

**STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING
MARCH 14, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 10, 2009 at the Strafford Town Hall in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Article one of the 2009 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 189th Strafford Town Meeting was called to order again at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday March 14, 2009 at the Strafford Elementary School Gymnasium by Moderator William Lord, to act on Articles two through thirty.

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

The Moderator then gave the results of the March 10, 2009 Town Meeting as follows:

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

Voters on the checklist	3,175
Votes cast	225

Selectman – Three years	
R. Stephen Leighton.....	185
Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three years	
Betsy B. Cozine	204
Road Agent – One year	
Greg Messenger	217
Library Trustee – Three years	
Indra Edmonds.....	209

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

JoAnn Brown presented photos of the Strafford Police Department to Strafford’s Police Chief Scott Young.

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

2. To see if the Town is in favor of implementing a “pay as you throw” program at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.

After brief discussion an amendment was presented to add mandatory recycling to the article. The amendment was discussed. George Kitz addressed the amendment. After additional discussion a vote was taken to amend the article. Vote taken and failed.

There was continued discussion on the original article.

After lengthy discussion Scott Young made a motion to call the question. Vote taken to call the question and passed.

Vote taken on the original article and failed.

3. To see if the Town will vote to form a committee comprised of one Selectman, the Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor and five (5) residents. Committee members will be chosen by the Board of Selectmen after a review of letters of interest from those willing to serve on this committee. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. for the purpose of funding this committee whose charge will be to research and establish procedural guidelines, fees and any other costs associated with implementation of the “pay as you throw” program. This article is contingent on Article 2 passing.

Due to the failure of article 2, Article 3 was not addressed.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$285,000. for the purpose of design engineering and construction of a replacement bridge on Northwood/Bow Lake Road (Bridge No. 085/040) and to authorize the withdrawal of \$37,000. from the Bridge Repairs Capital Reserve Fund and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a bridge grant in the amount of \$228,000, with the balance of \$20,000 to be raised by general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article.

No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

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

- a. The Canaan Road from the Barrington town line to the intersection of Route 202A
- b. Beaver Dam Estates – Birch Road, Kendall Lane and Beaver Road.
- c. The Province Road, from the end of the 2006 paving West.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article.

No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000. to chip brush and clean up debris from damages associated with the ice storm of December 11, 2008. Funding to be as follows; \$22,500. from FEMA, and the balance of \$7,500. to be raised by general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Road Agent Greg Messenger addressed the article.
Selectman Steve Leighton clarified the article.
There was no discussion. Vote taken and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. for the purchase of a generator for the Police Department.

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article.
After brief discussion vote taken and carried.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. for Emergency Management supplies and a trailer to be used as a mobile on-scene command center, and for storage of associated equipment and supplies (i.e. traffic cones, road signs, etc.).

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article.
After lengthy discussion vote taken and carried.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000. for the purchase of a generator for the Strafford Town Hall.

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 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,800. for the purchase of a generator for the Strafford Town Hall."

After lengthy discussion vote taken. Moderator Lord asked for a count of the votes.

YES - 89 NO – 69

Vote carried.

10. 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.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Steve Leighton introduced new Fire Chief Paul Stover.
Paul Stover addressed the article.
No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to re-allocate the distribution of revenues received for ambulance services, so that 100% goes to the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.
After brief discussion, vote taken and carried.

12. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Ambulance Services revolving fund created in 2008 pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. Said Funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, in the amount of \$11,501. are to be transferred to the Town's general fund. This article is contingent on Article 11 passing.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.
No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,501. to be placed in the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting, pursuant to RSA 31:95-c. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance and no amount to be raised by general taxation. This article is contingent upon Articles 11 and 12 passing.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.
No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000. to be used for the third 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.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article.
No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$165,743. to be used for the final payment of any balance due 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. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$165,743. from the Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. No funding to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

The Selectmen brought forward an amendment, and was seconded to read: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,700 to be used for the final payment of any balance due 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. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$160,700. from the Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. No funding to come from general taxation.

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

16. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purpose of future Fire Department building improvements and/or construction, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Fire Chief Paul Stover addressed the article.

After brief discussion, Preston Hogshead made a motion to amend the article, and was seconded to read: "To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purpose of future fire department repairs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be placed in this fund and to designate the board of Selectmen as agents to expend."

No discussion. A vote was taken to amend the article. Moderator Lord asked for a count.

YES - 98

NO – 36

Vote taken to amend the article carried.

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

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,500. for the purchase of a new monitor/AED, lift assist cot, auto-pulse CPR board and equipment mandated by State protocol changes, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$51,500. 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.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.

No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

18. To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of police special details. All revenues received for police 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. Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article. After brief discussion, a vote was taken and carried.

19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$433,698. for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article.

No discussion. Vote taken and carried.

20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000. for the purchase of a police vehicle and equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000. from the Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. The balance of \$32,000. to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article.

After brief discussion, vote taken and carried.

21. 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.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

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

Steve Leighton addressed the reason to table.

A vote was taken to table and carried.

22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,113,595. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 64,317.
Election & Registration.....	22,188.
Financial Administration.....	67,062.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	36,500.
Legal Expenses.....	10,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	32,145.
Planning and Zoning.....	8,500.
General Government Building.....	26,300.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	27,250.
Insurance.....	37,700.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,082.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,525.
Contingency Fund.....	15,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	10,890.
Ambulance.....	1,000.
Emergency Management.....	2,500.
Building Inspection.....	20,000.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	341,500.
Street Lighting.....	3,863.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	233,700.
Animal Control.....	4,200.
Health Inspector.....	400.
Rochester District Visiting Nurse Assoc.....	4,030.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	38,000.
Community Action.....	1,500.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers of Strafford County.....	1,260.

CHANCES.....	2,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	15,000.
Library.....	61,966.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,800.
Conservation Commission.....	225.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
Transfer Station/Recycling Center Monitoring	8,500.
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TOTAL.....	\$ 1,113,595.

[The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,113,595. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.]

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

23. To see if the Town will vote accept the following ordinance:
Acceptance of Credit Cards. The Tax Collector will be allowed to accept credit card payments pursuant to RSA 80:52-c for the collection of local taxes, charges generated by the sale of utility services or other fees. The Town may add to the amount due, in addition to any interest and penalties payable, a service charge for the acceptance of the card. The amount of the service charge shall be disclosed at the time of the billing. The Board of Selectmen in coordination with the Tax Collector may adopt rules and regulations regarding the collection procedures.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the article.
After brief discussion, vote taken and carried.

24. “Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to ‘qualified organizations’ for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the Town will retain no interest in the property?”

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Liz Evans from the Conservation Commission addressed the article.
After brief discussion, vote taken and carried.

25. “Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a I(a) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the governing body?”

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.
Liz Evans and Phil Auger addressed the article.
After brief discussion Sam Hartmann made a motion to amend the article to read:
“Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A;4-aI(a) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our

Municipality, subject to the approval of the legislative body”.

Moderator Lord read the article as amended. There was further discussion on the amendment and the language of the amendment.

Moderator Lord re-read the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and failed.

Michael Harrington made a motion to table the article, and was seconded.

After brief discussion a vote was taken to table the article. The moderator asked for a count.

YES - 60 NO - 75

The vote to table failed.

After lengthy discussion Ken Berry made a motion to move the question. The moderator allowed one more speaker and a motion was made to move the question and seconded. A vote was taken to move the question and carried.

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

26. “Shall the Town vote to expand the Veterans’ Tax Credit from \$200.00 to \$400.00 per year in accordance with RSA 72:28.” (by petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

After brief discussion a motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read: “and to extend the Veteran’s tax credit to real estate owned by the Veteran’s spouse, provided that the Veteran and spouse are both Strafford residents.”

The Moderator read the amendment. There was no discussion on the amendment. Vote taken and carried.

After brief discussion Kurt Wuelper made a motion to amend the article, and seconded to read: “Shall the Town vote to expand the Veteran’s tax credit from \$200. To \$500.00 per year in accordance with RSA 72:28.”

The Moderator read the amendment.

After further discussion Joe Cicirelli made a motion to amend the article, and seconded to read: “and to have the Town send a notice to the taxpayers each year with the end of year tax bills identifying the exemption and explaining the criteria for qualification.”

Strafford Tax Collector Judy Dupre’ and Selectman Stephanie Gray addressed the amendment. No discussion. The Moderator read the amendment. Vote taken and failed.

After lengthy discussion, Article 26 (as twice amended) was read by the Moderator. The article as amended the second time was voted on. The Moderator asked for a count.

YES - 52 NO - 69

Article 26 failed.

27. “Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the town of Strafford, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$30,000.; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, \$40,000.; for a person 80 years of age or older \$50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person’s spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$60,000.; and own assets not in excess of \$200,000 excluding the value of the person’s actual residence and up to 2 acres or the minimum single family residential lot size specified in the local zoning ordinance.” (by petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Bill Vance made a motion to amend the article and was seconded, to read: “Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the town of Strafford, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$30,000.; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, \$40,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person’s spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$60,000.; and own assets not in excess of \$200,000. excluding the value of the person’s actual residence and up to 2 acres or the minimum single family residential lot size specified in the local zoning ordinance.” (by petition.)

Bill Vance addressed the amendment. After lengthy discussion the Moderator re-read the amended article. A vote was taken to amend the article and the moderator asked for a count.

YES - 49 NO – 61

The vote to amend failed.

After further discussion on the article as originally written a vote was taken and failed.

At this time a motion was made to reconsider article #26. The moderator gave the rules of reconsideration. A vote was taken to reconsider article #26 and failed.

28. “To direct the Selectmen of the Town of Strafford to cap any increase of their Annual Budget to any projected increase in revenue above the last Annual Budget and in no case to increase the Annual Budget more than the rate of inflation, as defined by the “National Consumer Price Index-(Urban/Rural)” (CPI-U/R) as averaged over the twelve months preceding the vote on the new Annual Budget.” (by petition.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Jim Forsyth addressed the article. Jim made a motion to amend the article, and was seconded to read: “To ask the Selectmen of the Town of Strafford to limit any increase of their Annual Budget (Net appropriations minus estimated revenue) to the rate of inflation, as defined by the

To see if the town will vote to direct the Selectmen to utilize local, state and federal funds to maximize energy efficiency in town buildings and cut municipal energy costs.

The Selectmen will:

1. Work with the town's energy auditor to conduct a comprehensive energy survey free of charge for all municipal buildings to identify cost-effective, energy-efficiency improvements that would reduce energy use and town energy costs.
2. Share the results of the energy survey with the town's energy committee, and charter the energy committee to develop a remedial action plan corresponding to the energy survey.
3. Work with the Town's energy committee to apply for state and federal programs applicable to the Town that direct resources to municipalities for the purpose of energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements of Town buildings, or to determine sources of local funding to achieve same. (by petition.)
3. Work with the Town's energy committee to apply for state and federal programs applicable to the Town that direct resources to municipalities for the purpose of energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements of Town buildings, or to determine sources of local funding to achieve same. (by petition.)
4. Use available local, state and federal funds to complete low cost energy efficiency improvements to Town buildings.

After further discussion the Moderator re-read article 29 as amended. A vote was taken to amend article 29 and carried.

After further brief discussion a vote was taken on amended article 29 and carried.

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

Michael Harrington expressed concerns with regard to his service with Metrocast Cable.

After brief discussion there was a motion to adjourn and seconded. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk