BRISTOL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 13, 2010

Bristol, NH Grafton,SS

To the inhabitants of the town of Bristol in the County of Grafton and the State of New Hamsphire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Old Town Hall on Summer St in said Bristol on Tuesday the 9th day of March, next at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Articles 1 through 8, and for Newfound Area School District Articles 1 through 7, and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening; and your are further hereby notified to meet at the Newfound Memorial High School, on Newfound Road in said Bristol on Saturday, the 13th day of Marsh, next at 9:00 o'clock am at which time action will be taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant.

Article 1 To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing, the results are as follows: Total votes cast 541. Selectmen for one year James Robison 122; Jeffrey Shackett 340; Roy Farr 49; Selectmen for three years, Richard Walenda 73; Rick Alpers 196; Mark Chevalier 192; Philip Dion 208; Robert Gilbert Sr 170; Jeffrey Goodrum 100. Budget Committee for one year Tom Keegan 418; Budget Committee for three years Ron Preble 307; Jon Thouin 188; Dan Arseneau 224; Robert Dudley Jr 131; Dorcas Gordon 417; Shawn Lagueux 162. Cemetery Trustee for three years Ronald Preble 435; Moderator Edward "Ned" Gordon 486; Supervisor of the Checklist David Hill 408; Library Trustee for two years, no candidates Library Trustee for three years Glenn Dorr 396; Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years no candidates.

Article 2: By Petition: To have the Town of Bristol return to a selectmen form of government and dissolve the Town Manager Plan Chapter 37 as voted on in the 2006 Town Warrant Yes 254 No 233

Zoning Ballot

Article 3 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planing Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 1, if adopted will specify that septic system setbacks and development setbacks near wetlands shall be measured from the boundary of the Wetlands overlay Conservation District rather than from "any wetland" or "a wetland" as is currently specified. Relief from wetlands restrictions will require the issuance of a special use permit by the Planning Board after consultation with the Conservation Commission".
Yes 322 No 177

Article 4 "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.2 as proposed by the Planing Board for the Town Zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No.2 if adopted, will allow a single shed per residential structure on any lit in the Lake District regardless of other building restrictions that exist in that district. Sheds constructed under this provision could have a maximum size of 150 square feet and a maximum height of 13

feet, and would have to comply with existing building setbacks and restrictions on lot coverage by structures. This amendment also creates a definition for "shed"
Yes 293 No 212

Article 5 "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No.3 if adopted, will remove the requirement that relief from the building restrictions in the Lake District be based on a use variance rather than an area variance. This would bring the affected articles into compliance with State law, which no longer distinguishes between these two types of variance".
Yes 351 No 142

Article 6: "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No.4, if adopted, will create controls on development on steep slopes and near ridgelines. The steep slope provisions apply where the slope exceeds 15% and the proposed site disturbance exceeds 10,000 square feet. Construction activity in such areas will require a conditional use permit granted by the Planning Board after consultation with Conservation Commission and review of analysis and detailed plans submitted by the developer. This amendment also specifies performance standards regarding the trimming of trees, retention of existing natural features, cut and fill ratios and maximum driveway slope. No structure is permitted on an extremely steep slope (exceeding 25%) or extending above the ridgeline"
Yes 315 No 185

Article 7: "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 5, if adopted, will create specific exemptions to the existing restrictions on off-premises signs and regulate the location, size and period of display of such signs. Off premises sign permitted by this amendment include real estate, yard sale, non-profit event and agricultural retail sale signs."
Yes 294 No 212

Article 8 "Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 6, if adopted will recognize the State Building Code as the applicable building code for the Town of Bristol. This amendment establishes the position of Building Inspector, who will have the authority to issue building permits and certificates of use and occupancy, and to perform inspections as required to insure compliance with the code. Certificates of use and occupancy will be required for initial occupancy of a structure, when changes requiring a building permit are made, or when use of the structure is changed. Provision is made for timely issuance of certificates of use and occupancy and for temporary certificates of use and occupancy before final completion of a project. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to establish fees for inspections and permits, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment is designated as the Building Code Board of Appeals. The effective date of the ordinance is June 1, 2010.
Yes 233 No 275

Ned Gordon, Moderator opened the meeting at 9:00AM, stating that Bristol was incorporated in 1819 and this is the 191st Town Meeting. Paul Fraser, Chairman of the Selectmen was asked to introduce the Board of Selectmen that were present, Joe Denning, Rick Alpers, and Don Milbrand. Absent, Jeff Shackett. Andrew Hemingway, Chairman of the Budget Committee was asked to introduce the members of the Budget Committee; Dorcas Gordon, David Carr, Dan Arseneau, Ron Preble, Ashley Dolloff, Jon Thouin, Shawn Lagueux, Paul Simard, Dan Bouchard, Wendy Costigan, and Barbara Greenwood. Paul Weston, Town Manager was asked to introduce the Department Heads, John Clark, Chief of Police, Steve Yanuzzi, Chief of the Fire Department, Mark Bucklin, Highway Supervisor, Michelle Bonsteele, Landuse Officer, Jeff Chartier, Public Works Superintendent.

