

**State of New Hampshire
Minutes of Washington Town Meeting
March 10, 2009**

All portions of this report typed in **bold type** were sent to the State DRA as a legal record of this meeting.

Moderator Ron Jager called the 233rd unbroken March tradition of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Washington, New Hampshire to order at 9:00 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the introduction of town and election officials. The moderator explained the rules of procedure he would follow during the meeting. Mr. Jager invited the audience to enjoy the refreshments provided by the Washington Fire Department Auxiliary. He explained the rules of procedure for the State of New Hampshire and reminded the audience that we do not vote on the warrant, but that we vote on the motion made.

The ballot box was shown to be empty and was locked by Moderator Jager who declared that the polls would open at 10:00 am, at which time he would present the ballot box to the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1. The following people received votes for an office elected by non-partisan ballot:

Selectman for three years Guy Eaton declared elected	Guy Eaton	155
Town Treasurer for one year Lynda Roy declared elected	Lynda Roy	155
Board of Assessors for three years Laurie Dube declared elected	Laurie Dube	144
Cemetery Trustee for three years Ronald Roy declared elected	Ronald Roy	5 (write-in)
Library Trustee for three years Linda Marshall declared elected	Linda Marshall	146
Fire Chief for one year Brian Moser declared elected	Brian Moser	149
Trustee of Trust Funds for three years Arline France declared elected	Arline France	152
Planning Board for three years Tom Marshall declared elected	Tom Marshall	145

Write-in candidates receiving fewer than five (5) votes are not recorded here. Of the 772 registered voters in Washington 155 residents cast their votes in this town election.

ARTICLE 2. Guy Eaton moved to hear reports of any and all officers, committees and agents of the Town and take any action in relation thereto. Richard Cook seconded the motion. The following comments/corrections in the Town Report were presented:

Page:	As Printed	Should be
7	smarshall@smarshall.us	Omit email address
7	Kelly@safety.state.nh.us	Omit email address
10	Conservation Commission list	should include Johanna Young
12	Jean Bates 2011	Jean Bates 2014
12	**Linda Marshall	** Linda Marshall 2009
34	Omission of Detail Expense Budget Election/Reg & Vital Statistics	Handout
84	The preliminary figures	The actual figures
89	Forest Fire Warden	Forest Fire Warden and issuing agents
89	thei	their
95	September, 2008	September, 2009

Guy Eaton moved to accept the Town Report as printed and corrected. Seconded by Richard Cook.

Voice vote: passed as moved and corrected.

The results of the Planning Board Special Ballot are as follows:

1. Do you approve of the following recommendations of the Planning Board?
 - I. To permit a guest cottage on a lot with an existing residence provided the guest cottage meets all set back requirements. (This ordinance does not apply to areas of town where guest cottages are prohibited by deed restriction, covenants, association land use ordinances, and by-laws.)

YES 85 NO 59 Passed as written

II. Definitions

The second part was declared null and void with no results to be reported because parts of the ballot were puzzling and unintelligible.

Moderator Jager invited Chairman Guy Eaton to review the warrant articles presented at this year's meeting. Chairman Eaton noted the many reductions in budget requests, reviewed the residents who passed away in 2008 and their contributions to the Town, and discussed the December 2008 ice storm and the poem he wrote about it which appears in the Town Report. Chairman Eaton also thanked Bob Fraser for his efforts to get a cell phone tower installed in Washington.

Moderator Jager apologized for the content and tone of comments he made at a recent meeting about the plans for the Washington Town Hall and noted that because he may not be impartial towards Article 3 that he has asked Lionel Chute to moderate the article and noted that a handout is provided to explain details of the proposal.

Article 3. Carolyn Russell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$79,200.00) for Final Engineering and Construction Plans for the Town Hall; provided, however, that, since the present "plans" are only tentative schematics, all Washington citizens will be given extended opportunity (at least three months from this date) to contribute ideas and to advise on all aspects of design development, space allocation, traffic patterns, walls, mechanical systems, décor, lighting, and other details, before construction documents are finalized.

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the plans are completed or December 31, 2012 whichever is sooner.

The motion was seconded by Jim Hofford.

Lionel Chute moderated this article. Chairman Eaton noted that an anonymous \$5,000.00 donation had been made towards this project so the article is not requesting the \$84,200.00 noted in the Town Report. Carolyn Russell led the discussion. The committee that worked on this proposal was appointed by the Selectmen in 2007.

Carolyn emphasized that today's vote is not on a specific plan, but for money to create a working plan so that grant money can be sought to defray the construction costs to the Town. She invited Bill Cole to discuss the crawl space under the building and the deterioration he found there. Selectmen Rich Cook and Ken Eastman pointed out their original concerns for the building's security, space issues, privacy issues and heating and air conditioning issues that prompted the creation of the committee.

Residents were divided in their concerns. Several emphasized the historic value of the building and its current use as office space and urged residents to vote to work on improving it and to think of the future even in these difficult economic times. Others insisted that the current economic climate is reason enough to refuse to take on this expense, saying that it is unfair to residents who are struggling to pay their bills. Many felt that the Town's space needs (including other buildings besides Town Hall) have not been thoroughly investigated or prioritized and that other options including partial renovations or a new building should be compared to this single proposal. Those in favor

felt moving ahead now is best in this economic climate as aid money will be available and people looking for work may work for less. Those opposed seemed to find the proposal being forced on them with a false sense of urgency without adequate consideration of alternatives or other bid proposals. Several felt proposal options should be presented at Town Meeting next year.

During this discussion town election polls were declared open at 10:00 am.

Tom Taylor made a motion to amend the presented motion to agree to place further construction and planning on hold until the project had been entered into a Capital Improvement Plan. Seconded by Charlie Fields. The meeting was interrupted while Moderator Chute discussed the issue with Ron Jager. When the meeting resumed, Moderator Chute chose not to accept the motion because it was not germane to the main motion, and because of the extensive discussion already presented, he felt residents were almost ready to vote. He suggested that the motion be proposed after the vote on the main motion.

Peg Kelly made a motion for a paper ballot vote, seconded by many.

Chairman Eaton noted that even though he already had the check for \$5,000.00 to be donated to the project, the article should say \$84,200.00, because that is the amount required. Eaton made a motion to vote on the amendment, Rich Cook seconded. Voice vote on amendment: passed

Ron Jager announced that the lunch hour would start as voters began to cast their paper ballots at 12:15.

Paper ballot: Not Passed NO 91 YES 46 with 137 votes cast

Robert Wright made a motion to propose to raise \$1,000.00 for the Town Hall committee to pursue grants, and next year to present an article to construct a foundation for Town Hall. Seconded by Al Krygeris (withdrawn). Seconded by Jim Carmichael.

Voice vote: Not passed.

Further discussion indicated concern that all the work done by this committee not be lost or ignored. Some felt alternative proposals should be made next year, perhaps with a more concrete plan dealing with a portion of the work to be done on Town Hall requiring less money.

Mr. Jager resumed his position as moderator.

Town Clerk Sandy Poole announced that Tax Collector Janice Philbrick and Police Chief Steve Marshall are celebrating birthdays and that she brought in two cakes to share.

ARTICLE 4. Jane Thayer moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for the planning and preparation of Old Home Days in 2010. Seconded by Vivian Clark.

Jane explained that not enough planning has been done to accommodate entertainment this year and that they will request more money next year when they have a better idea of what activities they will plan.

Voice vote: passed as moved.

ARTICLE 5. Guy Eaton moved that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars (\$398,398.00) to defray the costs of General Government for the ensuing year. Richard Cook seconded the motion.

Chairman Eaton noted that this is a reduction from last year. Tom Taylor complimented the Selectmen for keeping costs down. Larry Gaskell questioned the amount included for Election, Registration and Vital Statistics. Town Clerk Sandy Poole replied that this is \$2,000.00 less than it was last year.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 6. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$87,246.00) for the operation of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department for the ensuing year. Robert Wright seconded the motion.

Alan Treadwell asked about the amount of money donated to the Rescue Squad. Brian Moser replied that donation amounts were not included in the budget. Bob Wright provided the amounts taken in for donations, ambulance billing and training grants.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 7. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to the Fire-Apparatus Replacement Fund previously established. Robert Wright seconded the motion.

Brian noted that this money can be used to purchase other equipment besides trucks and will be used to purchase new radios. John Hyland questioned how much is currently in the fund. Brian said \$15,000.00.

Voice vote: passed as moved

Robert Wright made a motion to delete Article 8 because the Rescue Squad now generates money from the ambulance billing fund. Seconded by Gwen Gaskell.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Rescue Squad Intercept Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Voice vote: deleted

ARTICLE 9. Robert Wright moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the Rescue Squad Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Bob Wright informed that this money will be used to replace the ambulance in 2013. There is \$15,000 currently in the fund. They will also be using \$5,000 per year from the ambulance billing fund.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 10. John Pasioka moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) for Forest Fire Control for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

This money is used for Fire Fighter Training.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 11. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$30,917.00) for Emergency Communications for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

A few residents questioned whether this money is for the same thing as Article 7. Brian explained that though they are purchasing new radios when they can, they need to provide upkeep for those and the old ones when appropriate.

Jim Hofford asked about the new cell phone tower. Ken Eastman said that he had met with the Governor, lobbyists, Chief Marshall and Bob Fraser about the issue and will meet again in a month.

Guy Eaton moved that non-residents be permitted to speak at Town Meeting. Seconded by Bob Fraser. Voice vote: passed.

Chief Marshall noted that we cannot count on a cell phone company to refurbish our current tower to accommodate cell phone service.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 12. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars

(\$377,500.00) for operation of the Highway Department for the ensuing year. Seconded by Larry Gaskell.

Ed notes that this budget is down \$5,000.00 from last year, and includes the 2.5% cost of living raise. Lionel Chute noted that several other articles related to the Highway Department's work prevent a clear idea of what the actual Highway Department budget is. Ed replied that the other articles are capital expenditures and separating them prevents them from being lost in the operating budget. Tom Taylor asked how the raise amounts were determined and notes that this COLA raise is lower than the federal recommendation. Bob Hofstetter found that the difference for all Town employees' payroll is \$14,000.00 and thinks it should be added to their pay rate.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 13. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$486,400.00) and to accept and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$389,120.00) from the State of New Hampshire Municipal Bridge Aide Program for the reconstruction of the Halfmoon Pond Rd. Bridge. The remainder of Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Dollars (\$97,280.00) is to come from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the bridge is completed or by December 31, 2011, which ever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ed noted that the monetary amounts differed from the original article because of a question the Auditors had about where the money from previous reimbursements had been posted. He said that \$78,352.00 is being reimbursed to town and \$18,928.00 will be taken from the fund balance. The net impact on the tax rate will be zero. Bob Wright questioned whether this will lower the tax rate this year, but it will not.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 14. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000.00) for the purpose of rehabilitation of the Washington Drive Culvert. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the bridge is completed or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ed noted that a reduction of \$5,000.00 is due to the bid amount not increasing as he had anticipated. Ed discussed construction details and noted both that money is not available from the state because there is no bridge and that the culvert has an expected 50 year life span.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 15. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for construction or sealing projects on Washington Drive and East Washington Rd. in addition to the regular maintenance budget. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

John Hyland asked about this including East Washington Rd. Ed answered that it did not.

Ed Thayer moved that East Washington Rd. be deleted from the article. Guy Eaton seconded it. Voice vote: passed.

Voice vote: passed as amended.

ARTICLE 16. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) from the Recycling Equipment Fund for the purpose of purchasing a 35 yard enclosed recycling container for use at the Transfer Station. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ed noted that the money will be taken from the fund generated by recycling and will result in no cost to the town. The purchase will allow the Transfer Station to swap out a container rather than make a trip in the middle of the week to empty the one they have. In response to Lionel Chute's question Ed noted that the container will be the same size as the one there now.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 17. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the Highway Block Grant Funds estimated to be Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Four Dollars (\$53,364.00) anticipated during 2009 for the use of the Highway Department for construction or reconstruction projects in addition to the regular maintenance budget. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ralph Otterson asked if this money could be used to offset the amount requested in Article 18, but Ed replied that Article 18 was written with this money taken into account already. Lionel Chute asked if Washington would be receiving any stimulus money from the State. Ed replied that he did not anticipate Washington receiving much in the way of stimulus money.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 18. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for the resurfacing of approximately 2 miles of the East Washington Rd. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

John Hyland asked how long resurfacing will last. Ed replied 5 years. Bob Bachand asked if it would be worthwhile to dig it up and repave, but Ed replied that repaving

would require more money than the Town can raise in a year, and if they did less at a time they would never catch up with all the paved roads.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 19. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Funds previously established. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

There is currently no balance in this fund as the money was used to buy a grader last year.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 20. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$122,740.00) for the operation of the Solid Waste Recycling Center and for the Landfill Closure for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ed noted that this is \$7,000.00 less than last year and he expects transportation and removal cost to decline this year. Income from the construction debris scale (about \$10,000.00) goes into the general fund. Lionel Chute asked about enforcing recycling. Ed said that Washington has the second highest rate of recycling in the state (35.04 %) but we do not enforce the recycling ordinance. Ed suggested removing the Hazardous Waste Day expense by having it every other year instead of every year. This would lower the cost of the article by \$7,000.00. Chute opposed this, preferring to have the option of disposing of hazardous waste every year.

Phil Barker commented that last year the Town made Ed the Public Works Director, but he is still called the Highway Agent, and that Ed should get a stipend.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 21. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$5,751.00) to be added to the Health Insurance Reimbursable Account previously established. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 22. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) for Emergency Management for the ensuing year. Seconded by Jim Hofford.

Ed thanked everyone who helped out during the ice storm. Guy Eaton announced that there was cake to celebrate those who assisted during the storm.

John Pasioka asked about 911 compliance, emphasizing its importance during emergency situations. Steve Marshall noted that the Town's previous 911 ordinance was invalid as written and has been corrected. Officers are requesting compliance when they notice missing house numbers.

Rich Cook reminded residents that numbers are to be 3" high, reflective, and on the mailbox.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 23. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$111,740.00) for the operation of the Police Department for the ensuing year. Seconded by Richard Cook.

At this point, the Moderator declared a 10 minute recess.

Chief Marshall told the town that a shooting range has been set up at the DPW. Having a range here saves money on training costs for the officers and police officers from other towns now come to the range, too. Chief Marshall presented a certificate to Ed Thayer and the Public Works crew for constructing the range.

Discussing the operating costs for the Police Department, Chief Marshall noted that health insurance expenses decreased, and secretary Michelle Dagesse is now paid as a town employee for all of her positions.

Ralph Otterson asked about overtime for part time officers. Chief Marshall replied that Brian Moser gets time and a half when he works because he is a Full Time employee at the Transfer Station.

Ronald Max asked if there had been any more break-ins in seasonal residences. Chief Marshall said they know who was responsible but didn't have enough evidence to arrest. The alleged suspects have left town and there have been no known burglaries since then. Jim Hofford commended Chief Marshall for a job well done and for his efforts to stay in touch with the community.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 24. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) to be added to the Police Cruiser Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Seconded by Richard Cook.

Chief Marshall said that the cruiser is now 3 years old and has 70,000 miles on it. He hopes to get another 3 years out of it.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 25. Laurie Dube moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Six Dollars (\$9,366.00) to be placed in

the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Revaluation of the Town. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Laurie Dube noted that this is the same amount that was requested last year.

Ralph Otterson asked about money allocated to the Assessors under the regular budget.

Laurie replied that this article requests money for field work, not office work. There is currently \$48,000 for available revaluation.

Linda Cook said that Avitar's price to do a revaluation of Washington in 2010/2011 would be \$80,000.00. The Assessors will propose to hire a company to do the revaluation, presumably at a lower price. The money requested in this Article is for data verification. Laurie added that the Town saves money by not using Avitar and having in-house Assessors.

Arline France said that it is more transparent to show the cost of revaluation separate from operating costs. It is more convenient and less expensive to have town employees do the work.

Hans Eccard questioned how any assessor can determine an estimate of any property. During the current real estate collapse, when someone tries to sell their property they might get 1/3 of the assessed value. He claimed the assessment does not reflect the actual value.

Laurie said that it is not cost effective to reevaluate every year. She acknowledged that the Town's current assessments are based on the 2005 valuation. The assessors try to keep assessments proportionate so the tax base is distributed equitably.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 26. Linda Cook moved that the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-F: 4 to authorize the Board of Assessors to appraise qualifying farm structures and the land under them as follows: (a) Qualifying farm structures for no more than their replacement costs less depreciation; and (b) The land under the qualifying farm structures at no more than 10 percent of its market value. The land under the qualifying farm structures shall be contiguous to a minimum of 10 acres of open space land. Seconded by Jim Hofford.

Linda Cook said that a bill has been passed by the State and the Assessors are bringing it to the Town for adoption. She read commentary from the State about the effort to preserve farmland in the State. In Current Use assessments, land under buildings cannot be considered in Current Use. These provisions allow the assessment of land under farm buildings at 10% of the value. It assists those who have a separate farm area with a barn not used for a home. To be considered for this assessment, farm owners must apply by April 15. If the farm building is not used for qualified farm use, a change of use penalty would apply.

Phil Barker asked for legal definition of open space and was told that it is land in Current Use. John Hyland asked how many properties in Washington would be affected. Laurie was unsure, but Arline suggested about 10.

Carol Andrews noted that the Legislature finds working farms important and hoped that the town of Washington does too.

Phil Barker asked if the Assessors will alert qualified owners. Arline replied that the Assessors will make the law known and it is the responsibility of the property owner to apply.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 27. Colleen Duggan moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$38,860.00) for the operation of the Shedd Free Library for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Colleen Duggan stated that this is the money needed to run the Library. Lionel Chute asked how this request compared to last year's and was told that it is exactly the same.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 28. Carolyn Russell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Dollars (\$46,585.00) for Health and Welfare for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ralph Otterson asked why money is being sent to the Newport food pantry. Carolyn Russell replied that Newport has perishable food items and services that it provides to Washington residents. Residents must now be qualified by the Washington welfare office to use Newport services. Some people go there because they are embarrassed to seek assistance in Washington. The cost of food vouchers for residents who use Newport's services would be more than the \$1,000.00 offered to Newport.

Jim Garvin asked about Old Age assistance and ACORN (people living with AIDS).

Linda Roy said that Old Age assistance must appear in case we have to use it.

Lionel Chute asked why there are no administration costs for community services.

Carolyn replied that the money for those programs is donated and the Town is not charged for those services. The administration costs for Health are paid to James Berry and costs for Welfare are paid to Carolyn Russell and Linda Roy.

Ronald Max asked why the Salvation Army is not offered money. Carolyn replied that they have never asked for donations from the Town.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 29. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$45,820.00) for Debt Service for the ensuing year. Seconded by Colleen Duggan.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 30. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars (\$49,857.00) for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and for Patriotic Purposes for the ensuing year. Seconded by Richard Cook.

Ralph Otterson moved to amend the Article to eliminate the dock contract and dock repairs. He said the docks are not used enough to warrant expense. Seconded by Hans Eccard. New total for the article would be \$45,657.00. Voice vote: not decisive.

Show of hands vote: Not passed.

Vivian Clark asked if the cost of proposed fireworks for Old Home Day had been included under Special Events and was told that it had not.

There was more discussion about the use, usefulness and cost of installing and maintaining the docks. This was followed by discussion about how money for Special Events is spent. Linda Roy noted that money paid by campers is reimbursed to the Town, so the money for Special Events does not balance out as a cost (page 71 of Town Report).

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 31. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) to support the Town's lake host program. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Ken Eastman discussed dangers of milfoil. This program pays people to sit on ramps and remove plant material from boats and educate boaters. It is currently only used on Millen Pond. Highland Lake is interested in participating, but the Washington side is private, with no public boat ramp. The Stoddard side has a public boat ramp and workers there assist in watching for milfoil.

The money will be dispensed with \$1,000.00 going to Millen Pond, and \$500.00 to Highland Lake.

Larry Gaskell asked why Smith Pond does not participate. Ken said the association has not applied. Gaskell replied that there is no association, but there is a public boat ramp. Lionel Chute asked if the state matches funds. Ken said no, but towns can qualify for grant money depending on the number of boats inspected. But, the number of boats required keeps going up, so Millen Lake will be less likely to qualify.

Janice Philbrick asked about native milfoil. Lionel Chute said there are actually several forms of milfoil and some are even endangered. Invasive varieties are the problem because they have no predators.

Ralph Otterson commented that the Millen Pond crew did a good job of checking boats. Charlie Eastman noted that there are many boaters who are not aware of the problem.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 32. Jack Sheehy moved that the Town authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Town Planning and Building Fund for all Town buildings and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) towards this purpose, and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Seconded by Jim Hofford.

Jack Sheehy said that since \$84,000.00 was being requested for plans for Town Hall, the Planning Board also wanted to get conceptual drawings of the firehouse and the Center schoolhouse to use for repairs and planning expanded use.

Jim Hofford made a motion to add \$20,000.00 to the article for plans for Town Hall and hoped the Town Hall committee would work with the Planning Board. Seconded by Diana Hanssen.

Bob Hofstetter asked if the fund would be used for painting town buildings and mentioned that Town Hall will require lead paint removal.

Carolyn Russell said no one is obligated to use any of the money for Town Hall. The money would be banked with no clear purpose.

Ronald Max demanded his name appear in the minutes for the town attorney to review. He declared that we have already shot down this proposal.

