TOWN OF HANCOCK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 14, MARCH 16, AND MARCH 18

On March 14, 2017 at 8:01 a.m. Moderator Richard Haskins read the beginning of the Warrant through to the point just before Article 1. At this point, because of the storm that was upon us and the recommended safety issues related to it, Moderator Haskins entertained a motion to fix the time and date to which to adjourn. Specifically, that when the meeting adjourned, it adjourned to meet at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017, here at the Hancock Town Office.

Tom Ball made a motion that when this meeting adjourned, it adjourned to meet at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017 here at the Hancock Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Hunt Dowse.

The MOTION to set the time and date for next meeting was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

Moderator Haskins then read the following: "Let the record reflect that the intent of the Moderator is to ensure that the polling station is manned for the remaining hours of the original meeting (7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017) for the distinct purpose of providing access to absentee ballots for those voters that cannot otherwise attend a reconvened meeting on Thursday."

Absentee ballots were also available on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at the Hancock Town Office.

Moderator Haskins then invited a motion to adjourn.
Tom Ball made such a motion and it was also seconded by Hunt Dowse.

The MOTION to adjourn to the next meeting was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.
The meeting closed at 8:04 a.m.

On March 16, 2017 at 8 a.m. the reconvened meeting was called to order. Moderator Haskins re-read the beginning of the warrant. He pointed out that the next activity before the meeting was to vote by ballot for the town officers and all other matters requiring a ballot vote. The polls were 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 18, 2017 at 9 a.m. The motion carried.

On March 18, 2017 the meeting, reconvened at the Hancock Meetinghouse, was called to order at 9:12 a.m. Howard Weston led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator
Haskins introduced the Selectboard, Chairperson John Jordan, Tom Shevenell, and Eric Spitzbarth, Town Administrator Diane Kendall, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Meeting Elizabeth Grosjean, Supervisors of the Checklist, Jane Richards-Jones, Roberta Bell, and Robin Mose, Fire Chief Tom Bates, Police Chief Andrew Wood, Director of Public Works Jeff Wright, Town Administrative Assistant Linda Coughlan, Town Treasurer Nancy Luby, and Librarian Amy Markus.

Moderator Haskins presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:
- Kurt Grassett - Director of Public Works - 18 years
- Nevan Cassidy - Fire Chief - 15 years
- Deb Porter-Hayes - Summer Concert Series - 15 years
- Joan Joseph - Town Clerk - 7 years
- Kary Shumway - Recreation Committee - 7 years
- Cynthia Hixson - Recreation Committee - 6 years
- Cynthia Hixson - Old Home Days - 3 years
- Siobhan Martin - Old Home Days - 3 years
- Suzanne Shevenell - Library Trustee - 2 years
- Fred Heyliger - Historic District Commission - 2 years
- Dennis Rossitor - Cemetery Trustee - 1 year

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. The rules were accepted by the meeting. He also read, "...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. These petitions can be found here on the front table. Pink cards will be used for a show of hands vote. Jon Grosjean will be privately recording this meeting to help Beth with the preparation of the minutes. Les Weymouth will be the microphone runner.

Moderator Haskins asked the meeting to grant "Voice-without-Vote" status to Town Administrator Diane Kendall, Police Chief Andrew Wood, and Public Works Director Jeff Wright.

Moderator Haskins read the results of the March 16th Town Election.

278 ballots were cast (30 of those ballots were absentee)
1333 voters were on the checklist at the end of the day

Selectboard for 3 years - John Jordan 241
Town Clerk for 2 years
  Carolyn Boland 168
  Sarah Tracy 81
Water Commissioner for 3 years - Jeffrey Wilder 262
Common Commissioner for 3 years - Sonja Mucha 247
Library Trustee for 3 years - Alison Rossiter 252
Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years - David Huntington 255
Amendment 1 and 2 were voted on an Amendments Ballot at the March 16, 2017 Town Election.

**Amendment 1:** Are you in favor of the amendment 1 to the existing Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, an amendment to the provisions relating to a Special Exception for Accessory Apartments?

Yes: 204  No: 56

**Amendment 2:** Are you in favor of the amendment 2 to the existing town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, an addition of Article XII A Agriculture and an addition to Article 16.2 relating to a new Conditional Use for such Agricultural purposes, details of which are set forth in the proposal. If adopted, the proposal would allow the Planning Board to grant conditional use permits regulating animal husbandry and certain other activities on lots smaller than five acres in the Residential District.

Yes: 178  No: 90

**ARTICLE 1: Operating Budget**
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,261,309 for general municipal operations inclusive of Water Department Operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.
(Majority vote required)

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.

John spoke to the article, summarizing changes and gave an explanation of the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) which appears in the handout of the 2017 Preliminary Tax Rate. The 2016 Audited UFB was $323,702. Because the 2016 Estimated Budget was under spent (unaudited figure) by $190,245 and because the 2016 Warrant Article Road Project was under spent by $48,151 and because the Highway Block Grant had a previously deferred amount of $40,938, the 2016 Estimated UFB 2016 Year End (unaudited) is $603,036. The Selectboard proposes using about $200,000 to fund 2017 Warrant articles, resulting in an Unassigned Fund Balance of $411,442 or 6.37% of the Operating Budget. The State of NH recommends an UFB of between 6 and 7%.

David Carney asked if the Liability Insurance for employees covered willful and intentful illegal action. Neither the Town Administrator nor any members of the Selectboard believed that it did.

The **ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.**
ARTICLE 2: Highway Equipment Lease
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year lease agreement in the amount of $156,900 for the purpose of leasing a 2017 6 Wheel Dump Truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $34,505 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Tom Shevenell and seconded by Eric Spitzbarth.
Tom spoke to the article and gave a summary of reasons to replace the 2001 International.
Bud Adams inquired about the interest amount incurred in this lease.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Replace Raft and Docks at Norway Pond Beach
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $19,000 for the purpose of purchasing a raft and dock system to replace existing raft and docks at the Norway Pond Beach. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.
Emily Daniels, chair of the Recreation Committee, spoke to the article. The raft was purchased in 1996 and parts of the dock date back to 1995. The raft and docks have been repaired several times and are in poor condition. Jan Ford questioned the safety of the water quality. Tom responded that the Select Board plans to re-establish the Norway Pond Commission to study water quality issues, to understand them, and to resolve them. The Town has received a substantial donation to help get those studies started this year.

The Select Board is looking into salvage or resale value of the old raft and docks.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 1 nay.

ARTICLE 4: Purchase Police Radar Sign
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,000 for the purpose of purchasing a Police Shield Radar Speed Display Unit to collect traffic data by use of radar. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.
Police Chief Andrew Wood spoke to the article. The unit displays speed and collects volume data. It is portable and can be locked in place. The data that it collects can be used to support suggestions to change the speed limit. It is also is equipped with a camera.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with a majority. There were some nays.
ARTICLE 5: Establish Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to establish the Amidon Annex Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of converting raw land into an acceptable cremation cemetery by removing obstacles, grading, loaming, seeding, road construction, drainage and other necessary work and to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Cemetery Trustees to expend from said fund. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. (Majority Vote Required)

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.

John Hayes, Cemetery Trustee, spoke to the article. He stated that he was here to speak about the polar opposite of speeding. The Town received this land from the Amidon family about 10 years ago. Because there is money available from the Unassigned Fund Balance, the Selectboard suggested that this was a good time to establish this reserve fund. The ultimate goal is to build the fund to $50,000 to do the necessary work. Pine Ridge Cemetery is full. Norway Plain has a few cremation-only plots available. Hillside has 200+ lots left for full burials. This new cemetery would be for cremation-only plots.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 1 nay.

ARTICLE 6: Meetinghouse Capital Reserve
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,000 to be added to the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Select Board Recommends. (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved by Tom Shevenell and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Tom Shevenell spoke to the article. This fund was established to anticipate maintenance and painting costs for the Meetinghouse. This $5,000 will bring the fund up to $55,000. We aren't planning to spend any of this money in 2017, but we have identified maintenance issues up in the spire and hope to address these issues in 2018. We are also planning to apply for an LCHIP grant for help with the spire repairs and painting.

MaryAnn Bates appealed that the equipment in the kitchen needs to be augmented for the function room to be better served. It was discussed that this would be a good cause for the Hancock Improvement Associate to consider.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 1 nay.

ARTICLE 7: Bridge Capital Reserve
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2007. This amount to be offset by
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unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required.)

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.
John Jordan spoke to the article. We still have two red-listed bridges in Town, the Longview bridge which is our most critical need and a culvert on Middle Road. We would like to get the engineering work done on the Longview bridge which is possibly in the State queue for 2020.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with a some nays.

At 10:32 a pause in the meeting was held to swear in newly elected Town Officials.

Rod Perry, Chair of the Hancock Improvement Association, reported that Hancock Meetinghouse restoration fund-raising campaign was completed in 2016. Of the $307,299 pledged, $305,899 was received (99.5%). In addition HIA received almost $25,000 more in grants and in a private donation to match a state grant for restoring the Meetinghouse windows.

Bill Eva gave his annual maple sap report. It’s been on and off. After a warmer than usual January, they made 230 gallons before the March cold and snow cut off the flow of sap. Hoping for warmer weather. He suggested that we ask in April for an update.

Interim Town Clerk Beth GrosJean acknowledged the one write-in vote that she received in Thursday’s Town Election. She was quite happy that there was only one such vote. She apologized for long waiting times in her office and thanked all for their patience and support during the past 4 months and 18 days. She extended a hearty welcome to Carolyn Boland, the newly elected Town Clerk.

Eric Masterson was identified in the audience and it was noted that he was just back from his 6 month bicycle trip from Hancock, NH through the east coast states toward and through Texas, Mexico and Central America following the migration route of the broad wing hawks. The community is looking forward to reading his soon-to-be published book about his adventures (and a few mis-adventures).

ARTICLE 8: Grapevine Community Resource Center
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,000 for the purpose of funding The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center programs and services for the people of Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Francestown. 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. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard recommends. (Majority vote required)
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The article was moved by Tom Shevenell and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth. Erica Fayrie-Malone, a Hancock resident, spoke to the article.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 2 nays.

ARTICLE 9: Grapevine Avenue A Program
To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of $1,000 for the purpose of funding The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center Avenue A programs and services for the people of Hancock, Antrim, Bennington and Franceltown. This amount represents the Town of Hancock’s portion of funds needed to support The Grapevine Ave A program, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Tom Shevenell and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Kathleen Robbins, a Hancock resident, from the Grapevine Board of Directors spoke to the article.

Emma Carney shared that she knew a number of people that have benefitted from the programs.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 2 nays.

ARTICLE 10: Independence Day Fireworks Display
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,500 for the purpose of funding a fireworks display on or about July 2, 2017. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. The Select Board recommends. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.

Erik spoke to the article. Harry Pollock was not able to be here. The full expense of this event is about $7,800. The goal is to have this event fully funded by donations. "We’re not quite there yet."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED with 1 nay.

ARTICLE 11: Contoocook Valley Transportation Company
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $500 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. This
amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.

Moderator Haskins read the following note from Linda Coughlan, Hancock's Health and Welfare Officer:

There is a need for this service for the elderly and others who cannot drive to essential medical services, social service appointments, banking, and grocery shopping. It helps people to remain independent."

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED with 1 nay.

ARTICLE 12: Baseball Special Revenue Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $445 for the purpose of purchasing baseball equipment and doing maintenance to the baseball fields; with said funds to come from the Baseball Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1997 Town Meeting. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Hunt Dowse and seconded by John Jordan.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: Recreation Special Revenue Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,746 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities with said funds to come from the Recreation Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1997 Town meeting. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required).

John Jordan moved that the Town of Hancock aise and appropriate the sum of $1,746 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities with said funds to come from the Recreation Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 Town meeting.

The article was seconded by Tom Shevenell.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: Highway Special Revenue Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $6,685 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of town highway equipment with said funds to come from the Highway Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1999 town meeting. Recommendations required (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Hunt Dowse and seconded by John Jordan.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.
ARTICLE 15: Police Special Revenue Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,926 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment with said funds to come from the Police Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

John Jordan moved the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of $5,926 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment with said funds to come from the Police Equipment Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. The article was seconded by Tom Shevenell.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: History Special Revenue Fund
To see if the Town of Hancock raise and appropriate the sum of $3,753 for the purpose of preservation and storage of the town's archival records with said funds to come from the History Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting. Select Board recommends. (Majority vote required)

The article was moved by Hunt Dowse and seconded by John Jordan.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

(Next 2 warrant articles submitted by petition of 25 or more registered Hancock voters.)

ARTICLE 17: Resolution to Protect Rights of Individuals Immigration Status
To see if the Town of Hancock accepts a resolution in order to ensure that Hancock is a safe and welcoming community for all, employees of the town of Hancock shall not enquire about, report, or act upon any person’s immigration status under any circumstances while performing their duties. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.

Sarah Sandback spoke to the article and the petitioners intent.

She, then, moved to amend the Article to read:

To see if Hancock accepts a resolution in order to ensure that Hancock is safe and welcoming community for all. No employee of the Town of Hancock shall interrogate, arrest, detain, or take other law enforcement action against an individual based upon that individual's perceived race, national origin, religion, language, or immigration status, unless such personal characteristics have been included in timely, relevant, credible information from a reliable source linking a specific individual to a particular criminal event or activity.

The amendment was seconded by Kathy Anderson. There was a great deal of discussion, both in favor and in opposition.

In response to a procedural question from the floor, Moderator Haskins explained that, as
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witnessed in the Selectboard’s minutes, the question that the Moderator had for the Town Attorney was: Could the moderator allow an illegal motion to come to the floor. The Town Attorney advised that it is better to bring an illegal motion to the floor and let the town decide what to do with it rather than to shut off debate.

The question was moved and seconded.
The legislative body VOTED by VOICE and AGREED to MOVE THE QUESTION.
There some nays.
A petition of five or more attendees was submitted and approved to proceed with secret ballot for the amendment.
The AMENDMENT was VOTED by BALLOT vote and DID NOT PASS.
Yes: 80 No: 93

Moderator Haskins explained because the motion for amendment had failed that the Article currently on the floor was the Article as printed in the Warrant.

The question was moved and seconded.
The legislative body VOTED by VOICE and AGREED to MOVE THE QUESTION.
There were a few nays.
Again a petition of five or more attendees was submitted and approved to proceed with secret ballot for the article.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by BALLOT vote and did NOT PASS.
Yes: 33 No: 118

ARTICLE 18: Resolution to Protect the Rights of Individuals Religious Rights
To see if the Town of Hancock affirms its commitment to the rights ensured by the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America and declares that in the town of Hancock no person shall be required to declare their religious or philosophical belief or affiliation, no to sign a registry for any belief or affiliation. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters.

There was a typographical correction to change "no" to "nor" in the next to last sentence.
The article was moved by John Jordan with the corrected language and seconded by Tom Shevenell.
After some discussion, Desmond Ford moved to amend the article by adding the words, "Second Amendment". It was seconded by Jan Ford.

After receiving a point of order from Roberta Bell, a previous town Moderator, Moderator Haskins ruled that the amendment was out of order because it went beyond the scope of the original article and asked if the body would like to overrule him. By VOICE vote, the MAJORITY VOTED to let his RULING STAND.
The original article was moved and seconded. The legislative body VOTED by VOICE and AGREED to MOVE THE QUESTION.

Moderator Haskins asked those in FAVOR of the article TO STAND. He, then, asked those OPPOSED to the article TO STAND. He ruled that the NAYS were in the MAJORITY. The ARTICLE did NOT PASS.

ARTICLE 19: Accept the reports of auditors and committees

To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report. The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Tom Shevenell.

Hunt Dowse moved the question. It was seconded. The legislative body VOTED and AGREED to MOVE THE QUESTION.

The ARTICLE was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

ARTICLE 20: Transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting

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

Nahida Sherman thanked the road crew, the Fire Department, and the Police Department for their service during the past year. The community agreed with Nahida.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was moved by John Hayes and seconded by Kathy Anderson.

The MOTION was VOTED by a VOICE vote and PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

[Signature]

Elizabeth A. GrosJean
Town Clerk