Rev Hedstrom from the United Church of Christ offered a prayer, and Ned asked Sylvia Bailey to start the Pledge of Allegiance. Ned explained that this meeting is to be run fair and efficient, and he will try to be sure that anyone that wants to speak gets the chance. Ned spoke about Richard Walenda, that for 16 years Richard had always been to the left of Ned at Town Meetings, and that Richard would be missed this year, as he had a debilitating stroke, and it is hoped that he will be back next year.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, seven hundred forty thousand, eight hundred ninety-seven dollars (1,740,897) to build an addition to the Library and renovate the existing Library building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than the amount of one million, seven forty thousand, sight hundred ninety seven dollars (1,740,897.) of bond or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first bond payment will be included in the 2011 budget. (2/3 ballot vote required to pass)

A motion was made by Paul Fraser to accept Article 9, 2nd by Rick Alpers. Paul gave a quick history of the Library building. He also noted that the Library staff, trustees and the friends of the Library had been very busy doing fundraisers. Also that bond rates are low right now, and contractors are looking for work, so that this may be a good time to proceed with the project. George Corrette spoke next stating that he has worked on this project for the past 10 years, over the years, people have wanted to enlarge the library, 1956 there were very similar plans for expansion that we are trying for today.
The Trustees have applied for stimulus money, the money is out there, but not sure if the library would get it yet. This money would completely renovate the existing building and add the new building; it would bring the old building up to code. It would double the library in size. The trustees know the economy is bad now, but this project would be good for numerous other reasons. With the downtown project may help the whole downtown area.

The cost over the ten-year period would start out at 44 cents per thousand and go down 31 cents at the end of the ten years. If the $250,000.00 stimulus money comes through it would be less than the amounts listed above. George Corrette thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for supporting this.

After this there was much discussion as to why some felt it should go through for the betterment of the Town, people that don't have computers have a place to go to use them, some thought it was to much money, others wanted to know if it infringed on the Wetlands. It was noted that the Library is above flood plain.

At this time 10:10 am Ned called for a vote. This needs to be a 2/3 margin, so a ballot vote was done. The polls were open for an hour.

The number of ballots cast: 268; Yes:148 No:120. Needed 179 to pass. The article failed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-eight million dollars ($28,000,000-gross budget for the purpose of constructing sanitary sewer lines to the southerly end of Newfound Lake, and to authorize the issuance of not more than seven million ($7,000,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; with twenty-one million dollars ($21,000,000) to come from federal or sate or other aid, if any which may be available and to do all things necessary to carry out the purpose of this appropriation. This appropriation and bond authorization are to be effective only if the Town has received a binding commitment for the receipt of the offsetting grant funds. (2/3 ballot vote required)

A motion was made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Don Milbrand. Burt Williams requested to speak on this article, he stated that 28 million dollars needs to be raised for this project and that we are not ready to vote on this yet. We are close to getting 21 million, and then another 1 million after that, from stimulus money. There would be 984 new users on the system, and the Town is not proposing to put this on taxation. This project would be paid for by grant money and the users. The town will know within 30-45 days if they have received this money. The town would have to have a special Town Meeting, after we know if we have the money. Burt stated that there is 8 billion waiting to be used in stimulus money, and this needs to be decided before September. Rick Alpers made a motion to table Article 10; Don Milbrand seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken, the motion passed.

Article 11: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate four hundred ninety seven thousand dollars ($497,000) for the Bristol Central Square Enhancement Project, with three hundred ninety-seven thousand, six hundred dollars ($397,600(80%) coming from the NH Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Grant Program and ninety nine thousand, four dollars ($99,400(20%) to be raised by property taxes as

required by the NH Department of Transportation for the Town's matching share of the project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the Enhancement Project is completed or by December 31, 2014, whichever is sooner. The project will provide the following items to be constructed:

Provide pedestrians with safe, new and reconstructed crosswalks, as well as take out the curve as you come down Summer St. (Route 104) into the Bristol Central Square.

Provide ramps, curbs and wide-paved shoulders for pedestrians, bicycles and non-motorized vehicles.

Improve the landscaping with scenic beautification of Bristol Square.

Create bio-retention, new parking and landscaped areas to support pedestrians, bicycles, and non-motorized vehicles.
Install more efficient and effective lighting associated with the new crosswalks and bicycle lanes, which lead to businesses, schools, and parks.

