

2016 Deliberative Session and Ballot Results

The State of New Hampshire Town of Epping

March 8, 2016

The deliberative session of the 2016 Epping Town Meeting was held at the Epping Town Hall on February 2nd, 2016. There were 62 registered voters in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Robert Goodrich at 7:06 p.m. The Moderator explained that at this session we would be discussing the articles that will appear on the ballot. Candidate's night will be on Wednesday, February 24th, 2016 and it will be held at the Epping Town Hall. Final voting will be official ballot on March 8th, 2016.

Dedication

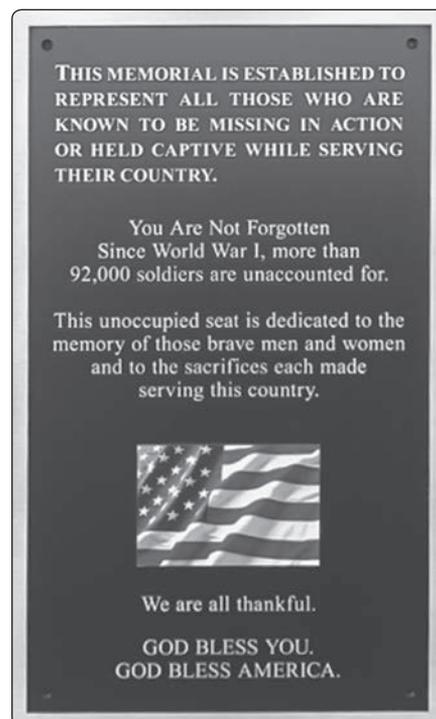
Selectman Thomas Gauthier dedicated the annual report to the Epping Historical Society. Selectman Gauthier stated that back in 1971 a few people banded together to form an Organization to preserve and promote the history of Epping. The Epping Historical Society received its State Charter in 1971. After holding their first meeting and receiving their charter, President Joy True turned over the gavel to Winthrop Snow to be the new leader. Many people were involved, who included

Madeline Williamson, Gemma Jean King, Bob Kimball, "Buster" Sanborn, Fran Allen, Aida Young, Virginia LaPierre, Joy Kanellis, Irene Cote and many others. For the first two years the meetings were held in the Lydia Ladd Room at the library, but soon it was realized that the library could no longer house all of the museum artifacts being received from the town's people. John and Minnie Warren purchased the old A&P and it was given to the society as a gift. With borrowed money the building was renovated. It should be mentioned that a lot of fundraising was involved to meet the society's debt. As part of their mission, the society offers a scholarship every year to qualified seniors interested in history. The society is staffed and kept open by volunteers. They make copies and detailed lists of our material and enter the information into the computer. On Monday's you'll find about five dedicated workers, Irene Cote, Joanne Thibodore, Virginia Allen, Jenny Allen, Lee Allen and Joy True. Jenn and Lee Allen trim and copy newspaper articles that were compiled by Don Sanborn. As Don

always said, "today's news is tomorrow's history." Don also had thousands of file cards with vital records that are being entered into the computer. Many thanks to Virginia, Irene and Joanne for doing a major part of the work by archiving many of the collections. The Epping Board of Selectmen recognizes the hard work and dedication to society and it dedicates the 2015 Annual Report to the Epping Historical Society.

Special Dedication

It started with a man who had a vision. A vision to make unused space at Epping Town Hall useable for all. His idea was to use the meeting room at the town hall upstairs in the unused Kendall Chase Auditorium. But first a lift was needed so those with disabilities could enjoy the space as well. After the lift was installed, a new hardwood floor was added in the auditorium and was divided into a meeting room, a conference and a new studio for ETV. The Kendall Chase Auditorium never looked so good and the character of the building remains the same. In 2014 all meetings were being broadcasted in this new space and each board and committee that meet there agreed that it is a magnificent improvement with a larger space to meet in with state of the art equipment for ETV. The Epping Town Hall was transformed into a fully functional building once again. Much can be said about the ideas that went into this transformation and we would be remised if we did not thank the citizens of this town who voted the money to get this job done. The man with the vision was a catalyst of this project and his determination to see the project through was unrelenting and his name is James McGeough. Even though he has been fighting his own health issues, he was persistent in his efforts and saw the project through too its completion. It is only fitting that the Epping Board of Selectmen dedicate the new Epping Television Studio in his name, and this will be forever called the James P. McGeough ETV Studio dedicated February 2, 2016.



Article 1:

- Two Selectmen for three (3) years.
- Three Budget Committee Members for three (3) years
- One Budget Committee Member for one (1) year
- One Cemetery Trustee for three (3) years
- Two Library Trustees for three (3) years
- One Planning Board Members for three (3) years
- Two Board of Adjustment Member for three (3) years
- One Town Clerk for three (3) years
- One Tax Collector for three (3) years
- One Moderator for two (2) years
- One Trustee of Trust Funds for three (3) years
- One Water and Sewer Commission Member for three (3) years
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for six (6) years

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as it was read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Motion: Thomas Gauthier made a motion to amend "Article 1" to read as "Article A".

Discussion: Mr. Gauthier explained that the warrant was printed with two article #1 and so not to confuse voters he recommend that the article be renamed as "Article A".

No discussion and a vote was taken. All votes were in favor.

ARTICLE A: To choose necessary town officers for the ensuing year:

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 years

Vote for 2
Mark Vallone – 842
Joseph Bodge – 653

Budget Committee – 3 years

Vote for 3
Jared Mallet – 711
Jeff Leombruno – 677
Donald MaClaren – 676

Budget Committee – 1 year

Vote for 1
Jacklyn Ulban – 772

Cemetery Trustee – 3 years

Vote for 1
David Reinhold – 841

Library Trustees – 3 years

Vote for 2
Elaine Miskinis – 735
Charlie Goodspeed – 772

Planning Board – 3 years

Vote for 1
Paul Spidle – 332
David Reinhold – 492

Selectmen – 3 years

Vote for 2
Bob Jordan – 725
Tom Dwyer Jr – 752

Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years

Vote for 1
Grace Lavoie – 849

Tax Collector – 3 years

Vote for 1
Erika Robinson – 880

Town Clerk – 3 years

Vote for 1
Erika Robinson – 884

Town Moderator – 2 years

Vote for 1
Robert Goodrich – 888

Trust Fund Trustee – 3 years

Vote for 1
Joe Denoncour – 13
Dan Harvey – 8

Water & Sewer Commission

Vote for 1
Michael King – 798

Article 1: Industrial Commercial Zone – Permitted Uses – Zoning Article 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to add kennels as a permitted use in the Industrial Commercial Zone? Kennels are only permitted uses in the Residential and Rural Residential Zones on a small scale basis. Kennels are defined as follows: any structure or premise in which house pets are kept, groomed, boarded,

bred or trained for commercial use. [Recommended by the Planning Board 4-0] Majority Vote Required

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joseph Foley explained that this article does not change anything that people can do in their homes with small kennels. It allows a large scale facility similar to the Barking Dog in Exeter to be located in the industrial commercial area.

YES – 716 NO – 266
Article 1 PASSED

Article 2: Non-Conforming Structures – Rebuilding – Zoning Article 6 Section 6

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to allow non-conforming structures to be rebuilt in the same footprint of the existing structure if the structure is completed within two years? Currently a non-conforming structure has to be completely or substantially destroyed by casualty loss (fire, flood, etc.) to be replaced.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 4-0] Majority Vote Required

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joseph Foley explained that there were two or three cases in the last year where people wanted to rebuild nonconforming structures. As our ordinance is written it would have to be a structure hit by lightning, burned down, flooded, or something similar and then they could do it. We felt people should have the right to rebuild and make it better without having to come the ZBA for a variance.

YES – 793 NO – 187
Article 2 PASSED

Article 3: Home Occupation – Zoning Article Section 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to limit the number of pieces of heavy equipment that may be stored on a parcel of land for a home occupation to two (2)? It will also add landscaping

and carpentry to the list of permitted home occupations, and remove construction and site contractors from the list of permitted home occupations. This *will not* affect any current home occupations. **[Recommended by the Planning Board 4-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joseph Foley explained as a result of a recent appeal to the Board of Selectmen for a home occupation for a small construction business in the middle of a residential area purposing ten (10) pieces of equipment and storing materials, the Zoning Board did not feel that this was appropriate and the testimony that the people brought to the board when the subject made his presentation confirmed this. This warrant article removes site contractors from being permitted uses.

YES – 641 NO – 344

Article 3 PASSED

Article 4: Sheds – Zoning Article 6 Section 16 and Article 12

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to prohibit metal storage containers from being used as sheds or accessory buildings in residential zones? These structures may still be used in commercial zones. **[Recommended by the Planning Board 4-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joseph Foley explained that this article would give the voters the choice as to whether or not they would want to allow people to have metal containers used as storage sheds on their properties. It doesn't affect demolition debris, garbage dispensers, or pods when you're moving or building. Thomas Gauthier asked what happens if people already have these on their properties? Joseph Foley stated that they are already grandfathered.

YES – 580 NO – 411

Article 4 PASSED

Article 5: Energy Efficiency – Zoning Article 22

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the

Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance to remove Article 22, Energy Efficiency Zoning Article so the Planning Board can adopt them as part of the Site Plan Regulations? This will allow the Planning Board the ability to update this section to keep current with technology at a noticed public meeting. **[Recommended by the Planning Board 4-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joseph Foley explained that this only applies to commercial property and not home owners. This will become a part of the site plan regulations and the Planning Board will be able to make changes yearly and not have it voted on by the town at a yearly Town Meeting.

YES – 771 NO – 179

Article 5 PASSED

Article 6: Library Addition

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) for the purpose of the construction and original equipping of a 3,500 square foot addition to the existing library building at 151 Main Street and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) of bonds or notes for up to a fifteen (15) year term in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further, to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. There will be no tax impact in 2016. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1] [Not Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 5-5] 3/5 ballot vote required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Charlie Goodspeed explained the revised plans for the library expansion. He stated he put it out to bid and bids came in under the requested

\$600,000.00. Mark Vallone inquired about the bids that came in under the requested amount of \$600,000.00. Mr. Goodspeed responded saying that one bid came in around \$550,000.00 and the other two bids were closer to the requested amount. Mary Cloutier commented by saying that she feels that the library serves a purpose to the community.

YES – 493 NO – 514

Article 6 FAILED

Article 7: 2016 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 Seven Million, Four Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$7,489,529.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million, Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$7,287,518.00), 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. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Thomas Gauthier explained that the budget has increased due to the fact that there will be four (4) elections this year, the IT Department included additional funding for computer maintenance and the general government building budget increase includes funds for a new roof on the library. The Safety Facility includes costs for the roof at the West Epping Fire Station. Evaluation of property shows a decrease for eliminating the cost of property reevaluation. Contributions to the cemetery reflects the addition of the Prospect Cemetery due to the town taking over the management. Insurance and bonds have increased per

our contract plus an additional amount to pay LGC for the 2013 worker's compensation audit that was billed in 2013 and paid in 2016. Police Department budget increase includes contract increases, new Tasers and computer work stations. Fire and Rescue Budget includes an additional salary increase for one of the newest hires, changing the Administrative Assistants position to full-time, increasing the pay for when the part-time firefighters respond to calls while on-call duty. Building Inspection shows a decrease since purchasing the new vehicle last year. Highway Budget reflects a decrease in the equipment line since last year. The Transfer Station includes Lamprey Co-op fees increases and a new compactor. Changes in most department budgets included 3.4% increase in health insurance rates, 0% increase in our dental insurance rates and a 22% decrease in our short term disability. The NH Retirement reflects a full years of rate increase that were in effect as of July 1, 2015. Worker's Comp. rates increased 4.63% and unemployment insurance rates have decreased 30%. Salary lines include increases approved from the 2015 and at least a 3% possible increase in the 2016. The default budget is quite a bit less than the proposed budget and part of that is that money had to be put in the budget to make repairs to Watson Academy through the L-Chip Grant. If the budget doesn't pass and we go to the default budget that could affect the grant and the money may have to be paid back and return what hasn't been spent.

YES – 658 NO – 324

Article 7 PASSED

Article 8: Town Hall Improvement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Improvement Expendable Trust Fund. This sum will come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Robert Jordan explained that the funds will be used to continue the maintenance of the Town Hall. He stated the carpeting needs to be replaced downstairs, the outdoor trim on the steeple, weather proof the vestibule and handicap access door, install heavy duty mats on the first floor and a suspended ceiling needs to be installed downstairs in planning and zoning.

YES – 798 NO – 205

Article 8 PASSED

Article 9: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum will come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Michael Yergeau explained that this sum of money will be placed in a reserve fund for future purchases.

YES – 822 NO – 185

Article 9 PASSED

Article 10: Town's Birthday Celebration

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of planning and funding the Town's 275th year long birthday celebration. This sum will come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Jim McGeough commented by saying that this money will be used for the town's 275th Birthday Celebration. Cliff Cray commented by saying that there will be several pre-birthday

celebration events scheduled prior to the Birthday Celebration on August 20th, 2016.

YES – 755 NO – 259

Article 10 PASSED

Article 11: Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of covering major repairs and future development of recreational facilities and raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the fund and further to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. This sum will come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Thomas Gauthier explained that this is a new expendable trust fund. The town does not have funds immediately available to complete any repairs to the town's facilities which include Mary Blair Park, Fox Run, the basketball court and the tennis courts. Adam Mungia commented by saying that the entire budget committee was in full support of this warrant article.

YES – 779 NO – 221

Article 11 PASSED

Article 12: Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The next revaluation will take place in 2020. This sum will come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount will be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Thomas Gauthier explained that right now there is \$10,000. Dollars in the fund and if this continues for the next five (5) years that there will be enough money in there for the next town reevaluation.

YES – 728 NO – 261
Article 12 PASSED

Article 13: Conservation – Land Use Change Tax

To see if the Town will vote to authorize Ten Percent (10%) of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Commission LUCT Escrow Account, up to a total of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) per year in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2016, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the town meeting. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Sandy Goodspeed explained the current use process and how it is beneficial for the town.

YES – 709 NO – 272
Article 13 PASSED

Article 14: By Petition: Child and Family Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for the purpose of supporting services provided to residents to access counseling and family support services, without regard to income from Child and Family Services. Child and Family Services provides accessible and affordable programs to children, youth, and their families leading to stronger family connections, improved school performance, and better citizenships. From June 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, One Hundred One (101) Epping residents received 595 hours of free and reduced services valued at over \$40,000 from Child and Family Services. These services protected children from abuse and neglect, strengthened families, prevented out of

home placements, supported family reunification services, insured healthy birth outcomes and remediated early developmental delays in children 0-3. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Mary Ganz, Chairperson for Child and Family Services stated that this program is a wonderful service and asked that the Town of Epping continue their support.

YES – 733 NO – 244
Article 14 PASSED

Article 15: By Petition: Rockingham Community Action

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand, Three Hundred Dollars (\$11,300.00) for the purpose of funding Rockingham Community Action for its work in providing fuel, utility, food, homeless and housing assistance, budgeting education and support to Epping residents in crises to move them toward self-sufficiency. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Keith Bates, Director for the Rockingham Community Action thanked the town for their past support. Mr. Bates commented that last year they provided assistance to six hundred and eighty Epping households with a value of \$338,000.00. They program provides assistance to the homeless, people who are on the verge of being homeless and they provide a Head Start program.

YES – 712 NO – 266
Article 15 PASSED

Article 16: By Petition: Rockingham Nutrition & Meals On Wheels Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Dollars (\$4,464.00) to enable Rockingham

Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program to continue to provide the meal service to elder, homebound and disabled Epping residents. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: No discussion.
YES – 835 NO – 148
Article 16 PASSED

Article 17: By Petition: Richie McFarland Children's Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand, Six Hundred Dollars (\$6,600.00) for the Richie McFarland Children's Center's early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to Epping residents. RMCC bases the request on three hundred dollars (300.00) per child served which is less than 5% of the annual cost for the weekly home-based therapies. Although RMCC served twenty-four (24) children and their families this past year, we are requesting funding according to the average number of children served over the past five (5) years which is twenty two (22) children. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Peggy Small Porter, Executive Director of the Richie McFarland Children's Center thanked the town of Epping for their continued support for this program.

YES – 703 NO – 267
Article 17 PASSED

Article 18: Epping Youth Athletic Association

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in support of the Epping Youth Athletic Association. **[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0]**

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required

Thomas Gauthier accepted the article as it was read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: No discussion
YES – 764 NO – 216
Article 18 PASSED

Article 19: New Police Officer Position

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$42,795.00) for the purpose of hiring an additional police officer position within the Police Department. The said amount to be used to fund the position for a six month period. **[Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Chief Michael Wallace commented by saying that this request was originally on the Police Department's budget; however, he was asked to put it in a warrant article. Chief Wallace asked that the residents of Epping vote for the additional officer, as it is needed due to one of the current officers being promoted to a detective position. Brian Reed stated that he was in full support of the Police Chief and wasn't sure why this position was asked to be put in a warrant article. Robert Jordan commented by saying that from the Board of Selectmen's position they were asked by the Budget Committee to make cuts. They Board made cuts in all departments and asked the additional police officer position be taken out of the Police Department's budget and placed in a warrant article. Adam Mungia commented that the Budget Committee felt the budgets were too high and asked the Board of Selectmen to make cuts where necessary.

YES – 488 NO – 490
Article 19 FAILED

Recount on Article 19

A recount was conducted on Monday, March 21st, 2016. Moderator Robert Goodrich over saw the counting process. The

recount was conducted by Town Clerk Erika Robinson, Selectman Tom Dwyer, Jr., Selectman Michael Yergeau, Selectman, Bob Goodrich, Selectman James McGeough, Selectman Tom Gauthier and Administrative Secretary Joyce Blanchard. Also present were Chief Michael Wallace and Captain Jay Newman.

YES – 490 NO – 489
Article 19 PASSED

Article 20: By Petition: Highway Truck Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Five (5) Year Lease/Purchase Agreement for One Hundred Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$130,595.00) for the purpose of leasing and equipping one (1) 6 wheeled dump truck with sander, front and wing plows; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand, One Hundred Eighty One Dollars (\$28,181.00) for the first years lease payment. This lease agreement will contain a non-appropriation clause. **[Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-2] [Not Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-1] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Joe Foley spoke in favor of this warrant article. He stated that the current trucks are constantly being worked on and they need to be replaced with reliable equipment. Mr. Foley stated that more roads have been added in town and the equipment is needed to maintain them. Adam Mungia stated the highway department was provided with two trucks in past years and the budget committee did not feel this truck could be purchased this year because of the total budget amount. Bob Sutherland commented by saying that for a 4% tax impact he felt that this truck was needed.

YES – 333 NO – 654
Article 20 FAILED

Article 21: By Petition: Discontinue Portions of New Lane

To consider whether to discontinue a portion of New Lane, a Class VI highway, which was closed subject to gates and bars pursuant to Warrant Article 18 of

the 1970 Epping Town Meeting, as depicted on the approved Subdivision Plans for Prescott Orchards, recorded at the Registry of Deeds as Plan D-34467. The Section to be discontinued runs from the intersection of New Lane with Macintosh Lane and continues through Tax Map 14 Lots 14-59, 60, 68, 82, 122 and Tax Map 8 Lot 14-67 and ends on Tax Map 14-14. The Land shall revert to the ownership of Prescott Orchards Land Development, LLC. This discontinuance shall resolve the title issues on this property. There is no tax impact for the taxpayers of Epping. This Warrant Article does not land lock the abutters from Prescott Road to the intersection of New Lane with Macintosh Lane. **[Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0] Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: Tim Matte, Managing member of Prescott Orchards stated that New Lane runs down behind the old Hetnar cider press building. It's an old class six (6) road and as it reaches the new road that goes through the development that's where the discrepancy arrived a few years ago that he was unaware of. On the maps it clearly showed as an old woods road and Mr. Matte believed that it would never be a conflict. The plan was fully approved by the Planning Board, signed off on and recorded at the registry of deeds. Mr. Matte explained that all they are asking is that where the old woods road runs through the property that it be discontinued. There is a total of 320 acres and only 100 acres are being developed. There was conversation about the remaining 220 undeveloped acres possibly be donated to the town. Mr. Matte displayed a map showing where the road needs to be discontinued and encourage residents to look at the map. Residents of Epping, James McGeough, Susan McGeough, Tom Weaver and Mark Vallone all spoke stating that they are not in favor of this warrant article. Epping resident Shannon Garwich spoke in favor of the warrant article stating that she didn't feel it would affect anyone walking on that section of road.

YES – 337 NO – 642
Article 21 FAILED

Article 22: By Petition: New Hampshire Resolution to Get Big Money Out of Politics

By petition of 25 or more voters the Town of Epping, NH, to see if the Town will urge: That the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the We the People agenda:

1. Ban Super PAC's and overturn Citizens United
2. Expose secret donors and require full transparency
3. Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors
4. Establish small-donor, citizen-funded elections
5. End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration
6. Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support concrete legislation to enact

the We the People agenda. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to the NH Congressional Delegation and to New Hampshire's State Legislators, and the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. **Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: No discussion.
YES – 717 NO – 230
Article 22 PASSED

Article 23: By Petition: Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$3,390.00) for the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 4-0] [Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0] **Majority Vote Required**

Thomas Gauthier made a motion to accept the article as read. Robert Jordan seconded.

Discussion: No discussion.
YES – 834 NO – 167
Article 23 PASSED

Thomas Gauthier ended the session by thanking Dennis Gagnon for all the work that was done at the Town Hall.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erika Robinson, Town Clerk*

Did You Know...

1. John Greenleaf Whittier had a connection to Epping? He fell in love with a schoolteacher that taught school and lived on Red Oak Hill. She married someone else, and Mr. Whittier never married.
2. Epping has four rivers that run through this town? The Lamprey, Pawtuckaway, (better known as "Stingy" river), North river and the Piscassic.
3. Applehurst Farm on Red Oak Hill had large apple orchards? Matthew Harvey grew Baldwin apples, and shipped them to many areas here and overseas. Baldwin's were great "keepers", they lasted many months.
4. A farm in West Epping was well known for growing cantaloupes? He developed many varieties that are still raised today. Imagine, growing this warm weather crop right here in Epping!
5. Did you know that Hedding had electricity long before the Town of Epping? The Newmarket Power Company supplied the electricity; Hedding was closer to Newmarket, than the town of Epping. Epping was very upset, and was quite vocal about it.
6. Epping had at least four dams, just on the Lamprey River. Two in West Epping, and two in the Village.

Submitted by the Epping Historical Society