Town of Hancock Annual Meeting Minutes  
March 8 and 12, 2016

On March 8, 2016 at 8a.m, Moderator Richard Haskins opened the Town of Hancock Annual Town Meeting by reading the beginning of the Town Warrant through 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 7p.m.

At 7p.m. the polls were declared closed and a motion was made and seconded to reconvene on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 9 a.m. in the Hancock Meetinghouse. The motion carried and the meeting closed and the vote tabulation began.

The reconvened meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Moderator Haskins at the Hancock Meetinghouse. Bob Fogg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Haskins announced that the ballot clerks for today are Bob and Marie Fogg, Beth Grosjean, Linda Coughlan.

Moderator Haskins introduced the Select Board Erik Spitzbarth, Chairman, John Jordan and Thomas Shevenell, Town Administrator Diane Kendall, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Meeting Joan Joseph, Town Treasurer Diane Loomis Supervisors of the Checklist Roberta Bell, Robin Mose and Jane Richards-Jones, Moderator Richard Haskins, Fire Chief Nevan Cassidy, Police Chief Andrew Wood, Director of Public Works Kurt Grasett, Town Administrative Assistant Linda Coughlan, Library Director Amy Markus, Finance Department Sheila Bamford.

Erik Spitzbarth presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane Loomis</td>
<td>Town Treasurer</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Bryan</td>
<td>Nabanusit Landing Committee</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<td>Margaret Carlson</td>
<td>Nabanusit Landing Committee</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<td>Clay Sherman</td>
<td>Nabanusit Landing Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Salazar</td>
<td>Nabanusit Landing Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Robinson</td>
<td>Nabanusit Landing Committee</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jarvis Coffin, III</td>
<td>Common Commission</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
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<td>Ken Chester</td>
<td>Cemetery Trustee</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
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<td>David Westaway</td>
<td>Conservation Commission</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
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<td>Donald Klug</td>
<td>Hancock Historic District Committee</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
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<td>Karen Dudra</td>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
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<td>Nahida Sherman</td>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
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<td>Mary Garland</td>
<td>Library Trustee</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
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<td>John Hayes</td>
<td>Firework Committee</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
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<td>Mark Stevens</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
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Moderator Haskins proposed a set of the rules of order for the meeting. They were accepted by voice vote.

By a voice vote, those present granted Police Chief Andrew Wood, Diane Kendall, both nonresidents, leave to speak at Town Meeting.

Pink cards issued by the Supervisors of the Checklist at check-in will be used for a show of hands vote.

Moderator Haskins asked Diane Kendall if the Warrant was posted at least seven days prior today at the Town Office, Post Office and the Meetinghouse for all to read? Her response was YES.

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

Moderator Haskins read the results of the March 8th Town Election:

- 315 ballots were cast, 1 absentee ballots
- 1284 Voters were on the Checklist

Select Board for Three Years:

- Erik Spitzbarth: 267

Water Commissioner for Three Years:

- Sean Kerwin: 305

Common Commissioner for Three Years:

- Scott Daniels: 34

-there were 20 other write-ins but no more than 2 votes per name.

Treasurer for Three Years:

- Nancy Luby: 290

Town Clerk for Three Years:

- Joan Joseph: 310

Library Trustee for Three Years:

- Jane E. Eklund: 293

School Board for Three Years:

- Pierce Laskey-Rigrod: 284

Library Trustee for Two Years:

- Alexandra M. Heatley: 296

Trustee of Trust Funds for Three Years:

- Paul Faber: 290

Cemetery Trustee for Three Years:
In order to comply with the state regulations, also known as RSAs, we will begin today with Article 3, then Article 4, then return to the Article 2. Following the Budget Article 2, we will then proceed through the warrant in order starting with Article 5.

ARTICLE 3: The article was read from the warrant and John Jordan, read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars ($350,000.00) for the purpose of road construction, and to authorize the issuance of not more than $350,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon." He added, "We have changed the figure from $390,000 to $350,000 because of the new bids received."