Conduct educational safety activities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized vehicles proved by the Bristol Police Department and the Newfound Area School District.

Review the present sign inventory and remove all non-compliant outdoor advertising.

(Requires a simple majority to pass)

A motion was made by Joe Denning, seconded by Don Milbrand. Joe spoke on the article explaining a few things; there were would major changes in the Central Square area. Repair of sidewalks, removing the bank parking lot, reclaim the common so that things could go on, on the common, smooth out the curve coming down Summer St., storm drains, bike lane from South Main St to North Main Street. North Main St. may become one-way going north to Union Street. The school is receiving a grant this summer for work on a parking lot; it is an 80-20 grant.

Steve Favorite spoke on the project that it has been an on going project for 40 years, we are very close to the top of the list for grant money.

There was much discussion on the one way going north on North Main Street, Joe explained that none of this is set in stone, that there will be numerous meetings on this before the project is started. There was concern about lights and traffic, also if the sewer project goes through, it should be coordinated with this project. Susan Duncan had an amendment to read: To amend Warrant Article 11 to state that North Main St shall not be made a one-way, 2nd by Janet Cote. This amendment is to protect the neighborhoods that are off of North Main Street. It was suggested that the big picture should be looked at and vote against the amendment, also that we should retain the working relationship that we have with the businesses and discuss this one way at one of the later meetings.

A vote was taken on the amendment only. *The amendment was defeated by voice vote.*

Susan Duncan made an amendment: If in conjunction with this Article, North Main Street is made a one-way street, that North Main Street shall be one-way from the intersection with Pleasant Street in the Square up to Union Street with appropriate traffic controls installed. 2nd by Rick Alpers. She felt that traffic could come down from the Lake and go down Union St, or come up from the Square and go down Union Street. There was some discussion on this concerning parades and such. It was suggested that some of this could be discussed at the meetings that will be taking place before the square is done. A vote was taken on the amendment only. *The amendment was defeated by voice vote.*

There was more discussion on Central Square; it was felt that the Square has a lot of potential, and that traffic lights should be installed. It was noted that this has been a project that has been talked about for over 40 years and that you can not cross the square safely or any street coming into the square safely. At this time an Amendment by Walter Waring, 2nd by Mike Bannan was read: I would like to make an amendment that a light go up first. It was stated that there will be meetings before the square is totally designed and that an amendment like this would only hurt the project from going forward. A vote was taken on the amendment only. *The amendment was defeated by voice vote.*

At this time a voice vote was taken on the original article. *The article passed.*

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million, one hundred four thousand and twenty dollars (5,104,020) for general municipal operations.

A motion was made by Andrew Hemingway, 2nd by Ashley Dolloff. Andrew explained how and why the budget committee came up with these figures, that they tried to keep the budgeted amounts as low as possible, but still consider what the needs are, and that there were a lot of cuts.

Rick Alpers made a motion seconded by Don Milbrand to increase the operating budget in the amount of $121,991.00. They're amending the total proposed budget to $5,226,011.
This amount of money would give back to the employees the life and disability benefit as well as fund the lines for the Patrol Officer and the Sergeant to be full time again. Also the call fire fighters pay needs to be put back in as well as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief. The overtime for the highway and call in for emergency needs to be placed back in, the line item for the dump attendant needs to be back in so that is covered when the dump is open. Rick feels that the Selectmen and the Town should take care of their employees.

Andrew answered this by stating that he felt that this should have been brought up before Town meeting and that the Budget Committee did not eliminate positions, they cut the bottom line and then the Department Head and the Selectmen needed to figure out how to live within that amount.

It was mentioned that there were lines that were cut and that the Budget Committee made the recommendations on which lines to cut. Also a question was asked about the Town Manager line, now that, the position has been eliminated, Rick responded that the Select board has not had a chance to discuss that yet, but that an Administrator would probably be hired. There was much discussion on the lines that were cut and how the budget committee gave recommendations on what lines to cut. It was stated that the Fire Department and Police Department should not have money cut from their budgets, as they are essential services for the Town. It was stated that the Department Heads have already cut the budget as much as possible, and then the Budget Committee cuts more. There was much more discussion on how the Budget Committee comes up with the figures, and what their suggestions are. A statement was made that the Town should be supporting the employees that most of them have worked for the Town for many years. At this point a call for a vote was made, 5 people asked by a ballot vote.

202 Votes cast, Yes 81 No 117 The amendment failed

Susan Duncan made an amendment, seconded by Brian Firth, to Article 12; that the total expenditures for public access and communications (line item 01-4194-815 and any other related items) shall not exceed the total revenues received from the cable franchise fees.

