TAMWORTH 2018 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 K. A. Brett School, 881 Tamworth Road, in said Town of Tamworth on **Tuesday, the 13th of March, 2018**, 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** and **ARTICLE #02** 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 14th of March, 2018**, 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 opened the meeting at 7:10pm. He thanked Richard Roberts and the highway department for doing such a nice job yesterday with the weather and throughout the winter. He thanked all those who ran for office and thanked Dave Dinwoodie for his years of service as a WWII veteran, raising a family, owning a welding business, and continuing to contribute to the Town of Tamworth as a volunteer for the Chocorua Library, Town Offices, and Chocorua Church. Dave was asked to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and proceeded to give the invocation. The moderator then spoke of a recount requested by Jim Hidden for the Selectmen 3-year term race. The recount will be held at the Tamworth Town Office on Tuesday, March 20th at 4:30pm. The Moderator and Town Clerk welcome the public and feel this recount is a great opportunity in verifying our electronic voting system. The head table was then introduced by the Moderator as well as the Supervisors of the Checklist, Ballot Clerks, and Police Department. The moderator introduced the Advisory Budget Committee and commented that we may be hearing from them during the meeting. The moderator was asked if he would certify the election results. In doing so, the moderator then moved onto the meeting ground rules and the procedure for voting on the Warrant articles. He explained that he had already received a request for two separate secret ballot voting's and would discuss them in do time. The moderator proceeded to ask that the meeting attendees look at Article #13 (page 32) which is by ballot and made reference to the suggestion that the ballot voting was to be open for an hour, and that we could move the KENO Article #13 up. After his discussion with the Selectmen, Town Council & Secretary of State's Office their recommendation was to ask the question on the floor if anyone was opposed to voting on the article without leaving it open for an hour or moving it forward. The moderator hearing no request for that to be done proceeded with the announcement of the results of Article #2 which was on the ballot. The moderator then proceeded to read Article #3

ARTICLE #01 To elect all necessary **Town Officers**, which appear on the official Town ballot for the ensuing year. Open positions (2) Selectmen 3 year terms, (1) Selectman 1 year term, (1) Moderator 2 year term, (1) Town Clerk/Tax Collector 3 year term, (1) Treasurer 1 year term, (1) Supervisor of the

Checklist 6 year term, (2) Planning Board members 3 year terms, (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds 3 year term, (1) Cemetery Trustee 3 year term, (2) Library Trustees 3 year terms, (1) Fireward – East 3 year term, (1) Fireward-At Large 3 year term.

Office	Name	Term	Votes
Selectmen		**3 years**	
	Aaron Ricker		**348**
	William Farnum		**322**
	James Hidden		**304**
Selectmen		**1 year**	
	Rebecca Mason		**364**
	Bruce Robinson		**216**
Treasurer		**1 year**	
	Annie Burke (Write-In)		**175**
Moderator		**2 years**	
	Chris Canfield		**560**
Town Clerk/Tax Collector		**3 years**	
	Kim Trammell		**600**
Supervisor of the Checklist		**6 years**	
	Lisa Remick		**556**
Planning Board Members		**3 years**	
	Eric Dube		**480**
	Kathi Padgett		**397**
Trustee of the Trust Funds		**3 years**	
	John B Watkins		**515**
Cemetery Trustee		**3 years**	
	Mark Albee		**546**
Library Trustees		**3 years**	
	Allie Kaplan-Thompson		**466**
	Skip Nason		**479**

Fireward – East	**3 years**	
	John Hartley	**517**
Fireward – At Large	**3 years**	
	Dana Littlefield	**548**

Total Ballots Cast 646
****Recount held on March 20th for Selectmen 3-year race concluded same results**

ARTICLE #02 Shall we permit the public library to retain all money it receives from its income-generating equipment to be used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase of books, supplies and income-generating equipment?

YES 482 NO 12

ARTICLE #03 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$85,160** for **salary and benefits** for the current year for the position of **Town Clerk/Tax Collector**. ***NOTE:*** The amount requested under this article shall be used for an annual salary of $56,000 to include 20 paid days off, FICA and Medicare in the amount of $4,284, 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 $18,503 and contributions to the NH State Retirement System at the effective contribution rate (remaining at 11.38% thru Dec 2018) of $6,373. (These funds shall only be disbursed as long as the eligibility requirements are met in accordance with the NH Retirement System). Also, 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. (Majority Vote Required)

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

Moved/Seconded No Discussion Article Passed

ARTICLE #04 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$698,951** for **General Government Operations:** (Majority Vote Required)

Board of Selectmen	$ 25,401
Town Administration	$ 191,749
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	$ 53,318
Election & Registration	$ 9,232

Treasurer's Expense		$ 8,201
Data Processing		$ 49,644
Revaluation of Property		$ 14,010
Legal Expenses		$ 30,000
Personnel Administration		$ 8,100
Planning		$ 9,135
Zoning		$ 109
Office Building		$ 51,700
Town House		$ 111,900
Cemeteries		$ 34,376
Property Liability Insurance		$ 33,505
Economic Dev-Adv & Reg Assoc.	$ 3,960	
EDC-Patron Funded Programs	$ 250	$ 4,210
Debt Service Principal & Interest		$ 64,361

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

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Becky Mason made a motion that the Budget Committee recommends to reduce article by $30,600 on lines of Town Administration and the $20,000 for an assistant to the administrator, $1,700 from the Treasurer Expense for transportation of town funds and having the ability to use the police department, and reducing the Town House line by $8,900, as $103,000 would be enough to cover the Town House budget.

Seconded Discussion

Steve Gray spoke of varying unfunded mandates by the State, and the smaller dripping of some. He spoke of the Town Administration cut effecting the work involved in regards to the pulling of deeds from the registry electronically, and the time involved in doing that, and that the data entry involved needs to be completed in a timely manner. He spoke of the retention of records and the requirements of keeping documents in a variety of formats and the legislative changes over the years. He commented on Kim Trammell the Town Clerks involvement with the Municipal Records Committee and the work involved in the requirements of record retention coupling with the Right to Know requests. He spoke of the changes at the state level and the county levels trickling down to the town level and the increased work load.

Peggy Johnson asked if someone could tell us how this would affect our tax rate so she could have a better idea. Madeline Siniscalchi spoke of expanding office hours to make the office open 5 days a week and then there would be time to get their work done and accomplish what they need to. Jim Hidden spoke of the office personnel working on Mondays. Her recommendation would be to expand the hours instead of hiring another person. If your salary it doesn't matter whether you work 28 or 40 hours.

Voice Vote Taken and too close to call so moderator explained we would go to the cards. Vote taken by raise of hands with cards.

Yes 69 No 80 Amendment does not Pass

Becky Mason made a motion to amend the article to $688,351 decreasing the article by a total of $10,600 from lines for Town House $8,900, and Treasurer Expenses $1,700.

Seconded Discussion

Margaret Reiser spoke to address the Town House dollars and what that cut is for. She knows there has been a lot going on with the Town House recently and it seemed to her that we would need to keep the money available to take care of it. Becky Mason addressed the current Town House work pertaining to mold and asbestos, air quality testing, removal of dry wall, tiles, duct work, etc. and the kitchen. Clean up costs have run around $25,000. The electrical panel is to be replaced for $2,000 as well as estimates for floors and basement all included in the $103,000 being proposed to cover repairs, demolition, and replacement costs to get the Town House back up and running.

No Further Discussion Voice Vote Amendment Passed

David Little asked that in the Town Meeting House maintenance that the sources to repair be located before any reconstruction is done. David Little spoke of the legacy of the building and the construction of that building architecturally dating back to 1792 and preserving what is there while adapting it to our needs. David would like to offer an amendment that any funds spent on maintaining the Town House follow the guidelines of the Secretary of Interiors standard for the treatment of Historical Properties. The moderator after discussion with Town Council spoke of David's request not being a budgetary request and that it would then fall under the advisement of the Selectmen and would not be voted on.

Further Discussion

Melanie Streeter asked to reduce amended article by $20,000 to $668,351 for the assistant to the administrator position because with what they were asking for it could be done by volunteers. The moderator explained that amendments made are to the bottom line and although directed to certain line items it is at the discretion of the Selectmen. Jim Alt agreed with Dan Poirier's comment that this discussion is circling around on something we have already decided. The Moderator hearing no more discussion took a voice vote.

Amendment did not Pass

The Moderator than asked to vote on the amended article in the sum of $688,351.

Voice Vote Taken on Amended Article Amended Article Passed

ARTICLE #05 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$818,004** for **Public Safety**: (Majority Vote Required)

Police Department		$369,931
Ambulance Contracted Services		$141,489
Fire/Rescue Department	$286,060	
Ambulance Billing	$ 3,000	$289,060
Forest Fires		$ 6,953
Emergency Management		$ 4,933
Animal Control		$ 5,638

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

Moved/Seconded Discussion

David Little asked to amend the Article to $1,006,004 to Public Safety.

Seconded Discussion

Last year Article #10 was approved to purchase a fire truck. The last sentence of that Article read "In the following year the appropriation of $188,000 will be contained in the operating budget". David asked to show where the $188,000 was in the 2018 operating budget for the second year of the capital reserve for the Fire Truck purchase. It is not showing now but was at the public hearing and something had to have changed. Town Administrator Darlene McWhirter received confirmation from the Town Attorney and DRA that the money has been appropriated and will be included in setting the tax rate for 2018. She commented that the blue paper handed out tonight shows that appropriation to be included in the numbers discussed at the public hearing. Steve Gray addressed RSA 32-7(a) and that this is the way it has been confirmed to be done.

No Further Discussion Voice Vote Amendment Not Passed

Becky Mason asked to reduce the warrant article by $32,456 for the administrators for the Police Dept and Fire Dept.

Moved/Seconded

Peggy Poirier addressed this with the reminder that the police dept was broken for two years and the fact the police are back out on the roads and are seen in front of the school again. During the two years a police

committee gave feedback from their listening sessions and that Chief Littlefield can't be out on the roads if he has to be at the police dept doing administrative work. She believes with all the issues surrounding schools these days that the department will be stretched thinner in trying to keep our students safe. Peg commented that Chief Littlefield has found an administrator well qualified to have at the Police department to answer questions. He is a salaried employee and puts in a lot of hours, and she knows Chief Littlefield is fiscally responsible and would not ask for anything he didn't need. She mentioned that half of his request for funding for his schooling tuition will be paid for by funding he will find himself.

Fire Chief Richard Colcord asked Becky Mason to explain where the money would be taken from as he didn't budget for an administrative assistant but had added money for incidental salaries. Becky Mason explained that she realizes that things can change during the budget process and that history has shown that part time and volunteer positions have become full time positions. Chief Colcord asked out of that $32,456 how much would be coming out of Fire & Rescue. The moderator explained that that is not determined on the floor. Chief Colcord spoke of the money budgeted for incidental salaries for meetings with ISO (Insurance Services Organization) and it would be to pay guys to come in and test equipment instead of him being tied up as the ISO rating effects our insurance rating and could be going from a 9 to an 8 to save us all money.

Chief Littlefield asked that you vote No on this amendment. He spoke of the hired administrator being certified for what is required and has the administrative background to go through the backlog of work that is required to be uploaded to the state and federal software systems. The Police Department Salaries are $52,000, $62,000 and $72,000. Chief Littlefield addressed the need to keep the salaries at a level to maintain personnel. Madeline Siniscalchi addressed more of her concerns with the increased salaries and the expense for education in our size town. Steve Gray spoke to the Chief's salary and the hiring screening process and that research showed salaries up to $91,000. Becky Mason spoke that the amendment did not include to reduce the schooling of the Police Chief as they have just learned that that is a contractual agreement.

Amended article voted on Amendment Not Passed

Chief Littlefield asked to amend the article by $3,100 to $821,104.

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Chief Littlefield discussed the $900 per year cost for new Tasers to be paid for over 5 years which would allow three officers to have Tasers immediately. The older tasers are out of date. The $2,200 is needed for the further integration with the Sheriff's department software as we currently

have a single user license and need to increase the licensing necessary to have two more licenses. Vote on amendment of article to total $821,104.

