

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The annual Town Elections were held at the Medallion Opera House on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Polls were open from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm for the purpose of voting for Town & School officials. The State Special Election also took place at the same time for the purpose of electing Executive Council District 1. Deputy Moderator Bruce Lary remained at the polls for the counting of ballots while Moderator Lee Carroll opened the Business Meeting held at the Alumni Gymnasium to act upon the remaining articles.

Moderator Lee Carroll opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem performed by Max Sjostrom. Selectman Paul Robitaille approached the podium to recognize the excellent service of our Moderator Lee Carroll for his 28 years of service. He then presented Moderator Carroll with the pewter plate of the Town of Gorham and was given a standing ovation. Moderator Carroll thanked the audience.

Moderator Carroll outlined the standing Rules of Order at 7:02pm. He explained that the election results for Articles #1 through 5 would be provided once the votes were counted later in the evening.

ARTICLE #1 To elect one (1) Selectman for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Town Clerk for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Water and Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of two (2) years, one Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years, one (1) Budget Committee Member for a term of one (1) year, one (1) Budget Committee Member for a term of two (2) years, three (3) Budget Committee Members for a term of three (3) years, two (2) Planning Board Members for a term of three (3) years, one Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years, one (1) Town Moderator for a term of two (2) years, for receipt of same.)

ARTICLE #2: Are you in favor of adopting the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to change the definition of "Tourist Accommodation" to the following:

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION: A facility offering transient lodging accommodation to the general public. Tourist accommodations include, but are not limited to bed-and-breakfasts, hostels, motor courts, overnight cabins, camping areas, inns, motels, hotels, resorts, and other forms of short-term transient lodging. A tourist accommodation shall not include boarding houses, rooming houses, or any public housing or lodging accommodations for stays exceeding 30 days in a one-year period.

ARTICLE #3: Are you in favor of adopting the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to add definitions for the following: Hotel, Motel, Boarding House, Rooming House, Bed-and-Breakfast, and Hostel?

ARTICLE #4: Are you in favor of adopting the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to remove section 4.01B(6) "Temporary Housing Units" from the Residential A District and renumber the remaining sections?

ARTICLE #5: Are you in favor of adopting the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Gorham Planning Board, to remove section 4.02B(6) "Temporary Housing Units" from the Residential B District and renumber the remaining sections?

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #6 To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Gorham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for persons 65-75 years of age, \$25,000; for persons 75-80 years of age, \$50,000; for persons 80 years of age or older, \$100,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,900 for single or if married, a combined net income of \$28,900, and own assets not in excess of \$50,000, excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to 2 acres (RSA 72:30-a).

Paul Robitaille - So moved

William Jackson - Second

Ted Miller - Moved to amend the article to make the person be a Gorham NH resident instead of just a NH resident.

Michelle Lutz, Assessing Clerk, read NH RSA 72:39 which only requires the applicant to reside in NH.

Ted Miller reiterated his point that he wants the applicants to be residents of Gorham. Would like to amend the article anyway then let the State of NH make the change.

James Andrews - Second Mr. Miller's amendment

William Jackson - reiterated that if Ted's amendment is adopted, the State will not approve the article as amended.

Michelle Lutz - explained that the amount of income is being increased, not the exemption amount.

William Jackson - read from his iPhone NH RSA 72:39b "unless the person lives in NH for 3 years."

State Representative William Hatch - based on his experience in the NH Legislature, confirmed that Mr. Jackson is correct that the State would not approve the amended article.

Moderator Carroll - asked for a vote on the amendment.

Declared the amendment defeated.

Vote on Article #6 as presented: many hands raised.

Glen Eastman - took the podium to explain that he did not want the article to be adopted because there will always be a situation where a person misses the exemption by a small amount.

Michelle Lutz - explained that three Gorham residents lost their elderly exemption during the past year due to a small increase in Social Security. Two more elderly residents will lose it next year, and at least two more the following year. She approached the Board of Selectmen to bring the article to the floor.

Barbara Shute - explained that she and her husband have lived here for 15 years now. She just turned 80 this year. They have never asked for an exemption before now. They have used all their retirement funds and find it extremely difficult to live on \$28k. She urged voters to approve this article.

Paul Robitaille - Gorham has always supported keeping its elderly in their homes. These people fall through the cracks. As a society we need to keep doing what we can for them. To quote Humphrey, we are judged by the way we treat our sick, elderly and needy. We should not turn our backs on them now.

Lisa White - moved to cease debate

William Jackson - Second

Article 6 - ceased debate,

Voted and duly passed in the affirmative.

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #7 To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Wood Heating Energy System for a property tax exemption on real property equipped with a wood heating energy system as adopted in 1985 per RSA 72:70 in the amount of \$100.

Paul Robitaille - So moved

William Jackson - Second

Selectman Jackson - requested that Michelle Lutz explain this article.

Michelle Lutz - The amount of this exemption is \$100 off the assessed value of the property, not a credit off the tax bill. It amounts to roughly \$3 off the tax bill. It costs the town more money to send an inspector to verify the wood heating system and not a wood stove.

Declared a vote and duly passed.

ARTICLE #8 To see if the Town will vote to change the existing Standard Veterans' tax credit to the Optional Veterans' tax credit pursuant to RSA 72:27-a in the amount of \$200.00. The Optional Veterans' tax credit shall replace the Standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto." "Also to adopt the changes to Section 72:28 Sect. 4(a) Every resident of this state who served not less than 90 days in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or *armed conflict* listed in this section and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for *active duty* by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph." (Submitted by the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 82, Gorham by petition Diane Bouthot and others.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved

William Jackson - Second

Diane Bouthot - resident of Gorham for 35 years and member of American Legion for 18 years.

Currently our 51 veterans get a \$50 deduction off taxes since 1971. In 1999, State changed to have the optional rate because 1. high taxes and 2. other communities offer optional rate up to \$500. In 2013 the state changed standards again to include the National Guard. Our National Guard has served our country. They are deserving of this credit. We owe it to them. Petitioners are asking for a \$200. credit.

Glen Eastman - served in the armed forces and he doesn't believe that anyone who served in the armed forces served with the expectation of receiving a tax credit.

Suzanne Demers - reminded people to recognize our veterans.

Article passed in affirmative without question.

ARTICLE #9 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen or their designee to sell any Town Property acquired by tax deed or other means. The procedure to be used for the sale shall be either public auction or sealed bid. The Board of Selectmen may, at their discretion, retain any properties for public use. A minimum amount for each property may be established by the Board of Selectmen. Further, under special circumstances as determined by the Board of Selectmen, the manner of the sale of any such properties may be varied as justice may require. This authorization will be in effect indefinitely or until rescinded by Town Meeting.

William Jackson - So moved

Paul Robitaille - Second

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town Manager Robin Frost - explained the necessity of this article is that several properties are expected to be taken by tax deed; and in order to get them back on the tax rolls, we need to be able to sell those properties.

Amanda Bradford - asked if this means that a person has their property taken for taxes by the town and then sold by the town.

Robin Frost - yes, for taxes that have not been paid since 2010 and prior.

Suzanne Demers - moved to amend article to include abutters be notified of the sale.

Robin Frost - it's a public auction.

Aaron Gorban - Second the amendment to notify abutters.

Moderator counted the vote affirmative

Challenged by Selectman Jackson - standing vote.

Ballot clerks counting from floor. - first in the affirmative, then against the amendment.

Duly passed 40 in favor of amendment - 27 votes against

Michael Waddell - asked Board of Selectmen if they are comfortable with amendment and that DRA will not kick it out.

Terry Rhoderick - a resident for over 30 years asked if the townspeople will be responsible for any contaminated soil?

Town Manager Robin Frost - There are a few reasons the Board of Selectmen can refuse the tax deed, and that is one of the reasons.

Diane Bouthot - what does that mean? Are we letting these people off the hook?

William Jackson - taxpayers will not be on the hook for the cleanup. We need to weigh out whether it is better to take the property and do a clean up or not take it.

Diane Bouthot - asked what is going to happen to the people who own this property.

Bill Jackson - if the property is worth \$500k and they owe taxes of \$234k, that's what we will get is the \$234k.

Declared a vote and duly passed.

ARTICLE #10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of **\$3,839,977.00** 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 6 to 1.)

| | Budget Committee | Tax Rate Impact |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| General Government | \$1,248,014.00 | \$ 4.47/ \$1,000 |
| Public Safety | \$1,203,418.00 | \$ 4.31 |
| Highways, Streets & Bridges | \$ 739,904.00 | \$ 2.65 |
| Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling | \$ 320,936.00 | \$ 1.15 |
| Health Purposes | \$ 1,700.00 | < .01 |
| Welfare | \$ 30,000.00 | \$.11 |
| Recreation, Parks | \$ 151,667.00 | \$.54 |
| Information Booth | \$ 10,020.00 | \$.04 |
| Debt Purposes | <u>\$ 134,318.00</u> | \$.49 |
| Total | \$3,839,977.00 | |

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Paul Robitaille - So moved

William Jackson - Second

Suzanne Demers - to make an amendment to reduce Public Safety line for ambulance services by \$105,232 since she believes that the unincorporated areas serviced along with Randolph and Shelburne do not pay proportionate rate that Gorham taxpayers pay.

Lisa Kardell - So moved.

Bill Jackson - explained that last night, the Board of Selectmen reversed an action taken on Feb 24th which would have charged the Town of Shelburne \$54k instead of \$13k as previously charged. A similar percentage change went to the Town of Randolph. He further explained that the time frame in which this took place was after Shelburne and Randolph had completed their budgets. It would be unfair to these towns at this late date to charge such an increase. He thought they were more engaged in the negotiations. We all agree to adjust contracts, which will take place beginning now. They expect a negotiated settlement by October 2014 so everyone understands. Rates will go up but with a fair negotiation.

Suzanne Demers - pointed out that we have been talking about this for three years at our town meeting. Gorham taxpayers are paying a considerable higher percentage plus billed for services at the same rate as other towns. She asked if Gorham is being treated fairly?

Michael Waddell - responded that Mrs. Demers' 3-year comment is correct. The time to amend this was last March, April, May, on through January. He disputed her figures, and offered that she had probably not taken into account the \$400k in revenue in service contracts. We still have homework to do on our part before we meet with the surrounding towns. He urged everyone to vote this article without the amendment.

Suzanne Demers - \$400k revenue and we still have the 7th highest tax rate in the state.

Lisa White - move article

William Jackson - Second

Vote taken for Amendment to reduce \$105,232 in Ambulance line

Moderator Carroll declared Amendment defeated.

Dr Richard Kardell - noting that utilities are appealing assessed values, what is the worst case scenario if the utilities file for abatement and win and we don't.

Bill Jackson - one utility filed and the results were not in favor of the town and not what the utility asked for. We did not win, but we did not lose. The Selectmen are working with the City of Berlin to fight all the way to the NH Supreme Court if necessary. Current sales indicate that our assessment may be too low. 1st way to look at = 40% range based on commercial or utility values- those companies have deep pockets and big attorneys and are used to having towns cow down and settle. We got together with City of Berlin to share legal costs. We are absolutely not going to roll over and do a dis-service to the town. We can support our values with NH-Board of Tax & Land Appeals and the Supreme Court. When we appeal; see what happens at BTLA first. If valuation goes down, tax rates go up. Of the three utilities, one is being aggressively fought and the other two are being fought.

We have an overlay account to cover \$288k - if money comes in from tax sales, all that money will go to cover the cost of defending these values to protect us from whatever the final decision is.

Voting on Article 10 as presented: declared duly passed as presented and approved.

ARTICLE #11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$461,777.00 for the operation of the Sewer Department. *(This amount will be offset by user fees and Sewer funds. It will not affect general taxation.)*

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Ted Miller - So moved.

Roger Goulet - Second

Duly passed as presented and declared a vote.

ARTICLE #12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$524,537.00 for the operation of the Water Department. *(This amount will be offset by user fees and Water funds. It, will not affect general taxation.)*

Roger Goulet - So moved.

Ted Miller - Second

Duly passed as presented and is approved.

ARTICLE #13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$141,808.00 for the operation of the Gorham Public Library. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.51 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Rufus Ansley - Second

Duly passed as presented and is approved.

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 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Austin (Buddy) Holmes - Second

Lisa Kardell - will any be used for Stony Brook?

Austin (Buddy) Holmes - it's for all town roads.

Duly passed as presented and is approved.

Bill Jackson - Moved to combine Articles 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Paul Robitaille - Seconded. Voted in the affirmative. Articles #15 - 18 were combined.

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 Laurie Legere and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.07 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

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 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,900.00 for the support of the 4th of July Committee, to include fireworks and police coverage for the annual 4th of July Celebration. Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #18 To see if the Town will vote to close the Fieldstone Road Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008 (Article 17) and to transfer \$0.27 to the General Fund.

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

Articles 15, 16, 17, and 18 duly passed as presented and are approved.

ARTICLE #19 To see if the Town will vote to establish a Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of purchasing/maintaining communications equipment. And further, to raise and appropriate \$5,000 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 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

Duly passed as presented and are approved.

ARTICLE #20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$5,000.00.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

Terry Rhoderick - since there is an expected \$400k in ambulance revenue, they should not ask for additional funds in article #20.

Chad Miller, Ambulance Director -clarified that every penny the Ambulance Dept receives goes into the general fund. It does not stay with the Ambulance Dept.

Suzanne Demers - when we start negotiating with the other two towns, do they take into consideration the infrastructure of the town ambulance service?

Bill Jackson - All issues will be discussed when the Town Manager, Ambulance Director and Board of Selectmen can sit down together.

Terry Rhoderick - The \$400k revenue from Ambulance can it be used to fund the Ambulance?

Bill Jackson - We cannot do what you want because it's not legal.

Terry Rhoderick - I'll check on that Mr. Jackson.

With no further questions or comments, Moderator Carroll asked for a vote.

It was declared duly passed as presented and is approved.

ARTICLE #21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$102,097.10.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.16 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

Bill Jackson - Moved to combine Articles 22, 23, 24, and 25.

Paul Robitaille - Second.

Suzanne Demers - does not want to combine articles.

Moderator Carroll polled. House ruled that they want to combine - voted in the affirmative to combine.

ARTICLE #22 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, 2013: \$105,589.80.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.11 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #23 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$21,000.00** to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$63,983.94.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.07 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Recreation Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$13,281.07.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #25 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, 2013: \$57,823.39.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.14 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

Articles 22, 23, 24, and 25 duly passed as presented and are approved.

Bill Jackson - Moved to combine Articles 26, 27, 28, and 29 as a group.

Paul Robitaille - Second.

Voted in the affirmative. Articles #26 - 29 were combined.

ARTICLE #26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$76,787.83.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.11 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,000.00** to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$12,000.73.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.05 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #28 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, 2013: \$10,771.12.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

ARTICLE #29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700.00 to be added to the Medallion Opera House Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This amount represents the rental fees received for 2013. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$1,532.01.* This amount to come from surplus and no amount to be raised from general taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second

Articles 26, 27, 28, and 29 duly passed in the affirmative and are adopted.

At 8:52pm, Deputy Moderator Bruce Lary provided ballot vote results for Articles #1 - 5 to Moderator Lee Carroll. Results were presented by Moderator Carroll as follows:

Executive Council District 1

Joe Kenney 187

Mike Cryans 270

GRS Cooperative School District - 3 year seats

Gina Saladino 396

Barney Valliere 315

Robert Balon 82

GRS - 1 year seat

Ed Giron 174

Lori Boisselle 262

GRS Shelburne At Large

Greg Corrigan 420

Town Ballot

ARTICLE #1

Selectman - Grace E. LaPierre

Moderator - Bruce S. Lary

Town Clerk - Carol Turcotte Porter

Treasurer - Patricia Flynn

Supervisor of the Checklist - Christina Zornio

Water & Sewer Commissioner - Lee F. Carroll

Library Trustee - Aaron Gorban

Trustee of Trust Funds - Jane P. Legere

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Planning Board Members - Michael A. Guay & Daniel Buteau
Budget Committee Member for 1 year - Terry Oliver
Budget Committee Member for 2 years - Glen Eastman
Budget Committee Member for 3 years - Barney Valliere

ARTICLE #2 - Passed
ARTICLE #3 - Passed
ARTICLE #4 - Passed
ARTICLE #5 - Passed

ARTICLE #30 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, 2013: \$17,162.07.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Bruce Lary - So moved.
Andrea Philbrook - Second
Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 to be added to the Assessment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$59,179.89.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.27 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.
Bill Jackson - Second.
Lucille Michaud - please explain what this CRF is used for.
Robin Frost - used for 25% of the town also used to defend assessments before BTLA by taxpayers.
Voted and duly passed in affirmative & is adopted.

Bill Jackson - moved to combine articles.
Moderator Carroll - felt it was just as fast to read them individually.

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, 2013: \$4,591.60.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

William Jackson - So moved
Paul Robitaille - Second
With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$6,807.77.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Wallace Corrigan - So moved.

Janet Corrigan - Second.

Amanda Bradford lives in Clay Brook/Stoney Brook area. Concerned there is not enough monies to cover the repair of these roads. She recently had to replace bushings on her car going only 13mph in a 30mph while her husband had to replace bushings on his car while traveling at only 7mph for a total repair cost exceeding \$1,000. for both vehicles. This is one of the highest taxed areas of town with the least amount of road work. She had heard that the Town would not repair roads until all house lots were sold.

Amanda Bradford - Moved to raise the appropriation from \$10k to \$50k for a tax impact from \$0.02 to \$0.10

Rueben Rajala - Second

Bill Jackson - I don't know who told you that we wouldn't fix roads until all lots were sold. But we need to attend to these roads. It's a serious problem. We applied for several grants; but were not successful. Engineers, H.E. Bergeron estimated \$1M to repair these roads. We are well aware of the problem. Finance Director Denise Vallee - indicated that the tax rate impact listed at \$0.02 was incorrect, that it should be \$0.04. The tax rate impact if approved as amended would be \$0.18 on tax rate.

Vote taken. The amended article was narrowly defeated.

Lisa Kardell - expressed her frustration with the overall budget. She continued that it is not fair to these people who live in that area to pay the highest property taxes, pay extra to repair cars, and some cannot get to their homes. She moved to amend the article to raise and appropriate \$1.4Million to fix roads once and for all. Motion exceeds 10% Rule and died on floor.

Article #33 was voted and duly passed in affirmative and is adopted in the amount of \$10k.

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, 2013: \$66,003.17.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Bruce Lary - So moved.

Andrea Philbrook - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to be added to the Special Insurance Trust Fund as previously established. *Balance as of December 31, 2013: \$4,783.34.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Bruce Lary - So moved.

Andrea Philbrook - Second.

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

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, 2013: \$18,070.84.* Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

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 William O'Brien and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

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 Michael Cote and others.) Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

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 Warren Johnson and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Bill Jackson - So Moved

Paul Robitaille - Second

Paul wants to recognize Lila Villeneuve and others from Tri-County CAP here for any questions or comments. Being no questions or comments, the vote was taken.

Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #40 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 Nichole Pizzo and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

Amanda Bradford - asked about the difference between the Gorham Community Learning Center and the Family Resource Center of Gorham.

Nicole Pizzo - the Gorham Community Learning Center pays rent to the Family Resource Center.

Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #41 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Gorham Historical Society's museum and the organization's public service efforts to preserve and display the Town's history. (By petition Reuben Rajala and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #42 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 Wilma Martin and others.) Tax Rate Impact: \$05. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Paul Robitaille - So moved.

Bill Jackson - Second.

Paul introduced Judge Michalik of the Family Resource Center.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #43 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Androscoggin River Athletes, a local arm of NH Special Olympics. (By petition Theresa Letarte and others.) Tax Rate Impact: <\$0.01 (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 1.)

Bill Jackson - So moved.

Theresa Letarte - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE #44 To hear any reports of any Town Officers, Agents and Committees heretofore chosen and to pass any votes related thereto.

Bruce Lary - moved to accept the town report be accepted as submitted.

Paul Robitaille - Second.

With no questions asked, voted was taken. Duly passed in affirmative and is adopted.

ARTICLE #45 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mike Waddell - recognized Paul Robitaille for his service over the past 9 years. Paul thanked the town for the opportunity to serve. He mentioned there were a lot of sleepless nights as this job is not easy! Most have been fun to work for. He recognized the townspeople for their attendance at the annual town meetings.

Lee Carroll - thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 9:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol Turcotte Porter
Town Clerk

Quote Selectman Paul Robitaille made reference to:

" ...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped. "

~Last Speech of Hubert H. Humphrey