



2015 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Town of Tamworth, County of Carroll in said State qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet for the First Session of the Annual Town Meeting at the Tamworth Town House, 27 Cleveland Hill Road, in said Town of Tamworth on **Tuesday, the 10th of March, 2015**, to choose town officers and to vote on other matters required to be on the official ballot, polls to be open for voting on **ARTICLE #01** at eight o'clock in the forenoon, and to close not earlier than seven o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting at the Kenneth A. Brett School, 881 Tamworth Road, in said Town of Tamworth on **Wednesday, the 11th of March, 2015**, at seven o'clock in the evening for the transaction of all other Town business as specified in the remaining articles of this warrant.

The moderator went through the public service announcements, the ground rules, and the introduction of the public officials. Margaret Rieser was asked to lead in the invocation, and Kent Hemingway Sr. led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The moderator read the results of the elections to complete Article 1.

ARTICLE #01 To elect all necessary **Town Officers**, which appear on the official Town ballot for the ensuing year.

Office	Name	Term	Votes
Selectmen	James Hidden	3 years	234
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	Kim Trammell	3 years	259
Treasurer	Mariette Ross	1 year	81
	Priscilla Remick (Write In)		166
Trustee of the Trust Funds		3 years	
	John Watkins (Write In)		7
	John Wheeler (Write In)		3

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Cemetery Trustee	3 years	
Mark Albee		236
Library Trustees	3 years	
Allie Thompson		232
Skip Nason		240
Planning Board Members	3 years	
David Little		238
Eric Dube		221
Fireward – At Large	3 year	
Dana Littlefield		257
Fireward – East	3 years	
John Hartley		252

Total Ballots Cast – 277

ARTICLE #02

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$76,269** for **salary and benefits** for the current year for the position of **Town Clerk/Tax Collector**. The amount requested under this article shall be used for an annual salary of \$49,578, FICA and Medicare in the amount of \$3,793, a health and dental insurance premium (93% of the premium for the Town's health insurance plan currently with an 80%/20% split for a two person policy and 100% of the employee dental insurance) of \$17,459, and contributions to the NH State Retirement System at the effective contribution rate (currently 10.77% until 6/30/15 then changing to 11.17%) of \$5,439. If a midterm appointment of a new Town Clerk/Tax Collector should be made a salary and benefit package will be determined by the Board of Selectmen at the time of the appointment.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

No Discussion

Article Passed

ARTICLE #03

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$673,323** for **General Government Operations:** (Majority Vote Required)

Board of Selectmen	\$ 13,489
Town Administration	\$185,917
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 39,474
Election & Registration	\$ 6,018
Treasurer's Expense	\$ 5,866
Data Processing	\$ 24,800
Revaluation of Property	\$ 38,696
Legal Expenses	\$ 5,000
Personnel Administration	\$ 5,000
Planning	\$ 12,135
Zoning	\$ 2,990
Office Building	\$ 30,200
Town House	\$ 14,168
Cemeteries	\$ 31,773
Property Liability Insurance	\$ 30,000
Advertising & Regional Assoc.	\$ 7,555
Emergency Repair Response	\$150,000
Debt Service Principal & Interest	\$ 70,242

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

David Little made a motion to amend Article #3 to increase the line for Town Clerk/Tax Collector by \$3,500 to a total of \$42,974, increasing the Total warrant article to \$676,823.

The Motion was Moved/Seconded and Discussion pursued.

David Little explained that this amendment would not increase taxes, as the Tamworth Foundation has already approved a grant for \$3,500 to fully fund this amendment amount. He explained that this money will pay for the first three phases of a project to conserve the town's historical records. Phase 1 is to remove the Town Records still presently stored in the vault at the Town House to the climate controlled environment at the Town Offices. A number of those volumes are showing visible signs of mold. Phase 2, with the help of a professional archivist, is to develop and implement a records retentions policy for our town records in order to keep what historical records are required by the State statute's, and eliminate the rest.

Phase 3 is to have a professional archivist inventory and prioritize those historical records most in need of professional preservation.

With the completion of these three phases it is expected that the town will be eligible for Moose Plate grants, to fund the professional preservation of the town's historic records. And there will be space in the Vault to put them. Until a full plan is developed it would be premature to say exactly what those later phases are going to include or cost. Other towns have digitalized their Town records and developed an electronic finding aid to make easier access to the records, and reduce the handling of the original records. David pointed out that there is also a need to upgrade the Town House vault, to have a climate controlled environment, so it can be used to safely store historical documents there as well.

David Little explained that the Tamworth Foundation, since 1937, has managed an endowment built on charitable contributions and whose mission is to preserve and improve the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical well being of the inhabitants of Tamworth. The foundation is a grant making organization, for both non-profit and government entities, providing leadership in meeting future needs of the Town of Tamworth with those Assets.

The Amendment to the article was voted on and passed.

Further discussion pursued on the Amended Article and a question was asked if there was room in the Town Hall for the records to be kept? Selectmen Chairman Jim Hidden acknowledged there was. Joanne Rainville wanted to say Thank You to the Tamworth Foundation for their grant.

The amended article was then voted on.

Amended Article Passed

ARTICLE #04

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** for the purpose of **renovating the Town Office Building and the Town House.** (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 2-1)

Moved/Seconded

The Moderator did announce that there was going to be a secret ballot vote on this article. Discussion pursued.

Bob Streeter spoke of three reasons to vote no on this warrant article. At the Budget Hearing last month he asked the selectmen if there was a plan they could tell us about or show us and he was told no there was not. He believed there should be a plan before expending the money, and all Tamworth voters should be able to comment on renovations to Town buildings, especially to the Historic Town House a building near and dear to the residents of Tamworth. Secondly, there are many members of boards and committees who were not happy with the last year's decisions by the Selectmen to move all meetings to the Town House. The results from a group of concerned citizens who conducted a Needs Assessment survey of the Town Office users found multiple reasons for discontent. That same group of concerned citizens also presented three Architectural Plans to the Selectmen to keep intact a large meeting room in the Town office's while providing an extra office or two and therefore most, if not all, board and committee meetings could return to the Town Office Building. If Town Government over time continues to move into the first floor of the Town House there undoubtedly will be fewer and fewer opportunities for new endeavors to join existing users. The senior citizens luncheon missed one of their meals just a few weeks ago due to a conflict with the town government personnel meeting, while the large meeting room at the Town Office's sat warm and empty. Town Government already has a building. Mr. Streeter believes the Town House 99% of the time should be used by the town's people.

Mary Breasted Smith asked what the reason was for this money and what is the plan? Chairman Jim Hidden spoke that the reason for the money is to address some space issues that have developed at the Town Office Building which is why the meetings had been moved to the Town House. The board was looking at the feasibility of holding meetings there and looked at restructuring the space at the town office building. Mr. Hidden commented that Mr. Streeter was correct in that at the budget hearing a month or so ago the board did not have an exact plan. With the \$30,000, the Select board would like to address the space in the town office building, storage area for the town clerk/tax collector that she has asked for over the last couple of years, examine some of the issues in the Town office building basement to make it more climate controlled for the retention of the permanent records and the storage of older records, as well as some insulation issues to be addressed at the Town Office building.

Juno Lamb asked if the issue was a meeting space issue? Jim Hidden replied that it hadn't proven to be an issue for not enough space as a

meeting place but the bigger issue is in trying to divide the office space shared by the Town Administrator and the Executive Secretary to cut down on the interruptions for both position. It was acknowledged that by providing separate offices it would bump the meeting space at the Town office building. Juno Lamb asked if other town property locations had been considered for Town government meetings. Mr. Hidden commented it had been talked about but that the thought was to keep the meeting place close to the Town office building.

Margaret Johnson asked if consideration could be made by the Selectmen to have permission by the town's people before making any renovations to the historic Town House without knowing more about their plan. She also asked if the Selectmen could address the concerns with the 2-1 vote on this article.

Willie Farnum spoke of a number of years ago in the Capital Improvement Plan having \$175,000 for a more extensive building addition that was more of a long term solution rather than a short term solution, and would accommodate these needs. Mr. Farnum felt it was short sided to lose the town meeting space, and was not in favor of removing town records from the Town office building.

Bob Streeter felt that the current room that the Town Administrator and Executive Secretary share is a good size space already (338 sq ft), and has opportunity in itself inexpensively to be divided and would save the current town meeting room in the town office building.

Further discussion in regards to other locations for meetings in town owned buildings was addressed as well as a request to hear from the selectmen minority voter not recommending this article.

Steve Gray explained, in being the minority voter, that he also has been associated with the Capital Improvement Program and recalls the varying amounts of money that have been placed into the plan by varying select board's since 2009, ranging from \$130,000, \$75,000, up to \$175,000, and this proposal is \$30,000. Mr. Gray explained that he had agreed to an inexpensive plan earlier trying to save the taxpayer's money after reviewing two pro bono architect's proposals whose amounts could have built a new town house. Mr. Gray felt he should have gotten more information and a better definition of the problems to be solved before he had agreed to that plan. He believes that this amount of money is not enough money and that to do this would still require us to do additional renovations later. He referenced the State's increasing demands for records retention and the length of retention time involved to store certain documents, including those to be kept

forever. Mr. Gray spoke of the need for the storage space to store paper documents safely in a climate controlled environment, as well as the negative impact to the other boards, of both being considerations of his vote not to recommend this article, and his reasoning for the need of more money then what has been proposed.

Helen Steele commented that she would like to see the town officials figure out how to make use of the town office building so that it serves the purposes, whether it involves a plan to raise more money than this but we need to know what that is going to be, and that she believes the Town House should be there for Town functions.

The moderator instructed the voters to cast their secret ballot vote. A Yes would be to appropriate the \$30,000 and No would be if you didn't want to.

Secret Ballot Count 134 No 8 Yes Not Passed

ARTICLE #05

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **598,585** for **Public Safety**: (Majority Vote Required)

Police Department	\$281,175
Ambulance Contracted Services	\$ 42,750
Fire Department	\$201,204
Rescue Squad	\$ 55,405
Forest Fires	\$ 7,183
Emergency Management	\$ 5,000
Animal Control	\$ 5,868

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Richard Colcord made a motion to amend the total warrant article to \$611,085.

The amendment was moved and seconded. Discussion pursued.

Richard Colcord commented that the amendment for \$12,500 would be for the Fire Department line and would be used for building maintenance as recently there have been some unforeseen problems at the central station with water dams and some other issues. The initial plan was to strip and repaint the roof at the South Tamworth Fire Station but it has now been recommended that the roof be replaced.

No Further Discussion. A Voice Vote was taken on the Amendment. The Amendment Passed.

Further Discussion on the Amended Article pursued. Nancy Sheridan asked what the increase of the Emergency Management line from \$2,225 to \$5,000 is, and the increase of \$16,748 in the Police Department budget.

Dana Littlefield spoke as the Emergency Management Director to the increases: \$1100 is for the Maintenance Contract for the Generator for the KA Brett School which was purchased under a grant and which serves as the town's Emergency Shelter. \$800 is for the service contracts for the two new generators we had installed this past year at the Police Department and the Town office building. \$800 is for the fuel costs to replenish the generators, which includes the two stand alone tanks at the school, \$2000 stipend for the Emergency Management Director's position, and \$300 for supplies.

Chief Poirier addressed the increase in the Police Department's budget and referenced looking at the line items from last year to this year to see the increases which would be a lot easier, but the bottom line is the COLA adjustment and the pay line, the rise in the retirement contributions, and the cost in the insurance.

Helen Steele asked what the Volunteer Incentive Program was. Richard Colcord explained that it is a program that has been set up which is divided amongst the volunteer firefighters based on point system, how many calls the dept had and how many calls the volunteer firefighter made, and to reimburse them for fuel, clothes, etc

Amended Article Passed

ARTICLE #06

To see if the Town will vote to **authorize** the Tamworth Board of Selectmen to enter into a **multi-year agreement** (which may include an intergovernmental agreement under RSA Chapter 53-A), along with other regional municipalities such as, but not necessarily including or limited to, the Towns of Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Madison and Ossipee, **for emergency medical/ambulance services**. (Majority vote required.)

Note: Currently the six towns are negotiating a six year agreement (pending Town meeting) and Tamworth's total (for all six years) would be \$745,369.16 (including 2015) which represents 22% of the

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total contract amount. The payments would be raised annually at Town meeting and are anticipated to be as follows:

2015	\$ 42,750.00 *
2016	\$136,664.43
2017	\$139,397.72
2018	\$142,185.67
2019	\$142,185.67
2020	\$142,185.67

**** Tamworth's payment for 2015 is already included in Article 5 (Public Safety)***

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

Juno Lamb asked if it was a typo as to why the Selectmen did not recommend, or recommend, this Article? Jim Hidden explained that this Article is not a money article at this point we are just asking permission of the town's people to enter into this agreement that the board has been working on for the last 12 months with the five surrounding towns to provide our ambulance service.

Beth McCarthy asked of the name of the ambulance service? Jim Hidden replied that CarePlus is the ambulance service, and is our current care provider. Mrs. McCarthy asked how the 22% figure was arrived at; If it was the population of the communities? Jim Hidden explained population, call volume, etc was all factored in, and no matter how the group of six towns figured it, Tamworth came out the same way, the second highest on both counts.

Joanne Rainville of the Tamworth Community Nurses Association commented that because there was a delay in an ambulance call during a medical emergency she was involved with, it took 45 minutes for an ambulance to arrive from Bethlehem. She is aware that you can have multiple events at the same time to cause responders to be scattered and spread out about the state. She commented that with this amount of money couldn't we look at having this money put into our own Tamworth Rescue to serve our community with our own organization. Jim Hidden described what is factored into this contract is the ambulance, the 24/7 coverage, the skilled people that are going to be there, and if we were to do this in town that we would see those costs in adding a facility, having a second ambulance, and having the staffing around the clock.

Helen Steele asked if people where billed for this Ambulance service, or if people who live in the Town of Tamworth the trip is covered?

Jim Hidden explained that if you have insurance the insurance will be billed. Helen Steele asked isn't this contract a lot of money? Jim Hidden replied it was, but the board put the bid out to eight or nine companies and only two wished to submit bids. Our current provider CarePlus was considerably cheaper and the best option, and has also addressed the boards concerns in the past, and have come right to them when there are concerns.

Ned Beecher asked about the increase in costs. It was explained that the \$42,750 is for the year of 2015 as the last year of the existing five year contract. John Roberts explained that we have one year left on the old contract, and that 4 years ago the towns of Eaton, Freedom, Madison, & Tamworth negotiated a five year contract with CarePlus, and the company that Ossipee used went out of business. Ossipee last year went out on their own and paid a little over \$500,000 for one year. Ossipee came to the varying towns to join in with them for a new five year contract. John explained that when this went out to bid the other of the two companies that bid was \$800,000 so they went with CarePlus. He explained that we are all set for the 2015 year, and that going into this contract early we'll get a better deal and hopes that all the other towns go along with it. The fact is that if all the Towns don't vote in on this new contract this week, it is back to the drawing board.

Joanne Rainville wanted to comment on Helen Steele's question in regards to the billing of the ambulance service. If you are insured, and require an ambulance transport, the insurance companies are billed. Ms. Rainville asked about the person who is not insured today, if they have to arrange a payment plan? She recalls 5 or 6 years ago, that if the person was uninsured they were not billed for a transport. John Roberts acknowledged that uninsured individuals will not be billed. Ms. Rainville commented that this has not been her experience and that the request forms that are sent into the ambulance company, the company is in fact expecting payments, and the individual is not being forgiven their debt. John Roberts explained that they were not required to pay the bill, even though they may get that form, they do not have to pay that bill if they are a resident of the Town of Tamworth and they do not have insurance.

Mary Breasted Smyth asked how the services would be administered with all the several towns. Jim Hidden explained currently they have two locations, one in Ossipee, and one in the old SAU building on Rte. 41. The contract has specific call time requirements that they have to meet. Mrs. Smyth asked what kind of leverage we have if we are not satisfied with the service. There are provisions in the contract that allows for fines to be levied, we can get out of the contract if they are not achieving the response times. The contract allows CarePlus

certain response times that they have to adhere to. They will need to meet that response time 85% of the time. It was asked How many ambulance runs do we have a year? Richard Colcord answered that the average was 473 transports for a current contractor.

Sue Stowbridge commented on two ambulance runs that someone she knew was billed and had to pay for them, and had no insurance. Sue commented that she didn't know how they were supposed to know about the arrangements between the town and the ambulance service.

Willie Farnum was involved with negotiating the last contract as a Selectman, and expected an increase in the expense of a new contract, but was not expecting this amount of a jump. Mr. Farnum presumes that at this point we have a negotiated contract and that over the next five years this is the money we have to appropriate to make this work. Mr. Farnum would like to know is there any substantial changes in the contract from what we had before, and what are those changes? Mr. Farnum respectfully disagreed with Mr. Roberts in regards to the billing and payment of the ambulance services and that the company could and would bill individuals and expect payment and they could go after people if they wanted too. Mr. Roberts commented that they did not have to pay if they had no insurance and were a resident of Tamworth. Mr. Robert's commented that the problem was the people not knowing the arrangement with the ambulance service.

Richard Colcord explained that there are really no substantial changes in the contract in what is going to be available to us, and knew going into this that there would be an increase of 120% in costs for the coverage. He believes this company has bent over backwards trying to work with us, and that we have better coverage as there isn't going to be a provision for one ambulance to be at the Basic Life Support, it is all going to be Advanced Life Support. Mr. Colcord said regardless of the number of ambulances that have to sit there he believes the provisions negotiated includes response times of 80% for an ambulance to be on scene within 10 minutes, and 100% of the time within 20 minutes. Mr. Colcord commented on Joanne Rainville's experience with the late ambulance arrival and was not aware of that call. Tamworth has a unit in town that has a license to transport, we don't have the personnel right now but we could get it. Ms. Rainville commented that the Tamworth Rescue squad was with the Fire Dept on a call at that time.

Anne Riecken was not aware until this evening that free transport in an ambulance was available to the people of Tamworth. Ms. Riecken asked if other towns do that, and if this is available to us is that increasing the cost of this contract? Jim Hidden was not sure what the

other towns may do about the transport fees, but spoke that the ambulance service had cited that the Affordable Care Act has decreased the insurance coverage of Medicare/Medicaid and the ambulance Company needs to make "X" amount of money to cover a transport, and the Advanced Life Support staffing.

Arlene Anthony spoke of her husband's passing in July and the billing of the ambulance service. They have good insurance coverage, but CarePlus still billed her for the difference. They billed her and billed her and then said it was going to collections which would ruin her credit score. She stated she went to the Town Clerk's Office and was told you don't have to pay this you have to call them, send these forms, and tell them you have a hardship. She believes this treatment, because it has happened to her, has happened to others too.

Dana Littlefield a member of the Tamworth Rescue Squad explained that CarePlus is a "for profit" company. The increase in EMS services is seen all over the country due to the change in medical requirements in the change of healthcare, and that we are not the only ones. It is our only option to enter into this contract, we don't have a plan B at this time, but in speaking to what Joanne Rainville mentioned, maybe by 2020 or sooner, we want to look into our own service. That the Town collects the money from the insurance companies to help offset the cost to the town. The Capital Improvement Plan committee was approached by a group a few years ago and did have some discussion on this and the biggest question was how the staffing would work. Right now CarePlus takes in the revenues from both the individual's insurance company, and the contract monies from the towns. As a town service, the biggest challenge would be the cost in keeping good people aboard 24/7, 365 days a year. Revenues may be close to costs, or not, but it should be looked into. John Roberts thought that maybe the 5 towns could get together to see about running an ambulance service, after getting through this part. He doesn't believe a smaller town can do it alone with the costs as full time employees, and the paying the benefits involved. Mr. Littlefield concurred with Mr. Robert's comments and mentioned that Chichester/Loudon, he believes, runs a joint ambulance service and staffing whether full time, volunteer, or on a call basis, would be the big cost.

Marc Stowbridge asked the board if the Town offices would address the billing and collection of the current ambulance services, and take the ambulance company to task, if we do have some control over that, by forbidding them to do what they are currently doing if it is not part of the contract. Mr. Stowbridge believes this overbilling is dishonest, immoral, and should be addressed retroactively. He would hope that the Board of Selectmen would look into this.

Dom Bergen commented that the numbers figure to be \$288 per run.

It was asked that the question be moved. The moderator read the article and a voice vote was taken.

Article Passed

ARTICLE #07

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,441,018 for Public Works:** (Majority Vote Required)

Highway Department	<i>\$590,512</i>	
Equipment Purchase	<i>\$360,000</i>	
<u>Road Reconstruction/Paving</u>	<u><i>\$260,000</i></u>	
Total Highway		\$ 1,210,512
Street Lights		\$ 16,000
Well Monitoring & Testing		\$ 6,000
Transfer Station Operations	<i>\$193,106</i>	
<u>Transfer Station Containers</u>	<u><i>\$ 15,400</i></u>	
Total Transfer Station		\$ 208,506

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

Chairman, Jim Hidden made a motion to amend the article to read, "To see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,346,018 for Public Works".

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

Jim Hidden stated that the reason for the decrease of \$95,000 is because the price quoted in the trade in allowance for our current grader was considerably less than we anticipated so we would like to take that out of the budget.

No further Discussion. A vote was taken to amend the article. Passed

No further Discussion on the Article as Amended. Voice Vote taken.

Amended Article Passed

ARTICLE #08

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$24,483** for **Health and Welfare**: (Majority Vote Required)

General Assistance	\$ 23,883
Health Officer	\$ 600

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded No Discussion

Article Passed

ARTICLE #09

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$241,102** for **Culture & Recreation**: (Majority Vote Required)

Parks & Recreation	\$ 87,049
Swim Program	\$ 5,914
Cook Memorial Library	\$140,139
Patriotic Purposes/Family Day	\$ 8,000

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Gail Marrone asked if any of the amount of the Parks & Recreations \$87,049 includes the maintenance of the three new fields at the Recreation field on Durrell Road that is supposed to be cleared next week, a possible parking lot, and an indoor batting cage added as well. Jim Hidden replied none of that amount is for that use because the new fields don't exist. Mrs. Marrone asked if there had been any figures drawn up for costs to maintain these fields once they are put in. She was told that a logging truck would be in next week to start clearing the fields. She asked if we knew how much it is going to cost in maintaining those fields next year.

Parker Roberts, Recreational Director spoke that all they will be doing this year is to address the immediate need of the parking lot issue, and the need for more parking spaces, and the traffic flow for safety reasons. His understanding is that this work is going to be done by private contractors and private businessmen who are donating materials and doing the work. There has been a group that has been studying this. The fields, the batting cages and all those other things that have been mentioned may be two to five years down the road. Hopefully by next fall we will have one more small soccer field. The other baseball field will probably not happen for a few years anyway. Ultimately we would like to do a lot of things down there but in the

immediate future, this year in particular, I don't think there will be any need for additional money for what we are going to do this year. As far as maintenance and upkeep, the soccer field will not be in play until next fall, and I would prefer to not play on it to give it a year to be established. It won't cost the town anything to build these fields and to increase the size of the parking lot.

Article Passed

ARTICLE #10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$11,979** for **Tamworth Conservation Commission** expenses. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

No Discussion

Article Passed

ARTICLE #11

To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,500** for the **250th Town Anniversary Committee**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

Jim Alt asked to hear how this money was going to be spent. Jim Hidden spoke for the 250th Committee in regards for the need to raise & appropriate the funds in order to expend out of the account. The committee's intent is to generate funds through selling merchandise, donations, etc. so that this is not costing the town anything. Money is going to be spent for setting up for different memorabilia, organizing events, etc. Jim Hidden stated, 2016 is the Town's 250th anniversary, and if money is not raised money cannot be spent. In effect this appropriation is purely a pass through so that the 250th Committee can expend the funds.

Article Passed

David Little asked as permitted under RSA 40:10 he'd like to move to Restrict Reconsideration on Articles #2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, & 11.

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

The moderator was asked to explain the motion made. The moderator stated that this motion made, if passed, would not allow us to reconsider on anything on Articles 2-11 at this meeting tonight. Willie Farnum spoke to show his support of this motion explaining that it's a good idea once a decision has been made that it would not be changed after the majority of the attendees go home, and the voters that are left at the meeting change the program.

No Further Discussion Majority Vote Motion Passed

ARTICLE #12

(By Petition). "My name is Rose and our family has lived in Chocorua for over 40 years and in New Hampshire since 1908. We have a family home on Route 16 that you might have driven by a few times. I am making a request to address the town at this year's town meeting. In order to get on the agenda, I need signatures of Tamworth-Chocorua town residents who are registered voters. Thank you for your time."

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

The Moderator asked Rose Bente to come to the microphone to speak. Rose introduced herself and stated that her parents were Bill and Ellie Homeyer and the family has lived in the state of NH since 1908. Ellie was a former Tamworth Community Nurse. Her parents would donate to both big and small causes in the way that they could. They have lived in this town for 44 yrs. Rose explained that her mother's home is on Rte 16 in Chocorua across from the old candy house from years ago. The Carriage House was on one piece of property and the home on another piece of property. What my mother hoped to do was to do a boundary line change. What we got hit with for a while was a subdivision. What we wanted to do was to take the big boundary line along the back and change it to a 2 acre parcel to include the carriage house and the house, and to put it on the market. My mother's dream was to build a little cottage in the back because it was becoming impossible for her mother to support a 4 bedroom, 3 bath farm house. The taxes were too much for a retiree. We were hit with some sanctions to that property. We jumped through all the hoops with Paul King's help who was representing us at the Town planning board meetings. Basically, we were all set to go and at the very last moment there was a change. We were told we could do that, but with restrictions. No restrictions were ever mentioned, there was nothing wrong with the soil, and we put the land in conservation to protect our water for this town because we drain from that big hill straight down into the river. There would never be more than two homes on

that back property but we were told one, on 15 acres of land. There is no town ordinance that says you need more than 2 acres, there is no zoning. So what was being done was we were not allowed discussion at that planning board meeting, it was passed without discussion without arbitration there. We had to take it to court. My mother did not want this to happen to anyone else, as well as herself. The good people on the planning board were just as mad and upset as my mother. But we had to go to a judge, we won our case, we were sent back to the town to fix it. I have flown in twice about this from New Mexico. I thank you for your time, as I am a taxpayer, and executor of the estate and responsible for the bills. The funds come to \$13,201.36 I hope you will help me with, to fix the situation, to pay the bills that are due in fighting this arbitration. Thank you.

The moderator asked if there was further discussion.

Robert Hammond asked for the location of the parcel on Rte 16. The location was clarified.

Marc Stowbridge asked for an amendment to the petitioned article #12. Marc respectfully requested that Article 12 be amended to have the town vote to have the Town Selectmen raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,201.36 for the reimbursement of the funds that the Homeyer family incurred do to the legal actions of the 2012 Tamworth planning board. I respectfully propose that they divide the funds into two items to help the town with this expense by giving \$7,000 in tax credits and the remainder in cash replacement for debts.

Before we go further, the moderator explained we as a meeting cannot vote for that expenditure because the initial subject matter of Article #12 did not include an appropriation of funds. Therefore this meeting was not warned of the expenditure. The reason the moderator allowed the amendment to be read was that this is going to come back in the future, and in a way you have been warned.

Rose Bente apologized for her misunderstanding of the presentation of this petitioned warrant article, and not doing it correctly. But it passed all three selectmen and the Attorney, and made it to the town meeting notes. I respectfully request that we seriously consider it so that it doesn't incur more expense for me to have to come across country and do this again next year. I tried to get here the year my mother died and I missed the town meeting by a week. I tried last year with a dollar amount and I missed the deadline for the warrants. I don't understand how this works, again I apologize, but I would really like to clear this up today.

The moderator explained there is the right to put a petitioned article on the warrant, and if one does not feel they have not had the right to put an article on the warrant it can get sticky very quickly. And so the various agencies, including the Secretary of State, suggest that the Selectmen just put it on as it's petitioned to them. The law requires them to put the article on the warrant and doesn't allow them to change it.

With no further discussion and because Article #12 requires no action at this time the moderator proposed to move to Article #13 by the Town Meeting body signifying by saying "I". A voice vote was taken. No voters opposed the motion to move to Article #13.

The moderator then discussed the grouping of Articles #13-26 that are by petition. The total of those articles is \$153,115. The moderator explained that traditional we have voted on these petitioned articles as a group. The moderator will read through each article, and those that would like an article to be discussed say so, and the moderator will pull that article from the group, and it will be voted on separately, subtracting that article's amount from the grand total. We will then vote on the group first, and then we will vote on the individual pulled articles. A voice vote was taken to agreement of the moderators proposed grouping of the articles. The moderator then proceeded to read the germane part of the articles unless the legislative body wants the whole articles read. The moderator hearing no objections proceeded to read the Articles #13 – 26.

The article asked to be pulled was Article #26. The moderator then provided a new total of \$150,115 for the petitioned warrant articles #13-25. The motion was moved/seconded.

The Moderator then proceeded to state that we are going to raise and appropriate a total of \$150,115 to fund Articles #13-25.

Voice Vote Taken

Articles Passed

ARTICLE #13

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000** to the **Tamworth Outing Club** for the support of the Cal Ripkin and Babe Ruth baseball programs. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #14 (By Petition). To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,000** for **Tri-County Community Action** for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #15 (By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the **Tamworth Caregivers** for the purpose of continuing services for the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #16 (By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$239**, or transfer same from available funds, for support of the **Medication Bridge Assistance Program**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #17 (By Petition). To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,026** in support of **Starting Point** providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #18 (By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand (**\$5,000**) for the **Tamworth Scholarship Committee, Inc.** (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #19 (By Petition). Warrant Article for the Town of Tamworth to appropriate the same sum as in 2014 of **\$5,000** to assist the **Community Food Center** – the food pantry serving Tamworth people. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #20 (By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,100** for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of **Children Unlimited, Inc.** (level funding request). (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #21

(By Petition). We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Tamworth do hereby petition the 2015 Annual Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** for **Tamworth Community Nurse Association** for the purpose of continuing services to the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #22

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,000** to provide meals for the **Tamworth Meals on Wheels** Recipients. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #23

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** for the annual support of services provided to the citizens of this community by the **Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice**. The VNA-Hospice Agency has been serving the Town residents for many years, and the Town has consistently supported the VNA & Hospice. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #24

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$17,000** for support of the Tamworth children, ages 5 – 12, using the Out-of-School hours, School-Aged childcare services at **Bearcamp Valley School and Children's Center** (Tamworth Preschool Inc.), a non-profit organization. These services include before and after school, vacation weeks and summer programs for Tamworth Children ages 5-12. This request does not include any preschool programming. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #25

(By Petition). To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,750** to assist the **Mental Health Center**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #26

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** (Three thousand dollars) in support of **Carroll County Transit Blue Loon Public Bus Service**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded

Discussion

George Cleveland spoke about wearing the hat tonight of the chairman of the Carroll County regional coordinating committee that coordinates a pass through of funds for three separate entities – Blue Loon Bus Services, Gibson Center of Senior Services, and Carroll County RSVP. George Cleveland urged people to support the Blue Loon, he does not work for Tri County Cap, but they do provide an essential service in transporting Tamworth residents to medical appointments and other necessary daily living requirements. He wanted to clarify that the bus windows are specially designed with the advertising wrap so that you cannot see in unless you're at a very specific angle, but people on the bus can see out and that there are people on the buses. He does not have facts & figures as to how many runs the buses make as he does not work for CAP.

John Roberts spoke of being one of the selectmen who voted no against the article. He agrees with George Cleveland if the buses were going down the road that you can't see the people in them but of the five buses stored at Tri County Cap only two are on the road, and from Nov 15th – April 15th he is in that yard on a daily basis and most of the time there are three buses there. John believes this is a service that's not surviving. He also asked if they were getting money from the Carroll County Commissioners this year. George Cleveland responded that he did not know the answer to that question.

Mike Coughlin as CEO of Tri County Community Action explained that the drivers of the buses have stated that the reason they may be empty is because they are coming back from bringing people to their appointments. Mr. Conklin has seen the facts and figures and the buses are used for long distance trips, and we do need those buses. The buses are also fitted for wheelchairs and the drivers are trained to get folks who need those services on those buses. He commented that they would not be coming to the Town looking for money if the buses weren't being used, and instead would just discontinue the service. The buses parked are spares for possible breakdowns of the operating ones, and the service is used by residents of this town which allows them to go to places they would not otherwise be able to go. They do need these buses. Mr. Conklin hopes that we support the article.

Helen Steele commented that she believes these buses can be used for other things than medical appointments, and she also believes that

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Public transit always takes a little while to get going and that this should be encouraged and not discouraged.

No Further Discussion Voice Vote Taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #27

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

John Wheeler spoke of a correction to be made on page 42 of the Annual Report, that he reported in error when putting the report in, that the plot costs for non-residents should be \$1,100 not \$1,000.

David Little made a motion "Where as the voters at this Tamworth Town Meeting on March 11, 2015 have voted down Warrant Article 4, and do not support funding for proposed renovations to the Town Office Building and the Town House, and whereas the meeting room at the Town Office currently sits available and underutilized, and whereas traditional uses of the Town House, such as the Community Meal, are being negatively impacted by the current arrangement of town related meetings being moved to the Town House, it is the sense of this meeting that the regularly scheduled meetings of the Town's Boards, Committees, and Commissions, should return to the meeting room at the Town Office, and we respectfully request that this be done forthwith".

Moved/Seconded
Voice Vote Taken

No Discussion
The "I"'s have it!

The Moderator asked if there was further business to transact. Hearing none, Mr. Kent Hemingway Sr. moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

The Tamworth Town Meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Trammell
NH Certified Town Clerk