

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The annual Town Elections were held at the Medallion Opera House on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Moderator Lee Carroll read Articles 1-6. Motion made by David Graham and seconded by Paul Robitaille to accept Articles 1-6 as presented. Voted in the affirmative and declared a vote. Polls were open at 10:00 am for the purpose of voting for Town & School officials.

**ARTICLE #1** To elect one (1) Selectman for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Town Clerk for a term of one (1) year, one (1) Water and Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Budget Committee Member for a term of one (1) year, two (2) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years. (To be voted on by written ballot while the polls are open for receipt of same.)

**ARTICLE #2** Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance to address several technical corrections and clarifications.

Results of Article 2 were: **YES - 218; NO - 63** Article 2 was approved.

**ARTICLE #3** Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance to allow wireless communication facilities by Special Exception in all districts except Park Land, adding a new Table D Performance Criteria and adding two application requirements.

Results of Article 3 were: **YES - 214; NO - 61** Article 3 was approved.

**ARTICLE #4** Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance to add the keeping of up to 6 chickens as a Special Exception in Residential A and Commercial A and B, and add a new Section 7.03 E. providing the ZBA with criteria for review of applications for Special Exceptions for this use.

Results of Article 4 were: **YES - 169; NO - 110** Article 4 was approved.

**ARTICLE #5** Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance to clarify and expand Section 5.06 Manufactured Home Park requirements.

Results of Article 5 were: **YES - 199; NO - 74** Article 5 was approved.

**ARTICLE #6** Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance to add the "Structure" definition relative to fences to Section 3.48, and add a new Section 5.11 Fences, Walls and Hedges.

Results of Article 6 were: **YES - 173; NO - 103** Article 6 was approved.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

All other warrant articles were dispensed with until the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm at the GRS Middle/High School Gymnasium.

### SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Janice Eastman, Chairperson  
Joan Bennett  
Germaine Jackson

### BALLOT CLERKS

Diane Nadeau

### MODERATOR

Lee F. Carroll

### TOWN CLERK

Carol T. Porter

Moderator Carroll called the 2012 Town Meeting to order at 7:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem performed by Max Sjostrom. Selectman Paul Robitaille announced recognition by State Senator Jeffrey Woodburn for Will O'Brien and read a Resolution of the State of New Hampshire for Will's work in coordinating and organizing the Beautification Program "Way to Grow Gorham!"

Selectman Robitaille also recognized outgoing Selectman David Graham for his past three years of dedicated service to the Town with a gift certificate and our appreciation for a job well done.

Moderator Carroll then read the results of the election (see results attached to the end of the report), as well as the "rules of order" with the explanation of the card system.

Denise Vallee remembered Jean Lary with a memorial in honor of her service to the Town, Library and School. A yellow rose marked her seat along with a sign with her name and the words, "So moved."

**ARTICLE #7** To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 as follows: Every inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the Blind Services Program, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education shall be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate in the amount of \$15,000.

Andrea Philbrook: I so move on Article 7 as presented. Seconded by Amanda Bradford. Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #8** To see if the Town will vote for the placement of dugouts at the ball field on the Common. There is no funding from the general taxation for the dugouts, the cost is to be borne by the Booster Club.

Bruce Lary: I so move on Article 8 as presented. Seconded by Mark St. Germaine.

Sam Jensen described unsafe conditions due to foul balls and miserable conditions during inclement weather.

At this point, clerk discovered that the recording device was out of memory. Moderator halted the discussion for a few moments while memory to the recording device was replenished.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Bob Demers expressed his interest in leaving the town common the way it is - without dugouts. And he also inquired who would maintain the dugouts once they were installed since the dugouts and installation of same would not cost the town any money.

Valerie Fauteux explained that the boys would paint them when needed.

Jeff Stewart outlined that the details of the dugouts would be the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. Glen Eastman advised that any placement of the dugouts would block views of the Common and it would be less attractive. He reiterated that the Town Common is a multi-use area and not there just for baseball. Terry Rhoderick expressed that the dugouts would be placed on the baseball field for the safety of the players.

Julie St Germaine reiterated that purpose of the dugouts is for the safety of the ballplayers and that this one article not effecting our pocketbooks should not be a painful decision.

Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #9** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of **\$3,853,454.00** for the general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

	Budget Committee	Tax Rate Impact
General Government	\$1,292,211.00	\$ 4.72 / \$1,000
Public Safety	\$1,112,653.00	\$ 4.06
Highways, Streets & Bridges	\$ 746,483.00	\$ 2.73
Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling	\$ 325,276.00	\$ 1.19
Health Purposes	\$ 1,700.00	< .01
Welfare	\$ 30,000.00	\$ .11
Recreation, Parks	\$ 165,624.00	\$ .60
Information Booth	\$ 26,291.00	\$ .10
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 250.00	< .01
Debt Purposes	<u>\$ 152,966.00</u>	\$ .56
Total	<b>\$3,853,454.00</b>	

Bruce Lary: I so move on Article 9 as presented. Seconded by Andrea Philbrook.

Julie St Germaine asked what the justification is for asking the taxpayers to pay the healthcare deductible for town employees since the taxpayers are faced with the same issues of increased payroll taxes and healthcare costs.

Denise Vallee explained this was a transitional year of healthcare plans with the plan switching to a large deductible. This plan shifts healthcare decisions to the employee. This is the same healthcare plan as the school district and is an effort on the part of the Selectmen to allow Town employees to keep the same level of take home pay.

Julie St Germaine explained that the taxpayers are carrying the same burden with their co-payments doubling.

Norma Wheeler asked about the reason for changing the healthcare plans.

Denise Vallee explained the reason to change healthcare plans is to save the Town money, as the premiums are less.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Carroll called for a vote.

Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #10** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$452,937.00 for the operation of the Sewer Department. *(This amount will be offset by user fees and Sewer funds. It will not affect general taxation.)*

Ted Miller: I so move on Article 10 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #11** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$476,497.00 for the operation of the Water Department. *(This amount will be offset by user fees and Water funds. It will not affect general taxation.)*

Ted Miller: I so move on Article 11 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #12** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$122,322.00 for the operation of the Gorham Public Library. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.45 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

David Graham: I so move on Article 12 as presented. Seconded by Paul Robitaille.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #13** To see if the Town will vote to change the Road Reconstruction and Resurfacing Capital Reserve Fund as provided for in RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of rebuilding and reconstructing various Town Roads to include rebuilding and reconstructing various Town parking lots. The Selectmen shall continue to act as agents for this capital reserve fund. (A 2/3 majority vote is required.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 13 as presented. Seconded by Chris Davies.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #14** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the purpose of highway and sidewalk asphalt repaving and curbing projects. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.27 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 14 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #15** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,500.00 for the purpose of funding Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services. (By petition Lorraine Reynolds and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.06 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 15 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.  
Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Bruce Lary: I move to combine Articles 16, 17 & 18. Seconded by Amanda Bradford.

Bill Jackson expressed his opinion that these articles should not be combined and should be discussed individually. The motion was defeated.

**ARTICLE #16** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of funding the D.A.R.E. Program. Tax Rate Impact: < \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Derek Palmieri: I so move on Article 16 as presented. Seconded by Mark St. Germaine. Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #17** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,900.00 for the support of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, to include fireworks and police coverage for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1.)

Bruce Lary: I so move on Article 17 as presented. Seconded by Amanda Bradford.

David Graham expressed that he was against this appropriation and referenced the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee Report indicating that the beginning balance on Jan 1, 2012 was \$22,533.47 and the ending balance on Dec 31, 2012 was \$20,033.67. He feels that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee should pay for the police and EMT expenses.

Paul Robitaille supports the article feels it is the Town's job to keep the Town and its people safe.

Terry Rhoderick supports the article and the small amount of money that would benefit the town greatly.

Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #18** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,560.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Gas Card System for the Public Works Garage. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.06 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Bill Jackson: I so move on Article 18 as presented. Seconded by Paul Robitaille. Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #19** To see if the Town will vote to establish an Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of purchasing/maintaining emergency medical services equipment. And further, to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 to be placed in such fund and designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend as may be necessary for this purpose. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 19 as presented. Seconded by David Graham.

Paul Robitaille explained that he was absent on the night the Board of Selectmen met; however had he been there, he would have voted in favor to recommend this article.

Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**ARTICLE #20** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$62,077.69.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.15 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 20 as presented. Seconded by David Graham. Article was voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

Michael Waddell: I move to combine Articles 21, 22, 23 and 24. Seconded by Jeff Schall and voted in the affirmative. Articles #21 - 24 were combined.

**ARTICLE #21** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Town Building Purchase and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$75,578.43.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.11 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #22** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$43,977.30.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.07 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0, 1 recused.)

**ARTICLE #23** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Recreation Van Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$25,846.38.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.035 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #24** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$142,785.47.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.15 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Bruce Lary: I so move on Articles #21 through 24 as presented. Seconded by Amanda Bradford. Articles 21 through 24 were voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

Michael Waddell: I move to combine Articles 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Seconded by Terry Oliver and voted in the affirmative. Articles #25 - 29 were combined.

**ARTICLE #25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000.00 to be added to the Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$53,779.73.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.08 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$.68.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**ARTICLE #27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Emergency Disaster Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$770.95.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.035 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #28** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,328.00 to be added to the Medallion Opera House Capital Reserve Fund as previously established with said funds to come from surplus. This amount represents the rental fees received for 2012. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$204.00.* Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #29** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$10,782.76.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Articles 25 - 29 as presented. Seconded by Terry Oliver.

Robert Mengel asked why Article 29 was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Paul Robitaille explained that he had been absent from the meeting at which these articles were reviewed. When an article had a split vote, the article was not recommended by a majority of the Board. Paul explained that had he been present, he would have voted to recommend this article.

Articles 25 through 29 were voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #30** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000.00 to be added to the Assessment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$6.08.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.40 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1, 1 recused.)

Bill Jackson: I so move on Article 30 as presented. Seconded by Paul Robitaille.

Pam Gralenski asked why the amount was so high this year compared to last year.

Robin Frost explained that the Town would be defending utility values before the Board of Tax Land Appeals. (BTLA)

Suzanne Demers asked if other towns were going to the BTLA with us or were we going it alone.

Robin Frost explained that we are going on our own. She was not aware of any other utility cases before the BTLA.

Amanda Bradford commented that she initially balked at the amount but feels it will save the Town money in the long run.

Voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

Michael Waddell: I move to combine Articles 31, 32 and 33. Seconded by Terry Oliver and voted in the affirmative. Articles #31 - 33 were combined.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**ARTICLE #31** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,500.00 to be added to the Fieldstone Road Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$13,176.87.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.045 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #32** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$11,106.64.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #33** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$1,807.48.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 31, 32 and 33 as presented. Seconded by Terry Oliver. Wallace Corrigan Jr. asked when Fieldstone Road will be finished. Austin "Buddy" Holmes responded, "Soon."

Articles 31 - 33 voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

Michael Waddell: I move to combine Articles 34, 35 and 36. Seconded by Terry Oliver and voted in the affirmative. Articles #34 - 36 were combined.

**ARTICLE #34** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the River Maintenance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$66,535.87.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #35** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the Special Insurance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$4,727.62.* Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

**ARTICLE #36** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the Longevity Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2012: \$16,348.40.* Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Articles 34, 35 and 36 as presented. Seconded by Terry Oliver.

Wallace Corrigan Jr. asked if there is a specific maintenance plan in place with regard to Article 34. Robin Frost explained that they just want to add to the River Maintenance Trust Fund just in case of another catastrophe.

Stewart Shaw asked if the town is self insured. Denise Vallee responded that it is not.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Articles 34 through 36 were voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #37** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,895.00 for the purpose of supporting outpatient mental health services to under-insured and uninsured individuals provided by Northern Human Services - The Mental Health Center. (By petition Andrea Gagne and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Mark St Germaine: I so move on Article 37 as presented. Seconded by Bruce Lary and voted in the affirmative.

**ARTICLE #38** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the support of the Child Advocacy Center of Coos County. (By petition Andrea Gagne and others.) Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

Bill Jackson: I so move on Article 38 as presented. Seconded by Denise Vallee and voted in the affirmative.

**ARTICLE #39** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,700.00 for the purpose of supporting the Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. This request will support North Country Transit/Senior Wheels \$3,000.00; North Country Senior Meals \$2,700.00; and the Community Contact Office \$3,000.00 - all sponsored by TCCAP. (By petition Stephen P. Michaud and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.)

David Graham: I so move on Article 39 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.  
Robert Mengel asked if this is for Gorham residents only.  
David Graham is supportive of funding for this article.

Voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #40** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of supporting Economic Development. (By petition Don Provencher and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-2.)

David Graham: I so move on Article 40 as presented. Seconded by Jeff Schall.  
Bill Jackson explained that he is against this article but not against economic development. This article is too ambiguous.  
David Graham expressed his support of this article.  
Max Makaitis (previously employed at Tri-County CAP to work on economic development) spoke in favor of the article as this would help fund his position.  
Reuben Rajala felt that any effort by the Town to support business is very important.  
Jeff Schall attempted to amend the article to include Family Resource Center as fiscal agent for the fund for this article.

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Michael Waddell asked if the FRC is in approval of being the fiscal agent.

Jeff Schall presented the agreement with FRC for a fee of 20%.

Michelle Lutz motioned to move the question. Seconded by Jennifer Stewart. Moderator Carroll asked for a standing vote. The vote results were 33 Yes and 45 No. Article was defeated.

Bill Jackson: I move to combine Articles 41, 42 and 43. Seconded by Terry Oliver and voted in the affirmative. Articles #41 - 43 were combined.

**ARTICLE #41** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 for the support of the Gorham Community Learning Center. (By petition Keith Parent and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.015 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-3.)

**ARTICLE #42** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of supporting of the Gorham Historical Society's public service, non-profit work to preserve and display the Town's history for future generations. (By petition Reuben Rajala and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.015 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1, 1 recused.)

**ARTICLE #43** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Family Resource Center at Gorham. (By petition Ron Fini and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1, 1 recused.)

Paul Robitaille explained that he was absent on the night the Board of Selectmen met; however had he been there, he would have voted in favor of Article 43.

Bill Jackson: I so move on Articles 41, 42 and 43 as presented. Seconded by Jeff Schall.

After some discussion, the articles were voted in the affirmative as presented without challenge.

**ARTICLE #44** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,520.00 for the purpose of supporting North Country Council's proposal to assist the Town of Gorham with an analysis of their solid waste program costs and explore options for changes to their operations with an emphasis on cost reduction. (By petition Jeff Schall and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1.)

Carol Miller: I so move on Article 44 as presented. Seconded by Terry Oliver.

After much discussion, Moderator Carroll called for the vote. Since it was too close to call, Moderator Carroll called for a standing vote. Results: 48 in favor of the study and 26 against the study. Voted in the affirmative.

**ARTICLE #45** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,999.00 for Time Warner Cable to extend their cable network to residences of Evergreen Drive, Hemlock Drive and a portion of Clay Brook Road. Time Warner Cable will cover the estimated balance of \$9,150.00 of the remaining construction costs. (By petition Carol Miller and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-3, 1 recused.)

## 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Jeff Schall: I so move on Article 45 as presented. Seconded by Terry Oliver.

Bill Jackson is against this article and stated that we cannot use public funds for private use.

Carol Miller asked for a small contribution from the Town for broadband coverage in her neighborhood consisting of 23 properties with 10 homes generating \$100k in property taxes to the Town.

Michael Waddell acknowledged that this neighborhood does pay a higher proportion of taxes. If the Town approves this article, someone could bring this to the Attorney General's office. He pointed out that there are other neighborhoods without broadband coverage.

Suzanne Demers commented that students are disadvantaged without broadband coverage.

Bill Jackson reiterated his opposition to this article and explained that before broadband coverage was available in his neighborhood, he obtained wireless from a tower on Pine Mtn at his own expense.

Carol Miller reiterated her position for this article and felt that it was possibly time to challenge the laws and we need to vote for this.

Article #45 was defeated.

**ARTICLE #46** To hear any reports of any Town Officers, Agents and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any votes related thereto.

David Graham: I so move on Article 46 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.

Bill Jackson commended Michelle Lutz for doing a great job on the Town Report.

Article 46 voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

**ARTICLE #47** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Paul Robitaille: I so move on Article 47 as presented. Seconded by Bill Jackson.

Mark St Germaine asked what the total effect on the tax rate would be after approval of these warrant articles.

Denise Vallee responded that there would be an estimated increase of \$0.37 based on current revenues.

Without knowing what the actual revenues will be, she could not guarantee that figure.

Glen Eastman thanked his supporters in his bid for selectman and congratulated Jeff Schall.

Article 47 voted in the affirmative and declared a vote.

Moderator Carroll adjourned the meeting at 9:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol T. Porter

Town Clerk