

TOWN OF HANCOCK

ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 13 AND 17, 2012

On March 13, 2012 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 17, 2012 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 Fire Department. Police Office Nicholas Weeks led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ballot clerks for today are Bob and Marie Fogg, Beth GrosJean, Neal Cass and Alexendra Heatley

Moderator Haskins introduced the Select Board Chairman Roberta LaPlante, Carolyn Boland, John Jordan, Town Administrator Barbara Caverly, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Meeting Joan Joseph, Treasurer Lois Haskins, Supervisors of the Checklist Cynthia Amidon, Jane Richards-Jones and Nancy Daniels, Fire Chief Nevan Cassidy, Police Chief Andrew Wood, Director of Public Works Kurt Grassett, Library Director Amy Markus .

Roberta LaPlante presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:

Wayne Gordon	Conservation Commission	1 Year
Richard Warner	Common Commission	3 Years
Beth GrosJean	Archives Committee	6 Years
Kristen Bernier	Old Home Day Committee	
Bob Fogg, Sr.	Old Home Day Committee	
Barbara Ellis	Old Home Day Committee	
Melissa Hetrick	Old Home Day Committee	
Siobhan Martin	Old Home Day Committee	
Kathryn Cousins	Old Home Day Committee	

Roberta LaPlante	Old Home Day Committee	
Dan Harper	Old Home Day Committee	
John Hayes	Fireworks Committee	7 Years
Marsha Kono	Budget Advisory Committee	3 Years
Mark Monkton	Dump Committee	3 Years
Roberta LaPlante	Select Board	3 Years

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. Green card will be used for a show of hands vote.

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 13, 2012** at eight of the clock in the forenoon until seven of the clock in the afternoon to vote on ballot of Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote; and, to meet at said **Hancock Fire Station** in said Hancock, **on Saturday, the seventeenth (17th) day of March 2012** 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 13th Town Election:

460 ballots were cast 15 absentee ballots

1191 Voters were on the checklist

Moderator for Two Years

Richard Haskins 420

Select Board for Three Years

Erik Spitzbarth 186

James A. Mose 253

Water Rent Collector for Three Years

Linda Coughlan 436

Common Commissioner for Three Years

Allison Kerwin 25

Library Trustee for Three Years

Mary Garland 427

Trustee of Trust Funds for Three Years

Leonard H. Dowse Jr. 421

Cemetery Trustees for Three Years

John E. Hayes 427

Water Commissioner for Three Years

Joel Chandler 433

Supervisor of the Checklist for Two Years

Pauline Nancy Daniels 422

Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years

Jane Richards-Jones 425

School Board Representative for One Year

George Kidd 411

Budget Advisory Committee for Three Years

Erik Spitzbarth

Budget Advisory Committee for Three Years

Patricia Payne

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town of Hancock vote to raise and appropriate \$1,181,454. This 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; Advisory Committee: 4 in favor, 2 opposed.

*Please note that the **ARTICLE** I just read has a scribes error. The figure as published is not correct but the motion that is about to be read contains the correct figure. It matches the corresponding budget information that is found on pages 26 and 29 in the annual report.

Move the Town of Hancock vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,881.454**. This represents the operating budget, inclusive of the Water Department operations. Said sum exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed.

The article was moved by Roberta Laplante and seconded by Carolyn Boland. Roberta LaPlante spoke to the article giving an overview of budget expenses and revenues. Largest increases are a result of increased cost of employee health benefits and retirement for Town employees. The rising fuel costs to heat our buildings and fuel for the Police and highway vehicle and maintaining/replacing town equipment. Changes in revenue include revenue from the Land Use Change Tax, the Timber, Yield Tax, Motor Vehicle Tax, Rooms and Meals Tax and the Highway Block Grant. Increase revenue from the Post Office for rent and income from Trust Funds. The Executive budget is up 6% and reason for this that we budgeted 12,000 for a cyclical evaluation. The Department of Revenue Administration will have us due a full list and measure within five years. This is a four to five year process. We have budgeted about 12,000 per year to have about 25% of all town properties asset each year.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars 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. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by John Jordan. Hancock resident and Chair of the Board of Directors, Siobhan Martin for the Grapevine would like to move that we **AMEND** the motion to read:

To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars** 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 portion represents the Town of Hancock's portion of the funds needed to support the Grapevine.

The **AMENED** article was seconded by Marsha Kono

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by John Jordan. Siobhan Martin spoke to the article. We are asking all of the towns to raise their portion, and each town's share is determined by population. Last year 243 families were served and so far the fiscal year 253 families have used our services.

The **AMENDMENT** was **VOTED** by **VOICE** vote and **PASSED**

The **AMENDED ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by **VOICE** vote and **PASSED**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed sixteen thousand five hundred dollars to replace the current trash compactor. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded Roberta LaPlante. Kurt Grassettt spoke to the article. The trash compactor that we are currently using was purchased in 1990-1991 and was used when we got it. We are trying to be proactive and the replacement should take about three to four days. We are planning to scrape the metal if there is no resale value.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed thirty-two thousand six hundred forty dollars to repair the Meetinghouse steeple. This is a non-lapsing article and won't lapse until the project is complete or by 2014. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by John Jordan; Kurt Grassettt spoke to the article. This is really a maintenance job; this is for painting and repair of the steeple from the roofline up. We have an agreement with the church and in the last two years the church has undertaken two important projects that the Town did not partake in. The first one was raising funds for the LCHIP study. The church just undertook a campaign to replace the lift that's on the inside of the church. Both items combined exceed their match. Karen Dudra would like clarity about what portion of the building the Town maintains and what portion of the church maintains with its pledges and its congregants? James Curran would like to know if there is a simple formula, which

