

# 2019 STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING

## MARCH 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Town Moderator Ron Lemieux, to act on Article #1 of the 2018 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 8:33 am on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Strafford School gymnasium by Moderator Ron Lemieux to act on Articles Two through Twenty.

The Moderator welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Boy Scout Troop #23 which then presented the colors with a Flag Ceremony and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Carolyn Clarke offered an opening prayer.

Moderator Lemieux introduced those sitting at the head table including Selectmen Scott Young, Lynn Sweet, and Bryant Scott; Town Administrator Ellen White, and Town Clerk Christine Bane. The Moderator then recognized resident JoAnn Brown who spoke about the work in progress on the upcoming Strafford Bicentennial.

The Selectmen proceeded with a special presentation to recognize retiring Strafford Town Treasurer, Laurie Bibeau. Ms.Bibeau has been the Strafford Town Treasurer for 11 years and was presented with flowers and a card to thank her for her years of hard work.

The Moderator read the results of the March 12, 2019 election.

### **Article #1.**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Voters on the checklist .....	3383
Votes cast .....	271
Library Trustee – Three years	
Lindsay Aucella .....	247
Selectman – Three years	
Scott Young .....	251
Road Agent – One year	
Greg Messenger .....	263

Planning Board – Three years	
Phil Auger .....	138
Town Treasurer – Three years	
Cindy Cushing .....	248
Trustee of the Trust Funds – Three years	
Charles Burnham .....	251
Town Clerk – Three years	
Christine Bane .....	253

He then read the results of the School District Election:

School Board Member – (2) Three year positions	
Erica McLean Helm .....	178
Kerry McMahon .....	211

Moderator Lemieux introduced Selectman Scott Young who gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the achievements of 2018 along with future plans.

**Article #2.**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$385,000. 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 Article #2. Motion made and seconded.

Road Agent Greg Messenger spoke to the article. There was no public discussion.

A vote was taken on the article and **Article #2 passes.**

**Article #3:**

“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 \$77,718. to cover this position and benefits.”

The moderator read Article #3. Motion made and seconded.

Police Chief Richard spoke to this article, explaining that the town has a hard time keeping part-time police officers due to several factors. Replacing the two part-time positions with one full-time position makes sense as it increases coverage and will help greatly with retention. If this article is approved by the voters, \$20,000 in the Police Department budget for part-time officers will be removed.

After public comments, a vote was taken on the article and **Article #3 passes.**

**Article #4:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$591,776. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department.”

The moderator read Article #4. Motion made and seconded.

Selectmen Sweet **motioned to amend** as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$571,776 for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department”.

This amendment reduces the amount of wages included in the budget for part-time officers by \$20,000 due to the passage of the full time position approved under Article 3.

Motion seconded. A vote was taken on the amendment and the **Amendment passes.**

The Moderator read the amended article. A vote was taken and **Article #4 passes.**

**Article #5:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000. to be placed in the fund known as the Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established by Article 13 at the March 12, 2011 Town Meeting for the purpose of purchasing future police vehicles and associated equipment.” The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #5. Motion made and seconded.

There was no discussion. A vote was taken and **Article #5 passes.**

**Article #6:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$492,984. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad.”

The moderator read Article #6. Article was moved and seconded.

Chief Whitehouse spoke to this article and shared a PowerPoint presentation. His presentation included an overview of the activity in 2018 as well as future plans involving the Fire Department.

After brief discussion, a vote was taken and **Article #6 passes.**

**Article #7:**

“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.

The moderator read Article #7. Motion made and seconded.

After a brief discussion, a vote was taken and **Article #7 passes.**

**Article #8:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,318. for the purpose of extended warranty coverage and maintenance contract on the Zoll X-Series Defibrillator, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,318. 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.

The moderator read Article #8. Motion made and seconded.

Chief Whitehouse addressed this article. A vote was taken and **Article #8 passes.**

**Article #9:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to be placed in the fund known as the Crown Point Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 12 at the March 12, 2016 Town Meeting for the purpose of rehab or replacement of the Crown Point Fire Station.” The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #9. Motion made and seconded.

Chief Whitehouse addressed this article.

After a brief discussion, a vote was taken and **Article #9 passes.**

**Article #10:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to be placed in the fund known as the Fire Engine Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 20 at the March 19, 2005 Town Meeting for the future purchase of a fire truck.” The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #10. Article was moved and seconded.

Chief Whitehouse addressed this article.

After a brief discussion, a vote was taken and **Article #10 passes.**

**Article #11:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$101,126. for the operation and maintenance of the Hill Library.”

The moderator read Article #11. Article was moved and seconded.

Jessie Copeland, Hill Library Trustee, spoke to this article. She gave a thorough review of the accomplishments of the library, current programs and future plans.

After brief discussion, a vote was taken. **Article #11 passes.**

**Article #12:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. to be added to the fund known as the Library Expansion/Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 12 at the 2013 Town Meeting for the purpose of Library expansion and improvements.” The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #12. Article was moved and seconded.

No comments were heard. A vote was taken and **Article #12 passes.**

**Article #13:**

“To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 to be known as the Repair/Replace Recycling Center Equipment Fund for the purpose of repairing or replacing Recycling Center equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend.”

The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #13. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Sweet addressed this article. A vote was taken and **Article #13 passes.**

**Article #14:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000. to be added to the fund known as the Town Hall Building Maintenance, Improvements and/or Expansion Fund established by Article 13 at the 2018 Town Meeting for the purpose of Town Hall building maintenance, improvements and/or expansion.” The Selectmen recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #14. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Lynn Sweet addressed this article.

After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. **Article #14 passes.**

**Article #15:**

“To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Capital Reserve Fund known as the Records Storage Fund established by Article 11 at the March 15, 2003 Town Meeting to the Town Office Equipment Fund for the purpose of the purchase/maintenance of Town Office Equipment, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend.” The Selectmen recommend this article. (2/3 Vote Required)

The moderator read Article #15. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Sweet addressed this article. A vote was taken. Yes -93 No -1

**Article #15 passes.**

**Article #16:**

“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”

The moderator read Article #16. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Sweet explained that this is a standing article to help raise funds for the bicentennial.

A vote was taken and **Article #16 passes.**

**Article #17:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000. to be used for the purpose of mowing and maintenance of the Center Strafford Cemetery, Caverly Cemetery and the Crown Point Cemetery. These funds will be placed in the care and custody of the designated cemetery association for each of the aforementioned cemeteries.”

The moderator read Article #17. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Sweet addressed this article. A vote was taken and **Article #17 passes.**

**Article #18:**

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,431,381 for general Town operations.”

Executive.....	\$ 85,152.
Election & Registration.....	28,220.
Financial Administration.....	98,682.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	39,738.
Legal Expenses.....	30,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	37,659.
Planning and Zoning.....	12,056.
General Government Building.....	41,000.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	36,610.
Insurance.....	57,083.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	4,066.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	5,006.
Contingency Fund.....	16,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	13,000.
Emergency Management.....	5,500.
Building Inspection.....	17,953.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	517,700.
Street Lighting.....	5,000.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	316,234.
Animal Control.....	3,800.
Health Inspector.....	200.
Cornerstone VNA (formerly Roch Dstr VNA).....	3,991.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	15,180.
Community Action.....	2,000.
Haven Sexual Assault Support Services.....	992.
My Friend’s Place.....	200.
The Homemakers Health Services.....	3,200.
Ready Rides.....	1,500.
CASA.....	500.
Parks and Recreation.....	21,859.
Patriotic Purposes and Fireworks .....	6,800.
Conservation Commission.....	2,500.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,431,381.</b>

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,431,381. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

The moderator read Article 18. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Young spoke to this article. Donald Coker made a **motion to amend** as follows:

“I, Donald Coker, request an additional \$10,000 be added to the legal budget”. Motion seconded. After discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote on the amendment. A show of cards indicates that **the amendment is defeated.**

After further discussion, a vote was taken on the original article. **Article #18 passes.**

**Article #19:**

“The Following Registered voters of Strafford NH, petition the Town of Strafford NH to accept Wyman Lane as a Class V Town Maintained Road.” (by Petition.)

The Selectmen do NOT recommend this article.

The moderator read Article #19. Article was moved and seconded.

Selectman Sweet made a motion to table this Article as petitioner requested that it be withdrawn.

A vote was taken and the **motion to table the article passes.**

**Article #20:**

The Moderator read Article #20:

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

Article was moved and seconded.

After some discussion pertaining to combining the Town and School District Meetings, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 10:29AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Christine Bane, CTC*  
Strafford Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Town of Strafford Annual Meeting held on March 16, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date