

TOWN OF HANCOCK

ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 12 AND 16, 2013

On March 12, 2013 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 16, 2013 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. Moderator Richard Haskins introduced our new fulltime Police Officer Frank Shea who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ballot clerks for today are Bob and Marie Fogg, Beth GrosJean, and Clay Sherman and our runners today are Anna McGuinness and Hayley Cheviot.

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

James Mose presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:

Neal Cass	Old Home Day Committee	
Lexy Heatley	Old Home Day Committee	
Deb Coyne	Old Home Day Committee	
Jonathan Coyne	Old Home Day Committee	
Roberta LaPlante	Old Home Day Committee	
Elizabeth Lawler	Old Home Day Committee	
Jennifer Sutton	Old Home Day Committee	
Pat Fairchild	Common Commission	1 Year
Douglas Payne	Conservation Commission	2 Years

Charles Kerwin	Conservation Commission	2 Years
Hank Huber	Hancock Energy Advisory Team	1 Year
Ted Leach	Hancock Energy Advisory Team	2 Years
Ron Mack	Hancock Energy Advisory Team	1 Year
G. Jarvis Coffin	Cemetery Trustee	2 Years
George Kidd	School Board Representative	2 Years
Cynthia Amidon	Supervisor of the Checklist	4 Years
Dennis Rossiter	Historic District Commission	2 Years
Dave Drasba	Historic District Commission	3 Years
Glenda Lewis	Historic District Commission	7 Years
Pierce Rigrod	Transfer/Recycle Committee	7 Years
Charles Kerwin	Recreation Committee	9 Years
Jack Carlson - 11 years	Trustees of Trust Funds	11 Years
Nancy Adams	Hancock Happenings	13 Years
Carolyn Boland	Planning Board	18 Years
Carolyn Boland	Select Board	6 Years

Moderator Richard Haskins received a letter regarding a statewide Welcome Home Ceremony, planned for later this month. March 30th has been proclaimed by the State Legislator as the Welcome Home Veterans Day. A day, meant to acknowledge and commemorate the military service of New Hampshire men and women, who served in Vietnam and in the Vietnam Era. I have been asked that we recognize and honor all the Veterans present here today and give thanks for their sacrifices in defense of our freedom. I would ask anyone that has served in this country in both conflict and peace time to stand. "To all of you thank you for your service". Let's all stand with our Veterans today for a moment of silence, all in reflection to all of those no longer with us.

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. Blue 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 12, 2013** 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 (16th) day of March 2013** 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 12th Town Election:

511 ballots were cast 6 absentee ballots

1281 Voters were on the Checklist

Trustee of Trust Fund of Three Years

Paul Faber 466

Supervisor of the Checklist for Three Years

Roberta Bell 475

School Board Representative for Three Years

Pierce Rigrod 438

Cemetery Trustees for Three Years

Sandra Ceres Weston 480

Treasurer of Three Years

Lois Haskins 477

Town Clerk for Three Years

Joan Joseph 496

Select Board for Three Years

Erik Spitzbarth 438

Water Commissioner for Three Years

Sean Kerwin 483

Common Commissioner for Three Years

G. Jarvis Coffin III 480

Library Trustees for Three Years

Isabel Laurie Bryan 480

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the Amendment Number One to the existing town Zoning ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, substituting the term “Place of Religious Assembly” for the term “Church” wherever it appears in the ordinance and by stating that a “place of Religious Assembly” may be included in any Rural Learning Center of School, all as more fully stated in proposed Amendment Number One, the text of which may be examined at Town Hall.

YES 363 **NO** 130

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the Amendment Number Two to the existing town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, amending provisions regulating the size, use, location and illumination of commercial or advertising signs and related matters, all as more fully stated in proposed Amendment Number Two. The text of which may be examined at Town Hall.

YES 346 **NO** 115

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town of Hancock vote to raise and appropriate up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of upgrade to the treatment of the Hancock Water System; and, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$200,000.00 of long term notes or bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and, further, to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Payments will be made by the Water Department. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee takes no position. **2/3 BALLOT VOTE REQUIRED**

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by Carolyn Boland.