The motion was seconded by Thomas Shevenell.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. This warrant article is the second phase that we started five years ago. This warrant article will rebuild the section of Middle Road and it goes to Watcher Road down to the Peterborough town line and also Tannery Hill Road. We will move the equipment in and be able to concentrate our work in one area, hoping to only take one to two weeks. What we are proposing is:

Middle Road will get a full depth reclamiation. We have two bids, one for asphalt and one for cold mix. Cold mix moves with the freeze frost cycle when the frost moves out and settles back down just the movement of the traffic smooths it back out. Where it has done so well, on Forest Road we are looking at that for an option for Middle Road.

Tannery Hill, we are looking at an asphalt base and asphalt top because of the steepness of the hill. One of the drawbacks it that cold mix is it doesn't do well on hard corners or steep hills.

Rod Perry asked about the visibility and wanted to know if they were going to remove visual barriers just beyond Tannery Hill.
Kurt Grassett response was that they would make improvements where they could and talk to property owner about others. We will clean up the brush and the shoulders.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot with the poll open for the requisite one hour. At the end of the hour the poll was closed and the results tabulated.

The **ARTICLE PASSED**

Yes: 110  No: 6

**ARTICLE 4:** The article was read from the warrant and John Jordan, read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of up to one hundred fifty eight thousand nine hundred dollars ($158,900.00) for the purpose replacing highway equipment 1987 CAT IT-28 Front End Loader, and to authorize the sale of trade of 1987 CAT IT-28 Front End Loader, and to authorize the issuance of not more than $138,900.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon."

The motion was seconded by Thomas Shevenell.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. We have gotten bids from Caterpillar, John Deer and Kubota. The gross cost of the machine is $158,900.00 minus the trade of $20,000.00 brings us to $138,900.00, that’s our net cost. This machine was purchased in 1987 and typically they are a ten thousand hour machine and we are up to about nineteen hundred hours. Back in 2001 we put about thirty five – forty thousand dollars into it, the transmission, engine and all major components and we last year we just started having issues. Right now we have it restricted to the yard, we have noticed metal filings down around the wheels. New brakes for each wheel, is estimated around fourteen to fifteen hundred dollars. It is time to change the tires and they run about twenty five hundred apiece, so we are looking at fifteen thousand just to keep it on the road and we are never going to get that fifteen thousand back. The new machine will be identical to the old and there is no reason to go bigger. The benefit of the new machine is that we are able to put several implements on it (set of forks, snow plow). We are looking to borrowing for five years, the estimated rates are under 3%.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by ballot with the poll open for the requisite one hour. At the end of the hour the poll was closed and the results tabulated:

The **ARTICLE PASSED**

Yes: 115  No: 3
ARTICLE 2: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth, read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of two million one hundred ninety thousand two hundred and eighty eight dollars ($2,190,288) for general municipal operations inclusive of Water Department operations.

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Erik Spitzbarth spoke to the article giving an overview of budget expenses and revenues. Changes in revenue include revenue from the Current Use Tax and the Timber Tax in which we had some pretty spectacular revenue in 2015 but don't believe that there is going to a whole lot more people taking land out of current use or cutting trees. On the expense side, health care has gone up, wages, legal fees and ambulance costs went up significantly. We decided on either a rolling average or a 5 year average of those events and took that number as input into the 2016 budget. In the result of that we have a decrease in revenue.

Ed Suchocki questioned the Select Board about the legal fees expended in the previous year, their authority to spend approximately $165,000 dollars and why there a closed door meeting without notifying the town's people? Ed felt this all fell under “The Right to Know Act.”

Moderator Richard Haskins asked Selectmen Erik Spitzbarth four questions - 1. Under the “Right to Know Act” there is shield with respect to confidentiality issues of personnel covered under this particular circumstance? 2. Those particular issues with respect to personnel are done in an executive session which means "closed door"? 3. This legislative body empowers the people that are elected to the position of Select Board to execute the daily activities of our community? 4. With that particular authority, they (the Select Board) get to spend money that is appropriated for those particular activities? Erik answered "Yes" to all four questions.

