

2021 STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING

MARCH 9, 2021

The Town Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Strafford Town Hall, in the Town of Strafford, by Appointed Town Moderator Lynn Sweet, to act on Articles 1 through 5 by ballot vote.

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

The 201<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting was called to order again at 8:37 AM on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Strafford School by Appointed Moderator Lynn Sweet to act on Articles 6 through 29.

Selectman Scott Young lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Lynn Sweet reviewed house rules with a reminder of the Governor's Emergency Order #74 regarding mask and social distancing. Due to Covid 19, the meeting was set up with two attending areas: In-Person in the gymnasium and In-car from the School parking lot tuned into FM 88:1, with a microphone available for outside speakers and ballot clerk attendants checking in outside voters. There were 118 registered voters in attendance. Out of that number 34 registered voters were attending from their car. Moderator Lynn Sweet asked for cars to signify they could hear the meeting and horns were heard from the parking lot. Moderator Sweet asked the audience for patience through the meeting process.

Moderator Sweet read the results of the March 9, 2021 election.

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

Voters on the Checklist....3610

Votes cast 678 (of that number 101 were cast by absentee vote and 577 in person)

Selectman - Three Years

Lynn M Sweet 284 Write-In Votes

Moderator - One Year Remaining of a Two Year Term

Lynn M Sweet 527

Town Clerk - One Year Remaining of a Three Year Term

Terri L Marsh 612

Library Trustee - Three Years

Jessie Copeland 561

Trustee of the Trust Funds - Three Years

Jean Ewen 545

Road Agent - One Year

Greg Messenger 628

Planning Board - Three Years

Timothy Reed 265

Moderator Sweet made it clear that due to the legal incompatibility of the two offices, she would be resigning her newly elected position of Moderator and accepting the Office of Selectman. The Supervisors of the Checklist will be appointing a Moderator.

Moderator Sweet read the results of the School District Election:

School Board Member - Three Years

Eric Almanzan 394

Elizabeth Mason 422

District Clerk - Two Years Remaining of a Three Year Term

Kaisha Morse 136 Write-In Votes

Moderator Sweet congratulated newly elected officers and invited those present to come forward at the end of the meeting to be sworn into office by the Town Clerk or Assistant Moderators.

Moderator Sweet welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Selectmen: Bryant Scott, Scott Young, Brian Monahan, Town Administrator: Ellen White, Assistant Moderators: Bob Fletcher, Steve Goodspeed, Supervisors of the Checklist: Carol Cooper, Martha English, Judy Dupre, Town Clerk: Terri Marsh. Moderator Sweet gave a huge thanks to all of the volunteers assisting car voters.

Selectman Scott Young thanked all the people who work hard for the Town. He thanked Bryant Scott, who is stepping down from 6 years in the Office of Selectman. Bryant will be greatly missed. Scott Young thanked Lynn Sweet for the idea and implementation of an FM System for people to attend and vote from their cars and Ashley Rowe for his technical support. He also thanked the previous Moderator Ron Lemieux and Town Clerk Terri Marsh for all of their work getting through the November Elections with Covid. Scott Young thanked Aaron Stanley for technical support, Strafford School Facility Director Gary Hesselton and all of Strafford School.

Selectman Young spoke regarding an overview of the articles and budget proposed for 2021 using a PowerPoint presentation with some graphics that compared Strafford tax rates to other towns of our size. Scott Young gave recognition and thanks to the Recycling Center crew for their willingness to adapt as problems arise. Looking to the future we will continue with Capital Reserve funding. We will also be reviewing the fees at the Recycling Center because cardboard and demo have increased. We hope to purchase a newer backhoe in the future. Scott Young thanked all the departments for presenting reasonable budgets.

Moderator Sweet read results of Articles 2-5 that were voted on by ballot on Election Day, March 9th.

\*\* 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing Town of Strafford Zoning and Land Use Ordinances as follows:

“To amend Article 1.15 to clarify the intent of the Phased Development Ordinance by changing the wording of the title and preamble from Growth Management Ordinance to Phased Development Ordinance in order to match the actual wording of the ordinance as adopted in 2003 and to delete the incorrect statutory reference (RSA 674:22) and keep the correct statutory reference (RSA 674:21).”

YES – 447      NO – 196  
**Article #2 Passes**

\*\* 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing Town of Strafford Zoning and Land Use Ordinances as follows:

“To add a new Article 1.18 to clarify the process for applying to the Planning Board for Subdivision by requiring that applicants for Major Subdivision meet with the Planning Board for non-binding conceptual consultation prior to developing and submitting a formal application as authorized under NH RSA 674:35 I.”

YES – 381      NO – 263  
**Article #3 Passes**

\*\* 4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing Town of Strafford Zoning and Land Use Ordinances as follows:

“To add a new Article 1.19 to clarify the process for applying to the Planning Board for Non-Residential Site Plan Review by requiring that applicants for Site Plan Review meet with the Planning Board for non-binding conceptual consultation prior to developing and submitting a formal application as authorized under NH RSA 674:43.”

YES – 381      NO – 262  
**Article #4 Passes**

\*\* 5. “By petition of the undersigned registered voters of Strafford NH; by the authority of NH RSA 673:2, II(C) subparagraph (a); to see if the town will vote to change the Planning Board members from elected to appointed, effective upon adoption by the town vote. The Planning Board will continue to have five members, who shall be appointed pursuant to subparagraph (a)” (by Petition.)

YES – 113      NO – 418  
**Article #5 Failed**

Moderator Sweet began the Articles being considered at Town Meeting:

6. 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.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Road Agent, Greg Messenger* commented on paving he was going to continue on Second Crown Point Road and Province Road to Wild Goose Pond Road.

With no further discussion a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #6 Passes**

Selectmen Brian Monahan motioned to move SB2 up from the end of the meeting to continue the meeting while the polls remained open for the necessary 1 hour period. Motion was seconded. A vote was taken by show of cards. **The motion to move the SB2 Article Passes.**

Moderator Sweet Read the article.

28. "By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Strafford to see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Strafford on the second Tuesday of March of each year." (by Petition.)  
(3/5 vote by ballot in the affirmative required for passage)

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Genny Rizzotti* stated that she started the petition to give more voters a chance to vote without having to be at Town Meeting. She expressed concern that a small number of people who attend Town Meeting decide the budget. She ended by thanking the Town Heads for doing a good job.

*Denise Rainey* stated that the concern of uneducated voters if we go to SB2 is a problem even now with the few articles voted on by ballot. She stated that 100 people showing up at Town Meeting set the tax rate for the whole community and encouraged people to take part and have a voice in the community.

*JoAnne Brown* stated she was a selectman for 34 years and she is against SB2. She feels SB2 is taking the easy way out. She expressed the need for people to show up and vote.

*Linda Pape* stated, articles by Planning and Zoning voted on by ballot were advertised ahead of time and the public was duly notified with plenty of time to educate themselves. She shared that with SB2 all articles would be voted on by ballot and voters would be uninformed on all ballot items as they do not come to public meetings.

*Mike Harrington* stated that in SB2 towns no one shows up for the deliberative session and voters don't understand reasons or need for budget increases without attending those meetings. He expressed that SB2 sounds nice but does not work.

*Ralph Wegner* opened with many thanks to Town Department Heads. He questioned how many people showed up at the budget hearing. *Selectmen Young* answered that there were only department heads and maybe one or two people. *Ralph* pointed out how that demonstrates people do not attend public meetings. He shared that he was strongly against SB2.

*Donald Coker* gave an example of a Planning Board meeting on Zoom that was well attended that resulted in putting the proposed articles on hold. He asked for clarification of SB2 process. *Selectmen Young* answered that there is a deliberative session for information and amendments and then all articles are voted on by ballot on Election Day. *Don* closed by stating that SB2 would make more uninformed voters and that he is opposed to SB2.

*Eric Almanzan* questioned if SB2 would require a budget committee? *Selectmen Young* answered that if it was voted in they would look at what was required and decide how to proceed. *Eric* expressed that he does not support SB2 but he does support more people attending and voting.

*David Hartranft* stated that we have been having Town Meeting for 201 years and every year more and more information is available to the public. He expressed opposition to SB2.

*Kurt Wuelper* stated that his understanding is that SB2 would require a default budget made by a budget committee. He expressed concern that a default budget would cause confusion.

With no further discussion Moderator Sweet read Article #28 again and called for a secret ballot vote as required for SB2. Voting for Article #28 began at 9:30 AM and a timer was set for 1 hour at which time ballots would be counted.

9:50 AM Moderator Lynn Sweet reconvened the meeting with 40 minutes left to cast ballots.

10:30 AM Voting on SB2 was closed and ballots were counted. Moderator Sweet read the results.

Yes - 14

No 102

## **Article #28 Fails**

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500. to be placed in the Reflective Road Signage Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #7 Passes**

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Highway Department Vehicle and/or Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #8 Passes**

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$766,716. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Chief Michael Richard* opened by thanking the Town. He welcomed new Town Prosecutor Jean Reed. He explained that the increase in the budget was due to new retirement, insurance and payroll.

*Eric Almanzan* questioned money not used for a new officer in 2020.

*Chief Richard* answered that due to Covid they opted not to go forward with hiring in 2020 and they are now in the process of hiring. He stated that if there was money not used it would go back to the Town.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #9 Passes**

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,195. for the purchase of a Police vehicle and equipment with \$26,195. to come from the Police Details Special Revenue Fund, with the remaining \$15,000. to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no public discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #10 Passes**

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Police Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Ralph Wegner* asked if this is something that will be added each year. *Chief Richard* answered yes; he stated that he normally asks for \$15,000 but only asked \$5,000 this year. *Selectmen Scott Young* added that there is \$5,191 in the fund now.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

**Article #11 Passes**

12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 to be known as the Strafford County Radio Project Fund for the purpose of radio and equipment upgrade, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Ralph Wegner* questioned the purpose of the fund. *Chief Richard* replied that the dispatch broadcasting system is over 20 years old and failing. Motorola was awarded the project of updating for the County and each Town will contribute. Due to Covid the project has been on hold. The goal is to put in \$5,000 a year so that the expense is spread out over a few years.

*Eric Almanzan* questioned if this was a one-time capital reserve fund that will dissolve once the project is paid for. *Chief Richard* answered with yes and that the reserve fund would be dissolved once the project is done. He shared that it is expected to cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 and money not used would go back to the Town.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

**Article #12 Passes**

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$518,108. for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department.

Motion made and seconded

Discussion:

*Deputy Chief David Hartranft* reviewed articles 13-18 using a PowerPoint presentation.

The PowerPoint presentation showed an increase in calls over several years and a need for increase in staffing. The PowerPoint showed a picture of the newly purchased ambulance and outlined needs for supplies, warranty item, new fire pumper-tanker and dry hydrant/fire pond maintenance.

*Ralph Wegner* asked for a rough estimate of how much a new engine will cost and for more information on dry fire hydrants.

*Moderator Sweet* stated those questions would be answered as we came to those articles and advised a vote be taken on the budget article.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #13 Passes.**

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,217. for the second year's payment of the lease agreement for the new ambulance approved at the 2020 Town Meeting, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$60,217. from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established by Article 8 at the March 14, 2000 Town Meeting to be used for this purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. No funding to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #14 Passes**

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000. for the purpose of purchasing equipment and supplies for the ambulances, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$15,000. from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue Fund, with no amount to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

## **Article #15 Passes**

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,424. for the purpose of extended warranty coverage and three year maintenance plan on the Zoll X-Series Defibrillators, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$8,424. from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue Fund, with no amount to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Chief Scott Whitehouse* stated this is done on an annual basis and the 3 year package plan will provide better maintenance.

*Tyson Bostrom* questioned the fund. *Chief Whitehouse* stated again that maintenance is done annually and the three year package plan will provide better maintenance.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

## **Article #16 Passes**

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000. to be placed in the Fire Engine Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. Discussion:

*Mike Harrington* asked how much is in the fund now and the anticipated cost of a new engine.

*Selectmen Scott Young* answered that there is \$133,238 in the account now. *Chief Whitehouse* commented that the interior frame rail is starting to rust and they will probably get two more years of service out of the engine they have now. The anticipated cost of a new engine is roughly \$500,000. He also stated that a new engine will have the ability to carry more water.

*Eric Almanzan* asked if frame rot was the main issue on the engine and asked if oil undercoating was used to protect the underside. *Chief Whitehouse* replied that rot is causing instability of the frame. He commented this was not due to neglect and the engines are well taken care of.

*Selectman Bryant Scott* asked when we got the fire engine. *Chief Whitehouse* replied 1993.

*Selectman Scott* commented that the Town has gotten their money out of it.

*Genny Rizzotti* – Questioned if \$100,000 is enough and shared concern if a large amount of money is needed sooner if the fire engine does not last. She supports expenditure as insurance for fire protection.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that Chief Whitehouse has come for 3 years now requesting \$100,000 but the Board felt that was too much while remodeling the Crown Point Fire Station. They allowed half the amount until the completion of the Fire Station. The Fire Station is now complete so the Board said yes to \$100,000.

*Chief Whitehouse* added that the projected purchase is for 2023.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #17 Passes**

Moderator Sweet announced at 10:30 AM that voting for SB2 was closed and ballots would be counted.

18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve Fund created for the purpose of repairs and/or replacement of existing dry hydrants. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Chief Whitehouse* stated that this capital reserve fund is to keep up with the damage and maintenance on existing fire ponds and dry hydrants. Dry hydrant is a system that draws water out of a body of water to be used in fire suppression. The fire pond across from the School is the greatest concern and is in need of repair. There is a little over \$30,000 in this fund.

*David Ekstrom* questioned if fire ponds and dry hydrants are the same thing and asked how many the Town has.

*Chief Whitehouse* replied with yes and answered we have 4 fire ponds in Town and 3 tip up hydrants. They are hoping to increase that number around Town if possible.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #18 Passes**

Moderator Sweet announces Article #28 SB2 vote results. See Above

19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$128,039. for the operation and maintenance of the Hill Library.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

**Article #19 Passes**

20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Library Expansion/Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion is made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Ralph Wegner* asked about the use of this fund.

*Selectman Scott Young* stated there is currently \$38,000 in the fund.

*Librarian Paige Holman* answered that this capital reserve fund is for major repairs or improvements of the Library.

*Genny Rizzotti* questioned if it is for repairs or for a future build. *Paige Holman* replied there is no specific plan for the money and future expansion would be addressed if it becomes necessary.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #20 Passes**



21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Repair/Replace Recycling Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

*Selectman Bryant Scott* submitted an amendment to increase the appropriation from \$5,000 to \$8,500. The intent is to use \$3500. to purchase a container for tires at the Recycling Center, instead of paying a yearly rental fee.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Genny Rizzotti* questioned what was in the fund and what the money is used for.

*Selectman Scott Young* answered that \$15,000 is in the fund now.

*Selectman Bryant Scott* answered the additional money would be used for a storage container for used tires.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

#### **Amendment to Article #21 Passes**

Article 21 with approved amendment. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500. to be placed in the Repair/Replace Recycling Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

#### **Amended Article #21 Passes**

22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000. to be placed in the Bridge C & R Non-Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Road Agent Greg Messenger* stated that one bridge is on the Red List by State inspection. There are 10 houses beyond the bridge affected and it has become serious.

*Don Coker* asked for clarification on the type of fund.

*Town Administrator Ellen White* replied that it works the same as a capital reserve fund and stated it is for construction and repair of the bridge.

*Kurt Wuelper* asked if this is the C & R Fund seen in the Town Report.

*Town Administrator Ellen White* replied that it is.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

#### **Article #22 Passes**

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000. for the purpose of an office position/positions.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Mike Harrington* asked if the Selectmen recommend this article.

*Selectmen Scott Young* replied yes the Selectmen put it there. He continued that two people are retiring and these two people wear several hats. The Town will try to hire someone for a few more hours and divide the responsibilities.

*Mike Harrington* asked if this is a one-time increase or are there more expected increases annually and what category on article 26 it would fall under.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that the work load at the Town has increased but the staff has not.

*Selectman Brian Monahan* commented that the positions to be replaced perform tasks in many departments.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #23 Passes**

24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Town Hall Building Maintenance, Improvements and/or Expansion Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded. With no discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

**Article #24 Passes**

25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000. to be placed in the Future Reval/Statistical Update Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Tyson Bostrom* asked what this fund's purpose is.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that once every five years we have a revaluation, by state statute, for which we have to appropriate funds. This capital reserve fund will help us avoid a one-time payment as we are doing this year.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

**Article #25 Passes**

26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,627,908. for general Town operations.

Executive.....	\$ 89,443.
Election & Registration.....	36,767.
Financial Administration.....	110,077.
Appraisal of Property & Tax Maps.....	90,152.
Legal Expenses.....	60,000.
Employee Benefits, FICA, Medi & Unemp. Comp.....	40,865.
Planning and Zoning.....	17,175.
General Government Building.....	46,800.
Auto Permits/Town Clerk Fees.....	38,310.
Insurance.....	60,847.
Advertising and Regional Association.....	4,203.
Strafford Regional Planning Comm. Dues.....	5,214.
Contingency Fund.....	16,000.
Annual CPA Audit.....	13,000.
Emergency Management.....	15,000.
Building Inspection.....	17,832.
General Highway Expenses and Town Maintenance.....	544,800.
Street Lighting.....	5,000.
Solid Waste Disposal.....	343,884.
Animal Control.....	1,800.
Cemeteries.....	9,000.
Cornerstone VNA (formerly Roch Dstr VNA).....	3,991.
General Assistance and Welfare.....	15,297.
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.
Strafford Nutrition & Meals on Wheels.....	1,000.
Parks and Recreation.....	21,759.
Patriotic Purposes and Fireworks .....	6,800.
Conservation Commission.....	2,500.
Interest Expense & Tax Anticipation Notes.....	2,000.
TOTAL .....	<u>\$1,627,908.</u>

(The intent of this article is to raise the sum of \$1,627,908. exclusive of all other Articles addressed.)

