

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 11, 2008 at the Strafford Elementary School in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator Pro-tem Diane Waldron to act on Article 1 of the 2008 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 188th Strafford Town Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am on Saturday, March 22, 2008, at the Strafford Elementary School by Moderator William Lord, to act on Articles 2 through 20.

The Boy Scouts conducted a short presentation and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator announced the results of the March 11, 2008 Town Meeting as follows:

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

Voters on the checklist	3,011
Votes cast	631
Selectman – Three Years	
Stephanie Gray.....	182
Library Trustee – Three Years	
Nancy F. Baxter.....	559
Trustee of the Trust Fund	
Michelle Bengert.....	551
Moderator	
William G. Lord... ..	555
Supervisor of the Checklist	
Marilyn Roderick.....	572
Road Agent	
Greg Messenger.....	584

Moderator Lord welcomed all to the meeting and explained the rules of the meeting.

Moderator Lord introduced the Selectmen and Town Clerk at the head table.

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450,000. for the construction of a new Municipal Offices Building on existing Town land and authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000. from the capital reserve fund created for that purpose, with the balance of \$100,000. to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.20)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton and Tony Fallon addressed and presented the article.

Jim Forsythe made a motion to amend the article to read:

“To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$480,000 for the construction of

a new Municipal Offices Building on existing town land and authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000 from the capital reserve fund created for that purpose with the balance of \$130,000 to come from general taxation. The site work to be done by the lowest original bidder.”

Moderator Lord read the amendment. Motion made and seconded.

After discussion a motion was made to move the amendment. Vote taken and carried.

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

After brief discussion William Vance made a motion to amend the article and was seconded.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$524,000 for the construction of a new Municipal Offices Building on existing Town land and authorize the withdrawal of \$350,000 from the capital reserve fund created for that purpose, with the balance of \$174,000. to come from general taxation.”

Tony Fallon addressed the amendment. This amendment increases the article \$44,000. and is intended to cover the additional costs for geo-thermal heat and additional insulation.

Motion made to move the amendment and seconded. Vote taken on the amendment.

The Moderator asked for vote counters.

YES - 104

NO – 61

The amendment carried.

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

3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell the existing Town Office building to the Strafford School District for the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar). This article is contingent upon Article 2 passing. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$231,000. for capital improvements to the following roads including drainage, gravel and paving:

- a. Second Crown Point Road from the intersection of the Cross Road (North) approximately 1.1 mile to the end of existing pavement.
- b. Province Road (West) from the end of 2007 paving (French Meadow) approximately .8 mile to the intersection of the Webber Road.
- c. Sunny Oak Terrace from the intersection of Whig Hill Road approximately .9 mile to the intersection of Ledgewood Drive.
- d. Hickory Way in its entirety approximately .15 of a mile.

The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.47)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to amend the article and seconded. Steve Leighton addressed the amendment. The article is being amended to reduce the capital improvements to roads by \$60,000., which will offset the anticipated increase to article #15, for increased road maintenance costs, due to weather. This amendment will help avoid further impact to the tax rate.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$171,000 for capital improvements to the following roads including drainage, gravel and paving:

- a. Second Crown Point Road from the intersection of the Cross Road (North) approximately 1.1 mile to the end of existing pavement.
- c. Sunny Oaks Terrace from the intersection of Whig Hill Road approximately .9 mile to the intersection of Ledgewood Drive.
- d. Hickory Way in its entirety approximately .15 of a mile.”

Moderator Lord read the article as amended. Vote taken and carried.

No discussion on article 4 as amended. Moderator Lord re-read the article as amended.

Vote taken and carried.

5. 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)

Moderator Lord 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.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$433,430. for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Net estimated tax impact after grant and revenues \$.86)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Chief of Police Scott Young addressed the article.

Susan Morgan made a motion to amend the article and was seconded.

The selectman addressed the amendment. After brief discussion the amendment was clarified. “That the medical and dental benefits offered be commensurate with those received by school employees who contribute premium and service co-payments.”

Motion on the clarified amendment made and seconded.

The moderator re-read the amendment.

Town Administrator Ellen White and the Selectmen addressed the amendment. After brief discussion the Moderator re-read the amendment. Vote taken on the amendment and failed.

Moderator Lord re-read the article as originally written. Vote taken on the original article and carried.

7. 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 the sum of \$20,000. to be placed in this fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.04)

Moderator Lord read the article. Scott Young addressed the article.

Gerry Waldron proposed an amendment that any new police vehicles be “hybrid” vehicles. Scott Young addressed the proposed amendment. After discussion no further action was taken.

After continued brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article as originally written. Vote taken and carried.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$209,740. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.43)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

9. To see if the Town will vote to re-allocate the distribution of revenues received for ambulance services, so that only 50% goes to the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund, with the remaining 50% to be placed in the revolving fund to be created for the purpose of ambulance services by Article 10. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of ambulance services. 50% of all revenues received for ambulance services 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. This article is contingent on Article 9 passing. Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article. After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000. to be used for the second year’s payment on the five year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing to own a new pumper/tanker as voted by Article 15, at the 2007 Town Meeting. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.16)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. 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 \$4,700. for the purchase of forest fire fighting equipment and personal protective gear. \$2,000. to come from a shared grant from the State of New Hampshire, with the remainder of \$2,700. to come from general taxation. This article is contingent upon receipt of the State portion of the grant. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.006)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Fire Chief Loren Pierce addressed the article.
No discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,190. for the purchase of fire fighting equipment. \$41,981. to come from a Federal Fire Act grant, with the remainder of \$2,209. to come from general taxation. This article is contingent upon the receipt of the grant. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.005)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Fire Chief Loren Pierce addressed the article.
No discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and failed.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000. to be placed in the capital reserve fund established by Article 8 in 2007 pursuant to RSA 35:1, for the purpose of repairs and/or replacement of the Town owned dock located on Water Street. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated tax impact \$.04)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article.
After lengthy discussion Moderator Lord re-read the question. Vote taken and carried.

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,144,148. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 64,075.
Election & Registration.....	22,188.
Financial Administration.....	67,062.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	36,500.
Legal Expenses.....	20,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	33,145.
Planning and Zoning.....	8,500.
General Government Building.....	16,969.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	26,750.
Insurance.....	36,700.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,082.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,525.
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.....	297,500.
Street Lighting.....	3,863.

Solid Waste Disposal.....	233,700.
Animal Control.....	4,200.
Health Inspector.....	400.
Rochester Rural Visiting Nurse & Hospice.....	5,037.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	28,000.
Community Action.....	1,500.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend’s Place.....	200.
The Homemakers of Strafford County.....	1,212.
CHANCES.....	2,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	17,500.
Library.....	61,709.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,500.
Conservation Commission.....	750.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
Debt Service (Landfill Closure – Final Payment).....	74,699.
Transfer Station/Recycling Center Monitoring	12,000.
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TOTAL.....	\$ 1,144,148.

[The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,144,148. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.] The Selectmen recommend this article.
(Estimated tax impact after local revenues \$.59)

(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 \$.91)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to amend the article and was seconded.
“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,204,148. for general Town operations.

The intent is to increase the line for General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance by \$60,000. from 297,500. to \$357,500. No other line item changes are proposed.

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,204,148. exclusive of all other articles addressed.) The Selectmen recommend this article. (Estimated Tax impact after local revenues \$.71).”

After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the amendment. Vote taken to amend and carried.

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

16. To hear the report on Article 23 voted at the 2007 Town Meeting on the feasibility of implementing a “pay as you throw” program at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Steve Leighton addressed the article.

Bruce Patrick then made a motion to amend the article and was seconded.
“That Huckins Road and Old Ridge Road be added to Warrant Article #19.”

After brief discussion the Moderator read the amendment. Vote taken on the amendment and carried.

After lengthy discussion the Moderator re-read the amended article. Vote taken on the article as amended and failed.

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

Steven Leighton recognized departing Selectman JoAnn Brown for her many years of service to the Town.

Moderator Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded at 12:35 pm.

Given under my hand and seal, this 22nd day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk