

**2014 STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING
MARCH 15, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Article 1 of the 2014 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 15, 2014 at the Strafford School gymnasium by Moderator William Lord, to act on articles 2 through 11.

Moderator Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator read the results of the March 11, 2014 election.

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

Voters on the checklist	3,033
Votes cast	419
Library Trustee – Three years	
Irene A. Abels.....	201
Road Agent – One Year	
Greg Messenger.....	401
Selectman – Three Years	
Lynn Sweet.....	220
Trustee of the Trust Fund – Three Years	
Betsy B. Cozine.....	344
Planning Board – Three Years	
Charles Moreno.....	291
Terry Hyland.....	211
Town Moderator – Two Years	
William G. Lord.....	363
Supervisor of the Checklist – Six years	
Marilyn Roderick.....	358

The Moderator introduced the officials at the head table. Selectman JoAnn Brown gave a brief presentation in recognition of Paul Stover, the past Chief of Strafford’s Fire Department. Selectman Steve Leighton then gave a brief presentation in recognition of JoAnn Browns many years of service to the Town as Selectman.

Selectman Steve Leighton then gave a PowerPoint presentation to review the accomplishments of the past year (2013), the current state of the Town, and plans for 2014.

Moderator William Lord discussed the rules of the meeting.

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$392,325. 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 \$20,000. from the Bridge Repairs Capital Reserve Fund and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a bridge grant in the amount of \$313,860., with the balance of \$58,465. to be raised by

general taxation. (This is a supplemental appropriation to the funds raised by Article 2 at the 2013 Town Meeting for this project.)

Steve Bulger made a motion to restrict reconsideration based on RSA 40:10 and was seconded. Moderator Lord pointed out that RSA 40:10 states that motions to restrict reconsideration can only be made on articles previously discussed and voted. Moderator Lord ruled the motion out of order.

Moderator Lord read article 2. 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 \$392,325 for the purpose of design engineering and construction of the replacement bridge on First Crown Point Road (Bridge No. 069/164) and to authorize the withdrawal of \$20,000. From Bridge Repairs Capital Reserve Fund and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a bridge grant in the amount of \$310,660., with the balance of \$61,665 to be raised by general taxation”.

This is a supplemental appropriation to the funds raised by Article 2 at the 2013 Town Meeting for this project. The amendment is to fund the associated cost for a hydrant, which are excluded from the 80% funding under the Bridge Aid Grant Program.

The amendment increases the amount to be raised by general taxation from \$58,465. to \$61,665. (An increase of \$3,200.)

After a brief discussion on what a dry fire hydrant is, a motion was made on the proposed amendment. The vote to amend the article carried.

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

3. 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.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Don Clifford proposed an amendment to the article to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000. 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”.

There was no discussion on the amendment. Moderator Lord read the article as amended. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

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

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$514,581. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department.

Moderator Lord 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 on the article and carried.

At this time Irving Johnson made a motion to restrict reconsideration on articles 2, 3, and 4. A vote was taken and carried.

Steve Bulger made a motion to table article 5 until after article 6 was acted on. This is a non-debatable motion. A vote was taken to table article 5 and failed.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$231,284. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

The Moderator read the article. A motion was made and seconded. Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse addressed the article.

After lengthy discussion and questions Moderator Lord re-read 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 Fire Chief and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,500. to cover this position and benefits. (Cost is anticipated to cover June through December.)

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

After lengthy discussion and questions the Moderator re-read the article. A vote was take on the article and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000. to purchase a 1st Responder vehicle, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$60,000. 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 purpose. No funding to come from general taxation.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Scott Whitehouse addressed the article.

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

8. To see if the Town will vote to increase the Treasurer's annual salary to \$9,000. and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000. to fund the difference.

The Moderator read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion the moderator re-read 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 \$1,194,912. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 70,738.
Election & Registration.....	24,334.
Financial Administration.....	88,637.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	37,602.
Legal Expenses.....	10,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	36,348.
Planning and Zoning.....	7,410.
General Government Building.....	29,400.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	28,800.
Insurance.....	42,000.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,700.
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.....	17,129.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	385,000.
Street Lighting.....	4,500.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	234,730.
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.....	2,126.
CHANCES.....	2,500.
Ready Rides.....	1,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	16,498.
Library.....	71,480.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,800.
Conservation Commission.....	245.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
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TOTAL.....	\$ 1,194,912.

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,194,912. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

Selectman Steve Leighton made a motion to amend article 9 to increase the line for “General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance” to \$425,000.00. This amendment increases the total to be raised for general Town operations from \$1,194,912. To \$1,234,912 (an increase of \$40,000.) The intention is to increase the line for General Highway Expenses and Town maintenance from \$385,000 to \$425,000. due to the number of snowstorms and additional costs for winter maintenance.

Motion to amend seconded. After brief discussion the Moderator re-read the article as amended. A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

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

10. "New Hampshire Resolution to Get Big Money Out of Politics

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Strafford to see if the town will urge: That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that 1) guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the

American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and 2) clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Strafford's congressional delegation, and to Strafford's state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the selectmen within 30 days of the vote." (by petition.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Bob Perry addressed the article. After lengthy discussion Ken Berry made a motion to call the question and seconded. Vote taken to call the question and carried. Moderator Lord re-read the article. A vote was taken on the article and failed.

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

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Tony Fallon suggested we look into putting more dry fire hydrants in the Town. The suggestion was well received, and will be looked at.

Steve Bulger made a motion to restrict reconsideration on all previous articles, and seconded. A vote was taken to restrict reconsideration and carried.

Steve Bulger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. A vote was taken and to adjourn and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Given under my hand and seal, this 15th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk