

State of New Hampshire
Minutes of Washington Town Meeting
March 13, 2012

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

Moderator Barbara Gaskell called the 236th 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 she would follow during the meeting. She informed the participants that she should be addressed as Madam Moderator. She emphasized that she would not be following Robert's Rules of Order and that the Town Moderator by law sets the rules for Town Meeting. She said that 5 voters must request a paper ballot or if voters disagree with how she rules on a vote, 7 voters must request a paper ballot. Tie votes on a paper ballot will render the article failed.

Moderator Gaskell introduced the Selectmen, Deputy Town Clerk, and Town Administrative assistant. She told those in attendance that hearing amplifiers were available to those with hearing difficulties. Moderator Gaskell called attention to the special ballot to vote on Planning Board changes. Nan Schwartz described the issues on the ballot including signage in town with regard to setbacks and what requires permits and clarifications for home based businesses (Cottage Industry). Printed packets outlining the changes were available.

The ballot box was shown to be empty and was locked by Moderator Gaskell who declared that the polls would open at 10:00 AM.

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

Selectman for three years

Guy Eaton 146

Jerry Klohs 12

Guy Eaton declared elected

Moderator for two years

Barbara Gaskell 154

Barbara Gaskell declared elected

Town Treasurer for one year

Lynda Roy 134

Janice Philbrick (write in) 19

Lynda Roy declared elected

Board of Assessors for three years

Kathleen Atkins 157

Kathleen Atkins declared elected

Cemetery Trustee for three years

Kathleen West 155

Kathleen West declared elected

Fire Chief for one year

Brian Moser 156

Brian Moser declared elected

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years

Arline France 159

Arline France declared elected

Supervisor of the Checklist (six years)

Yvonne Bachand 153

Yvonne Bachand declared elected

Supervisor of the Checklist (two years)

Marianne Garvin 84

Elizabeth Sargent 67

Marianne Garvin declared elected

Library Trustee for three years

Kathleen Nohavec 149

Kathleen Nohavec declared elected

Write-in candidates receiving fewer than five (5) votes are not recorded here. Of the registered voters in Washington 165 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. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

A list of corrections had already been compiled but the following corrections to the Town Report were presented:

Page:	Should be:	As Printed:
12	Sharon Oliveira	not listed as Welfare Administrator Assistant
82	Town taxpayers	by Town residents only

Voice vote passed as moved and corrected

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

- 1. To adopt Addition to Signage Ordinance**
Yes 96 No 45 Changes were passed
- 2. To adopt Addition to Minor Home Occupation Ordinance**
Yes 96 No 47 Changes were passed
- 3. To adopt Site Plan Regulation**
Yes 96 No 54 Passed as written

4. Definitions update:

All Definitions as listed: APPROVED	YES 86 NO 43	DEFINITION
1. Sign APPROVED	YES 88 NO 41	DEFINITION
2. Sign Area APPROVED	YES 88 NO 41	DEFINITION
3. Temporary Sign APPROVED	YES 92 NO 40	DEFINITION
4. Agricultural Sign APPROVED	YES 92 NO 39	DEFINITION
5. Commercial Sign APPROVED	YES 89 NO 43	DEFINITION
6. Freestanding Sign APPROVED	YES 88 NO 39	DEFINITION
7. Off-Premises Sign APPROVED	YES 89 NO 42	DEFINITION
8. Portable Sign APPROVED	YES 89 NO 43	DEFINITION
9. Disrepair APPROVED	YES 87 NO 43	DEFINITION

At this point, Selectman Guy Eaton gave the State of the Town address:

He noted there were both increases and decreases in the budget for the coming year. Increases are due to there being three elections this year and the primary decrease due to switching to a less expensive Health Benefit plan which saved \$48,000. Other increases included legal fees and the increase in cost for motor fuel. He noted that the Town employees received a 3.5% salary increase, the first salary increase in three years. The Town sold several tax deeded properties and realized \$43,000 from those sales. The Town tax rate dropped \$1.06 per thousand.

Other events this year were the replacement of the Mill St. culvert with a bridge following tropical storm Irene and the first annual Veteran's dinner which was organized by Bob Fraser, Tom Taylor and Ray Clark and hosted by the Senior Group. The event was well attended by Town residents and Senator Kelly Ayotte and Bob O'Dell. Flags were presented to veterans Charlie Fields, Tom Talpey, Don Leach and Anna Anelli.

Selectman Eaton thanked Samantha Cordeiro for the drawing of the Meetinghouse which appeared on the cover of this year's Town Report. He also remembered the residents who passed away last year: Marcellus Liotta, Lincoln Gilbert, Sara Krone, and Virginia McKinnon.

ARTICLE 3. [PETITIONED] To see if the voters in the Town of Washington will vote to remove the Chief of Police immediately. Whereas We, the voters and tax payers of the town of Washington are dissatisfied with the performance, behavior and effectiveness of the Police Chief we ask the Selectmen to remove, immediately, upon passage of the Warrant Article, the current Police Chief.

Moderator Gaskell read a letter from the Town of Washington's attorney that said, a petitioned article can be ruled void and unenforceable when, among other things the passage of the article results in some action that is not permitted by state statute. When that situation arises, the moderator can rule the article void and unenforceable and proceed to the next warrant article. Gaskell then proceeded to dismiss this unenforceable article.

Moderator Gaskell moved to Pass Over the Article.

ARTICLE 4. [PETITIONED] To see if the voters in the Town of Washington will vote to elect a Police Chief as allowed in RSA 41:47 which states (41:47 Election.-) "Any town at any annual meeting, under an article in the warrant for said meeting, may vote to elect by ballot one or more permanent constables or police chiefs or other police officers for full-time duty in said town and may rescind such action in like manner. No election of such a permanent constable of police chief or police officer shall be held until the next succeeding annual meeting after the vote of the town. Any police chief or police officer or constable elected at an annual meeting may serve a one-year, 2-year, or 3-year term, as determined by the town at such annual meeting."

Moderator Gaskell asked for a motion from the floor twice and when no motion was forthcoming moved to Pass Over the Article.

ARTICLE 5. Gwen Gaskell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for the planning and preparation of the Town Hall birthday party. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

At this point, Carolyn Russell moved to permit non-residents to speak at Town Meeting. Seconded by Guy Eaton.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

Annie Bissonette noted that there was a handout available reminding everyone that the Town Hall celebration would be August 11, 2012. The requested funds would be for an all day program on the Town Common, a town dinner, an ice cream social, and the premiere screening of the documentary about the Washington Meetinghouse.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

At this point Guy Eaton moved that Article 33 be addressed. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 33. Tom Marshall moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) from the fund balance (“Surplus”) to side, insulate and stain one exterior wall of the Town Hall. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the project has been completed or by December 31, 2017 whichever is sooner. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

The Selectmen want to expend money from the Capital Reserve Fund. They wanted to paint the entire Town Hall before the Meetinghouse celebration in August, but it cost too much to just paint. They realized that removal of lead paint would be an issue and brought samples of paint from several places on the building to be tested, and the results were that lead paint was present. They are exploring the options for the evaluation and removal of the lead paint.

The current proposal is to redo the front of the building before altering the current floor plan and to continue to redo one side of the building at a time each year.

Redoing each side of the building includes adding insulation, replacing the clapboards and repainting. They have solicited estimates and schedules from several contractors. They prefer to replace the old clapboards rather than refurbish them. They are currently waiting to hear from the Register of Historic Places regarding what alterations and improvements are acceptable for the building.

The Architects are the project managers. The goal is to start the front of the building in the spring in order to have it finished by August.

Jim Gaskell asked if the plan was to stain or paint. Marshall replied that had yet to be determined, but using an oil-based primer with stain on the front was a possibility.

Gaskell noted that the paint applied over the stain before has cracked and wondered if that could be avoided. Marshall replied that has yet to be determined.

Tom Burt asked about the possibility of using cedar clapboards. Marshall replied that for historical considerations spruce would likely be used. Burt commented that spruce would cost more and need to be re-stained.

Jerry Klohs asked if hardy plank, a concrete-based board had been considered. Marshall reiterated that historical considerations must be taken into account.

John Hyland asked if alternatives would be possible for sides other than the front. Marshall again replied that the Town must defer to historical considerations.

Mike Otterson moved that the article be amended to add the words “or paint”.

Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

No discussion

Voice Vote: Amendment passed

Jerry Klohs noted the importance of ventilation with lathe strips. Marshall agreed and noted that they had been suggested.

Allan Dube asked if cedar were considered as an alternative to spruce would there be enough money to cover the cost. Marshall felt confident that the requested amount would be adequate, but noted there were many unknowns including the state of abatement. He also noted that currently available commercial boards would not be an alternative and that the Town must use custom cut boards.

Tom Burt asked how the price was determined. Marshall replied that the quote factored in millwork costs and the only difference would be in using spruce vs. cedar. The consulting contractors have seemed comfortable with the budgeted amount.

Voice Vote: passed as amended

ARTICLE 6. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$403,618.00) to defray the costs of General Government for the ensuing year. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Jim Hofford asked which buildings were considered general government buildings. Guy replied these were the Police Department, the Town Hall and Camp Morgan.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 7. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Thirty One Dollars (\$112,431.00) for the operation of the Police Department for the ensuing year. Ken Eastman seconded the motion.

Police Chief Steve Marshall noted that this budget is \$400 less than last year and that some lines went up but insurance costs went down. He pointed out the display outlining police activity over the past year. Jim Hofford noted the support that had been evidenced by town residents and

hoped that with what had been accomplished in Washington that we not dwell on personality conflicts. Directing attention to the town report he noted that many traffic stops were warnings and requested applause for Chief Marshall who appreciated the recognition.

Jerry Klohs asked Chief Marshall how many cases had been solved. Chief Marshall answered that not all calls are crimes and that not all cases are solved.

Laurie Dube offered her experience with Chief Marshall in resolving a bad check problem. Chief Marshall also mentioned efforts to get necessary equipment from surplus outlets and other places where items can be purchased less expensively.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 8. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to be added to the Police Cruiser Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 9. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$369,956.00) for operation of the Public Works Department for the ensuing year. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Director of Public Works Ed Thayer pointed out that the department has saved money due to Michelle Dagesse's efforts to find less expensive health insurance. Jim Hofford asked if the fuel expenses were in this budget. Ed pointed out they were included in the general budget.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 10. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) for the paving of Lempster Mountain Road overlay; the appropriation will

be offset with any Highway Block Grant Funds received. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer noted that this money would be used for the completion of the second mile of Lempster Mountain Road construction and that the Town anticipated receiving \$54,000 from the State.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 11. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) from the Fund Balance for construction or reconstruction road projects in addition to the regular maintenance budget. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer noted that this would include additional asphalt on East Washington Road or wherever it would be needed. The actual costs may change. Jerry Klohs asked whether grinding up the existing asphalt to reuse with gravel and concrete had been considered. Thayer answered that he had seen this method used in Hancock, NH but that it would be cost prohibitive.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 12. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000.00) from the fund balance for the engineering, permitting and rehabilitation of the Faxon Hill Road culvert. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the culvert is complete or by December 2017, whichever is sooner. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer pointed out that this is the culvert just before Millen Pond Rd. The road was overrun during tropical storm Irene and the current culvert is not adequate for flooding. If it failed, access to the elementary school and Camp Morgan would be cut off. A concrete box culvert will be installed.

Allan Chidester asked what kind of detouring would be required during the construction. Thayer replied that he did not know yet. Aileen Chute pointed out that the camp is an emergency shelter and wondered if the culvert would be adequate. Thayer replied that the new one would be over 5 times

larger than the current one and would have to be permitted by the State in order to be installed, but there are no guarantees.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

At this point, Moderator Gaskell declared that it was 10:00 AM and the polls were open.

ARTICLE 13. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from the previously established Recycling Equipment Fund for the purpose of purchasing a roll-off container for use at the Transfer Station. Ken Eastman seconded the motion.

Thayer noted that the revenues generated by the recycling program are put into this fund, which is used to purchase equipment. It currently has \$4,500.00.

Lionel Chute indicated his support of the program and asked what the life span of a roll off container is. Thayer replied that they do not last as long as they used to and that there is a limited vendor selection. The Town is still replacing 20 year old containers.

Jerry Klohs asked if the Town could have a container made locally to our own specifications. Thayer replied that one to his specifications would weigh too much. Norman Brissette asked how many containers we have. Thayer replied that we have eight.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 14. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to add to the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer noted that this Capital Reserve Fund is for equipment. The Town plans to replace the dump body on a 15 year old truck. The amount for this article was reduced so the funds could be applied to a subsequent article.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 15. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$129,460.00) to add to the previously established Bridge Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, said sum to come from the Fund Balance, of which Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$79,460.00) is from anticipated FEMA Reimbursement. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer reported that the increase to the Capital Reserve Fund for bridges was due to the Dole Schoolhouse Bridge needing replacement. The current weight limit is too low and the culvert is in poor condition. The Town wants to replace the culvert with a bridge without waiting for municipal aid in order to get it done faster. We would have to wait until 2018 for reimbursement, and Thayer is not confident that the culvert will last that long. A sinkhole has developed and water passing around the culvert needs to be addressed now. Planned replacement in 2011 was preempted by the loss of the Mill St culvert.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 16. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000.00) for the purpose of installing a new wood boiler at the Public Works Garage. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the Wood Boiler is complete or by December 2017, whichever is sooner. Seconded by Tom Marshall.

Thayer explained that because of continually increasing fuel costs, the Town is looking to offset heating costs by installing an alternative heating source in the Public Works Garage. He did not know what would ultimately be purchased (pellet, outdoor wood stove) and planned to investigate costs. The Town is looking for a more sustainable fuel source that can be purchased locally. A new heat source is not included in the Capital Improvement Plan, but it is recommended by the Energy Committee.

Allan Dube asked if this wording would limit the purchase to a wood boiler. Thayer replied that he felt the interpretation included other options. Rick Niven asked if solar heating had been considered and pointed out that

labor would be required to feed a wood boiler. Thayer asked where solar panels would be installed.

Kathleen West noted that pellets are more expensive than wood and that recycled wood could be used. Thayer agreed that there would be benefits to both and noted that outdoor boilers need to meet federal standards now. A wood boiler would require 27-30 cords of wood per year. All expenses need to be considered.

Jerry Klohs felt that the Public Works building would be ideal for solar and that the sides could be made of glass for lighting. He mentioned the current need for backup generators in town and asked if anyone knew how much they cost. Klohs pointed out that he has lived off the grid for 20 years. He asked how much it cost per year to maintain the generators and was told it costs \$175.00 per year.

John Pasioka noted that he supports pellets.

John Pasioka moved that the language in the article be changed to “biomass or alternative energy sources”.

Aileen Chute asked if the words wood boiler could remain, or if biomass could be left out so potential sources would not be excluded.

John Pasioka agreed to move that the words “wood boiler” be replaced with “alternative energy systems”.
There were several seconds.

Lionel Chute wondered if geothermal or other options had been considered but deferred to Thayer.

Phil Barker pointed out that geothermal heat pumps require 3 phase electricity that the Town does not have.

Thayer did not oppose proposals for alternatives to wood and noted that they may be feasible and worth investigating. He did note that the Town is working with an existing building, not designing a new one. Clear glass panels are not a good option because they would require an insulation barrier. The Town does not want to purchase a new furnace and he did not know when a possible change would be made.

Bill Cole then asked what the existing solar panels do. Do they generate any extra electricity? Pellet stoves require electricity too. Thayer replied that the Public Works building does not actually use the electricity generated by the solar panels. That electricity goes back into the power grid and the amount generated is deducted from the electric bill for the building. The Town has not paid any charges for electricity for the Public Works building since the panels were turned on.

Jerry Klohs asked if any maintenance was required for the panels. Thayer replied that they would need to be washed once a year, but no snow removal has been needed yet.

Voice vote: Amendment passed

Voice Vote: passed as amended

ARTICLE 17. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the fund balance (“Surplus”) to install a new Leach Field for the Camp Morgan septic system. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the Leach Field is complete or by December 2017, whichever is sooner. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

The Town is asking for funds in \$10,000 increments up to \$50,000 to install a new Leach Field. The work will be done by the Public Works department and the money would be for materials. The Leach Field plan has already been approved and would be installed next to the large parking lot.

Jerry Klohs asked why a new leach field was being installed. Eastman replied that the current field is across the street and waste water is being pumped there.

Klohs asked if composting toilets had been considered. Eastman replied they had not because the building is an emergency shelter for the Town and required a reliable, familiar septic system.

Phil Barker noted that the current system consists of an open pit lagoon.

Aileen Chute asked if any parking space would be lost. Eastman replied no. Bill Cole asked what kind of tree cutting would be done. Ed Thayer replied that the plan included the bath house at the beach and would accommodate 200 people as a maximum load and that trees would be removed. He noted it is an Envirotube plan which is less expensive and would not impact the parking lot. That in fact it would be closer to Millen Pond Rd and some pine trees would be removed.

Tom Burt asked for confirmation that the design had already been completed.

Rick Niven clarified that point by noting that the system was half built already. The infrastructure of tanks and piping is done, leaving just the leach field. The old system has been used because of the need to raise funds to complete a new one. He said about 50-60 feet of trees would be cut.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 18. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$105,623.00) for the operation of the Solid Waste Recycling Center and for the Landfill Closure for the ensuing year. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Thayer noted that this request had been reduced from last year due to the reduction in health insurance costs. He pointed out the new sign at the recycling facility that indicates the savings generated by the solar panel and recycling.

Lionel Chute asked what the \$1,000 for electricity was for. Thayer replied that the Transfer Station electricity is not credited, only the Public Works building. Chute asked if there was not enough electricity produced. Thayer replied there was but it is not credited to the Transfer Station. The meter is in the highway garage.

Phil Barker asked if the panels are generating more electricity than Public Works is using, does PSNH send the Town a check. Thayer replied that the Public Works building receives kilowatt hour credits for what is not used.

These credits have been used because the panels do not generate all that is used every month.

John Hyland asked if the panels are generating more than the Public Works building uses, why can't the credits be applied to another account. He claimed it was our choice. Thayer agreed that this should be looked into.

Carolyn Bullock asked if a surplus was expected. Thayer again agreed that the possibility of applying credits to the Transfer Station should be considered.

Jim Hofford noted the impressive report on page 98 and asked if revenue could be improved. Thayer admitted that Pay as You Throw programs reduced the amount of recyclables that end up in the trash. He also pointed out that Washington has the highest recycling rate in Sullivan County.

John Pasieka noted that our Recycling Center is used as a model for others. He asked if the white picket fence could be fixed.

Jim Hofford asked if Pay as You Throw should be presented as a warrant article next year. Thayer replied that it has not been well received.

Amy Mitchell-Hartson asked which plastics are recycled. Thayer replied those with the numbers 1-5 are currently recycled and the remainder are thrown away.

Jim Gaskell asked how much profit is generated from scrap metal. Thayer replied that revenue is generated. Jim suggested that residents clean scrap metal from out of the woods and bring it to the Transfer Station.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 19. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) for Emergency Management for the ensuing year. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 20. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) to be added to the Health Insurance Reimbursable Account previously established. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Linda Roy asked if this money was needed because there was \$14,528.00 in the account already and the Town expended less than \$6,000 last year. Dagesse replied that the Town got a large request of \$5,000 at the end of the 2011 so this amount was needed.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 21. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$78,139.00) for the operation of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department for the ensuing year. Bob Wright seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

At this point Bob Wright pointed out that a representative for the Lucas Machine was present to demonstrate the machine. Pete Landry displayed the physiocontrol mechanical CPR device. He pointed out that for towns purchasing the machine, Concord Hospital would pay for half of the cost. He noted that the new guidelines for mechanical CPR done in the back of a moving ambulance would be impossible to perform. This device does it perfectly, and allows providers to offer other care.

Jim Hofford confirmed that the cost was \$13,000 and that Concord Hospital would pay half of that cost.

Ellen Hofford asked how it was powered. Landry replied that it uses a Lithium battery AC power and can be deployed in the house and continue consistent application while moving.

Allan Chidester asked if it has pediatric applications and was told it is approved for children 8 years and older.

Bob Wright noted that the device had been demonstrated at the senior lunch and that the cost is being absorbed by private donations and that more donations would be welcomed.

ARTICLE 22. Bob Wright moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to add to the Rescue Squad Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Fifteen thousand is to come from taxation and Ten Thousand will come from the Ambulance Billing Fund. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Allan Chidester asked when the ambulance was scheduled to be replaced. Wright replied that the original plan was to replace it in 2013, but there will not be enough funds then so they are hoping to replace it in 2014.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 23. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to add to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund that has been previously established. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Moser noted that the Emergency Equipment Fund currently has \$70,000 in it. The Fire Department has previously requested \$30,000 a year but they have recently purchased a tanker and there are no anticipated equipment purchases.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 24. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$31,344.00) for Emergency Communications for the ensuing year. Bob Wright seconded the motion.

Moser noted that this money is used for all of the emergency communications in town. There is a new narrow band requirement that renders the older radios and pagers not compliant so they must be replaced. All of the old trucks need to be upgraded and a mobile repeater is needed for the police cruiser in order for it to reach the dispatch center from outlying areas.

Jim Hofford noted the report on page 91 and remarked what a blessing our communication system is. He proclaimed that the Town should commend Ed Thayer as a national treasure. Applause.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 25. Lynn Cook moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Revaluation Fund. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Lynn Cook noted that money is added to this fund every year so it does not need to be raised all at once.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 26. Melissa Cole moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$45,697.00) for the operation of the Shedd Free Library for the ensuing year. Bob Wright seconded the motion.

Melissa Cole pointed out that library circulation has increased and that the Library returned \$1,300 that was unused from its budget the previous year. Lionel Chute noted that he is an advocate of the library but noticed that there was no breakdown for the Library budget. This information is available at Town Hall.

It was also noted that there was a display of library services and a map showing where ILL services are shared around the state.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 27. Carolyn Russell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Two Dollars (\$48,722.00) for Health and Welfare for the ensuing year. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Carolyn Russell noted that the Welfare Department has received some significant donations, which have been used to support the food pantry which is used by many residents who do not use any other services. Donations can also be used in exceptional cases of need. This money is separated from town money and is deposited in its own account so that

donations can all be accounted for. She thanked everyone who has supported the Welfare Department.

Nancy Tanner asked if only \$8,400 was used last year for general welfare, why is the Town requesting \$33,000 this year. Russell noted that aid from State and Federal agencies has been reduced and the Town needs to be ready to provide whatever aid is requested. It is better to over budget rather than scramble for needed funds.

Jim Hofford asked if there had been a budget increase. Russell replied that there had been none. Hofford commended Russell for her work and discussed the Community Garden contributions to the food pantry. He asked how many families had used Welfare services. Russell replied about 20 (see report). Russell noted that the Food Pantry has no way to store perishable food items so they must be immediately distributed to those who will use them. She was pleased that all of the donated produce was used and said she wanted to continue receive Community Garden produce in the future.

Denise Roberts asked what Old Age Assistance was. Russell replied that service organizations outside the Town of Washington request donations from the Town because Town residents may use them. The Town has supported these organizations for many years. Guy Eaton noted that there was no request from Old Age Assistance so nothing was budgeted for it.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

At this point, Ed Thayer and Janice Philbrick asked if the meeting could break for lunch.

Selectman Eaton presented the second Annual Rich Cook Award for Community Service to Steve Hanssen. Eaton read a poem that remarked on the many ways Mr. Hanssen has contributed and participated as a volunteer in Washington. Mr. Hanssen was presented with a plaque.

Selectman Eaton then remarked on the retirement of Janice Philbrick as Tax Collector and she was presented with a silver Piggy Bank in recognition of her many years of service.

Eaton then announced that cake would be available during the lunch break and several residents were celebrating birthdays during March including: Chief Steve Marshall, Jan Bissonette, Cindy Eaton, Bobby Crane, Tom Talpey, Erin Thayer, Bob Wright, Michael Pon.

Moderator Gaskell announced a break for lunch at 11:40 and that the Meeting would resume at 12:45.

The Meeting reconvened at 12:45.

Moderator Gaskell announced that the 4th and 5th graders would be coming to the Meeting at 1:15.

Gwen Gaskell announced that glass suncatcher medallions were being sold by the Historical Society for \$5.00 each.

ARTICLE 28. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$40,887.00) for Debt Service for the ensuing year. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Dagesse noted that there was one payment remaining for the Blakney gravel pit.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 29. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Four Dollars (\$52,924.00) for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and for Patriotic Purposes for the ensuing year. Tom Marshall seconded the motion.

Eaton noted that several buildings need to be spruced up including reshingling, painting and roofing beyond what could be accomplished with volunteers. There is an increase in the payroll line because of expenses related to training for counselors for water safety. There is a band concert scheduled for this year.

Jim Hofford asked what the special events are this year. Eaton mentioned the Easter Egg hunt and camp trips.

Lionel Chute wondered if the lake host program would ever be part of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 30. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to support the Town's lake host program. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Ken Eastman asked if anyone present did not know what milfoil is and what it can do to a lake. He reminded everyone that the State provides matching funds for volunteers to man public boat ramps and to remove plant material from boats. The program is always looking for more volunteers.

Janice Philbrick asked how many lakes in town apply. Eastman replied that Millen Pond and Highland Lake participate. In order to participate a body of water must qualify with the State. It must have a public boat ramp and willing volunteers to assist and fill out biweekly and a yearly report.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 31. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to add to the previously established capital reserve Town Building Fund. Jim Hofford seconded the motion.

Guy Eaton reminded everyone that this fund was started last year and this money will be added to it. It may be used for any building in Town except for Town Hall. No requests to use the money in this fund have been made yet. Aileen Chute confirmed that funding for the Town Hall would come from other sources.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 32. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for the continued improvements to Camp Morgan Lodge. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the

improvements have been completed or by December 31, 2017 whichever is sooner. Guy Eaton seconded the motion.

Ken Eastman reviewed the ongoing efforts to maintain the Camp Morgan lodge including new siding, new windows and new bathrooms. The flooring in the main room needs to be redone at a cost of about \$3,500. The building would need to be closed for about a week. The Town would also like to address water leaks, a new sink for mop water, a roof over the basement entry, a new sprayer and a new furnace.

Comments were made about what the floor should be refinished with, perhaps something more durable than the current pine boards. Reflooring with a different material would cost significantly more than refinishing the wood.

There was subsequent discussion about how to maintain the improvements to the building. Several residents felt that people who rent the hall should be responsible for damage to the paint when tape is applied. It was generally agreed that deposits should be retained if damage is found after a function. It was noted that sometimes Town organizations that are not paying to use the building are responsible for the damage. Suggestions were made for ways to prevent tape from being used. Other residents questioned how new damage can be recognized and documented. Bob Fraser noted that the main room had been painted twice by the senior group at no cost to the Town.

Jim Hofford asked if the \$10,000 previously allocated for town buildings included Camp Morgan Lodge and if there had been other money set aside previously for this building. Eastman replied that there had been money set aside and that it had already been used. It was noted that rentals of the Lodge have decreased over the past year.

Tom Marshall wondered that since residents seem proud of the building and maintaining security is an issue if an increase in the amount of the security deposit be justified. He indicated that the Town should be more proactive about preventing and repairing damage.