Motion made and seconded.

*Mike Harrington* referenced page 39 of the Town Report and asked if there was an increase in

uncollected property taxes.

*Tax Collector Judy Dupre* answered that one number represents uncollected taxes for the current year and the larger number includes all of the liens that have not been collected for three years. *Mike Harrington* commented that the cost of recycling continues to go up and we are now being charged to haul it away. He asked if we should separate cans and plastics.

*Selectmen Scott Young* replied that separating them would increase cost. He further explained that the big cost is bin rentals, construction material waste and trucking. He shared that purchasing a container for used tires and increasing fees for disposal of demolition materials would cut some of the cost.

*Eric Almanzan* questioned why legal expenses have increased to \$60,000 and asked if that would continue yearly.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that the Town would prefer it not to be so but this is a necessary appropriation.

*Eric Almanzan* asked if the money is not used will it return to a trust or regular account.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that it would return to the regular account.

*Eric Almanzan* asked if the emergency management increase was due to Covid and moving forward would it be \$15,000 a year.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that as long as Covid is around yes, but we will look at that amount and what is needed each year.

*Mike Harrington* asked where the leftover funds for patriotic purposes went.

*Selectman Scott Young* answered that they were returned to the General Fund.

*Mary Leavitt* asked how the highway expenses in Article 26 compared to Article 6.

*Selectman Scott Young* replied that the Road Agent has a rotation of roads that are upgraded. Article 6 deals with those roads. The amount in Article 26 is for general operation such as snow removal and general road maintenance.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by show of cards.

### **Article #26 Passes**

27. "By petition of the undersigned registered voters of the Strafford, NH, by the authority of NH RSA 39:3 and pursuant to NH 673:3 II; To see if the town of Strafford will vote to change Zoning Board members from appointed to elected, effective the next regular town election. Said board shall consist of five members each serving three year terms, as the term of each current member expires, a new member shall be elected at the next regular municipal election." (by Petition.)

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion:

*Phil Auger* stated that he started and submitted this petition as a better way to do business in Town. He stated that this petition takes the responsibility to select Zoning Board members off the shoulders of the Selectman and puts it on the voters.

*Genny Rizzotti* commented that we elect the Selectmen and she is good with the Selectmen choosing the Zoning Board members. She shared that she does not support this petition.

*Ralph Wegner* and *Philip Auger* collaborated in stating that they believe neighboring town boards are elected.

<sup>er</sup>  
*Denise Rainey* stated that appointed people are chosen by likeminded people and elected positions must win over the voters to be put into office.

*Don Coker* commented that voters should have the ultimate say and strongly urges the election of the board members.

*Mike Harrington* expressed that he feels board members should be elected.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken by a show of cards.

**Article #27 Passes**

28. Article #28 was moved by an approved motion to the beginning of the meeting.

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

Discussion:

*JoAnn Brown* President of the Historical Society shared that a parade is planned for the belated Bicentennial Celebration. She also commented that Ready Rides needs volunteers.

*Genny Rizzotti* commented that articles were tabled from the Planning Board this year and voters need to elect the people, next year, that they want making decisions on the Board.

*Mike Harrington* commented that the opening page of the Town Report shows a population and number of registered voters that does not add up. He felt he should explain that the voter list totals may not be current as people move out of Town and are removed when the voter list is purged every 10 years.

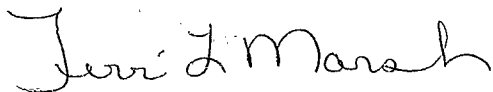
*Denise Rainey* encouraged people to educate themselves on the issues and come out to vote.

With no further discussion a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM.

All newly elected positions present were sworn in by the Town Clerk, Terri Marsh.

Given under my hand and seal, this 13th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-one.

Respectfully Submitted,



Terri Marsh  
Strafford Town Clerk

\*Comments made at the meeting are not included in these minutes as quotes but instead as a summary of what was said.