

TOWN MEETING - TOWN OF STRAFFORD
MARCH 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Moderator William Lord to act on Article 1 of the 2016 Town Warrant by ballot vote.

The ballots were cast and the meeting recessed at 7:00 pm for the purpose of tallying the votes.

The meeting was called to order again at 8:30 am on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the Strafford School gymnasium by Moderator William Lord to act on articles 2 through 18.

The Moderator welcomed all to the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Selectman Jim Andersen did a presentation in honor of Strafford's Police Chief Scott Young, who is retiring after 20 years of service. He gave a brief history of Scott's tenure in Strafford, after which Scott spoke and gave thanks for his many years of service, and expressed his love for the Town of Strafford. He thanked his family and friends.

New Police Chief, Michael Richard, was then sworn in by Town Clerk, Diane Waldron. Chief Richard addressed the attendees and thanked Chief Young for his mentorship, after which he was welcomed with a warm round of applause.

Selectman Lynn Sweet thanked outgoing Selectman Jim Andersen for his service to the Town. She then gave a Powerpoint presentation to review the accomplishments of the past year (2015), the current state of the town, and plans for 2016.

Moderator Lord introduced the head table and reviewed the rules of the meeting.

The Moderator read the results of article 1.

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

Library Trustee – 3 years – Seth Blewitt	532
Library Trustee – 1 year – Holly Gahm	55
Selectman – 3 years – Scott L. Young	527
Planning Board – 3 years – Don Clifford	99
Road Agent – 1 year – Greg Messenger	628
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years – Martha English	593
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years – Charles H. Burnham	572
Town Clerk – 3 years – Diane Waldron	632
Treasurer – 3 years – Laurie Bibeau	560
Town Moderator – 2 years – William Lord	592

2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$355,000. 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.

Road Agent, Greg Messenger addressed the article. After a brief question from Michael

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$553,744. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department.

Moderator Lord read the article. Retired Police Chief Scott Young addressed the Article.

He reviewed the reasons for the \$16,000 increase in the budget, which is police salaries and insurance.

After brief discussion by Susan Patterson, giving glowing support of the Policemen of Strafford, Moderator Lord re-read the article. A vote was taken on article 3 and carried.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund previously established by Article 13 at the March 2011 Town Meeting for the purpose of purchasing future police vehicles and associated equipment. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

The article was briefly addressed by Selectman Bryant Scott. There was no discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000. for the purpose of purchasing 8 ballistic vests for the Police Department.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Phil Chaplin asked a question regarding the cost of ballistic vests. New Police Chief Michael Richard addressed the question. After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$338,411. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse addressed the article with a Powerpoint presentation. There was no discussion. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,400. for the extended warranty contract for the Auto Pulse to cover the period from 3/1/16-2/18/17, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,400. 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. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. After brief discussion Moderator Lord re-read the article. A vote was taken on article 7 and carried.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. for the purpose of purchasing of equipment and supplies for the ambulance, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000. 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. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. There was no discussion. Vote taken and carried.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,420. for the purpose of purchasing 4 SCBA's due to expire for service life in 2017 (2 air-paks assigned to Ambulance 1, and 2 air-paks assigned to Car 1), and to authorize the withdrawal of \$27,420. 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. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. There was no discussion. Vote taken and carried.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$123,390. for the purpose of purchasing 18 SCBA's to replace 18 of our 29 SCBA's, to be partially funded by a Fire AFG grant in the amount of \$113,400., with the balance of \$9,990. to come from general taxation. This article is contingent upon being awarded the grant. In the event that we are not awarded the grant, this article is to be considered null and void.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Ralph Wegner inquired regarding the cost for the SCBAs. Scott Whitehouse addressed the question. After that brief discussion, Moderator Lord re-read the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

11. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairs and/or replacement of existing dry hydrants in the Town of Strafford and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

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

12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 for the purpose of rehab or replacement of the Crown Point Fire Station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Lynn Sweet addressed the article. After brief discussion, Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,400. for the revaluation/statistical update of the Town.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Lynn Sweet addressed the article.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be placed in the Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established by Article 9 at the March 2004 Town Meeting to be used for the purpose of funding any future bridge repairs/construction. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Lynn Sweet addressed the article. After brief discussion, the Moderator re-read the article. A vote was taken on the article and carried.

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500. to help defray expenses associated with Strafford's Bicentennial Celebration in 2020 in coordination with the Strafford Historical Society.

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

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be used for new shelving, furniture, updated lighting for greater energy efficiencies and other improvements at the Strafford Hill Library, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000. from the Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 12 at the March 16, 2013 Town Meeting to be used for this purpose. No funding to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded. Donald Coker asked to clarify if the article was for \$25,000 or \$50,000. Lynn Sweet addressed the question. Moderator Lord re-read the article. Vote taken and carried.

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,276,798. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 77,175.
Election & Registration.....	42,685.
Financial Administration.....	93,563.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	38,170.
Legal Expenses.....	10,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	38,527.
Planning and Zoning.....	7,590.
General Government Building.....	29,600.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	33,550.
Insurance.....	52,814.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	3,800.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	4,632.
Contingency Fund.....	16,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	10,890.
Emergency Management.....	2,700.
Building Inspection.....	17,129.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	423,500.
Street Lighting.....	4,700.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	233,562.
Animal Control.....	3,800.
TOTAL.....	1,276,798.

Cornerstone VNA (formerly Roch Dstr VNA).....	3,991.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	25,180.
Community Action.....	2,000.
Havenwood Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend's Place.....	200.
The Homemakers Health Services.....	433.
Ready Rides.....	1,500.
Parks and Recreation.....	16,722.
Library.....	73,897.
Patriotic Purposes and Fire Works.....	4,800.
Conservation Commission.....	296.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
TOTAL.....	\$1,276,798.

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,276,798. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

Moderator Lord read the article. Motion made and seconded.

Resident Seth Blewitt asked for an amendment of this article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1, 282,901 for general Town operations. Library line to read \$80,000.00

After lengthy discussion between the Library Trustees, George Preston, Library Director, residents of Strafford and the Selectmen of Strafford, regarding the library budget, salaries and programs, the Moderator re-read the article as amended.

Moderator Lord read the amendment. A vote was taken on the amendment and was too close to call. The moderator called for a count.

Yes 54 No 41

A vote was taken on the amendment and carried.

After continued brief discussion, the moderator re-read the article as amended. A vote was taken on article 17 and carried.

At this time a motion was made by Gary Fowler to limit reconsideration on all previously discussed articles. Motion made and seconded. Vote taken and carried.

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

Michael Harrington discussed the school meeting and asked the residents make more of an effort to attend.

JoAnn Brown thanked the Kitz family for offering their property for the Bicentennial Celebration in 2020. JoAnn Brown also discussed the Historical Society.

School Board Chair Brian Monahan discussed his great staff and the inequity of the pay in the town of Strafford between school, town and fire. He asked that we all work together and stressed the importance of attending both School and Town Meetings.

A motion was made by the Moderator and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 am.

Given under my hand and seal, this 12th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Waldron
Strafford Town Clerk