

STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING
MARCH 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2011 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Article 1 of the 2013 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 8:31 a.m. on Saturday March 16, 2013 at the Strafford School Gymnasium by Moderator William Lord, to act on articles 2 through 13.

Moderator Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator read the results of the March 12, 2013 election.

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

| | |
|---|-------|
| Voters on the checklist | 3,002 |
| Votes cast | 400 |
| Library Trustee – Three years | |
| Sarah E. Kern | 174 |
| Road Agent – One year | |
| Greg Messenger | 383 |
| Selectman – Three years | |
| James W. Andersen..... | 287 |
| Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three years | |
| Charles Burnham | 339 |
| Planning Board – Three years | |
| Lynn Sweet | 321 |
| Town Clerk – Three years | |
| Diane Waldron | 271 |
| Town Moderator – 1 year | |
| William G. Lord | 359 |
| Town Treasurer – Three years | |
| Laurie Bibeau | 362 |

The Moderator introduced the officers at the head table and discussed the rules and proper conduct of the meeting.

Selectman Steve Leighton gave a powerpoint presentation on the state of the Town.

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000. for the purpose of design engineering and constructions of a replacement bridge on First Crown Point Road (Bridge No. 069/164) and to authorize the withdrawal of \$60,000. from the Bridge Repairs Capital Reserve Fund and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a bridge grant in the amount of \$240,000. No funding to come from general taxation.

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

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358,000. 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.

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

4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the hiring of a full time police officer and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,895. to cover this position and benefits.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Police Chief Scott Young addressed the article. After brief discussion, Moderator Lord reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$462,674. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the hiring of a full time paramedic and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,669. to cover this position and benefits.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Fire Chief Paul Stover addressed the article. After brief discussion, the Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$229,592. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,083. to be used for the final payment of any balance due 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. Carolyn Clarke addressed the article. There was no discussion. The Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500. for the Ready Rides Program providing free curb-to-curb transportation to medical appointments.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. There was no discussion. Moderator Lord reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,183,572. for general Town operations.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Executive..... | \$ 69,692. |
| Election & Registration..... | 22,524. |
| Financial Administration..... | 88,575. |
| Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps..... | 37,425. |
| Legal Expenses..... | 10,000. |
| Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp..... | 34,297. |
| Planning and Zoning..... | 7,200. |
| General Government Building..... | 29,435. |
| Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees..... | 27,975. |
| Insurance..... | 42,000. |
| Advertising and Regional Association..... | 3,366. |
| 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..... | 385,000. |
| Street Lighting..... | 4,500. |
| Solid Waste Disposal..... | 234,562. |
| Animal Control..... | 3,800. |
| Health Inspector..... | 400. |
| Cornerstone VNA (formerly RochDstr VNA)..... | 3,991. |
| General Assistance and Welfare..... | 28,180. |
| Community Action..... | 1,750. |
| Sexual Assault Support Services..... | 992. |
| My Friend's Place..... | 200. |
| The Homemakers Health Services..... | 2,036. |
| CHANCES..... | 2,500. |
| Parks and Recreation..... | 16,129. |
| Library..... | 69,186. |
| Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works..... | 4,800. |
| Conservation Commission..... | 235. |
| Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes..... | 2,000. |
| | \$ 1,183,572. |

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,183,572. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion, the Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to accept ownership by Quitclaim Deed of the building and fixtures of the Hill Library and the real estate and licenses related to the building and fixtures which have been donated by the Strafford Library Association and to continue the operation of a public library under RSA 202-A:3.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Martha English, Library Trustee and President of the SLA, addressed the article. Charlie Burnham and Ken Berry also addressed the article.

After questions and discussion a motion was made to table the question and was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion to table the article and failed.

After more discussion, the Moderator reread the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

12. "To see if the town of Strafford will vote to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purposes of library expansion and improvements and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be placed in this fund and to designate the library trustees as agents for expenditure from the fund for this purpose." (by petition.) The Selectmen do not recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion Robert Fletcher made a motion to amend the article to read:

"To see if the town of Strafford will vote to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purposes of library expansion and improvements and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be placed in this fund and to designate the Selectmen as agents for expenditure from the fund for this purpose."

The motion was seconded. After more discussion on the amendment the Moderator reread the article as amended. A vote was taken on the amendment and failed.

There was more discussion on article 12 as originally written. Robert Fletcher made a motion to amend the article to read:

"To see if the town of Strafford will vote to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purposes of library expansion and improvements and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be placed in this fund."

(remove the words "and to designate the library trustees as agents for expenditure from the fund for this purpose".)

A vote was taken on the amendment. A count was taken.

Yes - 43 No - 20

The amendment carried. The Moderator reread the article as amended. A vote was taken on the article as amended and carried.

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

Bob Perry made a motion “To see if the Town will vote to authorize the publishing in each Annual Town Report, a legislative summary of general interest, prepared by its State Representative(s) and Senator”.

The motion was seconded. After brief discussion the moderator reread the proposed article. A vote was taken and failed.

At 9:50 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Waldron,
Strafford Town Clerk