

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Edward "Ned" Gordon opened the meeting at 9:00 am. George Corrette led everyone in the pledge of alliance, and the Moderator gave an ecumenical invocation.

The Moderator asked Rick Alpers, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to introduce the Board of Selectmen which consists of Phil Dion, Joe Denning and Don Milbrand. Then Shaun Lagueux, Chairman of the Budget Committee introduced those members who consist of Mark Chevalier, Jon Thouin, Ron Preble, Dorcas Gordon, Ashley Dolloff, David Carr, Barbara Greenwood, Kerrin Rounds, Paul Manganiello, William Cote, and Tom Keegan. The Moderator introduced Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector who would be taking minutes of the meeting.

Rick Alpers spoke about it being an honor to have the dedication of the Town Report to Bob Patten who has been a devoted employee/volunteer for the Town for over 50 years. Bob started out as a volunteer fireman and worked his way up to become a Fire Commissioner, and Bob is still part of the fire department. Congratulations Bob!

Rick then spoke about the "in remembrance" of Darrell "Clem" Judkins on the last page of the Town Report. Clem worked for the Town for 25 years, and was a friend to all and always brought a smile to everyone's face. Clem will be missed.

Ned stated the winners of the election on Tuesday, new Selectboard members are Betsy Schneider and Janet Cote and new Budget Committee members are Carol Huber and Ernie Richards. Library Trustee, Ann Fitzpatrick. He also mentioned that only registered voters could speak, and that Town Employees who don't live in Town can also speak and if any person that does not live in the Town, may speak if the body allows them to.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million Three Hundred Seventy-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$5,371,156) for general municipal operations.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 11-1  
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 5-0.

Shaun Lagueux made the motion for Article 11 seconded by Don Milbrand. First Shaun wanted to Thank Dorcas Gordon and Jon Thouin for their years on the budget committee, and welcomed Carol Huber and Ernie Richards to the budget committee. Shaun noted that the budget was 1.4% over what was presented last year. Overall the budget is 3.7% over what the voters approved after what was cut and encumbrances. The budget this year represents a level funded budget from last year, plus the debt service of the library and downtown project, along with increased retirement obligations. There is a 2.5% wage increase this year. There are certain departments where you will see increases or decreases this is because of the movement of line items to more accurately track spending.

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

Shaun explained which departments had increases and decreases.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions.

It was mentioned to make sure that you understand that this is the budget that you will be voting on.

Another resident wanted to move this article to the end, so that all other articles would be included before we vote on the budget. He asked what the reason was that the budget article would be first. The answer; no particular reason.

An amendment was made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$2300.00 to line 01-4220-814, the reason for this is that there is a firefighter that none of the safety equipment fit him and it needs to be ordered for him this includes uniforms, jackets, helmets, hats, etc. **Voice Vote too close to call, hand vote passed.**

An amendment was made and seconded to table Article 11 until the end after Article 18. **A voice vote was taken, the amendment was defeated.**

An amendment was made and seconded to add \$1,000.00 to line item 01-4415-350. It was explained that the budget for this has been the same for the past five years and that most of the calls are for people that reside in Bristol. **Voice vote too close to call, hand vote the amendment was passed.**

A question was asked about the line item for the Prosecutor, it was explained that if we don't have a Prosecutor we need to hire a lawyer each time that we take someone to court. The way it is set up now we can have an experienced Police Officer do the work of the Prosecutor and be available if an emergency comes up he can fill in as the Officer. Also when a defendant is taken to court, most of the time that defendant needs to come back to Bristol, since the Prosecutor is also an Officer he can bring him back when he comes back rather than having to send another Police Officer to do that. There is a cost saving having our own Prosecutor as we don't have to pay someone to do that. It was asked if this was a conflict of interest, and it was stated that it is not and quite a few towns do this same thing.

It was mentioned that the Fire Department is paying people to sleep in the station, and that we are providing too much mutual aid and do we get any mutual aid from surrounding towns. The answer is that we benefit from mutual aid as much as the other towns.

One resident wanted to thank all of the departments and employees for all of the work that they do for the Town.

A question was asked if the Prosecutor was full time, answer is that he is 32 hours a week and does not get retirement or medical.

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

It was also mentioned that Bristol needs mutual aid, as they can't do some emergencies alone.

An amendment was made and seconded to add \$1,000.00 to line 01-4197-837 so that boats can be checked before they are allowed in Newfound Lake; this is to protect the lake against any invasive species. Right now Newfound Lake is the only lake with no invasive species. We should keep it that way. It was stated that the State owns the Lake so the State should pay for it. The Budget Committee looked at this and felt that the amount in the Budget was enough to protect the Lake. Another Budget Committee member felt that we should vote this in as the Lake needs protection.

**Voice vote too close to call, passed by hand vote.**

A question was asked about special detail for the Police Department was any money returned last year. Yes approximately \$25,443.00 was returned, it will be used for details when the Downtown project starts up again which should be around April 1, 2013. A question was asked if there were any more encumbered funds and yes there were seven more which we could encumber under the law the total for the encumbrances is \$67,734.00

A question was asked about Police Department uniforms if the Town paid for these the answer is yes the town pays for the uniforms.

A motion was made and seconded to close debate on Article 11. The new amount for the operating budget is now \$5,375,456.00 **Voice vote on Article 11 passed.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) for the purchase of lighting fixtures for the Central Square Transportation Enhancement Project.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-4

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 5-0

Joe Denning made the motion for Article 12, seconded by Mark Chevalier. This project has been in the works for quite a while. We have inadequate lighting in the square now; we have received grants for portions of the project but none for lighting. We need about \$70,000.00 in additional funds to buy all of the lights we need; these lights have a maintenance free life of about 10 years. There is another Town in New Hampshire that has these lights and numerous towns/cities in the South.

There will be 16 lights around the square, these lights have brackets on them and flags, Christmas decorations, etc., can be hung from them, the Town will own them. The footings and conduit for the lights is already part of the project, the lights are pointing downward and dark sky approved.

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

**A motion was made and seconded to close debate. Article 12 passed by voice vote.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) to continue work on the revision of the Town's Master Plan.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 12-0

The Selectmen recommend this article 5-0

Phil Dion made the motion for Article 13, seconded by Shaun Lagueux, there is money approved for the survey and these funds would help to continue with the master plan, it hasn't been done for a while and it need to be updated. It was mentioned that maybe this is premature and we should wait a year, so that we wouldn't have to redo it. Dan Paradis, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Board noted that there are no State Statues on this; the last time that this was done was in 2003. It should be done again; the only way this can get done is through the legislative body. Shaun Lagueux, Chairman of the Budget Committee, stated that when the planning board came to them they were requesting \$15,000.00 the budget committee dropped it down to \$8,000.00, he feels that this should be done and the budget committee supported it, this will be an ongoing project and won't be done in one year. The \$8,000.00 is for getting the revision started.

**A motion was made and seconded to stop discussion. Article 13 passed with a hand vote.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for energy efficiency improvements to the Fire Station and the Town Offices.

The Budget Committee recommends this 12-0

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 5-0

Don Milbrand made the motion for Article 14, seconded by Rick Alpers, the windows in the Town Office are inefficient as well as the furnace and heating zones in the Fire Department need to be upgraded. It was stated that we have had insulation put in the town office as well as new shingles, but we have Fuller Oil Company in almost once a week to repair the furnace. A question was asked if employee were getting sick at the town office building, the answer was no. Another question was asked why are the Fire trucks outside with the bay doors open when it is very cold, answer is that the trucks had been out and the garage needs to be cleaned up.

The zones that will be updated are 1 zone in the bay, 1 in the back and 1 in the front. Right now the thermostats are fighting each other, so they don't work properly. A question was asked if we had to have an energy audit, answer was that we had one through Lakes Region, we need a new energy efficient furnace, the windows are bad especially in the older section of the Town Office. The furnace is 40 years old in the Town Office.

**A motion was made and seconded to end discussion, voice vote taken Article 14 passed.**

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Dollars (\$59,933.) for the repairs of the Old Town Hall.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 9-4  
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 5-0

Rick Alpers made the motion for Article 15, seconded by Susan Duncan. Rick stated that this is a personal decision on everyone's part. He has talked to some people that want to keep the Old Town Hall and some that just want to tear it down. The Board of Selectmen felt that this needed to come before the legislative body to make the decision. A committee was put together consisting of Lucille Keegan, Hilda Bruno, Susan Duncan, Mark Chevalier, Peter Vannah, David Carr, Chief Yannuzzi and Michael Capone they looked at the Old Town Hall as well as the Old Fire Department. CCI the company that is working on the library also went through the Old Town Hall, they did this at no charge, and everything was looked at from the basement to the attic. It would be six figures to bring it back to good condition; this is at least a three year project. The first phase would be a new roof, the budget committee and the board of selectmen would like to see this project go through, this is an historical building, it needs a roof and then decisions can be made on what to do with the building, but it needs to be weather tight.

Some people wanted to know if grants could be applied for, and some thought that the building should just be torn down. One resident stated that the building has been used for numerous things over the years, at one time it was used to feed war veterans, it was used for basketball games, movies, entertainment of all kinds, it also housed a jail. The acoustics are great in that building; better than they are in the auditorium that we are in. Granted it is hard to get to the building, but we should keep it.

It was stated that this is the reason that it is on the warrant, exactly for this reason because there are so many points of view.

The chairman of the committee also spoke about the history of the building and how we are looking to the future, but we also have the responsibility to look to the past. We are looking for grants that may be able to help with the renovations. There is contamination in the attic that needs to be removed, professionally. There have been people before us such as Sam Worthen and G.G. Cummings that spoke of the history of the building; the acoustics and lighting are wonderful in the Old Town Hall. She wishes that we were having our meetings there. She hopes you will vote for this, for the past, present and future.

It was also noted that this is where we vote, where would we go? Also the building houses town records, and that we couldn't afford to build a new building for what it would cost to renovate the old building. Parking is an issue, but that can be addressed at a future meeting.

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

It was asked about the roof, it is a tin roof, why would it be replaced with Shingles? Why wouldn't we stay with metal? The cost to dispose of shingles is expensive, but the installation of shingles is less expensive than metal. It was suggested to go with a metal roof; the roof is sinking in especially around the chimney. It was felt that the building should be preserved, but with a metal roof instead of shingles. After this was discussed, it was the general consensus that a metal roof was the way to go. The metal roof would cost between \$20,000-\$25,000 than the proposed shingled roof. Ned stated that if the body wanted a metal roof someone would have to write up an amendment. It was also mentioned that metal would last a lot longer and that we need to use the building for more than just voting. A question was asked if we could take the metal where recycling is done and get some money for the old roof.

An amendment was made by Leslie Dion and seconded by Janet Cote, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight-four thousand nine hundred thirty three dollars (\$84,933.00) for repairs to the Old Town Hall.

One person spoke about working as a community to fix the building, do volunteer work. It was answered that the roof needs to be done professionally, and that future boards would probably embrace the idea of volunteers to help with the building.

The Moderator spoke on how many people have contributed in the past to the needs of the Town, but there aren't many people that should be on the roof. The roof is a specialized project. People will help after the roof is done, the town will ask for volunteers.

Another person feels that we haven't done enough of a study so that we should not go along with this; someone else feels that the Town needs to be 100% committed in the project or we should not go through with this.

Voting on the amendment, with a reminder that the \$84,933.00 is for repairs for the building, not necessarily for the roof. **The amendment passed with a voice vote.** Susan Duncan made a motion to end debate, seconded by Rick Alpers.

**Article 15 passed with a voice vote.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of elected Library Trustees from seven to nine. For 2014 two trustees will be elected to a two year term. Thereafter, the same order of election of three trustees per year will be followed.

Archie Auger made a motion for Article 16, seconded by Shirley Yorks. In 1997 there were nine (9) trustees, which is considered a full board, in 2007 the total trustees were seven (7), the Library Board of Trustees would like the Town to consider going back to nine (9) trustees with two elected next year and then it would be three trustees elected every year. A motion was made by Walter Waring to close debate and seconded by David Hill. **Article passed with a voice vote.**

## 2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES—(CONTINUED)

**Article 17:** By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to accept an approximate 550 feet section of a private portion of Robieson Drive as a Class V Town maintained Road. The current unmaintained portion of this road is approximately 550 feet, running from the end of the currently Town maintained private portion of Robieson Drive to the termination of the road's pavement. This Town acceptance would allow the same level of road maintenance to be provided for the entire private sections of Robieson Drive presently occupied. All but two of the homes in 550 foot section are serviced with Town Water and Town Sewer.

Keith Belmore made a motion for Article 17, seconded by Craig Allan. He stated that the neighbors have been trying to work with the Board; the developer has left them, with no recourse. It is only the last 550 feet that is not maintained by the Town, the rest of the road is town maintained. Water and Sewer lines go all the way through. He feels that if emergency vehicles had to get up there they wouldn't be able to get through.

Rick Alpers explained why the board didn't accept this. In order for the board to accept a private road it needs to be brought up to town specifications and they have not repaired the road the way it needs to be to be accepted by the Town. It was estimated that to bring the road up to the criteria that the Town needs it could cost up to \$85,000.00. One of the residents questioned this amount, it was stated that an engineer gave a "soft" estimated. The first part of the road was brought up to Town specs in 1995-1997. Other residents felt that they needed the community support.

Rick explained that there are other roads in Town that are private roads and would like to be maintained by the Town, but those roads have not be brought up to the criteria that the town needs to accept these roads, we need to be fair to other residents living on private roads that want the town to take them over as well. On resident that lives on a private stated that he has to maintain his road, but felt for the residents on Robieson Drive, he thought maybe the Town could at least plow the road. It was stated that there is an RSA that states if the Town owns the road, the Town must maintain that road, that is why the first portion of the road is maintained by the Town, but not the last 550 feet as that is private. Some felt that if the first half is maintained it all should be maintained. It was explained that you can't circumvent the RSA's. Paul Simard made a motion to close discussion, seconded by John Bianchi, motion passed. **A voice vote was taken on Article 17, passed.**

**Article 18:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Selectmen Don Milbrand asked if the attendees would rather have the meeting at the Old Town Hall, or where we are at the School Auditorium, with a show of hands if was just about even. Ned thanked everyone for coming out to do their civic duty. Rick Alpers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Denning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Raymah W. Simpson  
Town Clerk