

2015 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2015

Moderator Edward "Ned" Gordon opened the 196th town meeting at 9:05 A.M. stating that Bristol was incorporated in 1819. Ned gave the invocation; Archie Auger led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ned asked Rick Alpers, chairman of the Select board to introduce the members which consists of Shaun Lagueux, Betsy Schneider and Janet Cote. Ned then asked Kerrin Rounds, chair of the Budget Committee if she would introduce the Budget Committee members who consisted of: Paul Manganiello, Ron Preble, David Carr, Bill Cote, Barbara Greenwood, Ernie Richards, Kevin MacCaffrie, Tom Keegan, Carol Huber, Don Milbrand, Ashley Dolloff and Carol Huber.

At this time, Rick Alpers mentioned that the Town Report was dedicated to Mason Westfall, for all of the years that he has helped the Town of Bristol. He has been active in almost all committee's and boards, especially the Conservation Committee, he worked tirelessly to preserve the natural resources and natural beauty of the Newfound Area. A standing ovation was given to Mason Westfall, we thank you Mason for all of your work over the years.

Ned explained that only registered voters would be allowed to vote and speak for or against an article, he had a show of hands of who was not a voter. The one exception to speaking would be for Department Heads that do not live in Town. Ned also mentioned that if you want to speak you need to go to one of the microphones, so that everyone can hear what you have to say.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of Five Million Seven Hundred Sixty One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$ 5,761,586) for general municipal operations. The Select Board recommends Five Million Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Dollars (\$5,768,864). This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 10-3

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Susan Duncan made a motion to move Article 4 for the full budget to be considered following the action on Warrant Article #16. Seconded by Eric Rottenecker.

Susan explained that she felt this article should be after all of the other articles as then we would know what the budget would be for the year, if any of the money articles get passed.

A voice vote on the amendment; the amendment passed this article will come up again after Article 16.

Starting on Article 4

Motion made by Karen Rounds, Chair of the Budget Committee, seconded by Paul Manganiello. Karen stated that it seemed to work good this year having all of the department heads meet with the Budget Committee and Selectmen in November, and will do that again this year. Karen noted that the budget is \$7279.00 less than the Board of Selectmen budget. There was a reduction in the Fire Department, the Library and Homeland Cemetery.

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Barbara spoke on the amendment there has been a 20% increase in the use of the Library, there are over 240 programs, the meeting room has been in use 207 times, and she feels that will grow as time goes on. Would like to see this put back in the budget. It was also mentioned that the Library is open 6 days a week, the computers are always full, there are programs for young adults, children, babies all of the programs are fantastic, there are movies and class projects. The librarian is great, they are doing wonderful.

It was also mentioned that they have limited staff and need adequate staff to meet all of the needs.

Motion to close debate by Sue Waring, seconded by Rosemary D'Arcy

Amendment passed

Mark Chevalier made a motion to include the 27th pay period for a total of \$19,625.57, that includes \$980.00 to Sewer and \$1961.42 to Water, and \$16,683.00 to the general fund for the salaried employees, this was left out of the budget. This was seconded by Ben Laroche. This happens every 11 years and has not been a problem in the past the salaried employees have always been paid.

Rick responded that the Auditors had told them to prepare for this; it doesn't affect the hourly employees. Michael Capone stated that the salaried employees still get what was budgeted for their salary. Tom Keegan, budget committee member felt that the salaried employees should be paid for the 27th week.

Motion to close debate by Susan Duncan, seconded by Bob Patten.

Amendment Defeated

Susan Duncan made a motion to decrease the line 4210-395 for Police Dispatch from \$55,000.00 to \$51,000.00, seconded by Chris Dolloff. Michael Lewis, Chief of Police had to estimate how much the dispatch line would be, at that time he had told the Budget Committee that if it went down, he would let them know and place the lower amount in the budget, he just received the figures.

Motion to close debate by Kerrin Rounds, seconded by Rick Alpers.

Amendment passed

The budget figure is now at \$5,766,586. Which includes the \$9,000.00 voted in and the \$4,000.00 voted to decrease which leaves a \$5,000.00 increase in the budget

Motion made by Ken Rogers to close debate, seconded by John Gagnon.

Article 4 passed with amendments.

Rick Alpers made a motion to limit reconsideration of Article 4, seconded by Jeff Ford. **Motion passed**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of police special details and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be deposited in the fund. All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and eighty percent (80%) of those revenues will be retained by the fund and be allowed to accumulate from year to year to pay those expenses related to Police Detail work. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of the revenues will go into the general fund.

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The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended

only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 10-3

The Select Board Recommends this Article 3-1

Motion made by Shaun Laguex, seconded by Betsy Schneider.

Shaun explained that this was brought up last year and it was defeated. The Board made some adjustments to address the issues of last year. This would be used for the Police Department. This fund would be for outside details, 80% into the fund and 20% into the general fund.

It was mentioned that this fund takes away control of money. Shaun mentioned that it will still be under the Selectmen, just in a fund that will support the expenses associated with special detail of the Police Department. It was also mentioned that the Town bills for the special detail and receives the revenue so leave it alone.

It was mentioned that 20% going into the general fund the Town will still be getting revenue. Rick mentioned that the revenue from special detail is more than what is billed out. The money that comes in will go to special detail and we don't know from year to year what the special details will be.

A question of what the \$5,000.00 is needed for up front; Rick answered that it is a startup for the fund; \$5,000.00 would always be there, for any expenses for the detail.

A motion was made to close debate by Chris Dolloff, seconded by Boake Morrison.

Voice vote to close to call.

Hand Vote Yes: 51 No: 47

Article 5 Passed.

Article 6: To see if the municipality will authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund to meet our constitutional and statutory requirement that assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. Furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) towards this purpose and appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from the fund. It is anticipated that a revaluation will take place in 2016. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 13-0

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Janet Cote, seconded by Shaun Laguex

Janet stated that the Board would like to put money in a Capital Reserve Fund, as Department of Revenue requires a full revaluation of properties every 5 years. The next full revaluation will take place in 2016. They are not sure what the cost will be, but would like to put money away to be prepared for the revaluation.

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Motion to close debate by Mark Chevalier seconded by Burt Williams

Article 6 Passed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of the Town of Bristol's Bicentennial Celebration in 2019 and appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from this fund. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for this purpose. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 13-0

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Rick Alpers made a motion, seconded by Betsy Schneider

This article is for our Town's 200th Birthday which will be in 2019; we would like to set money aside to be ready for the festivities that will take place at that time, as it will be here before we are ready.

Motion to close debate by Walter Waring, seconded by Chris Dolloff.

Article 7 passed

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000) for the purchase of a police cruiser for the Police Department. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 9-4

The Select Board Recommends this Article 3-1

Rick Alpers made a motion, seconded by Shaun Lagueux.

We did not purchase a police cruiser last year, would like to replace the cruiser that has between 150-170 thousand miles, it was in to replace a cruiser every year. Rick asked Michael Lewis, Police Chief to speak on this. The cruiser that would be traded was purchased in 2007; it has 178,290 miles on it. It was asked what the trade in value is, it is \$341.00. Michael Capone stated that it is better to appropriate the full amount of the vehicle purchase and trade would offset the purchase amount and be included as revenue.

Motion to close debate Burt Williams, seconded by Jackie Batchelder.

Article 8 Passed

Article 9: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$12,660) for the purchase of communications equipment for the Police Department. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 12-1

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Shaun Lagueux, seconded by Steve Favorite

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Communication needs to be improved between, the station, the tower and vehicles. Improvements need to be made on Hemphill, the base station and the one vehicle that did not get updated.

Motion to close debate Mark Chevalier, seconded by Chris Dolloff.

Article 9 Passed

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a two year lease/purchase agreement for One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) for the purpose of purchasing a one ton truck with plow and sander for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the first years payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 11-2

The Select Board Recommends this Article 3-1

Motion by Shaun Lagueux, seconded by Janet Cote

This is a new 1ton truck with plow attachment; this is recommended by the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) so that we don't have to purchase a large item every year. This will replace the 2008 plow truck, which has over 60,000 miles on it. It was stated that with only 60,000 miles on it we should be keeping it, which purchasing a new truck will increase the tax rate, Rick stated that it would be about 40 cents over the years. Rick also state that the 60,000 miles are very hard miles, not like someone's car. It was also mentioned that this truck has had to have the frame welded three times, and that this will keep happening. A question was asked what kind of shape the equipment is in. Mark Bucklin, Highway Supervisor stated that the six-wheel dump truck is 16 years old with the purchase of this truck, we wouldn't need another one for a couple of years. The frame that is being welded is in a weak spot, that the new truck this is not a problem, as the manufacturer has made this stronger. The truck is used year round for numerous things. This truck is used for sanding and salting carrying the sander. CIP has recommended buying a new 1 ton every seven years.

Motion to close debate by Lorna Patten, seconded by Susan Duncan

Article 10 passed

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the purchase of hydraulic tools for the Fire Department. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 12-0-1

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Janet Cote, seconded by Betsy Schneider

Janet asked Steve Yannuzzi Fire Chief to speak on this article. Steve stated that this is to replace a piece of equipment that is over 30 years old, it has done its job, but with the new metals etc. it can't perform the way that it needs to.

Motion to close debate made by Jodie Favorite, seconded by Mary MacCaffrie

Article 11 Passed

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Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to go into the fund. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 11-2

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the purchase of a command vehicle for the Fire Department. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 12-0-1

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Betsy Schneider

Rick stated that for the Command Vehicle that we have now will take between 6,000.-8,000 dollars in repairs to pass inspection. The vehicle has more than 81,560 miles on it, and 4096 hours, it cost \$3,000.00 to inspect it last year. They would like a Tahoe to replace the suburban with all of the equipment that is required.

It was asked what the Chief will be using until the new vehicle arrives, he stated his own vehicle. Also how can we prepare for this in the future? Rick stated that CIP makes decisions, and brings this to the Legislative body, but in the past they have not wanted to prepare for this. Steve Yannuzzi stated that there are no large purchases for next year, would like to get back on track with CIP. Engine six should be good for quite a few more years.

Motion to close debate Susan Colby, seconded by Richard Gavalis

Motion 12 Passed

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000) for the purchase of a back-up generator and to further authorize the Select Board to apply for a grant in the amount of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000) towards the purchase of the generator. The balance of funds for the purchase to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 13-0

The Select Board Recommends this Article 3-1

Motion made by Shaun Lagueux, seconded by Janet Cote

There is a grant through New Hampshire Homeland Security to purchase a generator for the Town Office Building, which includes the Police Department. It is run by propane and is automatic turn on turn off when power goes off. This is important for the Town still needs to do business, and it is also a safety issue. It was mentioned that we don't lose power often and it was felt that it isn't necessary. This cost is the total cost of the package, 50% would be grant funded.

Motion to close debate made by Leslie Dion, seconded by Donna Nashawaty.

Article 13 Passed

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Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to go into the fund. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 11-2

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Betsy Schneider

Rick made motion to amend Article 14 to take the \$25,000.00 from the unreserved fund balance. Seconded by David Hill. Rick stated that this amount was not spent last year, so he feels that it should just stay in the contingency fund.

The amendment passed.

Article 14 Passed as Amended.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Accrued Wages Capital Reserve Fund established in 1998. This sum to come from fund balance and no money will be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Budget Committee Recommends this Article 13-0

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Shaun Lagueux, seconded by Paul Manganiello

This fund was set up for departing employees that are owed money. We haven't had to ask for this in the past but the account is low. Michael Capone Town Administrator looked at it and informed the Board that there needs to be funds in that account so that if any employee leaves there will be funds, if two or three people left the Town would not be able to meet their obligation.

Motion made by Mark Chevalier to close debate, seconded by Jan Laferriere.

Article 15 Passed

Article 16: By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$22,000 for painting and necessary repairs of the exterior of the Old Fire House on High Street. This will include lead paint removal, replacement of rotted wood and painting of the exterior wood and brick foundation.

The Budget Committee Does Not Recommend this Article 2-10-1

The Select Board Recommends this Article 4-0

Motion made by Lucille Keegan, seconded by Chris Dolloff

Lucille started by thanking the taxpayers for voting to do some repairs to the "Old" Town Hall. The building that they would like this for is the "Old" Fire Station on South Main St. It has lead paint, it will be a challenge to have this scraped and painted, but she hopes you will support keeping one of the Historical Buildings in Town.

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Donald Milbrand made a motion to amend the Article 16 to add the line "funds" to be taken from the unreserved fund balance and not through taxation. Bill Cote seconded the motion. He is on the budget committee and had originally voted against this, but if we go with what the amendment is he is in favor of this.

Voting on the amendment only. Close debate by Archie Auger, seconded by David Batachelder.

Amendment passed.

Back to the amended article, it was stated that some budget committee members felt that there was money in the building maintenance fund, it was also mentioned that there are other town buildings that need a lot of maintenance that should get done before this one.

Two years ago there was a committee that addressed the issues of all of the town buildings, the "old" Town Hall was the first one to be worked one and funds were collected for that. Sandra Heaney and her committee did a wonderful job on the "old" Town Hall, this is the second building that was to be looked at, it is used a lot, for storage and for the Historical Society, which has done a fantastic job of making the upstairs look good, and hopes this passes. There is a specific quote, as there is lead paint involved in this project.

Motion to close debate by Paul Simard, seconded by Eric Rottennecker.

Motion passed as amended.

Back to Article 4

Article 17: Pursuant to RSA 41:11-a , to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to lease parking spaces in the deeded town parking easement area on Central Street for a period of up to ten years, with the terms of such leases being negotiated by the Select Board.(Majority vote required)

Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Shaun Lagueux

Rick would like to see this voted down, as the building is up for sale and a new owner may not want to be in a contract for leasing parking spaces. He also feels that the Town should get more than \$1.00 for the lease of the parking spaces as we maintain the lot.

Motion to close debate Paul Fraser, seconded by Fred Nashawaty

Article Defeated

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA Chapter 41:11-a III to authorize the Select Board to rent or lease municipal property for a term of up to five years without further vote or ratification of the town. Once adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect. (Majority vote required)

Janet Cote made the motion, Shaun Lagueux seconded the motion.

Janet explained that right now, the town can only lease out municipal property for one year, it would be nice to be able to do this for 5 years.

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There was quite a bit of discussion if this should be for 5 years, as that seems like a long time, in case there could be a problem. A few people thought that it should come before the Legislative body before any property is leased. Rick explained that a public hearing is not required; this gives the board a chance to lease property anywhere from 1 to 5 years. Rick pointed out that this is for Town owned property only.

Motion to close debate by Burt Williams, seconded by Susan Colby.

Voice Vote to close to call

Hand Vote Yes: 55 No: 34

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA Chapter 79-E in order to provide community revitalization tax relief incentives. (Majority vote required)

Rick Alpers made the motion, seconded by Janet Cote

Rick state that there are important discussions that need to take place, where is town going and what are we looking for to come into Bristol. We need incentives to entice Commercial Businesses to come to Bristol, there is a lot of paper work involved in this, and it is a large process for business owners to do. There is a person that has bought four businesses in the downtown area in wants to invest in these buildings and bring them back to life.

The Business owner starts the project gets with Assessing and keeps the same tax rate as the building started out with until the project is finished and would not see a tax increase for 5 years. After that time, the building is assessed for what it is.

It was mentioned that this is a good thing to do, it would also help bring the historical buildings back, and save history. It was felt that this is a good article and good for the town, there is no retroactive taxes on this, as they are taxed every year, but at the rate that it was first assessed at, and then when the project is finished the assessment is done and taxed on what is assessed.

Any projects that are on this program still get "picked up" by the Assessor each year.

Mark Chevalier made a motion to close debate, Steven Favorite seconded it.

Article 19 Passed

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013. (Majority vote required)

Shaun Lagueux made a motion, seconded by Betsy Schneider

This is just a housekeeping article, as it was written incorrectly last year.

No questions, no debate.

Motion to close debate made by Mark Chevalier, seconded by Susan Colby

Article 20 Passed

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 398 enabling the Select Board to license and regulate pawnbrokers. (Majority vote required)

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Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Betsy Schneider

Rick stated that this does not prohibit a business; this is to craft a policy to be able to regulate businesses. This is not a police issue, but it will help the police if something goes wrong.

Jeff Ford made a motion to close debate, seconded by Scott Sanschargin.

Article 21 Passed.

Article 22: By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to accept the roads contained in the Sunset Heights Subdivision approved by Town of Bristol as Town Roads. The roads to be accepted are known as Wicom Road from the Town accepted portion to the end, Autumn Lane, Scenic View Road and Sundown Way. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion made by Kevin MacCaffrie, seconded by Janet Cote

Kevin stated that he is representing the people that live in the development. This development was started in the 1980's and finished in the 1990's. There are 35 lots, 22 single family homes, water is provided. They pay over \$175,000.00 in property taxes; they pay for town roads, but get no benefits for it.

Rick stated that the board had discussed this, and talked with Mark Bucklin, Road Agent and Jeff Chartier, Superintendent of the water/sewer depart. There are 1.8 miles of roads, 4 cul-de-sacs and the water line is private, but the Town maintains it. Some concerns for the adoption of the roads are, steep grades, settling in the ravines, with the water lines below these, and that could get worse. Other roads that have been adopted need to come up to Town specifications. If the people want these roads adopted they need to bring them up to spec's first. We have adopted over 4 miles of roads, this takes an additional 2 ½ hours to plow the routes, so in turn we need to hire more part time people.

Mary MacCaffrie spoke on behalf of the homeowners in Sunset Heights, they have a numerous number of members from there that are on committees in Town, they represent Budge, Library, Zoning, Planning, etc., please vote yes for this article

It was mentioned that these roads are different than Robison Drive, and the people should bring this up to Town specifications and then see if Town would adopt it. It was mentioned that they had come to the board in 2005, but it was denied.

It was mentioned that this is a subdivision, which indicates that these are private roads, and should not be town roads, unless they are brought up to specifications. It was noted that we accepted Robison Drive and we should not have done that until it was brought up to town specifications.

It was mentioned that a cistern is under the road, if something happened to that then the Town would be responsible for it. One resident mentioned that they were told that the town would be taking over the road, and the grade of the road is the same as some other town roads. It was mentioned that 1 grade is at 10% and the upper one is 12%.

It was felt that the homeowners need to do what is right and that they should follow the rules and regulations and go through the process of getting the roads up to Town Specifics.

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It was felt that maybe the homeowners should approach the Zoning and Planning boards and Board of Selectmen to see what needs to be done to bring the road to the town specifications.

A statement was made that the roads have been private for over 35 years and the residents have been satisfied, so keep it the way it has been.

Motion to close debate by Robert Huber, seconded by Natalie Lively.

Article 22 Defeated

Article 23: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting

Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Shaun Lagueux

There was no other business. Rick mentioned that the Board wanted to Thank Sandra Heaney for all of the work she has done to get the "Old" town hall repairs started, and that Michael Capone and Betsy Schneider also did a lot of work to get the project to where it is today.

He also wanted everyone to know that the Town always needs volunteers for various, boards and committees.

Bob Patten wanted to know about the back in parking, Rick informed him that would be looked into with the State. He also wanted the Memorial Day celebration to be back in the downtown area, instead of the Middle School, Ron Preble the VFW Commander, stated that it is much safer and easier held at the Middle School and it will be staying there.

Walter Waring wanted to recognize Joe Denning, former Select board member for all of the work he has done for the Town over the years.

Archie Auger made a motion to close the Town Meeting, seconded by Lorna Patten. **Article 23 Passed.**

Voice Vote Passed

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymah W. Simpson
Town Clerk/Tax Collector