

# Town of Northwood

## Deliberative Session Minutes

### February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Meeting called to order promptly at 9:00am, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy, Northwood, NH. Lucy Edwards (The Forum) introduced in order to get photos of candidates, etc. Announcing himself Bob Young as moderator, Board of Selectmen: Scott Bryer (Chair), David Ruth, Hal Kreider, Beth Boudreau and Matthew Frye as well as Council, Edward Larson. Town Clerk, Savannah Audet. Budget Committee Chair, Virginia Dole. Special thanks to Lisa Lamarche and Susan Austin at the Town Hall. Tammie Schroder facilitating the live stream and publishing to the web. Special thanks to Coe-Brown and Fred. Discussion on the order of the meeting and expectations, how to vote and how to request a secret ballot vote. Moderator explained that the procedures of this meeting were available online at the Town website. Planning Board and Zoning Board ordinances do not need to be discussed as they have already been adopted. Questions regarding the first fourteen articles can be directed to Bob Strobel.

Moderator noted that Voting Session to act on all Warrant Articles as amended, including the proposed budget as a result of the action of the “first session” would be held at the Parish Center as St. Joseph’s Church, 844 First NH Turnpike, in said Northwood on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Moderator asked the audience to join in with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator requested a motion to waive reading of the entire Warrant prior to deliberation.

Ginger Dole requested motion to waive the reading of the entire Warrant. Second by Jim Vaillancourt. Motion passes.

Jim Vaillancourt requested motion to allow non-Northwood residents to speak. Second by Bob Strobel. Motion passes.

#### Article 1: ELECTIONS

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

(Continued on page 2)

Openings	Position	Term
(2)	Board of Selectmen	3 years
(1)	Moderator	3 years
(1)	Treasurer	3 years
(4)	Budget Committee	3 years
(1)	Budget Committee	2 years
(1)	Cemetery Trustee	3 years
(1)	Library Trustee	3 years
(2)	Planning Board	3 years
(1)	Police Commission	3 years
(1)	Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years
(1)	Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years

Moderator suggested moving on as election of officials will take place on the ballot.

### Articles 2-14 (PLANNING BOARD ZONING AMENDMENTS)

Not discussed as they have already been adopted. Questions may be directed to Bob Strobel Head of Planning Board.

### Article 15: 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Ginger Dole moved, Ted Wilkinson second. Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **three million eight hundred forty-one thousand five hundred eighty-six dollars (\$3,841,586)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million six hundred eighty-one thousand three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$3,681,392)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **(Tax Impact \$0.33) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/1)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: The main issues, implementation of wage study totaling \$208,000, the combining of health and dental \$380,000, and the paving warrant article not be included in the budget. Concerned that it appears both budgets are \$100,000 more than past years (due to

the combined health and benefits). Moderator asked for comment from Selectmen. No comment from Selectmen.

Jim Vaillancourt: Implementation of wage study concern regarding the combination of the Public Works Foreman and removal of Laborer II position increased the cost by \$25,000. Also concerned with Fire Chief stipend of \$10,000 to a full-time position with wage and benefits of \$90,000. Referenced Town Report from 1998, Warrant Article 19 where the Town adopted RSA 154:1 IV.

Selectmen Bryer: Current Fire Chief has a three year contract signed by the Board of Selectmen. Believes there was a vote by the Fire Members.

Jim Vaillancourt: Elephant in room, why there is a surplus in the default budget of \$350,000? None of that money was used in this warrant to prevent or take place to raise taxes. Why wasn't it spent? What do we need to do next to year to avoid raising taxes?

Selectman Bryer: Current Finance person left the Town. Municipal services incorporated has been hired as a consultant to work on day-to-day activities. Hired a CPA from MRI to put some recommendations for the Town bases on findings to correct inadequacies found in the Town's financial audit.

Jim Vaillancourt: Recommends voting No on this article

Ted Wilkinson: Glad that the Board of Selectmen recognizes that there have been bookkeeping an accounting problems within the Town building. Astounded that it has taken this long to figure out. Appears to be a pattern of behavior of not paying attention to simple things that could be fixed. Glad a consultant has been hired. Need to fix accounting procedures based on audit findings.