She would like to see that services stay in line with the total revenues. It was questioned whether this would be legal. Susan felt it would be, because of the legislative body taking a vote. Bernie Waugh, Town Attorney stated that it would mean that it would not be binding to that line, but it would be the intent.

It was noted that this is already the fact and that the line does not expend anymore than the revenues.

Amendment defeated

Betty Seeler made an amendment, seconded by Bob Gilbert, Sr. to increase NANA's line item and the budget by $7400.00 to $32,400.00. Betty would like to see that line level funded, the employees at NANA received not raises in 2010. The Town of Bristol gets very good services from NANA and most of the calls are in Bristol.

A voice vote was taken the amendment passed

Mike Bannan made a motion, seconded by Jeanne Soloski to reduce the appropriation for account #4130-331 consulting service from $15,000. To $ "0" (zero). Mike feels that the Department Heads, the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen can do this and that this $15,000 is not needed. Rick Alpers responded by stating that the day to day financing with all of the departments and policies are in step with the Gatsby Act. The auditors can not do any of the figures like they used to, because of the Gatsby Act. Also every grant that is applied for needs to be audited in itself.
Mike feels that anyone that has questions about the budget, etc should talk to the office people, most of them know what is being done.

A voice vote was taken, the amendment passed.

Robert S. Glassett made a motion, seconded by Tim Woodward to increase the budget by $51,574. To cover the cost of lines, 01-4210-119, 01-4210-115 and 01-4210-190. This amount of money would pay for the two police officers that the budget committee cut to part time and would pay for the call firefighters. It was mentioned that this money could be placed anywhere, it would not have to go for these lines. Rick Alpers guaranteed that the $51,574.00 would go for these lines if it is voted in. Barry Wingate, former Chief of Police stated that in 1997 a study was done and recommendations were made at that time and they still have not been implemented, this money would at least help get to where we need to be.

A voice vote was taken, the amendment passed.

Joe Denning made a motion, seconded by David Powden to increase the budget by $700.00 for patriotic purposes. This is for flags at the cemetery for the veterans. Boake Morrison offered to give the Town the $700.00 in place of this amendment. Everyone thanked Boake for this generous offer. The Town accepted the offer.

Mike Bannan made a motion, seconded by Mark Chevalier to reduce the appropriation for account #4153-320 legal general from $50,000. To $10,000. Mike feels that people need to be trained so that lawsuits don't happen. Joe Denning stated that this needs to be voted down, the Town gets sued, for all different things, but we have lots of volunteers and when this happens we need to be able to help them out.

Voice vote taken, the amendment was defeated.

Bob Patten made motion, seconded by Burt Williams to change line #01-4194 from $1.00 to $500.00 for the care and winding of the Town Clock, which is located in the steeple of the United Church of Christ. The amount in the budget has been $500.00 for the past 5 years, Bob goes up about 60 times a year to wind and care for the clock.

A voice vote was taken, the amendment passed

Chris Dolloff made a motion, seconded by Ben Laroche to add $6,000.00 to Article 12 this is for the purpose of line 4220-661 ladder truck, 669 boat and 680 medical supplies.

The ladder truck needs to be maintained, the boat was gift from Mark Chevalier, it needs to be maintained and registered and the raft also will need maintenance Medical Supplies used to be picked up at the Hospital, but this can no longer happen, as the patient was being billed twice, so now all supplies need to be purchased.

It was stated that we need to maintain all the vehicles, because we don't get new ones. It was asked about servicing other towns, which we do, but we also get revenue from these towns. A question was asked about why we don't bill back, Steve Yanuzzi, Fire Chief,

stated that we do bill back, but it is only at 80% so we don't get the total amount back, and some people don't pay at all.

Paul Simard stated that he doesn't known why the Budget Committee does the budget when amendments are taken from the Town Meeting floor.

There was more discussion on the amendment about the upkeep of vehicles.

A voice vote was taken, the motion was defeated.

At this time Ned asked if there were any other amendments, seeing non-he asked for a vote on the amount of $5,148,493. This is the amount with the passed amendments in the budget.

A voice vote was taken, the article passed as amended.

Article 13: (by petition)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage".

Donald Milbrand made a motion, seconded by Joe Denning to table Article 13.

A voice vote was taken, motion passed.

Article 14: To transact any other business, which may legally come before this meeting.

Burt Williams announced that he would not be seeking re-election to the House of Representatives this year, as he has been in the position for 10 years. He really enjoyed it, but it is time to step down.

Ned Gordon remarked on what a good meeting it was and that was some great debates.

Sue Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dorcas Gordon.

Voice vote the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymah W. Simpson
Town Clerk