At this point, Hans Eccard rose and commented that the print in the Town Report was too small to read. Michelle Dagesse said that an 8" x 10" copy would cost less and could have larger print. But people say the current

size fits on the shelf. Michelle will try to get next year's report printed with a larger font!

Voice Vote: passed as moved

At this point the 4th and 5th graders from the Elementary School were welcomed.

ARTICLE 34. Steve Hanssen moved that the Town vote to establish as town forest under RSA 31:110 the following tract(s) or parcel(s) of land: TM#12-180, South Main Street the parcel abuts what is known as the meadow; TM#16-083, East Washington Road and TM#25-089, Valley Road, and to authorize the forestry committee to manage the town forest under the provision of RSA 31:112, II, and to authorize the placement of any proceeds that may accrue from management of this land into the forest maintenance fund, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:113. Bob Fraser seconded the motion.

Phil Barker asked where these parcels are located. Jed Schwartz brought up a map, and pointed out the locations of three very tiny lots adjacent to lots already owned by the Town.

Schwartz explained that the Planning Board examined all of the tax deeded lots that were recommended for sale or conservation.

Jim Gaskell asked what the acreage of the lots was. Schwartz replied that they were all under 5 acres.

Phil Barker asked what value these lots had as town forest. Schwartz replied that the lots are unbuildable and do not offer much financial revenue from taxes so to keep the lots themselves from being altered, they were added to adjacent Town owned lots.

Larry Gaskell pointed out that they fall under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Committee because that committee is the only one available to hold town owned undeveloped land.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

ARTICLE 35. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Lionel Chute reminded everyone that the Community Garden would continue. There are 2 possible 10 x 10 squares available. The soil has been tested and fertilized.

John Pasioka wanted to clarify donated funds for fire and rescue. He noted that the Fire and Rescue Volunteer Corps are separate entities from the departments themselves. Members of these corps do not have to be on the Rescue Squad or Fire Department, but should be familiar with what these groups do. These corps were started in 1999 to allow larger companies to make tax deductible donations. (Osram once made matching gifts). Today these donations have fallen off. Pasioka wanted to clarify that access to these funds is restricted. Requests for expenditures of these funds must be made to the officers and board members of the corps. Such requests can be declined. Disbursements are made with discretion. The Fire Volunteer Corps currently has \$1,691.00. The Rescue Squad Volunteer Corps has \$35,957.07. Their most recent request was for \$12,000 of which \$10,000 was given for the purchase of a washer, blankets and rescue suits.

Grace Jager noted that the names of those on the Rescue Squad were not printed in the Town Report. Jim Hofford asked if the names could be read. Bob Wright read the names of participating members. He noted that the squad is always looking for new members. Applause for rescue squad members.

Jan Philbrick requested applause for the school children in attendance and noted that they had collected food donations for the food pantry. Moderator Barbara Gaskell noted how well they had behaved. Carolyn Russell pointed out that there was a photo of delivery of food donations in the Town Report. She also reminded everyone that the Meetinghouse Committee was looking for demonstrations of skills for the Meetinghouse Celebration. She

then elaborated on the efforts of the Meetinghouse Committee and invited everyone to a sneak preview of the Meetinghouse documentary that is currently in production at the April meeting of the Historical Society.

Police Chief Steve Marshall mentioned that there is a trailer for the movie that was partially filmed in Washington and reminded everyone that there will be a drug takeback day on April 28.

Tom Marshall reminded everyone that last year the Selectmen were asked to address tax deeded properties and they accomplished this. He commended Nan Schwartz for walking every property and noted that some lots are still available and will be re-listed. He recognized the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission for their efforts.

Guy Eaton composed and read a poem about Washington's national treasure, Ed Thayer!

Guy Eaton moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 PM. Barbara Gaskell seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: passed as moved

Respectfully submitted by,

**Colleen Duggan
Deputy Town Clerk**

A True Copy – Attest:

**Colleen Duggan
Deputy Town Clerk**