Amendment Passed

No Further Discussion on Amended Article Amended Article Passed

ARTICLE #06 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$1,304,622 for Public Works**: (Majority Vote Required)

Highway Department	$661,650	
Equipment Purchase	$170,000	
Road Reconstruction/Repair	$250,000	
Total Highway		$1,031,650
Street Lights		$ 18,000
Well Monitoring & Testing		$ 6,500
Transfer Station Operations		$ 248,472

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

Moved/Seconded

Sue Colton would like to amend this article to add $2,000 to support several meetings for citizens of this town to discuss ideas on how to improve safety in this town and in our schools.

Seconded No Discussion to amend Article to $1,306,622

Voice Vote Taken Amendment does not Pass

Becky Mason spoke of clerical typo on this page of a $50,000 difference between the line item requests total amount and the total amount showing under this article for the Highway Department. Highway Dept line item total should be $611,650 and not $661,650. Moderator consulted with Town Council and was advised that no vote needed to be taken.

No further Discussion Article to be voted on in the amount of $1,304,622

Voice Vote taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #07 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$24,656** for **Health and Welfare**: (Majority Vote Required)

Health Officer	$ 1,008
General Assistance	$ 23,648

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

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Becky Mason needed clarification as to whether the recently appointed Deputy Health Officer for $250 was included in this budget. Jim Hidden explained that it should have been as it was discussed prior to putting the final numbers together. No further discussion.

Voice Vote Taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #08 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$123,030** for **Culture & Recreation:** (Majority Vote Required)

Parks & Recreation	$ 106,651
Swim Program	$ 7,379
Patriotic Purposes/Family Day	$ 9,000

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

Moved/Seconded

Jack Waldron asked who voted against this and why. Dan Poirier said he voted against it as a matter of principle and that the Park & Rec director was not at the budget hearing to answer questions.

No Further Discussion

Voice Vote Taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #09 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$7,890** for **Tamworth Conservation Commission** expenses. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectman **recommend** this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Becky Mason speaking for the budget committee felt that the $700 budgeted for stewardship could be raised by other means. Nelson O'Bryan Chairman of Conservation Commission explained $700 is used for scholarships for Tamworth Student's to attend programs for conservation.

Voice vote Taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $176,587 for the Cook Memorial Library of which **$154,923** to be raised through taxation and $21,664 to come from library income from donations, grants, fees etc; such funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees. (Majority vote required)

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

Moved/Seconded No Discussion Article Passed

ARTICLE #11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**100,000** to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

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

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Jack Waldron asked what bridge and why are we putting money in a bridge capital reserve? Richard Roberts Road Agent addressed that this was for the Bunker Hill Road Bridge and that originally when we started working on this project 3 years ago, bids initially given estimated the cost to be $250,00-$300,00. In recently meeting with a new engineer firm this fall they confirmed it would be a total cost closer to $600,00 to replace it. We already have $225,00, he is asking for an extra $100,00 this year as a capital reserve, and $300,00 next year because he didn't think it was fair to ask for all the money needed in one lump sum in the same year. He asked for the towns support on this as he feels we have a good engineering firm involved and feels we are in a good direction in repairing our bridges & roads.

Voice Vote Taken Article Passed

ARTICLE #12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**150,000** emergency repair/response for unanticipated expenses. The full amount $**150,000** will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

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

Moved/Seconded No Discussion Article Passed

ARTICLE #13 To see if the town will vote to allow the operation of KENO within the town pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 284:41 through 51.
(Majority vote required) (Ballot vote required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommend** this article. (No vote taken)

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Sue Ticehurst sited Division of Health & Human Services (DHHS) statistics, as well as the American Psychiatric Association reports, of addiction and gambling disorders. Although we want to help fund full day kindergarten she wanted to point out other problems that come with KENO, and as we know the State does not always honor its pledges to dedicate funds to specific purposes. Keno is an addictive form of gambling so the question before us is "Is increasing the number of addicted gamblers in our town and state the best way to make life better for children and families; and in particular the children & families of whose members may become addicted?"

David Little being opposed to KENO commented on the fact that 1% of the KENO proceeds is paid to the DHHS which is said to be going to research, prevention, intervention, and treatment of problem gambling. He spoke that the State doesn't give 1% of an income stream away unless it's a real problem. David spoke of the overall impact beyond just the family. He commented that the Town was not going to get any money from KENO, the School is going to receive $1,100 per pupil for kindergarten, but last week we approved a School budget that averages $24,500 per pupil so the $1,100 per student from KENO isn't going to pay for kindergarten.

Willie Farnum commented that KENO was only allowed in an establishment that serves alcohol, and with that said, people's judgement may not be as clear as it should be, and therefore gambling under those situations could be hazardous to one's health.

Vote taken by Ballot #1 Tab Blank 2 Yes 38 No 144

Article Not Passed

Moderator explained that he was given requests to have a Secret Ballot Vote for both Articles #14 & #15. The moderator asked to have the #2 tab be used for Article #14 and tab #3 to be used for article #15. He made a motion to address each article and then to have voters place the tabs in the ballot boxes.

Motion Moved/Seconded Article #14 was read by the Moderator

ARTICLE #14 (By Petition) To see if the town will vote to change the organization of the Tamworth Fire-Rescue Department and adopt RSA 154:1, I (a) which provides for a Fire Chief to be appointed by the Select Board with fire fighters appointed by the Fire Chief, and to further, disband and discontinue the Tamworth Board of Firewards, with the Board of Firewards going out of existence and operation one year after adoption of the article by town meeting. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommend** this article. (No vote taken)

Moved/Second Discussion

Jim Bowles questioned as to who and why this article was created? Zach Remick spoke to having created this petitioned warrant article and addressed that the Fire Chief would report directly to the Board of Selectmen vs the Firewards. In 2016 the fire dept and rescue were merged and in 2005 the town had hired our first full time Fire Chief. It was stated 747 calls for service in 2017 were recorded with fire & rescue combined.

Jim Bowles spoke about firewards & fire commissions and that under Public Safety and Welfare Chapter 154 RSA 154:1 VII it states "For purposes of this chapter the term "firewards" includes fire engineers and fire commissioners, where applicable." Jim Bowles encouraged voters to keep it the way it is. Stephen Glencross felt that the volunteers input is not taken seriously and they are not listened to. Stephen Glencross spoke of a recent decision regarding the new engine about a comment being made that it comes down to the fireward's votes. Elizabeth McCarthy feels we don't have enough information to vote on this. Jim Bowles argued that 9 out of 12 abutting towns do it this way having firewards. Zach Remick addressed that other volunteers worried about signing the petition for repercussions of being let go. Jim Hidden agreed with Zach Remick's comments and felt that now would be the time to address this since we have combined the fire and rescue. Jim Bowles addressed that fire & rescue is one department now and that he doesn't see the Selectmen as being any less approachable than the fireward's. Diane Bowles addressed this as being more work for the Selectmen and when she arrived 30 years ago that she was welcomed and accepted by the firewards. She felt that the fireward setting was an easier venue than addressing the Selectmen. Evan Shangraw asked of what would be the disadvantages of losing the firewards? Jim Bowles replied of the expertise, the monetary piece, as well as the work load and that a Select Board member is less likely to be out there repairing fire trucks. Joanne Rainville addressed this article to the likings of considering the listening sessions that were done for the police dept. & to be done with this article. Question was called to be moved. The moderator moved the question.

Secret Ballot Vote Taken #2 Tab Yes 39 No 118 Article Not Passed

Moderator moved on to Article #15

ARTICLE #15 Shall the Town pursuant to RSA 72:81 adopt for a five-year period (5) a "new construction property tax exemption" of fifty percent (50 percent) of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, additions, renovations or improvements to existing structures for commercial and industrial uses (as defined by RSA 72:80). If passed, this exemption would take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2018. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectman **recommend** this article. (Vote 3-0)

Moved/Second Discussion

Pat Farley Chair of Tamworth Economic Commission spoke of the mission statement of the commission but wanted to address this article as a citizen and not as a member of that group. A current law only allowed Coos County to offer a tax exemption to businesses in their county. More recently HB316 was introduced and approved in the House and then in the Senate to allow the whole state to offer this same exemption. The Governor signed it last June and it was effective this past August. She gave examples of the program and how it would help to grow existing businesses, bring more employment opportunity to the area, and encourage other businesses to come to our town. She addressed those that wouldn't support the financial side of this article to look at the assessment value increases and the reevaluations of those business properties improvements helping in offsetting the tax rate.

Kathi Padgett moved from Nashville, TN having lived there for 30 years and spoke of the shafting Nashville took for doing "tax deals". She saw American Airlines, Dell, and GM promise jobs, highway interchanges altered, etc. but the plants closed before getting back the money from the tax rebates given.

Peggy Johnson asked about thinking in terms of a broad-based tax and raising money where money is! Rebecca Boyden pointed out 2 other ways to address besides giving businesses a break for projects that may not benefit the town. She would point out improving the tax base in the community with Zoning, and an Income Tax.

John Watkins asked what is Commercial and Industrial uses in RSA 72:80? Town Council read from the RSA in siting that "Commercial uses" shall include all retail, wholesale, service, and similar uses, and "Industrial uses" shall include all manufacturing, production, assembling, warehousing, or processing of goods or materials for sale or distribution, research and development activities, or processing of waste materials. Pat Farley commented that she had asked the question about a Home Business qualifying and that it could.

Becky Mason asked if this was an "All or nothing" if the businesses qualify, and if it is the Selectmen who grant the exemption? Jim Hidden spoke that it was "All" and that he was in favor of this article as being helpful to us in keeping our entrepreneurs and their knowledge here in town, and in retaining our young people in the State of NH.

Geoff Burke spoke against this article as being a Trojan horse for economic predation. Juno Lamb questioned this that without the town first going through the process of what we want to go with as a rural community, that this article feels like a blunt instrument and that there's a one size fit's all. Sue Ticehurst was speaking of this being a newer tax incentive passed in 2017 and cautions us to examine this exemption separately from all others. She addressed that anyone could apply and that NH Constitution Article 5 requires that government provide a fair and proportional share of assessment. She pointed out that we need to address this as to what our town would need and not the way it may or may not have worked for another town. If the town drops the exemption, or does not renew it, the business continues to see benefits until their five years are up, but there is no guarantee that a business will continue to pay if the business discontinues. Pat Farley feels there is a lot of emphasis being spoken as if a mean steel company is coming to take over Lake Chocorua rather than the local bakery or smaller/medium businesses that will benefit from growth and opportunity to be better off than they were.

Secret Ballot Vote Taken #3 Tab Yes 39 No 119 Article Not Passed

ARTICLE #16

Shall the town adopt the "all veterans' property tax credit" under RSA 72:28-b? 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 was an officer honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of $500.00, which is the same amount as the credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is adopted, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the Selectmen or the Assessor by April 15 of the tax year. If adopted, this amendment shall become effective as of April 1, 2018. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen **do not recommend** this article. (Vote 2-1)

Moved/Seconded Discussion

David Haskell read and addressed the meeting in regards to our military personnel and to the newly enacted RSA 72:28 (b) tax credit as being the same as the old one (RSA 72:28) but without the "wartime" periods. The Selectmen have had a year to determine how many more would qualify for the "All Veteran's Tax Credit". David Haskell spoke that the Veterans may have volunteered to join the US Armed Forces but had no choice where or when they served, they should not be deprived of a benefit, they should all be recognized for their service. They all earned it, and all were ready to fight. He stated not to knock a Veteran's peacetime service by denying them the same benefit as their fellow Veteran's.

John Wheeler served in US Public Health Service for 8 years which is considered not a Veteran unless you serve in an emergency at which time you would be serving under the US Navy. He feels he is not eligible as it is not a matter of how much we honor veterans but that this is a tax benefit for those that actively served and is a tax burden on everyone else.

David Little asked about tax rate impact as it was not available last year. Jim Hidden commented that a regional study showed 7% increase in the qualifications. Darlene McWhirter commented that it would be 7% of the people already qualified which was a survey of 7-10 other towns. That if we use 10% that would be 14 more people if our town followed that trend. Steve Gray addressed that a legislative bill may have recently passed to allow increments to veteran's credits and not just the full credit of $500. Jim Hidden spoke that if possible we may be asking a similar question next year with the increments. Dan Poirier addressed his reason for not in favor of this warrant article because it was voted down last year and NO means NO. He stated if it was re-written under the new guidelines he would support it 100%. William Farnum was against this article because he feels it is the Federal & State Governments responsibility of which they have failed to do and has trickled down to the towns.

No Further Discussion Voice Vote Article Not Passed

Steve Gray asked for a vote to be taken for non-reconsideration of previous articles already voted on. Moderator addressed the floor to consider motion

Moved/Seconded No Discussion Voice Vote taken Motion Passed

The Moderator grouped Article #17 – 28 being by Petition and totaling $159,587. Traditionally we have voted on these articles as a group and any article wishing to be pulled will be voted on separately. He will read each of the Articles and asked the legislative body to let him know to pull any article they would want to vote on separately.

Moved/Seconded Moderator proceeded to read Articles #17-#28

Moderator was asked to pull Article #26.

Articles #17 – #25, #27 & #28 having a total of $156,087 were voted on.

Voice Vote Taken on Articles #17-25, 27 & 28 Articles Passed

The moderator moved on to Article #26.

ARTICLE #17 (By Petition) We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Tamworth do hereby petition the 2018 Annual Town Meeting 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 **recommend** this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #18 (By Petition) To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$2,491** 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 **recommend** this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #19 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$5,000** for the **Tamworth Scholarship Committee, Inc.** (Majority Vote Required)

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

ARTICLE #20 (By Petition) Warrant Article for the Town of Tamworth to raise and appropriate the same sum as last year of **$5,000** to assist the **Community Food Center** the food pantry serving Tamworth people. (Majority Vote Required)

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

ARTICLE #21 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$3,822** for the Family Resource Center at **Children Unlimited, Inc.** (Majority Vote Required)

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

ARTICLE #22 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$80,000** to support the **Tamworth Community Nurse Association.** (Majority Vote Required)

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

ARTICLE #23 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$24,000** to provide meals for Tamworth **Meals on Wheels** recipients. (Majority Vote Required)

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

ARTICLE #24 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$18,500** 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 **recommend** 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 **recommend** this article. (Vote 3-0)

ARTICLE #26 (By Petition) We the undersigned voters of the Town of Tamworth do hereby request the Selectmen to place this petition warrant article on the 2018 Warrant for Town meeting. To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$3,500** in support of **Blue Loon Bus Service**. (Majority Vote Required)

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

Moved/Seconded Discussion

Becky Mason commented as a budget committee member that the Blue Loon, now called the Carroll County Transit, has not provided adequate information and have changed their services. She would not recommend supporting this until more information comes forward. Jim Hidden commented that questions have never been fully answered or figures supplied accurately.

John Wheeler addressed as a member of the board for the Tamworth Caregivers who provide rides, that he has heard varying comments in regards to the service of blue loon and believes it is beneficial and would

like to give it a try for one more year. Steve Gray said this argument has gone on for years with them unable to provide accurate information.

Voice Vote Taken Article Not Passed

ARTICLE #27 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$6,024** for the support of **White Mountain Community Health Center** to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommend** this article. (Vote 2-0-1)

ARTICLE #28 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$1,500** for **MWV Supports Recovery Coalition Recovery Support Programs** (family and peer support programs for substance use disorders). (Majority Vote Required)

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

Margaret Reiser made a motion to address any other new business that comes before the meeting.

Moved/Seconded

David Haskell made a motion to send a questionnaire with the next 2018 tax bill in regards to the All Veterans Tax Credit according to the new RSA number, and to ask the board of selectmen to consider the new Veterans credit for the 2019 Town Warrant. The moderator explained that this was purely advisory. A Voice Vote was taken on the motion and Voted Down.

Donald Johnson a forester from Chocorua announced that the Chocorua Lake Conservancy, and its predecessors, would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018 on Saturday June 30th, 2018 with lots of activities for all to attend. The Chocorua Lake Conservancy is a non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting all the natural resources in the 6,000 acres within the Chocorua Lake Basin. These lands are the watershed that covers Chocorua River, the Lakes, and the outlet down to Moores Pond. Most popular lands are the Grove, the island on old Rte. 16, and the public sandy and town beaches. All of this is maintained with no cost to the town.

Juno Lamb thanked all those who volunteer their service in this town and welcomed our new police department. Dan Poirier thanked David Little for his many years of service on the planning board.

Becky Mason asked to consider continuing the Advisory Budget Committee in order to give oversight and overview to inform the voters of their findings and for future town meetings.

William Farnum asked to adjourn meeting.
All in Favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Trammell
NH Certified Town Clerk/Tax Collector