Selectman Bryer: We will take it under advisement.

Bob Strobel: Recommends a sign be held in front of livestream to inform them to reset their stream connections.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 15 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

## Article 16: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE

Scott Bryer moved, Beth Boudreau second. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of **five hundred fifty-one thousand two hundred thirty dollars (\$551,230)** for a Tanker Truck, to raise and appropriate **three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)** for an initial deposit payment under the lease, with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. This lease will commence in 2021 with five subsequent annual payments of fifty-six thousand six hundred seventy-two dollars (\$56,672). This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. This lease shall contain

an escape clause. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/3)**

Deputy Fire Chief Greg LeBlanc: Looking to use our vehicle replacement fund to replace tanker. Current tanker is out-of-date. Pamphlet to be handed out include reasons, more seating, more equipment, more water storage (3,000 gallons).

Deborah Ward: What are you going to do with old tanker?

Deputy Fire Chief Greg LeBlanc: Old tanker will be traded in, included in the cost.

Ginger Dole: Speaking as budget committee member, not chair, recollection of past budget meetings (at least seven), the topic in regard to value of trade-in deducted from value of tanker was never mentioned. Received very little information as to what the new tanker would entail. With the space limitations at the Ridge Station, where would this tanker go? When this topic first came to the budget committee the understanding was a \$400,000 initial payment, and two payments thereafter. Long-term plan to buy another large piece of equipment. What is the actual value of the trad-in and the actual cost of truck if there was no trade-in?

Deputy Fire Chief Greg LeBlanc Does not know the cost without the trade-in. New tanker has been spec'd to fit in the Narrows Station. Specifically, being built to fit in our stations.

Jim Vaillancourt: Funding coming out of special fire rescue fund. Generally, we put \$120,000 to \$140,000 per year in ambulance revenue into that fund. According to a previous warrant article (ref. 2018 Town Report) we split that 70/30 between fire truck and ambulance purchases. We're going to use the \$124,000 annually to fund this. Confusion in the Budget Committee as to how much money went to that fund this year. Believes around \$70,000. Wondering if this can be verified. Can we expect less money in this fund every year?

Selectmen Bryer: Fire Chief is working on staffing for emergency medical services. Last year, we did not have a paramedic available for all calls. Requires a paramedic intercept, in which case revenue goes to the Town that supplies the paramedic. Fire Chief has assured the Board of Selectman that once staffing concerns are addressed revenues will increase.

Selectman Kreider: Revenues were down the past year; Fire Chief is addressing. Over the past five years we have averaged around \$130,000 per year with some years as high as \$160,000. We did a cash flow analysis to determine if there's enough money in funds. Believes that the town is being pretty conservative, assuming \$90,000 per year for ambulance revenue considering years prior with appropriate staffing were greater than \$100,000.

Ginger Dole: Was one of budget committee members who voted against this article due to funding concerns. Believes that there won't be sufficient income to make subsequent payments. Spoke with Town Treasurer last month. Pulled total receipts from 2014-2018 Town Reports, the lowest year was 2014 with approximately \$101,000 in revenue, the highest 2017 with \$136,474. Still has concerns with there being sufficient funds in future years to pay for these warrant articles.

Ginger Dole: Would like to amend Article 16 by changing \$551,230 to \$1.00. Deborah Ward seconded.

Moderator asked for discussion.

Ginger Dole: Would like to request secret ballot vote. Written request with five registered voter signatures.

Bob Strobel: Requesting clarification on changing budget items more than 10%.

Mike Moore: Question for Chief regarding tanker. If tanker breaks and is not replaced how is water supplied to areas of Town with no Hydrants?

Deputy Fire Chief Greg LeBlanc: Would require Mutual Aid assistance. Could not be completed ourselves. Would increase the amount of time waiting for water.

Moderator Young: Budget items can only be increased by up to 10% but decreased to as low as \$0.

Keith McGuigan: Requesting names of citizens who voted for secret ballot.

Moderator Young: The names of those requesting secret ballot are Virginia Dole, Michael Smith, James Hadley, Alan Wilkinson and Betty A. Smith.

No further discussion.

Secret Ballot Voting: Yes - Change \$551,230 to \$1 No - Leave article as it appears.

Moderator Young: Secret ballot voting results, 31 negatives, 15 affirmatives. Amendment does not pass.

Moderator asked for discussion on the main motion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Rebuttal to previous comment. Does not believe the cash flow analysis does not work. Capital Improvement Plan from Planning Board shows request for fire equipment from 2020 to 2029. Believes Selectman Kreider is correct that the cash flow analysis for this one warrant article is correct but does not account for the Planning Board requests over the next five years which will raise taxes.

Bob Strobel: In defense of the Capital Improvement Plan. The information was provided by department heads.

Tom Chase: Delighted we have turned down amendment and we're back to the original amendment. The original timeframe when presented to the Budget Committee was three years. Budget Committee extended to five years to reduce potential risk of draining the fund. From conversation with Steve Baily, a lot of vehicles are worn out. One has recently required \$35,000 in repairs. If you don't have a tanker to respond to surrounding towns, other towns will stop responding to us without payment. Believes it's a wonderful investment to fight our own fires and reciprocate. Hopes we all vote in favor of the article.

Selectman Kreider: Wants everyone to understand the Capital Improvement Plan is generated every year with the evaluation of how we will fund things each year. If our needs exceed the

funds, then we will have to fund in some other manor. On the assumption we can bring up ambulance funds, then we have enough funds to pay for this apparatus.

David Best: Former firefighter and fire chief (41 years). Under NFPA regulations regarding life expectancy of fire apparatus. Understanding the current truck is 27 years old. If we don't reconsider and vote to replace this apparatus, we could be stuck replacing multiple trucks in the future.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 16 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

#### Article 17: FIRE DEPARTMENT THERMAL IMAGER

Scott Bryer moved, David Ruth second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to replace one of the two Fire Department Thermal imagers. The current thermal imager is 10 years old. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan for 2021. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 17 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

#### Article 18: AMBULANCE LEASE PURCHASE

Scott Breyer moved, David Ruth second. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a seven-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of **two hundred seventy-three thousand dollars (\$273,000)** for a new, equipped ambulance, to raise and appropriate **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)** for an initial deposit payment under the lease, with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. This lease will commence in 2021 with seven subsequent annual payments of twenty-nine thousand three hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$29,359). This lease/purchase will replace a 2007 ambulance. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. This lease shall contain an escape clause. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 16/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Ginger Dole: Asked a couple of questions at last Board of Selectman meeting. Wants an answer now as to why there is a new ambulance in town. Assumed it was to show at the deliberative session. Heard it's a long term "loaner, lease, whatever arrangement". Will we be using this? If so, how long? What's the cost? Who approved getting this ambulance, as nothing was indicated in any Board of Selectman meeting minutes.

Selectman Bryer: The ambulance is a long term lease for \$1.00. Leasing from the same company we will be leasing the new ambulance from. Did not have to go through the Board of Selectman as it was only \$1.00. Department Head can approve such expense.

Bob Strobel: Numbers on the warrant article are slightly different and lower than those in the Capital Improvement Plan. Capital Improvement Plan includes five annual payments of \$65,000. This warrant article has his full support.

Tom Chase: Suggests calling Steve Bailey when you want to know what's going on in town. Steve Baily indicated the prior ambulance died therefore a decision needed to be made to have a "loaner" in the short term so that we have the medical coverage that we need in any given moment.

Ginger Dole: Assumes that we're responsible for insurance on this unit? How much additional if anything is this costing us? Warrant article indicates will commence in 2021. Recalls from Budget Committee meetings new unit would take approximately nine months to come in. Is the current \$1.00 vehicle the one that will be ours if approved in March? If so, what happens with the lease in 2021. Requesting clarification.

Deputy Fire Chief LeBlanc: The ambulance being used now is temporary and will not be the unit the Town receives if the warrant is passed. If the warrant passes, the Town will get a newly built ambulance built for us. The existing ambulance will go back to the company for \$1.00 when the newly built ambulance arrives.

Christopher Brown: No insurance impact with the loaner ambulance as this is that same amount as our last ambulance that died.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 18 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 19: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Scott Breyer moved, Mike Best second. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000)** for the acquisition of communication equipment pursuant to the first year of the three-year Fire Department Mobile Communications Equipment Replacement Plan. The plan will replace all our portable and mobile radios over the next three years. Our current stock of radios are approximately 15 years old. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. **(Tax Impact \$0.07) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Hadley: Passed out a handout. As of a few weeks ago, the Board of Selectman was not sure what surplus would be at the end of 2019. Thought to be between \$180,000 to \$350,000. Laying out options available to town utilizing surplus. Believes all these warrant articles area \$1.50 increase tax impact.

Deputy Fire Chief Leblanc: Clarifying that the Town will be applying for grants but need warrant article in place if the grants are not awarded.

Jim Hadley: Supports the article, concerned with how it is being paid.

Jim Hadley: Would like to amend article 19 to add “and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the transfer of that amount from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. No impact on tax rate”. Ginger Dole seconded.

Moderator asked for discussion.

Selectman Kreider: Previously publicly stated there was \$350,000 left over from last year. This comment was made in error. The Town does not have \$350,000 left over and unsure how much is actually left over. There are still bills to be paid and invoices coming in that need to be addressed. Final number will not be known until the consultants clean up and more information is brought forward. Urges to use caution with this technique. Board of Selectmen is not in a position where they can inform the public where we stand currently. Wants to apologize but wants everyone to be aware of the situation.

Jim Hadley: Thanks Selectman Kreider for the information. Wishes to withdraw his amendment. Ginger Dole removed second.

Ginger Dole: Thanks and appreciates Selectman Kreider’s honesty.

Bob Strobel: Regarding Selectman Kreider’s comments using surplus funds multiple times for warrant articles. If we use the technique (funding from prior year surplus), do lower numbered warrant articles get funded over higher numbered articles?

Town Council: Believes DRA processes funding warrant articles from prior year surplus from the bottom up (higher number articles first).

Tom Johnson: Applauding Selectman Kreider. Wants to know why the surplus information was not presented earlier?

Selectman Kreider: Selectman were remised, should’ve been discussed upfront. Appreciates comments but understand that the other selectman feel the same way, and deserve recognition on their hard work.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 19 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

## Article 20: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

Bunny Behm moved, Bob Strobel second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seventy-nine thousand five hundred four dollars and ninety cents (\$79,504.90)**, to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 - a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2019 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2019. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: Cable \$34,105, Transfer Station \$54,717, and Cemetery: \$350,964. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**



<b>Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$35,064.00</b>	<b>Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$43,240.90</b>	<b>Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$1,200.00</b>
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Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Last year we put \$19,000 into the Cable Expendable Trust Fund which was too short. Pointed out at Deliberative Session last year. Believes the \$35,000 is \$17,000 to \$18,000 short. Believes Town missed payment in 2017. Looking for further updates as to where the \$17,000 to \$19,000 is that needs to be put back into the fund.

Selectman Kreider: Town has one years' worth of verification from Atlantic Broadband. Need at last four years of verification to understand if we have the correct amount of funds.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 20 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

**Article 21: VESTED BENEFIT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT**

Beth Boudreau moved, David Ruth second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)** to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$25,247. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Brought up a Budget Committee public hearing. Does not believe anyone can vote on this amendment without knowing what the Town's liability is. That liability should be on the 2018 Audit Report.

Selectman Kreider: According to the 2018 Audit Report the Town's liability is approximately \$110,000 as of the end of 2018. We won't know changes accumulated over 2019 until the books are complete. The Town has employees with long tenure. If they all leave the funds will be gone quickly.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 21 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

**Article 22: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK LEASE**

David Ruth moved, Beth Boudreau second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an amount of **twenty-six thousand one hundred six dollars (\$26,106)** for the second year's lease payment of the seven-year lease/purchase agreement of a highway dump truck that was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 22 on the ballot as written. All in favor, motion passed.

#### Article 23: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Scott Bryer moved, Beth Boudreau second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$18,500)** to be deposited into the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$88,447. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/1)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Hadley: Clarifying his decision to not request any more amendments so the Selectman can sit down with DRA to set tax rate appropriately

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 23 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

#### Article 24: POLICE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Scott Bryer moved, David Ruth second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six thousand dollars (\$6,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$20,274. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/1)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 24 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

#### Article 25: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Scott Bryer moved, Beth Boudreau second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$13,875)** to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the Lagoon Special Revenue Fund held by the Northwood Treasurer. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$103,612. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 25 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

## Article 26: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT

Scott Bryer moved, Mike Best second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs, and replacement of general government buildings including the Chesley Memorial Library. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$52,952. **(Tax Impact \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Since there were no withdrawals from this fund this year, assuming no work was done. If we fund for \$25,000 this year, will the work promised at the budget meeting be done?

Selectman Frye: Public Works Foreman will be in charge of not only highways but also maintenance and oversight of municipal buildings and plans.

Jim Vaillancourt: Will this person be responsible for facilities committee?

Selectman Bryer: Paving at Library did not get done last year. Approximately \$11,300 for the Library parking. The Public Works Foreman will be responsible for contracts and facilitating the work to be done.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 26 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

## Article 27: COMMUNITY BUILDING WARRANT

Scott Bryer moved, Steve Robinson second. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs, and replacement of general government buildings for the purpose of restoration of the former Center School. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$52,952. **(Tax Impact \$0.08) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommend by the Budget Committee 14/2)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Tom Chase: Provided information about the history and success of The Center School. Provided ideas to refurbish and utilize the former Center School. According to Steve Baily, believes the foundation is intact and would like to save this piece of our Towns History.

Ashley Martin: Warrant article was put in place in hopes to establish another Town Community building. Funds would go to relocation of pipes to prevent freezing and to make the building handicap accessible.

Selectman Kreider: Suggests you read the article posted on the Forum by Town Historian Joann Bailey.

Kathleen Lord: Former President of Center School. The Town's existing Community Center is frequently overbooked. Supports the article.

Mike Magoon: Member of Northwood Historical Society. Supports the article. Believes there are benefits for students to see the community preserve and utilize historical buildings.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 27 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 28: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST

Beth Boudreau moved, Matt Frye second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** to be deposited into the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund to support efforts to recognize the Town's 250th Anniversary in 2023. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$6,682. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Member for the last three years of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Members of the Trustees of the Trust Funds have been looking at funds to determine that they're being invested in the best interest of Town. A Bicentennial Fund exists from 1974. Fund contains \$8,000. Trustees asked for a meeting with the Board of Selectman in July 2019 to discuss the Bicentennial funds which have been sitting for 47 years accruing interest. Working with DRA to create the warrant articles necessary to move the \$8,000 from the Bicentennial Fund into the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to ensure no tax impact this year. On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 Trustee of the Trust Funds discussed budget with The Board of Selectman and presented three Warrants. Discontinue Bicentennial Fund, move \$8,000 from trust fund into Town finances, repurpose the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to Northwood Anniversary Celebration Fund and purpose it for funding Town celebrations starting with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and every 25 years thereafter. Finally, take the \$8,000 from Town finances and fund the newly created fund. Very disappointed that the plan was not executed. Recommends you vote no to article 28.

Betty Smith: Why did this not happen?

Selectman Bryer: Does not have a good reason. Very challenging year, a lot of activity and turmoil in Finance. Apologies as Chairman. Was not intentional and will be addressed next year.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 28 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 29: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE

Scott Bryer moved, Matt Frye second. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents (\$20,297.79)** for the third of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the backhoe. This lease agreement was approved in 2018 and does contain an escape clause. **(Tax Impact**

**\$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 29 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

**Article 30: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING/PAVING AND DITCHING**

Scott Bryer moved, Beth Boudreau second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)** to be used for the construction, reconstruction, paving, and ditching and/or resurfacing of town roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, the Road Agent, and the Highway Advisory Committee. This would include all Town Road Projects including paving on Tasker Hill Road and Ridge Road. **(Tax Impact \$0.73) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 16/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: 2012 Road Maintenance Plan does not exist anymore. Was a seven-year plan. Requesting comment from Road Agent and/or Highway Advisory to understand logic in approving this article.

Interim Road Agent Chris Brown: Article includes completion of all of Sherburne Hill Road and Ridge Road. This completes the entire loop.

Ginger Dole: Requests the Board of Selectman to elaborate further the amounts presented to the Budget Committee.

Selectwomen Boudreau: Tasker Hill Road and Ridge Road total is \$286,939. Part of Harvey Lake Road is \$78,974. Highway Block grant is for approximately \$105,000. The other \$20,000 is for grading and other minor work to be performed by the Town's Highway Department.

Jim Hadley: Recommends road work be paid by a bond utilizing State grant money.

Jim Hadley: Would like to amend Article 30 by changing \$350,000 to \$1.00. No second. Amendment does not go forward.

Deborah Ward: Has the Board already accepted bids and is there a purchase order?

Selectman Bryer: Quotes have been accepted by the company that did the work the previous year. Recommends the specifics be added to the Voters Guide.

Deborah Ward: What is the timeline to get the work completed?

Selectwoman Boudreau: Correction on figures presented. Estimate from R and D Paving for \$399,323. Work will go out to bid in March/April timeframe for work to be completed in July

2020. A grant is a great idea but failed previously. Hoping an updated Road Plan can be put in place.

Selectman Bryer: Agrees with Jim Vaillancourt that a new Road Plan needs to be created. To be a goal of new Highway Foreman. Unsure of time to start new Road Plan. Work on this article will be completed this year. Any work over \$10,000 will need to go out to bid per Town policy.

Deborah Ward: Will the entire \$350,000 be spent in 2020?

Selectman Bryer: The Town will spend up to \$350,000. Approximately \$105,000 in Highway Block grant for Harvey Road.

Lucy Edwards: Do the Highway Advisory Committee or the Facilities Committee meet?

Selectman Bryer: Both Committees exist but are defunct. As of now these committees do not meet regularly.

Lucy Edwards: Does the Board of Selectman get advice from these committees?

Selectman Bryer: Received recommendations from the Chairman of both the Highway Committee and Facilities Committee, Stave Baily. No formal votes as there are no formal votes from these committees.

Tom Chase: Believes this road work needs to be done. Appreciates the apologies of the Select board. In favor of this article.

Fred Borman: In favor of this Article. Ridge Road is in terrible shape. Newly installed culvert by Sugar Mama's is in bad shape and sides have washed out. Concerned about the center seam on Bow Lake Road and Sherburne Hill Road eroding. Hopes that the center seam on Ridge Road does not erode after one year.

Selectman Bryer: The new approach is to do a complete grind down the road and have the road rebuilt.

Jim Vaillancourt: Requesting clarification of Selectwomen Boudreau's figures. Notes from budget meetings, Tasker Hill Road \$33,219 Harvey Lake Road \$82,972 and Ridge Road \$287,130 for a total of \$402,000. The idea was \$350,000 plus \$100,000 grant for \$450,000 to pay for \$402,000.

Selectwomen Boudreau: Previously presented overlay option. Instead full reclaim option. From R and D Paving, Tasker Hill Road and Ridge Road is \$399,323 and overlay option on Harvey Lake Road \$78,974. Prices can fluctuate with petroleum prices.

Jim Vaillancourt: Requesting clarification that this warrant article along with the \$100,000 in the budget go hand-in-hand. What happens if this warrant article does not pass?

Selectman Bryer: If the warrant does not pass, we'll only do Harvey Lake Road for approximately \$78,000.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 30 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 31: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Mike Best moved, Deborah Ward second. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$3,234. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Mike Moore: Thanks taxpayers for support regarding this warrant article.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 31 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 32: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Scott Bryer moved, Mike Moore second. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$284. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 32 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 33: TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

David Ruth moved, Matt Frye second. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of mitigation and control of terrestrial invasive species and to raise and appropriate **one dollar (\$1.00)** to put in the fund. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Fred Borman: This fund was created to establish to address the effects of the Emerald Ash Bore and in favor of this article.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 33 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.



## Article 34: AGENTS TO EXPEND

Scott Bryer moved, David Ruth second. To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Police Equipment Reserve Fund, previously established in 2001. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Ginger Dole: Wants to understand what process is currently and why do we need the change to the Selectmen as agents.

Selectman Bryer: Believes there currently are no agents to expend currently. This will allow the Police Department to spend the money and they can come to the Selectmen to request the funds.

Ginger Dole: If this does not pass, does the Police Department have to submit a warrant article in order to take funds from account?

Jim Vaillancourt: If a trust fund is set up with no agents to expend the governing body is the agent to expend. If this article is defeated than a warrant article would need to be passed by governing body to expend.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 34 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

## Article 35: CABLE FRANCHISE GENERAL TRUST FUND

David Ruth moved, Scott Bryer second. To see if the Town will vote to expand the purposes of the **Cable Expendable Trust Fund** established in 2000 from “creating, maintaining, and upgrading a broadcast system” to include paying for electronic communications, electronic signage, email blasts, electronic equipment, and staff to support electronic communications. Further, to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. **(No Tax Impact) (2/3 vote required)**

Moderator asked for discussion.

Jim Vaillancourt: Wants to be sure that it’s not the intent of the Selectman to limit or reduce or eliminating the recording of public meetings by repurposing this fund.

Scott Bryer: You are correct

Jim Vaillancourt: Still not sound on livestream, will ask again to consider using a smaller room as there is too much echoing in this room.

Moderator Young: Confirmed speakers must speak into the microphone to produce sound on the livestream. Clarified that those who signed onto livestream too early may need to restart to establish sound.



Ginger Dole: Should article 20 pass, I would urge the Board of Selectman to prioritize the funds and to not purchase an electronic sign right away in order to pay for other important needs.

Lucy Edwards: Confused about the wording of the article "Cable Franchise General Trust Fund" differs from article 20 "Cable Expendable Trust Fund". Do we have two funds?

Selectman Bryer: No

Jim Vaillancourt: The name of the fund is "Cable Expendable Trust Fund". If the article passes would give right to expend from the Cable Expandable Trust Fund to the Board of Selectman. Suggests modifying article title to the correct name.

Bob Strobel: Would like to amend Article 35 to change the language from "Cable Franchise General Trust Fund" to "Cable Expendable Trust Fund". Betty Smith second.

Moderator asked for discussion.

Moderator asked for a motion to amend Article 35 to read "Cable Expendable Trust Fund" instead of "Cable Franchise General Trust Fund". Majority in favor, motion passed.

Moderator asked for further discussion on main article.

Moderator asked for a motion to place Article 35 on the ballot as written. Majority in favor, motion passed.

### Article 36: OTHER BUSINESS

To transact any other business that can legally come before this meeting.

Moderator called Town Clerk to speak.

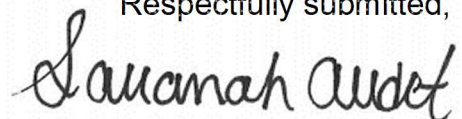
Town Clerk Savannah Audet: Spoke about the need for Ballot Clerks. Particularly important for Town Election as current Ballot Clerks are on the ballot and cannot be utilized. Requesting five more candidates. Requirements include teamwork, attention to detail and understanding of New Hampshire voting guidelines. See the Town Clerk or Town Administrator's office for more details. Selectman to appoint Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Once appointed see the Town Clerk to be sworn in.

Moderator asked for any Other Business

Candidates Night will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Town Hall.

Town Meeting will continue Marth 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Moderator concludes the first session at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,



Savannah Audet, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector