

2017 Town Meeting Minutes
Town of Sanbornton
State of New Hampshire
March 15, 2017

Town Moderator Tim Lang opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and recognized Pastor, Scott Manning to give the invocation. Bill North was recognized to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. North asked that all of the Veterans in attendance stand to be recognized before the Pledge was recited. Debbie Gibson sang the National Anthem.

Members of the Budget Committee introduced themselves. Ralph Rathjen Chairman, Craig Davis, Justin Barriault, Craig Weisman, Earl Leighton and Roger Grey.

Chair of the Board of Selectman, John Olmstead introduced those sitting at the Selectmen's table. April Rollins - Administrative Specialist, Eric Maher - Attorney, Katie Ambrose - Town Administrator, Karen Ober - Selectman, Katy North - Selectman and Marla Davis - Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Selectman Ober recognized the four children from the Earth Day photo contest whose pictures are printed on the cover of the Town Report. Cayden Burns, Noah Laquaglia, John Laquaglia and Daisy Burns.

Selectman Ober presented previous Selectman, Johnny Van Tassel and Library Assistant, Martha Bodwell each with a proclamation.

Selectman Ober thanked Selectman, Katy North for filling the vacancy of Selectman for the past six months and the board is happy she will be us for the next three years.

TA Ambrose explained the Town Report has a loose Capital Improvements Program spreadsheet page because some amendments were made during their meeting on February 27th. TA Ambrose added the historic total appropriations budget lines on page #115 of the Town Report are also incorrect due to the historic data being removed, which she will remedy with two separate budget sheets going forward. TA Ambrose read the correct total appropriations figures, which were matched to the DRA's form the MS-232.

Moderator Lang recognized House Representative, Dennis Fields.

The Department of Public Works was thanked for all of their help yesterday at the polls during the blizzard.

Moderator Lang announced the results of the Town & School District ballot voting results from yesterday and noted that the proposed Zoning Amendment also passed.

Moderator Lang read Article #1 as follows:

Article 01: Operating Budget - Town

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Eight Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Nine dollars (\$3,863,829) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. The Selectmen recommend \$3,861,029. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

DRA Acct. #s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4130-4199	General Government	1,250,252	1,250,252
4210	Police	437,518	437,518
4220-4299	Fire & Emergency Mgt.	367,726	367,726
4311-4319	Highways & Streets	927,566	921,266
4321-4329	Sanitation	232,286	235,786
4411-4449	Health & Welfare	103,838	103,838
4520	Recreation	110,898	110,898
4550	Library	128,636	128,636
4583-4589	Other Culture and Patriotic Purposes	3,251	3,251
4611-4659	Conservation	1,824	1,824
4711-4799	Debt Service	<u>300,034</u>	<u>300,034</u>
Total	→	3,863,829	3,861,029

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Ralph Rathjen for the purpose of a motion. Second by Craig Davis.

Discussion: Ralph Rathjen explained that the Budget Committee deliberated this budget with close collaboration of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the needs of each Department Head. Modifications were made by both the Budget Committee and the Selectmen. Ralph thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Paul Litchfield stated he knows there were some objections to the budget and each article looks like a unanimous vote was made but it wasn't. Ralph Rathjen responded each recommendation is based on a majority vote. Moderator Lang added the Selectmen can decide to reflect it. Mr. Litchfield stated he would still like to know who voted against the article and why. Ralph Rathjen read the Budget Committee's meeting minutes. Roger Grey stated he voted against this article because he thought the figures were too high. BOS Chair Olmstead added the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this article. Moderator Lang called for a card vote.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #1, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Selectman Ober to restrict reconsideration of Article #1, second by Melanie Van Tassel.

The Moderator read Article #2 as follows:

Article 02: EMS Billing and Paramedic Intercept Fees

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand dollars (\$6,000) to pay fees for EMS billing and paramedic intercepts; further these fees to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Ober.

Chair Olmstead explained that this is a housekeeping article and helps pay for the contract which has a 90% collection rate. There was no further discussion. Moderator Lang called for a card vote.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #2, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #2, second by Lynn Chong.

The Moderator read Article #3 as follows:

Article 03: To Hire Two Full Time Firefighter/EMT's

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred dollars (\$139,800) for salaries and benefits to hire two full time Firefighter/EMT's to enhance the coverage of the Fire Department from its current use of all part time per diem Firefighter/EMT's to full time and part time per diem and change hours of coverage from 8 hours daily to 12 hours daily with one full time Firefighter/EMT and one per diem Firefighter/EMT.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair Olmstead.

Moderator Lang announced that a secret ballot vote has been requested.

Selectman Ober stated the Selectman supported this article unanimously. Selectman Ober stated the Fire Department has not has coverage during 20 to 30 calls and with this article we will have coverage from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., which will provide increased coverage with low response times. Selectman Ober noted this will provide 7 days a week of coverage and improve the Town's "I.S.O" rating. Selectman Ober added this will also help increase the Town's economic development and the Fire Department Regionalization Committee's final reports supports this need. Selectman Ober asked voter to please vote yes on article #3.

Paul Litchfield stated he would like to know who was opposed to the article? Ralph Rathjen replied Roger Grey and Craig Weisman voted no. Paul Litchfield thanked the Fire Department for a job well done but this article would potentially add a thirty-three percent increase in taxes and it is not the time to have two full time firefighters.

Sara Dupont spoke in favor of the article. Sara Dupont explained that she is social worker and if the Town wants to keep its community healthy with compassion, it would be to increase these services.

Lynn Chong asked what an "ISO" rating is? Selectman Ober replied some homeowner's insurance companies use the "ISO" rating, the higher the rating the higher the insurance will be but some companies only apply the rating to commercial properties, which helps with economic development.

Melanie Van Tassel thanked the Fire Department for their amazing service but for 160 days the station was not properly staffed and one those days could be your day. Please support this article.

Scott Taylor explained the department has a core group of 15 volunteers that answer the call during the day & night, help us help you!

Andy Sanborn stated the department has mutual aid with the Lakes Region but this is for dispatch service and the mutual aid is supposed to be reciprocating but they can not cover both because we do not have the full time staff to help.

Earl Leighton stated once the Town hires two firefighters they won't go away and he has concerns with the operating costs. Earl Leighton stated he once had a family member with an emergency and they called the hospital, to let them know they were coming which only took fourteen minutes instead of waiting for a response.

Roger Grey called for a comprehensive plan going forward.

Sara Dupont stated would you want to spend fourteen minutes in a car with a family member or be in an ambulance with an EMT, she feels most would rather be with an EMT.

Steve Surowiec explained that in the 80's the department did approximately 125 calls and they didn't even really know what EMS was, things have come a long way since. Steve Surowiec stated they have been able to get away with a handful of volunteers with 400+ calls per year and he is cheap & frugal but he sometimes feels like one pocket needs more than the other. Steve Surowiec added when you are the one on the other end of the call and you voted no, you lose the right to complain.

Moderator Lang announced the secret ballots results, **151 - yes votes and 63 - no votes.**

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #3, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #3, second by Andy Sanborn.

The Moderator read Article #4 as follows:

Article 04: Ambulance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Thousand dollars (\$260,000) to purchase an Ambulance and related equipment to outfit the vehicle, with the current Ambulance to be placed as a reserve, this will ensure a longer life span of the ambulance as well as allow for a better level of service to the residents, this is to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair Olmstead.

Moderator Lang announced that a secret ballot vote has been requested.

Selectman Ober stated the Selectman supported this article unanimously. Selectman Ober stated the decision to replace the current ambulance was based on the Capital Improvement Program's rotation schedule and once it is ordered, it will not be received until 18 months from now. Selectman Ober noted if it is not replaced then the Town will have higher maintenance costs but the Selectmen have been approached by the Chief to keep it as a backup because they are using the fire engine to respond, which allows for another Town to collect the ambulance revenue. The Town received \$6K in trade for the previous ambulance and could have collected \$13K in revenue. If the maintenance costs outweigh the revenue/use then that can be discussed, at that time.

Earl Leighton expressed concern with being able to have a second ambulance stocked & manned and asked if there was enough space to house a 2nd ambulance? Chief Dexter replied the staffing would only be needed if there was a second call but there has always been a second ambulance at the Central Station.

Nancy Durgin asked if the purchase would be depleting fund or the balance? Town Treasurer, Karen Cobb replied \$282,638 dollars is the balance and the funds come exclusively from EMS calls or ComStar collections with more funds coming in.

Sara Dupont stated the Town has 2,900 residents but no one is taking into account the people who visit Steele Hill Resort, new homeowners, transients, etc. and do you want an engine to respond or an ambulance that can actually transport.

Andy Sanborn stated if the Town has been running a second ambulance then he would like to know the numbers. Scott Taylor replied it was back when Chief DeSilva was Chief until the maintenance costs got too high then it stopped in 2011.

Andrea Demato asked how the figure of \$220K was established because a quote from Stewarts is around \$62K to \$94K per ambulance without the equipment, so why is it so high? Chief Dexter replied it is a budgeted number, bid specifications are being put together and it will not exceed that figure (\$220K ambulance - \$40K equipment). Chief Dexter stated the ambulance's Stewart uses are van versus the box we have, which has more room to move in when attending to patients.

Moderator Lang announced the secret ballots results, **159 - yes votes and 50 - no votes.**

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #4, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Cindy Taylor to restrict reconsideration of Article #4, second by Scott Taylor.

Moderator Lang announced the secret ballot request for Article #12 has been taken back. (Everyone sighed in relief!)

The Moderator read Article #5 as follows:

Article 05: Capital Outlay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Eight dollars (\$634,468) for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

DRA Acct. #s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equip: -DPW-Dump Truck Lease Payment	28,524	28,524
	-Police – Pickup Truck Lease Payment (formerly referred to as SUV)	5,944	5,944
Sub-Total →		<hr/> 34,468	<hr/> 34,468
4909	Improvements Other Than Buildings -Town Roads	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
Total for All Capital Outlays → (Majority Vote Required)		634,468	634,468

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Chair Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Ober.

Selectman North spoke to the article. DPW Director Bordeau discussed the Lower bay Road project, which will fix from Leavitt Road to Black Brook Road at a cost of \$595K.

Bill Cutillo, owner of Steele Hill Resorts, stated if the roads are under funded on an annual basis we will be in trouble because all of the State roads the Town has repaired now belong to us. Steele Hill Road use to be one of the worst roads in Belknap County and all it takes is one bad experience. Brian Bordeau has done a good job and now has a plan but the roads may become a bond issue in the future. The Town needs to stay competitive and expand its commercial tax base.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #5, passed without amendments.

The Moderator read Article #6 as follows:

Article 06: Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand dollars (\$33,000) for the purchase and setup of a Police Cruiser. This cost includes: updating any equipment needed, installation of existing equipment, decommissioning a cruiser in order to send it to auction or for trade with the funds received to be used to offset the costs of the vehicle.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman North.

Chair Olmstead explained this is a housekeeping article and there is over 100K in miles on the Chief's vehicle, which will be replaced because it has received over two thousand dollars in maintenance this year.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #6, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #5 and #6, second by Marla Davis.

The Moderator read Article #7 as follows:

Article 07: Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$275,000) for the payment to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

<u>DRA Account Name</u>	Budget Committee <u>Recommendation</u>	Selectmen's <u>Recommendation</u>
To Capital Reserve Funds		
Fire Truck	70,000	70,000
Fire Truck Repair & Refurbish	10,000	10,000
Town Bridges	100,000	100,000
Milfoil/Phosphorus	5,000	5,000
Town Building Improvements	25,000	25,000
Town Facilities Maintenance	40,000	40,000
Town Hall Repair & Restoration	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total Operating Transfer	275,000	275,000

(Majority vote required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair Olmstead.

Selectman North explained these funds are the future savings for capital items and they have all been submitted to the Capital Improvements Program Committee. The H.L. Turner Group's building study has been completed but it didn't tell us anything, we didn't already know.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #7, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Marla Davis to restrict reconsideration of Article #7, second by Chair Olmstead.

The Moderator read Article #8 as follows:

Article 08: DPW Truck Lease/Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement for One Hundred Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five dollars (\$105,255) for the purpose of replacing Truck 5 for the Department of Public Works, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty One Thousand Fifty One Dollars (\$21,051) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

This agreement contains a non-appropriation (escape) clause.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Chair Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman North.

Chair Olmstead explained that currently truck #5 is scheduled to be replaced and has been sitting at the highway garage with a cracked chassis. The replacement truck will cost \$46K plus the plow \$51K and a wing at \$21K, the current interest rate is 3.5%.

Ralph Carter asked if the truck would have dump body? Director Bordeau replied yes.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #8, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Marla Davis to restrict reconsideration of Article #8, second by Andy Sanborn.

The Moderator read Article #9 as follows:

Article 09: To Adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service (2) is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), which is the same amount as the current credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict, and any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the selectmen by April 15 of the tax year.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Chair Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman North.

Chair Olmstead stated the article is verbatim to RSA 72:28 and we are bringing the Town to the same standard as the State, so the credit will be extended to all veterans.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #9, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Chair Olmstead to restrict reconsideration of Article #9, second by Melanie Van Tassel.

The Moderator read Article #10 as follows:

Article 10: Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Road Evaluation & Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repair and evaluation of existing roads and further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Funds will be transferred from the unassigned fund balance with no amount to be raised by taxation.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman North.

Selectman North stated this capital reserve fund will be for road evaluation & repair which was discussed at the joint meeting of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The fund would help to evaluate the roads and come up with a schedule for maintenance and repair of the Town's roads with no money to come from taxation.

Andy Sanborn applauded the Board with this measure because we need to come up with better plans.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #10, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Chair Olmstead to restrict reconsideration of Article #10, second by Lynn Chong.

The Moderator read Article #11 as follows:

Article 11: Authorize the Acceptance of Privately Donated Gifts for a Building to Include Recreation

To see if the town will vote, under RSA 31:19-a, IV, to authorize the acceptance of privately donated gifts for the purpose of the design, construction and maintenance of a building to include recreation, and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Such gifts shall be subject to the custody and investment provisions applicable to trust funds.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectmen Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair Olmstead.

Selectman North explained this is to establish a fund to accept the privately donated gifts for a building to include recreation, the language in this article has been reviewed and suggested by DRA and the Town's Attorney to properly transfer any funds for this purpose that carries specific donor intent.

Nina Gardner asked if the Selectmen could use the funds to build a Town Hall. Selectman North replied yes, a building for recreation or a building that houses recreation due to the intent of the funds being raised for a recreation building. Nina Gardner stated the funds are being held in trust and she is not clear on the wording.

Mark Curtin asked if a the Town could build a Police or Fire Department, as long as there is an office for recreation? Selectman North replied yes, the Town's buildings are on the Board's future agenda but currently there is no

comprehensive plan for the buildings to date. Selectman North explained that the cart was before the horse and the Board is trying to correct the situation.

TA Ambrose explained that the Recreation Commission should transfer to the Trustees of the Trust Funds the funds already donated and this would allow for future donations. Selectmen North added the Town needs a destination for the funds to go.

Ralph Carter moved to table this article until next year when there is a better plan. Moderator Lang replied the article cannot be tabled, all articles need to be voted on and any amendments need to be submitted in writing. Ralph Carter submitted a written amendment.

Marla Davis asked if the funds are placed in the trust then would the Trustees or the Selectmen be the expending agents? TA Ambrose replied that would be spelled out in the trust document. Attorney Maher agreed and added he is not sure what authority the Recreation Commission has to write the trust document.

Earl Leighton seconded the motion to the amendment. Ralph Carter offered an amendment to see if the Town will vote to refer article #11 to a study committee and bring it back to next year's Town Meeting because there is too much confusion.

Chief Dexter asked if this means that recreation cannot do any more fundraising? Attorney Maher replied that it is his understanding there was no authority to accept the funds but they would have the authority through the Trustees of the Trust Funds. If this is voted down then subsequent funds will not be accepted.

Moderator Lang called for a card vote on the amendment. **The amendment failed, 51 yes votes and 91 no votes.**

Moderator Lang called for a card vote on the original Article #11.

The vote was in the negative - Article #11, failed without amendments.

The Moderator read Article #12 as follows:

Article 12: Petitioned Article to Discontinue the "Emergency Medical Services Fire and Rescue Apparatus, Equipment and Vehicles Special Revenue Fund"

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the "Emergency Medical Services Fire and Rescue Apparatus, Equipment and Vehicles Special Revenue Fund" established as article 30 at Town Meeting 3/11/1999, amended as article 3 at Town Meeting 5/13/2008, and amended as article 13 at Town Meeting on 5/10/2011 and return such fund balances to the General Fund. As of 12/31/2016 the fund has a balance of \$273,004.

Requires a majority of voters present and voting (RSA 35:3)

Not Recommended by the Selectmen - Not Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Roger Grey for the purpose of a motion. Second by Bill Kelly.

Roger Grey stated this article doesn't affect the department's operations in any way and the funds will be deposited in the Town's general fund. Taking away the fund doesn't mean the Town can't appropriate monies for the Fire Department at future meetings but it can also be used for other needs.

Selectman Ober stated the Board unanimously voted against this article, this fund was established through the wisdom of our prior Town leaders to balance the Town's large purchases, so everything is not coming out of one basket and this article will increase the operating budget of the Fire Department by \$20-\$30K. Selectman Ober noted the fund balance cannot be accessed by the Board in emergencies and the Town would need to raise \$250K in funds, which is 50 cents per thousand. There has been a \$687K savings to the taxpayers since this fund was established.

Andy Sanborn asked everyone to take their wallets out of one pocket and put it in the other pocket... there you have it!

Johnny Van Tassel stated this fund is very transparent and we know where the money comes from and where the money goes, there is no reason to close it.

The vote was in the negative - Article #12, failed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #11 and #12, second by Dennis Fields.

The Moderator read Article #13 as follows:

Article 13: Other Business

To transact such other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.

Moderator Lang thanked Sheila Dodge, Mary Ahlgren and Sandra Leighton as the Supervisors of the Checklist, Assistant Moderators - Don Bormes, Dick Gardner, Steve Cobb, Jim Cluett & Bob Holt and everyone else that helped with setup.

Earl Leighton thanked Roger Grey for serving as a member of the Budget Committee because he was the other descending vote and asked the questions, so people needed to explain their thoughts. Thank you Roger.

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Olmstead for the purpose of adjourning the meeting, seconded by Selectman North, the vote was in the affirmative at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

April Rollins, Administrative Specialist
(for TC/TC Marla Davis)