Des Ford asked for an explanation on the Select Boards decisions.

Erik Spitzbarth response was "...we were presented with a very complex personnel matter that required personal opinions and review which we did with legal counsel. Given the information, we were compelled to follow our written policies of our Personnel Manual. We have to keep the best interest of the town and our employees in mind."

Jarvis Coffin owner of the Hancock Inn explained that the laws are clear, privacy is taken very seriously at the state and local levels. Personnel issues are strictly protected. Even at the Hancock Inn, we have a Personnel Manual and its there to protect us.

George Kidd spoke to the issue and said that "We have elected three people to run the operation of the town. They did what they saw was right thing to do."
Bill Eva also spoke, "I would like to point out that the question before us is the future operating budget not history, based on that I would like to move the question". The legislative body voted and agreed to move the question.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** The article was read from the warrant and Thomas Shevenell, read the motion as, "I move the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of thirty eight thousand dollars ($38,000.00) for the purpose of conducting a Statistical Revaluation Update. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Statistical Revaluation Update Agreement is completed or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner." This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required).

This was seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

John Jordan spoke to the article. This is a state law requirement and an article agreement of the ConVal School District to do every five years.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

**ARTICLE 6:** The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000.00) for the purpose of repainting the Post Office and Horse Sheds. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI and will not lapse until the repainting project is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. It’s been five or six years since the last time we painted the Post Office and if you look closely it is starting to peel. We have also added the backside of the Horse Shed, we can do the three sides but with all the safety regulation we cannot do the backside of it. We would need staging or a lift and we are not trained for that. We have gotten proposals, and that’s why the reduction is there. They will check the windows for caulking and replace clapboards where needed.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

**ARTICLE 7:** The article was read from the warrant and Thomas Shevenell read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of nine
thousand two hundred dollars ($9,200.00) for the purpose of Landscaping the Meetinghouse grounds. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Landscape Project is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Marcia Coffin and Alison Kerwin spoke to the article. "First, thank you to the Meeting House Restoration Committee for their work and the towns’ people for their investment and making the restoration possible. Congratulations to David Drasba for his energy, enthusiasm and skill resulting in the project receiving the Rick & Duffy Monahon Award for Design Excellence in Architectural Restoration and Preservation form the NH Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The Meetinghouse and Horse sheds are architectural gems and should be the focal point for the community, the congregation and the town’s visitors. We are recommending a landscape design that honors the town’s recent renovation of the Meetinghouse." Alison Kerwin presented a picture of the design with the breakdown of the cost.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

Rod Perry presented a check to the town in the amount of $20,000 from the Hancock Improvement Association.

Moderator Haskins read a little background that Bobbi Nylander and others researched about the Meetinghouse:

The first meetinghouse burned down in October of 1819.
The new meetinghouse was built on the site of the old meetinghouse.
The bell was purchased from Revere and Sons of Boston.
The bell tolled for the first time at the funeral of Joseph Symonds, October 15, 1820.
The completed church was dedicated ten days later on October 25, 1820.

(Preumably the bell was tolled by hand.)

According to the Annals of the Town (page 167) from the “Hayward’s History of Hancock, NH 1889, on March 12, 1822 – The care of the meetinghouse for the year ensuing, “including the ringing of the bell at noon and nine o’clock at night, sweeping the house four times, tolling the bell at funerals, and ringing it at all public times” as had been done in previous years, was let out to the lowest bidder, and awarded to Christy Duncan at $11.75.

March 13, 1872 (probably town meeting day) “Voted, to accept of a town clock, and allow the committee to place the same in the tower of the church; the town pledging itself to keep the same in running order.”

Footnote on p.167: “This was made by the firm of E. Howard & Co., Boston. The price of the clock was $475.00, and the expense of preparing the belfry and making dials, etc. was enough in addition to bring the total expense of the clock, when in running order,
up to about $650.00. The funds necessary for procuring it were raised by levees and subscriptions."

Among the largest donors we will name the following native of the town: R.S. Lakin, Darwin Fogg and C.R. Gassett of Boston, Hon. A.N. Clark of Beverly, MA and Dr. Jacob A. Wood of New York City. It has proved an excellent time keeper, and is desirable acquisition for the town."

The first recorded Agent for Town Clock was Zopher Brook, in 1875. (It is not clear if it took three years to complete the installation, or if volunteers perhaps cared for the clock at the beginning.)

Moderator Haskins said, "I have the honor and pleasure to be able to formally acknowledge Bob Fogg for his 50 years of service as the Hancock’s “Agent of Town Clock”." Bob then received his "Certificate of Recognition".

Bob was presented with a plaque that will be mounted in the Meetinghouse to commemorate all those people who have through the years served as “Agent of Town Clock”.

Bob Fogg responses, "I am very humbled about this and almost speechless. When I started winding the clock, I was a young man only 27 years old, it was the summer of 1965, the fire chief asked me to look at the clock because the clock was stuck at 10 minutes to six. So I went up into the bell tower with Richard Amidon, a selectman at the time, we found the problem and fixed it. I never thought I would be taking care of the clock for 50 years."

A commemorative cake was then served to those present at the meeting.

Selectman, Thomas Shevenell administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected or appointed officials present at the meeting, Erik Spitzbarth, Nancy Luby, Joan Joseph, Jane Eklund, Alexandra Heatley, Mary Garland, Elizabeth GrosJean, Richard Haskins and Roberta Bell.

Moderator Haskins, invited Bill Eva to give the current sap report. Bill Eva reported that it has been a strange season. "I think last year at this time we were thinking about getting started, this year we have already made 300 - 375 gallons of syrup. Bill did say that that we should ask him “next month how the season is going to do”. "

**ARTICLE 8:** The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) for the purpose of conducting an employee compensation
analysis and plan. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the analysis and plan is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Erik Spitzbarth spoke to the article. "First, let me say that we value our employees. We strive to be fair, ecqualible and consistent on how we handle our employee benefits. We would like to bring in a third-party for an objective analysis to see and also assist with coming up with a systematic plan for compensation in the future.

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

**ARTICLE 9:** The article was read from the warrant and John Jordan read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007."

The motion seconded by Thomas Shevenell.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. "We are down to our last red-listed bridge which is on Longview Road. Red-listing means that the bridge is either structurally or functionally deficient. We are looking at half million dollars to fix this bridge. This is a critical area because of Moose Brook and the way it floods and we don’t want to create access issues with the people coming in and out. The problem is funding, NH Bridge Aid has been funding 80% of our bridges but there is such a backlog of bridges that when we ask the state to for our 80% it wouldn’t be until 2026 and that bridge will not last that long. If the state doesn’t fix their funding, we are going to have to fix that bridge ourselves or due some repair work at to tune of forty to fifty thousand dollars.

Des Ford asked if the town has to replace the bridge would the state reimburse the town.

Kurt Grassett response was "No, they did away with that about four years ago."

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

**ARTICLE 10:** The article was read from the warrant and Thomas Shevenell read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) to be added to the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010."
The motion was seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. "This fund is set up to maintain this building. Issues of concerns are the floors in the Meetinghouse which will need more coats of polyurethane and the bell tower will need some painting."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED by majority vote.

ARTICLE 11: The article was read from the warrant and John Jordan read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate 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 Hancock, Antrim, Bennington and Francetown. This amount represents the Town of Hancock’s portion of the funds needed to support The Grapevine, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto."

The motion was seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Kathleen Robbins spoke in favor of the article.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously

ARTICLE 12: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth, read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate up to two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) for the purpose of funding a fireworks display on or about July 2, 2016."

The motion was seconded by Thomas Shevenell.

Harry Pollack from the Fireworks Committee spoke to the article. "...The total estimated cost for the fireworks, advertisement and music this year will be around seventy five hundred dollars, so this money is greatly appreciated."

Roberta LaPlante wanted to know if we go to bid because there is one couple of firework companies in the area and feels that we should.

Harry Pollack response was "No, but they could in the future."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.
ARTICLE 13: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars ($500.00) for the purpose of funding The Contoocook Valley Transportation Company programs and services for the people of Hancock and the Greater Contoocook Valley area. This amount represents the Town of Hancock’s portion of the funds needed to support Contoocook Valley Transportation Company, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto."

The motion was seconded by Thomas Shevenell.

Sharon Gordon spoke to the article, it is very helpful to the elderly who may need a ride to doctor’s appointment or the grocery store.

Winifred Skeates also recommended the article.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA31:95-h, for the purpose of police special details. All revenues received for the purpose of police special details from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town’s general fund balance. Such funds may be expended for all costs related to police special details, for the maintenance of police vehicles, and for special duty equipment. No expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other town funds which have not been appropriated for that purpose. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Erik Spitzbarth spoke to the article. "This is a house keeping issue which is recommended and best practices for how to handle prospective activities from the Government Finance Agency and the Department of Administration. Currently we have to estimate how many details there are going to be and put something in the expense side and balance out on the other side. This will take that guess work out of it." He also explained in detail as to what a work detail entitled.

Moderator Richard Haskins wanted to note that there were different words in the motion then what was printed in the warrant.
The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED as read unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA31:95-h, for Recreation purposes. All revenues received for the purpose of recreation purposes from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town’s general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Erik Spitzbarth spoke to the article. "This gives the Recreation Committee more flexibility in both the revenue side and expense side, and it’s an accounting procedure that is highly recommended."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: The article was read from the warrant as, "To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirty-three dollars ($233.00) for the purpose of purchasing baseball equipment and doing maintenance and repairs to the ball fields; with said funds to come from the Hancock Baseball Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose the 1997 town meeting. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required.)"

The motion was "Moved as read" by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Des Ford.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: The article was read from the warrant as, "To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand four hundred ninety-six dollars ($2,496.00) for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities with said funds to come from the Hancock Recreation Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required.)"

The motion was "Moved as read" by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Des Ford.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.
ARTICLE 18: The article was read from the warrant as, "To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand one hundred two dollars ($6,102). For the purpose of repairs and replacement of town highway equipment with said funds to come from the Hancock Highway Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1999 town meeting. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)."

The motion was "Moved as read" by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Des Ford.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: The article was read from the warrant as, "To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand six hundred eighty-nine dollars ($3,689.00) for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment with said funds to come from the Hancock Police Equipment Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)."

The motion was "Moved as read" by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Des Ford.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 20: The article was read from the warrant as, "To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred eighty-eight dollars ($3,588.00) for the purpose of preservation and storage of the town’s archival records with said funds to come from Hancock History Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)."

The motion was "Moved as read" by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Des Ford.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 21: The article was read from the warrant and Thomas Shevenell read the motion as, "I move that the town shall MODIFY the provisions for RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hancock, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers. To be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, $35,000: for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, 47,500: for a person 80 years of age or older $75,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at
least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than $22,500 or, if married, a combined net income of less than $31,000; and own net assets not in excess of $53,000 excluding the value of the person’s residence and residential real estate not in excess of 4 acres.

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

Thomas Shevenell spoke to the article. "This issue was first set up back in 1996 and the values on the books are currently as 1996 dollars. We have used the cost of living indices to bring those dollars up to current standards."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED as read unanimously.

ARTICLE 22: The article was read from the warrant and Erik Spitzbarth read the motion as, "I move that the Town of Hancock authorize the Selectboard to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report."

The motion was seconded by John Jordan.

There was no discussion.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 23: The article was read from the warrant as, "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 to Adjourn was VOTED by voice and PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C. Joseph
Town Clerk