determines what percent, the town takes verses the churches share and where can you find this? Kurt Grasset response was that it is a 50/50 on the exterior of the building and it can be found in the Town office. He informed us that the town owns the first floor; the church towns the second and they share the attic and basement.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** not unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed eight thousand four hundred dollars to repair the Meetinghouse Clock. This sum to come from the 2011 fund balance. This is a non-lapsing article and won't lapse until the project is complete or by 2014. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by John Jordan. Kurt Grasset spoke to the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate five hundred twenty dollars for the St. Joseph's Community Services, Inc. Home Delivered Meals program. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Carolyn Boland. Carolyn spoke to the article. When Sargent Camp left we lost our senior lunch program. St Joseph operates meals on wheels around the state. They not only bring food to people on regular bases but the people that deliver the food are trained to do a quick check on the people. They get a hot meal and a wellness check at the same time.

Marsha Kono would like to know if this something that would go into the budget next year if it passed this year.

Carolyn Boland response was that it is up to the town's people.

Moderator Richard Haskins – I will take an informal vote.

Those interested in seeing this as budget line items please indicate by saying AYE. (Not unanimous) but I would call it general majority for the Select Board to take it under advisement.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police cruiser. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee: 1 in favor, 5 opposed.

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante and seconded by Carolyn Boland. Chief Andy Wood spoke to the article. The current vehicle that we are looking at is a Ford Interceptor SUV all wheel drive. This has a V6 engine and would get better gas mileage 18-22 miles per gallon. The cost is 25,768.00 and the additional money would be used for to equip the car. The current equipment on the car is about ten years old and the warranty life has exceeded by five years. Roberta LaPlante wanted to mention the capital purchase payment plan, what we may be looking at next year is a Ford 550 for the Highway Department. If we don't vote for the cruiser this year we are looking at a 26,000 and a 32,000 in next year's budget. This is going to put an additional stress on the tax rate for the next year.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** with a majority.

Roberta LaPlante administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials present at the meeting.

Nevan Cassidy was officially sworn in as Fire Chief. He was dually elected as Hancock Fire Chief by the department in 2002 but never officially sworn in by an officer of the Town until this day 17th of March 2012.

Thomas Bates and John Perky wrote a grant request to the Federal Government and were awarded a grant from FEMA and Homeland Security in amount of \$1,012,670.00 to replace the SCBH.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to five thousand dollars to repair the 1988 Fire Tanker. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by John Jordan. Nevan Cassidy spoke to the article. First I would like to announce that Tom Villeneuve was awarded Fire Fighter of the Year. The Fire Department and Jon GrosJean Emergency Management Director are working together to put a small lightweight tower sometime this summer.

We would like to work on three items on Tanker 2 to keep it safe and going. The first is a good tune up by a diesel mechanic. The second would be to do some work in

house on some of the pipes and pumps on the truck. Finally add more and better emergency lights and reflective stripes.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to twenty thousand dollars to do renovations to the Bandstand; said sum to be offset by \$10,000 from the Hancock Improvement Association and \$10,000 from the 2011 Fund Balance. This is a non-lapsing article and won't lapse until the project is complete or by 2014. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by Roberta LaPlante. Kurt Grasset spoke to the Article. The Common Commissioner, in the past year, under took the endeavor to submit some request for proposals from local contractors to go through the structure. One proposal stood out more than the others as a definite restoration effort and not a tear down rebuild.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars to be placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund established in 2010. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante and seconded by John Jordan. Roberta LaPlante spoke to the article. In 2010 the town received a grant from New Hampshire Land, Community, Heritage, Investment program or LCHIP to produce a report and the finding on the history and condition of the Meetinghouse. The report found a need for major and necessary repairs, include replacement of the slate roof, repair the tower and steeple and improve accessibility. The report can be found at the Town Office. So to continue to put in the 5,000 will keep the funds growing and then you have an established Capital Reserve Fund, grants are more favorable.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund established in 2007. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimous support.

The article was moved John Jordan and seconded by Carolyn Boland. Kurt Grasset spoke to the article. In the next few years we are looking at the crossing at Old Dublin at the Old Mill Pond and Longview Road bridge crossing. Both bridges are eligible for State Bridge Aid, which is 80% state funding and 20% town funding. But with a number of state funding issues they are out five to eight years for the funding to get back to us. So funding this program allows us to keep the project moving forward.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$821 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 Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1997 town meeting to fund this appropriation. (No funds to be raised by taxation) Select Board recommends.

The article moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by Roberta LaPlante.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$968 for the purpose of repairs to the tennis court; and, to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Tennis Court Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. (No funds to be raised by taxation) Select Board recommends.

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

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$2,413 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities; and, to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Recreation Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. (No funds to be raised by taxation.) Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante and seconded by Carolyn Boland. Robert LaPlante reported that the family of Cynthia Pond donated \$500.00 in her name. This money will be used toward the new decking on the top of the docks.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$3,808 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. (No funds to be raised by taxation.) Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Carolyn Boland.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$2,932 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 Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. (No funds to be raised by taxation.) Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante and John Jordan.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$3,697 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. (No funds to be raised by taxation.) Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly and seconded by Roberta LaPlante. Barbara spoke to the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: 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.

The article was moved by Roberta LaPlante and seconded by Carolyn Boland.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The motion was **VOTED** by voice vote and **PASSED** unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C. Joseph

Town Clerk