

**TOWN OF HANCOCK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 09 AND 13, 2010**

On March 09, 2010 at 8 a.m. Moderator Richard Haskins read the Warrant Article 1. Those present and voting agreed to forego the reading of the balance of the Warrant at that time. The polls were then declared open until 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. the polls were declared closed, and a motion was made and seconded to reconvene on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 9 a.m. The motion carried.

The reconvened meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Moderator Haskins at the Hancock Meeting House. Police Chief Andrew Wood led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Haskins also called to the attention of those present:

The Fire Department invites you to check out the new brush truck on displayed out back. This truck was purchased by the Fire Department Association to replace the 1986 Chevy pick up truck. The truck is a work in progress but is in serve. Best wishes to Tom Villeneuve who was injured in a house fire. Lunch will be provided by the Hancock Fire Department Auxiliary, all donations from the coffee and donuts will go to the Partner in Health and Save the Children each to use for their earthquake efforts.

Annual Roadside Clean-Up Flyer

Ballot clerks for today are Bob and Marie Fogg, Clay Sherman and Beth GrosJean.

Moderator Haskins introduced the Select Board, Chairman Carolyn Boland, John Jordan, and Roberta LaPlante, Town Administrator Barbara Caverly, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Meeting Joan Joseph, Treasurer Lois Haskins, Fire Chief Nevan Cassidy, Police Chief Andrew Wood, Director of Public Works Kurt Grasset, Supervisors of the Checklist, Betty Pels, Mary Garland, and Cynthia Amidon, Executive Secretary Linda Coughlan and Librarian Amy Markus.

Carolyn Boland presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:

Greg Lusted – Recycling Committee – 3 years
Allen Welch – Recycling Committee – 3 years
Tom Ward – Advisory Committee – 2 years
Ron Mack – Advisory Committee – 2 years
Roberta LaPlante – Advisory Committee – 1 year

Greg Lusted –Advisory Committee– 3 years
Neal Cass – Treasurer – 4 years
Gail Hoffman – Advisory Committee – 3 years
Roberta Nylander – Archives Committee – 3 years
James Gamble – VPC – 7 years
Elizabeth GrosJean – Town Clerk – 9 years
Diana Jacobson – Deputy Tax Collector – 1 year
Dan Harper – School Board Representative – 10 years
Mary Welch – Recreation Committee – 8 years
Dave Robinson – Historic District Commission – 9 years
Bobby Coffin – Historic District Commission – 14 years
Nancy Daniels – Old Home Day Committee
Martha Ritter – Old Home Day Committee
Donna Geer – Old Home Day Committee
Kristin Harris – Old Home Day Committee
Megan Dodge – Old Home Day Committee
Stephen Fowle– Old Home Day Committee
Betsy Fowle – Old Home Day Committee
John Carlson – Planning Board – 15 years

Richard Haskins presented a special and on going Recognition to:

Jon GrosJean – Sound Engineer
Nancy Adams – Hancock Happenings
Nahida Sherman – Hancock Website

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. For any motion, five present voters can petition for a vote by secret ballot any time after the motion has been seconded and before the call for the vote. The petitions can be found on the front table. Green cards will be used for a show of hands vote.

By a voice vote, those present granted Police Chief Andrew Wood (a non resident) to speak at Town Meeting.

Moderator Haskins asked Barbara Caverly if the Warrant was posted at least seven days prior today at the Town office, Post Office and the Fire House for all to read, her response was YES.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Hancock, in the County of Hillsborough in said state qualified to vote in Town Affairs; You are hereby notified to meet at the **Hancock Town Office Building on March 9, 2010** at eight of the clock in the forenoon until seven of the clock in the afternoon to vote on ballot to Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote; and, to meet at said **Hancock Fire Station** in said Hancock, on **Saturday, The thirteenth(13th) day of March 2010** at nine of the clock in the morning, to act upon the following subjects.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Moderator Haskins read the results of the March 09th Town Election:

411 ballots were cast	7 absentee ballots	
1265 voters were on the checklist		
Moderator for 2 years – Richard Haskins		376
Selectman for 3 years: - Carolyn Boland		359
Town Treasurer for 3 years – Lois Haskins		373
Town Clerk for 3 years – Joan Joseph		391
Common Commissioner for 3 years – Michael Fallon		371
Library Trustee for 3 years – Laurie Bryan		378
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years – John Carlson		366
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years		
Cynthia Amidon		301
Nancy Garand Driscoll		72
Supervisor of the Checklist for 4 years – Elizabeth Pels		371
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years – Sandra Ceres Weston		377
Water Commissioner for 3 years – Sean Kerwin		108
School Board Representative for 3 years – Robert Martin		350

Article 2 was voted on an Amendments Ballot at the March 09, 2010 Town Election.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the amendment 1 to the existing town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, by adding Article 3.5A “Building Permit Not Required” which would increase from 100 square feet to 200 square feet the size of certain accessory structures which may be built without a building permit?

Yes: 357 No: 48

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,724,523.00 which represents the operating budget, inclusive of the water Department operations. Said sum exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommends this appropriation. Budget Advisory Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 3 to 2.

(Majority vote required).

Carolyn Boland moved the article: “I move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate **\$1,793,500.00** which represent the operating budget, inclusive of the Water Department operations. Said sum exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed.” Seconded by John Jordan

Carolyn spoke to the article. Because of economy The Select Board worked very hard to keep the budget as low as we could. I would like to thank department heads for keeping their budgets flat or below and all town employees who will not receive pay “raises or step increases” with no complaints. Areas of decreased projected revenue include Land Use Change down (10,000). Tax Timber Yield Tax, recycling, motor vehicle and interest rates on investments. The town is not expecting \$13,635 from the New Hampshire Shared Revenue. Total revenue is down \$31,000.

Increases in insurance, fuel and petroleum-based products, Fire Department is up a little bit due to training. Total expense \$1,793,500.00, tax calculation sheet shows that the tax rate is up because the revenue is down. Motion read is different from the Warrant Article, last year did not include Water Department and again this year warrants did not. The new figure does include the Water Department. George Kidd had questions regarding the auditor report paragraphs 3 & 4 which, suggest that the book were not kept properly. Carolyn response, that there were some issue that our auditor brought up and we have moved to address them and since hired a new bookkeeper. The issues in the auditor report were just the results of our disorganization. Treasurer, Lois Haskins has met with Town auditors and stated that we do need to restate financial statement according to the new GAP for 2009 or 2010 and we have not been audited for 2009 yet. We are implementing a new accounting system (Quick Books). We have put new control systems in place. I have balanced all bank statements with all the disbursements and receipts so all the money is accounted for.

Dan Harper commented that last years Town Meeting we voted in a number of warrant articles rather easily and those projects and that equipment is as only as good as the people running it and I therefore as we get into the process next year you think about our town employees and not go another year without a raise. I know that they did get a step last year and that is good. But I think they are hard working and dedicated people and they are loyal and that is our town, so please think about it next year and try to bring forward a budget that accounts for their increase.

James Hrdlicka commended that the Select Board for keeping the town budget flat.

David Carney had questions regarding pension program and insurance. David Anderson wanted to know why there was a change in the Police budget. Carolyn response for the change was that we didn’t have chief for a couple of months and that we hired a new police officer at a lower rank.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot:

The **ARTICLE PASSED**

Yes: 186

No: 5

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town of Hancock will raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County; or take any

other action related thereto. Select Board recommends this appropriation. Budget Advisory Committee supports the appropriation by a vote of 3 to 2.

(Majority vote required)

Roberta LaPlante moved the article: “I move the Town Of Hancock raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County.” Seconded by Carolyn Boland.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** with a majority.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to repair and rebuild components on the 1994 Mack in place of purchasing a new truck; or take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommends this appropriation. Budget Advisory Committee unanimously supports the appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by John Jordan: “I move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to repair and rebuild components on the 1994 Mack in place of purchasing a new truck” Seconded by Roberta LaPlante.

. Kurt Grasset spoke on the article: The 1994 Mack truck is now 15 years old and has 105,000 miles. In the past year we have had it checked out by two mechanic and both said that the major components are in good shape. Would like to rebuild transmission and replace engine components before failure. The dump body will need to be replaced. This will keep this truck on the road for another five to ten years.

Marsha Kono, Advisory Committee supports the article and believes Kurt has done his homework.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot:

The **ARTICLE PASSED**

Yes: 187

No: 2

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00) for the purpose of funding The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center programs and services for the people of Antrim, Bennington, Francestown and Hancock. This amount represents the Town of Hancock’s portion of the funds needed to support The Grapevine; or take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommends this appropriation. Budget Advisory Committee unanimously supports this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante: “I move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00) for the purpose of funding The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center programs

and services for the people of Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown and Hancock. This amount represents the Town of Hancock's portion of the funds needed to support The Grapevine." Seconded by John Jordan.

Hancock resident and Grapevine Program Director Beth Bradford spoke in favor of the article. The Grapevine serves residents from Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown and Hancock with programs in Family Support and Community Support. The Welfare Program, one must qualify for financial assistants and is only open to Hancock residence. The Grapevine is a work share program and not financial.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** with a majority.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining the structure of the Meetinghouse and to appoint the Select Board the Agents to expend from the fund: further, to raise and appropriate the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in this fund; or take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommend this article. Budget Advisory Committee unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland: I Move the Town of Hancock establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining the structure of the Meeting House and to appoint the Select Board the Agents to expend from the fund; further, to raise and appropriate the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund." Seconded by Roberta LaPlante.

Kurt Grasset spoke on the article: We look at the Meetinghouse building in a preservation sense. Thanks to Gary Ryer and Cindy Amidon for writing a grant that gives us the ability to do full study of the building. The Meetinghouse is in need of basic and major repairs and maintenance (new roof, siding and painting). In order to apply for grants there must be a Capital Reserve Fund to match the funds. All funds are used for the Meetinghouse.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** with a majority.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) as the town's share to paint a portion of the Meeting House; or take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommends this appropriation. Budget Advisory Committee unanimously does not support.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: "I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) as the town's share to paint a portion of the Meeting House." Seconded by John Jordan.

Barbara Caverly: I move the motion be postponed indefinitely, Authur Cernota seconded.

The **MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** with a majority.

Select Board Chairperson John Jordan administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials present at the meeting.

Bill Eva gave a Maple Syrup Report and Kurt Grasset spoke on the Main Street improvements.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to rescind the provisions of Article 11 of the 2004 Town Meeting which stated that 50% of the Land Use Change Tax, up to a maximum of \$6,000 be placed in the Conservation Land Use Change Fund and was authorized by Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 II, that Lane Use Change Tax. If adopted, this article will take effect April 1, 2010. Or, take any other action relating thereto. Select Board recommends this article. Budget Advisory Committee supports by vote of 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

The article was moved by John Jordan: I Move the Town of Hancock rescind the provisions of Article 11 of the 2004 Town Meeting which stated that 50% of the Land Use Change Tax, up to a maximum of \$6,000 be placed in the conservation fund and was authorized by Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 79-A:25,II, the Land Use Change Tax. If adopted, this article will take effect April 1, 2010.

The motion was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Roberta LaPlante.

John Jordan spoke on the article: The Land Use Change Tax is assessed when land is taken out of current use. The assessment is 10% of market value. The purpose is to encourage Conservation – penalty for taking it out and to compensate the town for lost taxes while in current use.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 9:

Ron Mack: To see if the Town will vote to rescind **for a period of two years** the provisions o Article II of the 2004 Town Meeting which stated that 50% of the Land Use Change Tax, up to a maximum of \$6,000 be placed in the Conservation Land Change Fund and was authorized by Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 79-A:25,II the Land Use Change Tax. If adopted, this article will take effect April1, 2010. Or, take any other action relating thereto.

The Amended article was moved by Ron Mack and seconded by Roberta LaPlante.

Motion to move Amendment of Article for a period of 2 years.

The motion was **VOTED** by a show of cards and did **NOT PASS**.

Several people spoke in favor of the original article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot:

The **ARTICLE PASSED** Yes: 102 No: 67

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$2,287.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Recreation Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante: "I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$2,287.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Recreation Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation." Seconded by Desmond Ford

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$3,891.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of town highway equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Highway Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1999 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by John Jordan: "I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$3,891.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of town highway equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Highway Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1999 town meeting to fund this appropriation." Seconded by Desmond Ford.

(Majority vote required)

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by a show of cards and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$4,950.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Police Equipment Repair/Replacement Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante: “I move the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$4,950.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Police Equipment Repair/Replacement Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.” Seconded by Desmond Ford.

The **ARTICLE** was voted by **VOICE VOTED** and **PASSED** with a unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$631.00 for the purpose of purchasing baseball equipment and doing maintenance and repairs to the ball fields; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Baseball Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1997 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: “I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$631.00 for the purpose of purchasing baseball equipment and doing maintenance and repairs to the ball fields; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Baseball Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1997 town meeting to fund this appropriation.” Seconded by John Jordan.

The **ARTICLE** was voted by **VOICE VOTED** and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$4,023.00 for the purpose of preservation and storage of the town’s archival records; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock History Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The Select Board recommends this appropriation.

(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: "I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$4,023.00 for the purpose of preservation and storage of the town's archival records; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock History Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation." Seconded Roberta LaPlante.

The **ARTICLE** was voted by **VOICE VOTED** and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$961.00 for the purpose of repairs to the tennis court; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Tennis Court Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation; or take any other action relating thereto. {No funds to be raised by taxation.} The SelectBoard recommends this appropriation. **(Majority vote required)**

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: "I Move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$961.00 for the purpose of repairs to the tennis court; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Tennis Court Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation." Seconded by Carolyn Boland.

The **ARTICLE** was voted by **VOICE VOTED** and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forward to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage". BY PETITION

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: I Move the town approve the following resolution to be forward to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage". Seconded by Desmond Ford.

Authur Cernota spoke in favor of the article. Hancock residents Jane Eklund, Peter Jaquith and Deborah Sampson spoke against the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot:

The **ARTICLE FAILED**

Yes: 32

No: 102

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report; or take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required)**

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly: “I Move the Town of Hancock authorize the Select Board to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report.” Seconded by Desmond Ford.

David Carney asked to have the article amended and included all financial reports.

Richard Haskins read the amended the motion: The Town of Hancock authorize the Select Board to accept reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report and to include entire auditors report on Town Website.

The amended motion was moved by George Kidd.

The **MOTION** to amended **VOICE VOTE** and **PASSED** but not unanimously.

The **AMENDED** motion was voted by **VOICE VOTE** and **PASSED** unanimously

ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was moved by Dan LaPlante and seconded by Michael Fallon.

The **MOTION** was voted by **VOICE VOTE** and **PASSED** unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C Joseph
Town Clerk