Hancock resident and water commissioner Jeff Wilder spoke to the article. The article does not have an impact on the tax rate it is funded by water rents. Hancock has the only unfiltered water system remaining in the state. We operate under a waiver from the NH DES and EPA. As long as we comply with the request we can continue to operate without putting in a full blown treatment system. Our current system is a chlorine injection system. In 2006 stage two of

EPA surface water treatment rule went into effect which now requires us to put in a secondary disinfection system. This system must be up and running in 2014. We have hired and have been working with an engineer for the last year or so and determined that our best option for our secondary system is a U V Light System. DES and EPA a requiring that the secondary system be capable of disinfecting 100% of our flow, including a fire flow which we reach when we flush or have a fire. They are also requiring us to have duplication of all systems requiring us to have two U V reactors no just one. This has raised the price of the U V reactors up from \$30,000 to over \$70,000 and it is also requiring that we add onto the building.

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

The **ARTICLE PASSED** **YES** 100 **NO** 0

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate \$1,919,880.00. This represents the operating budget, inclusive of the Water Department operations. Said sum exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

The article was moved by Carolyn Boland and seconded by James Mose.

Carolyn Boland spoke to the article giving an overview of revenue and budget expenses. She spoke about the things that have changed in the proposed revenue, Land Use Change Taxes, NH Highway Block Grant we are expecting less from the state this year to be giving back to Towns. Income from Departments is up a little bit particular the Transfer/Recycling, Sales to Town Property if you notice last year was \$51,000 that was a house that we had taken for a tax lien and sold. Interest on Investments is the result of interest rate issues and Income form Trust Funds we expect to be down. Employee health benefits have increased, Highway/Road Maintenance is up due to the rise of fuel cost and other material like culverts, Welfare and Principal LT Notes & Bonds and Interest LT Notes & Bonds are both down.

David Carney spoke about the Governor proposed budget of HB 2 (NH Room & Meals), the bill talks about changes and reducing the formula and the amount of money being rebated to the town. Does this number include those potential or that calculation or is just base on assumption things are going on as they have in the past?

Carolyn said that we have given our best estimate of what we think will get and unfortunately we don't find that out until after our budget is already drawn up. If we find don't get all of what we expected to than we will have to haul back on some things.

David Carney wanted to know what happens if we don't get the estimate.

Carolyn said that the Select Board then has to look back at the budget and talk to the department heads and see what we can do without. We obviously can't lower this likes that we have voted on at Town Meeting but we might have to cut back on personal and services.

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

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) to replace the 2001 Ford F-550 and, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$75,000.00 of long term notes or bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and, further, to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Select Board supports: Advisory Committee unanimously supports. **2/3 BALLOT VOTE REQUIRED**

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

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. The five fifty is probably our most used truck, it's on just about every job site and carries the tools and equipment and has its own plow route. This truck size has brought us into the two and half ton range and is better the three fifties, maintenance wise and length of service wise. We will be going out to bid in mid- April. This particular truck that we have now has about 105,000 miles and well over ten thousand hours. We did look at the truck to see if there was some things that we could do like engine work or transmission work. What we found is that by the time we get done doing all the rehab we are almost 3/4 the cost of a new truck and will not get 3/4 more time out of it.

This **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot:

The **ARTICLE PASSED** **YES** 104 **NO** 1

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) for the purpose of building a 1,400 square foot addition to the Transfer Station to provide the required storage needs of the facility. This would replace three of the existing trailer bays; and, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$85,000.00 of long term notes or bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and, further, to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes

and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the completion of the project or until 2015. Select Board supports; Advisory Committee by vote of 5 to 1, **2/3 BALLOT VOTE REQUIRED**

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

Kurt Grasset spoke to the article. Kurt gave a little history on the transfer station and the changes along the way. In 2001 we bought a bailer and once we realized that bailing was here to stay, we started looking at what were our needs. We were operating in a system that was designed for a method that we were no longer using. The trailers that we bought in 1990 were no longer road worthy and have been making do with them as storage. The trailers take up about 30 to 40 feet and because of the size constriction we are losing about half of our space. The other area that we looked at is the swop shop, which had been very successful, thanks to all the volunteers. One of the issues is people will drive up and stop at the recycling window and the kids will head over to the swop shop, as traffic is trying to flow through this area. This is an accident waiting to happen. The other issue is travel flow, because the swop shop is so successful, people are stopping, shopping and visiting and occasionally we will have a backup. With this addition we want to get the swop shop down at the lower end of the building. There will be a parking area for the swop shop. This will allow them to take more items because they will be able to take inside. A big concern with our trailers failing is that we have patches on the floor it's just a matter of time when one of our employees drops through with the fork lift. The addition will attach to the existing building. This is best longer term solution as far we can see in the future, this should be the addition that get us were we need to go for the next fifteen to twenty years.