Voice vote on the proposed amendment: Not passed.

The general conclusion of the subsequent discussion was that the purpose of the money is unclear, though some felt it would allow pertinent information to be gathered about the use of all the Town buildings and not just Town Hall.

Voice vote: Not passed.

ARTICLE 33. Richard Cook moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$5,454.00) for a construction project to address security and privacy needs in the Town Hall. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the construction is complete or December 31, 2012 whichever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Rich Cook said this proposal is to create a working space for the welfare office and food pantry. The Selectmen are also considering installing a Dutch-type door or cameras to improve security. He said that Bill Cole provided an estimate for a partition wall and electricity for the welfare section in the back corner of Town Hall. Windows for the Tax Collector were considered but are not being pursued.

Lori Killam asked why the upstairs room over police station is not used and was told that it is not handicapped accessible.

Gwen Gaskell asked if this article will rescind 82-18 (no alterations to town buildings without permission of town meeting). Guy Eaton said this is town meeting approval with passage of this article.

Gwen asked if the structure would it be free standing, not permanent. Bill Cole said yes, the panels would be 7' high, 5' wide and well finished with doors, floor brackets and all would be removable.

Tom Taylor made a motion that for any construction in consideration of 82-18, the Selectmen are given the authority to make temporary alterations for security and

administrative reasons subject to one public hearing. Seconded by Larry Gaskell.

Voice vote: passed.

Jim Garvin made a motion to remove the non-lapsing clause. Seconded by Bob Wright.

Voice vote: passed.

Voice vote: passed as amended.

ARTICLE 34. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) for the renovation of Camp Morgan Lodge basement. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the renovation is complete or December 31, 2012 whichever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

This money is for completion of renovations that have already been started. There are no showers for shelter situations. One door requires a double-sided crash bar. Other projects include: improving the heating, repairing the roof over the basement entryway, leakage issues, electrical work, upgrading the drywall ceiling, painting, tile, installing a janitor's floor sink. Several residents asked about various aspects of the project and were answered by the Selectmen.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 35. Arline France moved that the Town vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Fund and Expendable Trust Fund with said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the municipality's general fund: Loader Fund – CRF \$5,930.08 and Landfill Closure Fund – ETF \$2,192.26. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

This will clean up the paper trail for accounts that are already closed out. Lionel Chute asked how long it would be before the old landfill is done. Ed Thayer said 23 years.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 36. Carol Andrews moved that the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A: 4-a, I (b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to “qualified organizations” for the purchase of property interest, or facilitating transactions relate thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property. Seconded by Rich Cook.

Carol Andrews said that the wording of this Article, which may not be altered, reflects changes in New Hampshire law. There is no expansion of conservation commission powers, only clarification of what is permitted.

In this case, the Town gives money for but does not retain an interest in a property. It is legal only if towns pass the warrant article. Conservation easements are less expensive than buying a property outright, but the property must be maintained. This article allows the Town to be released from stewardship.

There was some discussion about the benefits of this provision with residents raising various concerns.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 37. Carol Andrews moved that the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a I(a) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body. Seconded by Richard Cook.

This article allows the Town to purchase property outside of Town if there is a public interest for the Town.

Jim Hofford said he hoped we vote for it and thanked the Conservation Commission for their efforts.

Voice vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 38. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Bob Hofstetter made a motion to increase the Cost of Living increase to 5.8%

Voice vote: indecisive.

Aileen Chute made a motion to ask the Selectmen to encourage the Town Hall committee to continue to work and to provide another proposal next year.

Voice vote: passed as moved.

Ron Jager made comments about the articles that were voted down and the implications and possible future efforts to find money for renovations for Town Hall.

Al Krygeris announced that there is a Public Utilities Commission group looking into alternative energy funding, and money for improving weatherization. Lionel Chute added that there is also money available for solar water heating.

Larry Gaskell said that if we had more discussions, the Town Hall plans may have been accepted, so we should continue to pursue the project.

Guy Eaton announced that the copula from the Center schoolhouse has been fixed by Peter France and Bill Cole and when they can get assistance from the Lempster Fire Department it will be reinstalled.

Alan Dube made a motion that the Town have an abutter sale for defaulted properties. Voice vote: passed as moved.

Guy Eaton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 pm. Seconded by Richard Cook.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Colleen Duggan
Deputy Town Clerk**

A True Copy – Attest:

**Colleen Duggan
Deputy Town Clerk**