

STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the 2012 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 8:30 a.m., on Saturday March 17, 2012 at the Strafford School Gymnasium by Moderator William Lord, to act on articles 4 through 17.

The Cub Scout and Brownie troupes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator read the results of the March 13, 2012 election.

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

Voters on the checklist .....	2757
Votes cast .....	376
Library Trustee – Three years	
Indra Edmonds.....	327
Supervisor of the Checklist	
Carol Henn Cooper.....	326
Road Agent – One year	
Greg Messenger .....	343
Selectman – Three years	
R. Stephen Leighton.....	290
Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three years	
Betsy B. Cozine .....	320
Planning Board	
Paul Eaton.....	259

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

“To amend and clarify Article 1.3.8 SIGNS by adding new expanded guidelines for the placement of signs and to add a new definition Article 1.14.20 “Sign” to define the terms as used in the proposed ordinance. Effective Date 5/1/2012”

Yes 216                      No 113

Article 2 carried.

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

“To add a new Article 1.3.12 OUTDOOR LIGHTING to encourage energy efficiency and to preserve dark night skies by controlling outdoor lighting to minimize glare and light trespass and to add new definitions Article 1.14.21 “Outdoor Lighting”, Article 1.14.21 “Luminaire” and Article 1.14.22 “Glare” to define the terms as used in the proposed ordinance.”

Yes 236                      No 110

The Moderator introduced the Town Clerk, Selectmen and Town Administrator.

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

Selectman Steve Leighton gave a powerpoint presentation on the "State of the Town". He thanked all the volunteers who sit on Town boards.

4. 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. The Selectmen recommend this article.

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

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$283,000. for Capital Improvements (Drainage work, culverts, gravel and paving) of roads within the Town boundaries at the discretion of the Road Agent, as funding permits.

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion Bruce Patrick made a motion to amend the article to read:

"That no monies from this article will be used for any work on Class 6 roads within the town boundaries. Motion made and seconded.

Selectman Steve Leighton stated that no Town money is used for Class 6 roads. After further brief discussion, the moderator read the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and failed.

After further brief discussion the moderator reread the original article. A vote was taken on the original article and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000. to construct a separate storage shed for salt to be used for road maintenance.

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

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,083. to be used for the first year's payment on the two year lease purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to own the new ambulance authorized by Article 9 in 2011. Furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of \$26,083. 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 this payment. No funding to come from general taxation.

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

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to repair and resurface the parking area around the Bow Lake Fire Station and to purchase and install standby generators in all 3 stations with required electrical work. Furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of \$13,898. from the capital reserve fund created in 2009 for this purpose. The balance of \$36,102. to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion the Moderator reread article 9. Vote taken and carried.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$457,674. for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department.

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

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,154,324. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 68,664.
Election & Registration.....	23,425.
Financial Administration.....	69,746.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	37,425.
Legal Expenses.....	10,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	32,968.
Planning and Zoning.....	7,480.
General Government Building.....	28,435.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	27,275.
Insurance.....	40,200.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,266.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,532.
Contingency Fund.....	15,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	10,890.
Ambulance.....	1,000.
Emergency Management.....	2,700.
Building Inspection.....	16,700.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	381,500.
Street Lighting.....	4,500.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	233,607.
Animal Control.....	3,800.
Health Inspector.....	400.
Rochester District Visiting Nurse Assoc.....	3,991.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	28,180.
Community Action.....	1,500.
Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers Health Services.....	1,699.
CHANCES.....	2,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	15,913.

Library.....	68,801.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,800.
Conservation Commission.....	235.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	<u>2,000.</u>
TOTAL.....	\$ 1,154,324.

The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,154,324. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion the Moderator reread the article. Vote taken and carried.

12. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the use of the Class VI section of Old Parker Mountain Road running from the existing Class V section northwesterly to Mousam Road as a public way pursuant to RSA 231:43.

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

13. To see if the Town will vote to release an executory interest the Town holds for conservation purposes on property located on Evans Mountain Road and identified in the Town’s tax records as Tax Map 5, Lot 25. The property is owned by Blue Hills Foundation, Inc. and is subject to a conservation easement held by Bear Paw Regional Greenways. The Town obtained the executory interest by deed of Van E. Hertel, Jr. dated January 21, 2010 and recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds at Book 3807, Page 0093.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton addressed the article. After brief discussion explaining the article, the Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

14. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following capital reserve funds with said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the Town’s general fund:

- Storage Facility Fund (NH-01-0487-0001) Balance – 0
- Police Vehicle Fund (NH-01-0487-0002) Balance – 0
- Fire/Rescue Vehicle Fund (NH-01-0487-0003) Balance -0
- Crown Point Fire Station (NH-01-0487-0004) Balance – 0
- Recycling (NH-01-0487-0010) Balance – 0
- Police Vehicle Fund (NH-01-0487-0013) Balance – 0
- Fire & Police Fuel Tank & Pump (NH-01-0487-0020) Balance 0
- Police Vehicle Fund (NH-01-0487-0022) Balance \$21.47

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

15. “ To see if the voters of the Town of Strafford will vote to require the Selectmen of Strafford to take the steps necessary for the Town of Strafford to have its own representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, as required by the New Hampshire Constitution.” (by petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion Kurt Wuelper submitted an amendment to read:

“To see if the voters of the Town of Strafford will vote to require the Selectmen of Strafford to submit a letter to the New Hampshire legislature expressing its disapproval of the current House Redistricting Plan, and urging the legislature to create a plan in which Strafford receives its own State Representative, to which it is entitled under the New Hampshire Constitution.”

The moderator read the amendment. After brief discussion the moderator reread the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

The moderator reread the article as amended. A vote was taken on article 15 as amended and carried.

16. “By petition: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$95,000 to purchase the Nancy Hill property which abuts the Hill Library and \$20,000 for the purpose of providing space for improving and enlarging the town library. \$75,000 is for the property and the remaining \$20,000 is for the demolition of the buildings. The elected town library trustees will oversee the purchase and the project in conjunction with the board of selectmen. Majority vote required for passage.”(by petition.) The Selectmen do not recommend this article.

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to amend article 16 to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$95,000. To purchase the Nancy Hill property which abuts the Hill Library for the purpose of providing space for improving and enlarging the Town library. \$75,000 is for the property, and the remaining \$20,000. is for the demolition of the buildings. The elected Town Library trustee will oversee the purchase and the project in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen. Majority vote required for passage.” (by petition.) The Selectmen to not recommend this article.

The intent of this amendment is to remove the words “and \$20,000.” From the first sentence of the petitioned article in an effort to clarify the amount requested by the article (\$95,000.)

After brief discussion explaining the amendment a motion was made to move the question. A vote was taken to move the question and carried. Moderator Lord reread the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

After lengthy discussion Penny Schroeder made a motion to move the question. Vote taken to move the question as amended and carried.

Moderator Lord reread the article as amended. A vote was taken on the article and a request was made to count the votes.

Yes .....60

No.....37

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

The moderator read the article. No discussion.

Motion made to adjourn and seconded at 10:26 am.

Given under my hand and seal, this 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twelve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Waldron  
Strafford Town Clerk