David Drasba asked what a non-lapsing article was.

Katie Sysyn –Reilly asked if the contractors were required to hire Hancock residences and if the glass pit was going to stay?

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

The **ARTICLE PASSED** **YES** 97 **NO** 7

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) for the purpose of replacing the existing oil fired furnace with a pellet fired boiler and interior pellet hopper and installing a high efficiency propane fired boiler as a backup to the pellet system, in the Town Office Building. This article to be funded by the

undesignated Fund Balance of 2012. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the completion of the project or until 2015. Select Board supports; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Kurt Grasset spoke to the article. We took over the Town office building in 1999. With that building, came a 200 gallon underground storage tank and a boiler that was fifteen or so years old. In 2014 we will come into some regulatory compliance for the tank. We would have to put a moderating system on it and that would far exceed the cost of removing the tank. The pellet boilers have become extremely reliable. They do require a bit more maintenance than an oil burner but we would train our staff to handle the maintenance needed with the exception of the annual cleaning. The HEAT Committee has looked at getting grant funding. There are grants out there for alternative fuels. The building has the old burner there as the backup. So we have opted to take the oil burner completely out and put the pellet fired boiler in and for backup a high efficiency gas fired furnace.

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

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010). Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

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

Carolyn Boland spoke to the article. This is something we started a few years ago. Our goal was not necessary to have enough money in it to fix something huge on the Meetinghouse, but to establish a fund that could be used as seed money or match money in applying for grants.

David Carney recommended that we increase the amount of money that's going into the Capital Reserve Fund.

Moderator Richard Haskins took an informal vote. All those in favor asking the Select Board to increase the amount of money placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve, please indicate by saying AYE (Unanimous) this is an indication that is being represented to the Select Board and the Advisory Committee.

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

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund established in 2007. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

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

Carolyn Boland spoke to the article. This is the same as the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund. The bridge on Hunts Pond Road is a perfect example, because we had the money in the Capital Reserve Fund we were able to take the money and fix the bridge. Then replenish the funds when the state money came in.

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

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000.00) to become fully compliant with GASB 34. This Government Accounting Standard Board's (GASB) Statement established new financial reporting requirements to which all state and local governments are subject to comply. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Lois Haskins spoke to the article. If you look at the auditor report on page 29 there are two things on there, one a noncompliance, material weakens to financial statements and the second, documentation of policy. Unfortunately, the town has an adverse opinion on our financial statements because we are not complaint with GASB 34 & 45. Starting in 2008 town's that were not in compliance was given adverse opinions only 25% of New Hampshire towns were complaint at that time. We feel that we really need to be in complaint. We will not have that adverse opinion removed if we do not address this. We need to establish our capital assets (building, vehicles, and equipment) and evaluation and put them on our books. That means we need to set up depreciation as to what the value is and that requires a Certified Public Accountant skill level.

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

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) 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. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by James Mose.

Siobhan Martin spoke to the article.

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

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$713.00 for the purpose of repairs to the tennis court; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Tennis Court Fund Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Christopher Roland spoke to the article.

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

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$4,800.00) for the purpose of resurfacing and repainting the tennis courts; \$1,070.00 to come from the Tennis Special Revenue Fund; and \$3,730.00 to come from taxation. Select Board recommends; Advisory Committee unanimously supports.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Christopher Roland spoke to the article.

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

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$244.00 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 Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1997 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by David Carney.

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

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$2,884.00 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. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by David Carney.

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

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$3,538.00 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. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Lois Haskins.

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

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$3,378.00 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 Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Brad Geer.

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

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to \$3,609.00 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 Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Select Board recommends.

The article was moved by Barbara Caverly and seconded by James Mose.

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

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town of Hancock authorize the Select board to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report.

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

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

ARTICLE 21: 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 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C. Joseph

Town Clerk