargement, or increased intensity of use of any existing building or structure. It may, however, be used by the owners of land abutting on such trail, or land severed exclusively by such trail, to provide access for such non-development uses as agriculture and forestry, or for access to any building or structure existing prior to its designation as a trail, and such owners’ access for such uses shall be exempt from applicable public trail use restrictions, subject only to reasonable time, season and manner regulations imposed by the local governing body. The municipality shall bear no responsibility for maintaining the trail for such uses by abutting owners. Such owners shall, prior to excavation, construction or disturbance of a class A trail, obtain permission from the municipal officers, in the same manner prescribed for highways in RSA 236:9-11.” (By petition.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Harmony Anderson addressed the question. After very brief discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

29. “We the undersigned residents of Strafford petition the following article be placed on the 2007 town warrant.

That the residents of Strafford accept Mohawk Trail Way as a public way, road was designed and constructed to town specifications.” (By petition.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Steve Leighton addressed the Article. After very brief discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

30. To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Strafford.

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.

2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the Town of Strafford encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices.

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Liz Evans addressed the article. Jim Forsyth made a motion to amend the article to read: “The Town of Strafford encourages New Hampshire Citizen to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

After lengthy discussion a motion was made to move the questions and seconded. Vote to move carried.

The Moderator re-read the article as amended. Vote taken to amend and failed.

After additional lengthy discussion motion was made to move the question. Vote to move carried.

The Moderator re-read the article as originally written. Vote taken on article 30 carried.

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

Steve Bulger requested that School District meetings be held on Saturdays instead of weeknights. There was a round of applause but no discussion.

Paul St. Claire made a motion: “ that all 65 and over be exempted from the school tax in the future. We have paid our share”.

This exemption be raised to effect a zero school tax burden on people 65 and older. Motion made and seconded.

After brief discussion a motion was made to move and seconded. Vote taken to move and carried.

The Moderator read the proposed article. Vote taken and failed.

Bob Perry...asked about article 33 from 2006. He wanted to know if article 33 addressed the issue of groundwater management. And did article 2 from this year address article 33 from last year. The Moderator’s response was affirmative

Motion made to adjourn at 12:59 PM and seconded. Vote taken to adjourn carried.

Given under my hand and seal, this 31<sup>st</sup> Day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Waldron  
Strafford Town Clerk

