

STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING
MARCH 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 9, 2010 at the Strafford Town Hall in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Article one of the 2010 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 190th Strafford Town Meeting was called to order again at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday March 13, 2010 at the New Hampshire National Guard Training Center by Moderator William Lord, to act on Articles two through sixteen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Moderator then gave the results of the March 9, 2010 Town Meeting as follows:

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

Voters on the checklist	3,196
Votes cast	248
Library Trustee – Three years	
Carol H. Cooper.....	236
Moderator – Two years	
William G. Lord	226
Road Agent – One year	
Greg Messenger	244
Selectman – Three years	
Lynn Sweet.....	220
Supervisor of the Checklist – Six years	
Martha R. English	237
Town Clerk – Three years	
Diane Waldron	239
Treasurer – Three years	
Laurie Bibeau	233
Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three years	
Charles H. Burnham	223

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

Carolyn Page presented awards from the Garden Club to the emergency personnel and road crews of Strafford, who helped us get through the ice storm of 2008.

Selectman, Stephanie Gray gave a presentation on the “State of the Town”. She presented our accomplishments for 2009 and the challenges we’ve overcome. She discussed and addressed articles on this year’s Warrant, including the larger of the articles; the Town dock and the Northwood Bridge. She explained and discussed the budget which she noted has been held to a

zero increase for three years, and that the town employees wages would have to be reviewed and addressed next year.

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$290,000. 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 Board of Selectmen to accept a bridge grant in the amount of \$232,000., with the balance of \$58,000. to be raised by general taxation. (This is a supplemental appropriation to the funds raised by Article 4 at the 2009 Town Meeting for this project.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article. There was no discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

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

- a. Province Road, from the intersection of the Webber Road to the Barnstead line (Approx. 1.1 mile)
- b. Jo-Al-Co Road, from the intersection of the Province Road to the end of pavement (Approx. 9 mile)
- c. Whig Hill Road, from Barberry Lane to Sunny Oak Terrace (Approx. 3 mile)
- d. Bernard Road, entire road (Approx. .2 mile)
- e. Beaver Brook Drive, entire road includes cul-de-sac (Approx. .1 mile)

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.

4. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 154:1 to provide that the Fire Chief shall be appointed by the Selectmen, with firefighters appointed by the Fire Chief. This article changes the existing procedure.

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

After lengthy discussion, Davis Clark proposed an amendment:

“To have the volunteer fire fighters select a candidate for Fire Chief subject the approval of the selectmen”.

Theresa Fortin-Madore seconded the amendment.

After lengthy discussion Charlie Burnham made a motion to move the question on the amendment and was seconded. Vote take and carried.

The Moderator read the amendment. Denis Vachon raised a question on the point of order. The Moderator addressed the question and re-read the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment. The Moderator asked for a count.

YES 95 NO 34

The amendment was voted on and carried. The Moderator re-read the article as amended.

Denis Vachon made a motion to table the article and was seconded. A vote was taken to table and failed.

Denis Vachon asked the Moderator to re-read the article as amended again. After the Moderator re-read the article, Denis Vachon made a motion to amend the article to read: "To have the volunteer fire fighters nominate a candidate for chief".

A motion was made to move the question and vote on the amended article. The moderator re-read the amended article. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

The Moderator re-read the article as amended.

Jane Vachon proposed an amendment: "Shall be appointed by the selectmen from among the candidates nominated by the fire department, with fire fighters appointed by the chief".

The new amendment was re-read by the Moderator. A vote on the amendment was taken and carried.

The Moderator re-read the amended article. After more lengthy discussion, the question was called and seconded. Vote on calling the question carried.

Moderator Lord re-read the article as amended (three times). "To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 154:1 to provide that the Fire Chief shall be appointed by the Selectmen from among candidates nominated by the fire department, with fire fighters appointed by the Fire Chief. This article changes the existing procedure".

Vote taken on the third amendment and carried.

The Moderator re-read the amended article again. A vote was taken on the amended article and the Moderator asked for a count.

YES 67 NO 66

Vote on the amended article carried.

5. 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. Chief Stover addressed the article. No discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a two year lease agreement for \$139,992. for the purpose of leasing to own a new Forestry vehicle and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,996. for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease contains an escape clause.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Fire Chief Stover addressed the article.

After lengthy discussion Rob Lobdel made a motion to move the question and seconded. A vote was taken to move and carried. Moderator Lord re-read the article. A vote was taken and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000. to be used for repairs to Fire Engine "E 2".

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Fire Chief Stover addressed the question.

After discussion Jim Forsythe made a motion to move the question and was seconded. Vote taken to move the question and carried.

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

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,100. for the purchase of fire fighting equipment. \$33,345. to come from a Federal Fire Act grant, with the balance of \$1,755. to come from general taxation.

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

9. 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.

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

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$46,000. for the purchase of two police vehicles and equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of \$17,118. from the Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. The balance of \$28,882. to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton and Chief Young addressed the article and answered questions.

Dennis Vachon made a motion to amend the article to read: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,000. for the purchase of one police vehicle and equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of \$8,559. from the Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. The balance of \$14,441. to come from general taxation". The motion was seconded.

After lengthy discussion Jim Forsythe moved the question. After the next speaker the question was moved and seconded. A vote was taken to move the question and carried.

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

The article as originally written was re-read by the Moderator. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the original article and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the future revaluation/statistical update of the Town 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. The Selectmen recommend this article.

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.

12. To see if the Town will vote to take over the Summer maintenance of the portion of Province Road from its intersection with Ricky Nelson Road to its intersection with Route 202A, contingent upon State completing improvements to the road as per agreement with the Town.

Moderator Lord 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.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,094,306. 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.....	4,532.
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.....	4,000.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	233,700.
Animal Control.....	3,200.
Health Inspector.....	400.

Rochester District Visiting Nurse Assoc.....	4,047.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	28,000.
Community Action.....	1,500.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers Health Services.....	1,310.
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.
TOTAL.....	
	\$ 1,094,306.

The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,094,306. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.]

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. Steve Leighton addressed the article. After brief comments the Moderator re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

At this time Charlie Burnham made a motion to consider article 15 before considering Article 14. Motion made and seconded. Vote taken and carried.

14. "To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage". (by petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Ted White addressed the article and brought forth a petition to vote on this article by secret ballot. The Moderator confirmed that the petitioners were present. After lengthy discussion Jim Forsythe made a motion to move the question and was seconded. As is customary, the Moderator allowed those already in line to speak. One of the speakers made a motion to table the article and was seconded. The Moderator stated that a motion to table takes precedence over a motion to move. A vote was taken to table the article and carried.

15. "We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Strafford, hereby petition to see if the Town will vote to re-open the closed section of Old Whig Hill Road from its intersection with Sunny Oaks Terrace to the existing pavement at the top of Old Whig Hill Road (near the Tuft's Homestead) a distance of approximately Nineteen Hundred (1900) feet, and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty One Thousand (81,000.00) Dollars, for the necessary improvements to re-open this road." (by petition.) The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Resident Denis Lauze addressed the article. After lengthy discussion Jim Forsythe made a motion to move the article and was seconded. Vote taken to move the question and carried. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and failed.

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

Conservation Commission presented a presentation on conserving 1,015 acres of Evans Mountain. There was brief discussion following the presentation.

Paul Yergeau made a motion to reconsider article #6. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion a vote was taken to reconsider article #6 and failed.

Don Clifford discussed last year's article on the veteran's tax credit and made a motion to revisit the article. The motion was out of order.

Vera Boals came forward to say that Habitat for Humanity is taking applications for help with the houses they are building in Rochester and Barnstead.

Bob Perry suggested a round of applause for Phil Auger and his efforts towards land conservation.

At 12:30 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk