

# **Minutes of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting**



## **Town Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2016**

Moderator Bruce Ellsworth called the 251<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town of Hopkinton to order on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium. Police Chief Stephen Pecora led the Pledge of Allegiance and Kathy Donohoe led the singing of the National Anthem.

The Moderator introduced the Select Board members: Jim O'Brien (Chair), Ken Traum (Vice Chair), Sara Persechino, and Steve Lux. Select Board member Sue Strickford was absent due to illness. Other town officials introduced were Town Administrator Neal Cass, Finance Director Deborah Gallant, Town Clerk Chuck Gangel, Assistant Moderator Tim Britain and Town Counsel Justin Pasay of Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella. Virginia Haines, Carol McCann and Jean Lightfoot were also introduced as the Supervisors of the Checklist with Bonnie Cressy assisting.

The Moderator then called on Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien to make several special presentations. Mr. O'Brien specifically recognized resident Merle Dustin. He then acknowledged the members of the Sestercentennial Committee: Roxanne Benzel, Don Lane, Mark Newton, Ricardo Rodriguez, Ann Wayland, Steve Lux and Sara Persechino. He especially recognized Louise Carr, chair of the committee for all her work and leadership. Mrs. Carr thanked the community for their support over the past year. Mr. O'Brien also noted that last year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hopkinton State Fair as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hopkinton Rescue Squad.

All department heads were acknowledged as representatives of town employees. Town Administrator Neal Cass was also specifically recognized for his contributions. Mr. O'Brien then thanked outgoing Selectwoman Sara Persechino for her dedication.

The Moderator made administrative comments regarding the rules of procedure, including not being constrained by Robert's Rules. The allowance of challenging the Moderator's decisions was announced. Calling out a point of order would put that challenge to a voice vote. Discussion of issues was encouraged while limiting comments to the article being addressed. Correct procedure was announced as approaching the microphone and stating your name and address.

**Moderator Ellsworth read the results of the Tuesday, March 8, 2016 official ballot portion of Town Meeting:**

**Article 1: Election of Officers**

**To choose all necessary Town Officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated: (\*-Those Elected)**

**Moderator - One for a 2 Year Term**

- \* Bruce B. Ellsworth - 669

**Select Board Member - Two for a 3 Year Term**

- \* Kenneth E. Traum – 568
- \* Bob Gerseny - 549

**Supervisor of the Checklist - One for a 6 Year Term**

- \* Candice M. Garvin - 632

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector - One for a 3 Year Term**

- \* Chuck Gangel - 679

**Budget Committee Member - One for a 1 Year Term**

- \* Debbie Norris - 592

**Budget Committee Member - Two for a 3 Year Term**

A recount is taking place on March 14, 2016 so the results of this race will not be official until the recount is completed.

- Mark Zankel (426)
- Janet Krzyzaniak (360)
- Aviva Nestler (353)
- Richard Horner (253)

**Library Trustee - One for 3 Year Term**

- \* Nancy Skarmeas - 356
- Erin Morrissey Vanden Borre - 232

**Cemetery Trustee - One for 3 Year Term**

- \* Debbie Augustine - 334
- Pamela DeMag - 283

**Trustee of the Trust Funds - One for 3 Year Term**

- \* Christine Barton - 617

The Moderator announced that all zoning amendments had passed without reading each one.

**Article 2: Zoning Amendments**

1. Amend Section III Table of Uses 3.6 inserting 3.6.F.20 Self-Service Storage Facility as a use prohibited in the residential and village commercial districts and permitted by Special Exception in the commercial and all industrial districts. Currently, use is not listed and therefore, not permitted.

Yes	519	No	124
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2. Amend Section II Definitions inserting new definitions 2.1.D.4 Drive-in Eating Establishment, 2.1.R.4 Restaurant and 2.1.S.3 Self-Service Storage Facility. Amendment will require changing the numerical sequence of remaining definitions. Amendment is to provide definitions for already established uses and a new use listed in Table of Uses 3.6.

Yes	528	No	99
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3. Amend definition 2.1.M.1 Manufactured Housing, so that the language is consistent with NH RSA 674:31.

Yes	576	No	59
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4. Amend Section II Definitions, 2.1.S.7 Special Exception by inserting cross-reference to Section XV Board of Adjustment. Amendment is to assist readers in locating the specific criteria for a Special Exception.

Yes 556 No 47

5. Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, 3.6.1 by inserting clarifying language to assist readers in understanding that Table of Uses 3.6 is divided into two parts, one for principal uses and the other for accessory uses. Provide further explanation as to the letters “P”, “S”, “X” or for uses not specified in the Ordinance. Clarify the fact that all uses are subject to the provisions of Section XII Wetlands Conservation District. Amendment will not affect the intent or meaning of uses; nor will it change the districts in which uses are currently permitted, permitted by special exception or not permitted.

Yes 553 No 55

6. Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, Table of Uses 3.6 by relocating 3.6.A.7 Home Business, 3.6.A.10 Home Occupation, and 3.6.A.11 Telecommuting to Table of Uses 3.6.H. Uses will be designated as accessory uses, rather than principal uses. Amendment will not affect the intent or meaning of the uses; nor will it change the districts in which the uses are currently permitted or permitted by special exception.

Yes 534 No 67

7. Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, Table of Uses 3.6 by deleting the explanation in 3.6.F.1 Retail Establishment and instead, insert the explanation as new definition 2.1.R.5 Retail Establishment. Amendment will require changing the numerical sequence of remaining definitions. Amendment will not affect the intent or meaning of the use; nor will it change the districts in which the use is currently permitted, permitted by special exception or not permitted.

Yes 530 No 63

8. Amend Section VI Parking Requirements by deleting 6.4.6, requiring a special exception for use of public parking facilities to supplement or reduce the required minimum parking standards. Intent and purpose of amendment is to streamline the permitting process as similar authority has already been given to the Planning Board in 6.1 Off-Street Parking and 6.2 Location of Parking Spaces.

Yes 521 No 85

9. Amend Section VII Sign Ordinance, 7.6.2(c) and 7.9.3(a)(3) by deleting reference to “ten (10) feet” for the horizontal dimensions of free-standing signs and inserting in its place “five (5) feet” so that the language is consistent with the horizontal dimensions already established in 7.8.2. Intent and purpose of amendment is to correct a discrepancy in the Ordinance.

Yes 524 No 87

- 10. Amend Section VII Sign Ordinance, 7.9.3(a)(4) by deleting reference to “five (5) feet” for the distance that free-standing signs must be from any lot line and inserting in its place “ten (10) feet” so that the language is consistent with the distance already established in 7.6.2(c). Intent and purpose of amendment is to correct a discrepancy in the Ordinance.**

Yes 518 No 89

- 11. Amend Section XVII Lighting Ordinance, 18.1 Title and Authority inserting 18.1.4 giving the Planning Board the authority, after testimony from the applicant, to alter specifications if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the Town and all other parties involved, and subject to any condition(s) the Planning Board deems appropriate. Intent and purpose of amendment is to streamline the permitting process.**

Yes 497 No 110

The Moderator announced that ballots must stay open for one hour, so that two ballot boxes will remain open while moving on to the next article. At the end of the hour results will be announced.

**Article 3:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Jim O'Brien who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum \$2,200,000 (gross budget) for the planning, design, rehabilitation, and construction of existing town roads, bridges, and culverts, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,200,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman Ken Traum.

Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien thanked the Road Committee for their work looking at the town's infrastructure. With approximately 100 miles of roads in town, yet observing the impact on the tax rate, the possibility of a bond was conceived. Roughly six years of work could potentially be done in a three year schedule. With the cost of borrowing (bonds) and oil products such as asphalt currently low, savings could be realized. Putting forth a 10 year bond at 2.549% interest over the life of the bond the interest cost would be \$313,000. Payment would begin in 2017, adding about \$280,000, or \$0.46 on the tax rate, with payment decreasing over the life of the bond.

Moderator Ellsworth suggested that the Chair of the Budget Committee, Janet Krzyzaniak, take this time to address various concerns about this and other articles to be put forward at this meeting.

Mrs. Krzyzaniak spoke of focusing on the municipal budget. She noted that the school district has slowed the increase in their budget, thus allowing the municipal budget to fund the public

works garage, modernize the fire station and begin road maintenance. Speaking for the Budget Committee, she stated that the roads and culverts are a need and the track and field is a want and not recommended.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion. Tom Delisle asked if the road width could be extended for bikes and pedestrians. Mr. O'Brien stated this could be considered on an individual basis. Gary Rondeau questioned if this was enough money to address the current conditions. Selectman Traum stated that funding would be part of the operating budgets going forward. Lorianne Toler also asked about sidewalks. Selectwoman Persechino replied that sidewalk plans were included in Kearsarge Ave. and Penacook Road engineering.

There was no further discussion or amendment. The Moderator explained the process for the ballot vote and that the ballot box would remain open for an hour. A 2/3 majority vote is required for passage.

**When the voting was closed and Ballot Clerks completed counting, the Moderator reported 467 (93%) YES votes and 35 (7%) NO votes and declared the article passed.**

**Article 4:** The Moderator recognized Mr. Scott Zipke, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,426,225 (gross budget) for the planning, design, renovation, construction and equipping athletic facilities at George’s Park including the construction of a track and turf field and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,426,225 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.”** The motion was seconded from the floor.

Mr. Zipke explained that the committee for this project was formed after a long-perceived need for improved facilities. He explained that the current track is inadequate with soccer fields also needing improvement. The proposal was defined as one for funding with design yet to be confirmed. Construction costs would total about \$2,800,000 with engineering at approximately \$600,000. Cost for the 20 year bond would be \$0.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Mr. Zipke stated that having a synthetic field would allow extended use in different types of weather and seasons. Less maintenance would conceivably offer savings as well as health benefits. The question of lighting was discounted in that LED lights would “spill out” less than current lighting.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion. Selectwoman Persechino spoke from the Board's perspective, stating that the scale of this project is basically

too big for the town. Maintenance costs have been left out as well as other costs. Her observation was that both the Select Board and Budget Committee voted against this article and that it was not right for our town.

Peter Yunich asked if the main beneficiary of this project was the school district. Mr. Zipke stated that was not the case, yet Mr. Yunich asked why this wasn't included in the school budget. Selectman O'Brien stated that the town owns George's Park so that it would be a town budget item. Mr. Yunich noted that an annual \$50,000 maintenance cost would have to be appropriated by the town.

Jane Britain asked if field improvement could be prioritized and had it been discussed. Mr. O'Brien answered that the Recreation Department keeps a maintenance schedule on the fields to the best of its ability. Ken Wasson asked about concussion issues and improvements in general. He stated that roads were a public safety issue vs. this being a facilities improvement issue.

Arnold Coda spoke in support of the schools in Hopkinton. He pointed out that the school tax rate is the highest in the state. Jane Schoch made a statement about the presentation of this proposal. She stated that as times have changed in our community the balance has changed from blue collar to primarily professional. Her point was that the tax base cannot support the increasing cost of living here.

Mr. Zipke responded that his thought was that the project would drive business to town. Dennis Molnar pointed out that after being initially skeptical he understood that there would be a benefit for more than just athletes. Jennifer Blagriff stated that she was amazed at the condition of the current track and that it was very important to her to see it improved. She asked whether parking would be available to the public during school hours. Apparently it was not in current plans.

Jean Pruitt pointed out that many walkers would find it quite boring to walk on a track. Jodi Russell asked if any committee members had attended the joint meeting between the School Board and Select Board. She pointed out that it was recognized that the town is at the upper limit of a tax rate that can be supported by the community. Further, she pointed out that next year Hopkinton School District would be looking at a multi-million dollar bond for renovation of its schools.

David Lancaster stated that he knew of no abutters that had been informed of the project. Maintenance and replacement costs were questioned, as well as sufficient parking. Chris Anne Wheeler asked about overlapping fields. Mr. Zipke pointed out that scheduling would be a part of solving that problem.

There was no further discussion or amendment. The Moderator explained the process for the ballot vote and that the ballot box would remain open for an hour. A 2/3 majority vote is required for passage.

**When the voting was closed and Ballot Clerks completed counting, the Moderator reported 65 (12.5%) YES votes and 455 (87.5%) NO votes and declared the motion defeated.**

### **Restrict reconsideration of Article 3**

Selectman Traum moved to restrict reconsideration on Article 3, seconded from the floor.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 5:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Ken Traum, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$ 6,416,591 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman O'Brien.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion and amendment of the motion. Selectman Traum presented a brief overview of the cost of services provided by the town. Included in these costs are administrative services performed by all town departments. Speaking of the budget process, Mr. Traum described the process of Department Heads preparing requests for what is needed to operate their departments. Next, the Board of Selectmen review the requests and often lower the totals based on the overall impact to the town, and then provide the requests to the Budget Committee, which reviews the budget, holds a public hearing and then presents the budget at Town Meeting.

The bottom line increase in raising tax revenues will be \$113,000, down 90% of what was originally requested. This would be a 2.68% increase in the town portion of the tax rate or \$0.19 per \$1,000.00.

The main drivers of the overall budget increase will be the fire station bond at \$195,000, health insurance at \$68,000 and a merit wage pool at \$58,000 for town employees. Proposed decrease of the Capital Reserve and Maintenance Trust funds is \$86,000 – pushing out replacement of one fire vehicle by one year.

Ken Wasson asked if a priority might be to actually reduce the tax rate. He suggested maintaining a level budget. Mr. Traum replied that it could not be done and maintain an acceptable level of services. Jodi Russell indicated support of the budget, stating that she had attended all budget committee meetings and that spending might be better analyzed at school board meetings.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Restrict reconsideration of Article 5**

Ken Traum moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 5, seconded by Jane Schoch.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Motion to consider Article 12**

David Lancaster moved to consider Article 12 next because of a ballot vote due on that article, seconded by Clarke Kidder.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 12:** The Moderator recognized Marion Paxton, who moved the following: **“that the town rescind article 19 as amended that was approved at the March 2010 Hopkinton Town Meeting. Passage of this new 2016 Warrant Article will end the so called**



**"Pay by Bag" trash disposal program in its entirety. Cancellation of "Pay by Bag" will become effective on April 15, 2016."** The motion was seconded from the floor. The Moderator also noted that there is a request and petition for a ballot vote.

Ms. Paxton stated that she indeed recycles. She pointed out that as a teacher she found reward served better than punishment. Her suggestion was that the green bags are not biodegradable. Also, that the volume of recycling has gone down.

Celeste Hemingson observed that the use of green bags reduces cost due to reduction of waste going into the "hopper". Denis Goddard suggested the essence was to pay for what you dispose of. Frank Davis stated that the pay by bag program was a burden for many townspeople.

Bruce Gamsby stated that the town is spending more for green bags than what we're saving. Elaine Rust, Chair of the Recycling Committee, stated that citizens control the cost of waste disposal through the current system. Marion Paxton challenged the Recycling Committee to find a better answer to the problem. Selectwoman Persechino pointed out that the town generated \$68,776 from green bags to offset transfer station costs.

There was no further discussion or amendment. The Moderator explained the process for the ballot vote. A majority vote is required for passage.

**When the Ballot Clerks completed counting, the Moderator reported 161 YES votes and 199 NO votes and declared the motion defeated.**

**Restrict reconsideration of Article 4**

Ken Traum moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 4, seconded from the floor.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 6:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Ken Traum, who moved the following: **"that the town establish a \$ 5.00 motor vehicle registration fee collected from all vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all-terrain vehicles, antique motor vehicles and motorcycles, for the purpose of supporting a Municipal and Transportation Improvement Fund, and to establish a Municipal and Transportation Improvement Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 261:153 VI for the purpose of funding wholly or in part, improvements to roads, culverts, and bridges. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund."** The motion was seconded by Selectman O'Brien.

Selectman Traum stated that he viewed this as a user fee with the revenue going into a reserve fund. The revenue is estimated to be about \$40,000 per year.

Skip Korbet stated opposition to the article because there were exceptions in some cases. Michael Foley pointed out that there is not a clear definition as to whether a trailer should be charged the extra fee. Kathy Alcott pointed out the status of antique vehicles. Town Counsel Pasay stated that the additional fee would not be charged for all-terrain vehicles or antique vehicles per the quoted RSA. Arnold Coda questioned when the funds would be drawn upon and if he should amend the article to require a certain amount in the fund before it can be expended.

Selectman Ken Traum stated it would be left to future Select Board. Town Administrator Neal Cass stated that either Town Meeting can leave the article as it is and give the Select Board the authority to expend from the fund, or amend it removing the Boards authority to be agents of the fund requiring future expenditures to be approved by Town Meeting.

Michael Foley again questioned whether trailers would be charged the extra amount. The Moderator suggested that if there was uncertainty on the wording of the article then he would recommend voting no, since this is a ballot article.

There was no further discussion or amendment. The Moderator explained the process for the ballot vote. A majority vote is required for passage.

**When the Ballot Clerks completed counting, the Moderator reported 103 YES votes and 165 NO votes and declared the motion defeated.**

**Restrict reconsideration of Article 12**

Selectman Ken Traum moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 12, seconded from the floor. **The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 7:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Steve Lux, who moved the following: **“that the town establish a Road/Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Road and Bridge Rehabilitation, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be placed in this fund; further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund.”** The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Persechino.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 8:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Jim O'Brien, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$329,000 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:**

<b>New &amp; Replacement Equip. &amp; Vehicles for Public Works &amp; Highway Dept.</b>	<b>\$ 155,000</b>
<b>Replacement &amp; Equipping of Ambulance</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>Police and Fire Radio and Related Equipment Replacement</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Transfer Station Equipment &amp; Facilities</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>Police Cruiser and Accessories Equipment</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Library Replacement Building</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Dam Maintenance and Construction</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Sewer System Equipment and Sludge Removal</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Renovations to the Town Hall</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 329,000</b>

The motion was seconded by Selectman Ken Traum.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Restrict reconsideration of Articles 7 and 8**

Ken Traum moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 7 and 8, seconded from the floor. **The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 9:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Steve Lux, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 32,500 to be added to previously established General Trust Funds as follows:**

<b>Town Facilities Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>Recreational Facilities Maintenance</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Hopkinton Library Technology Fund</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Library Building Maintenance</b>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>

The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Persechino. **The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Restrict reconsideration of Article 9**

Ken Traum moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 9, seconded from the floor. **The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 10:** Selectwoman Sara Persechino moved the following: **“that the town authorize the Select Board to lease land owned by the Town at the Contoocook Fire Station, 9 Pine Street, for the purpose of installing a solar panel array, with a term not to exceed 20 years, and upon such terms and conditions that the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the town.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman Ken Traum.

David Lancaster pointed out that the highway garage also faced south. Mr. O'Brien pointed out that the fire station was deemed the best location at this time. Mrs. Persechino stated that the pitch of the roof of the highway garage was not appropriate.

**Amendment to Article 10.**

David Lancaster moved to include **“and the highway garage,”** to the article, seconded from the floor.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the amendment adopted.**

Dick Schoch asked who would pay to remove the panels off the roof in order to replace it. Selectman O'Brien suggested a negotiated contract would be necessary. Lawrence Russell pointed out that there was no explanation what the solar panels were for. Rick MacMillan pointed out that the town highway garage roof does face predominantly north. Tom Congoran asked about solar panels at the Transfer Station. Selectman Traum indicated preliminary discussions, but that the fire station was the best site initially.

There was no further discussion or amendment, the Moderator called for a ballot vote on the amended article which reads:

**“that the town authorize the Select Board to lease land owned by the Town at the Contoocook Fire Station, 9 Pine Street, and the highway garage, for the purpose of installing a solar panel array, with a term not to exceed 20 years, and upon such terms and conditions that the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the town.”**

The Moderator explained the process for the ballot vote. A 2/3 majority vote is required for passage. The vote was very close and the Moderator asked for a recount.

**The Moderator reported 137 (66%) YES votes and 69 (34%) NO votes and declared the motion adopted.**

**Article 11:** The Moderator recognized Selectwoman Persechino, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,776 for the purpose of offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually, with said funds to come from the Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman Jim O'Brien.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the article adopted.**

**Article 13:** The Moderator recognized Selectwoman Persechino, who moved the following: **“that the town continue the current price of the Pay-by-Bag bas as follows: 13 gallon bags - \$ 0.75 and 33 gallon bags - \$ 1.25.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman Ken Traum.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the article adopted.**

**Article 14:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Jim O'Brien, who moved the following: **“that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,869 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Senior Center with said funds to come from the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund. No Funds to be raised by taxation.”** The motion was seconded by Selectman Ken Traum.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the article adopted.**

**Article 15:** Jean Lightfoot moved the following:

**That the town 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 PACs 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-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 Hopkinton’s state legislators, and**

**to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents.**

The motion was seconded by Mary Leadbeater.

Jean Lightfoot stated that our politicians no longer work for the voters nor respect the will of the people. This warrant article is non-binding but has been presented on many other town warrants. The purpose is to send a message to our legislators.

Mr. O'Brien, speaking for the Select Board, noted appreciation for the statement made but that it did not speak to town business. He also questioned the clarity of some of the language. Selectwoman Persechino indicated her dissent of Mr. O'Brien's and the majority of the Select Board's viewpoint.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the article adopted.**

**Article 16:** The Moderator recognized Selectman Ken Traum, who moved the following: **"that the Town accept the reports of agents, officers and committees, heretofore chosen."** The motion was seconded by Selectman O'Brien.

**The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the article adopted.**

**Article 17: Other Legal Business**

David Lancaster announced that there were 551 registered voters in attendance. There are 4,807 registered voters in town, making 11.4% present at town meeting.

Dick Schoch asked if the sewer system would be extended up Penacook Road. Selectman Traum replied no. Selectman Lux noted that the residents of the road did not want it.

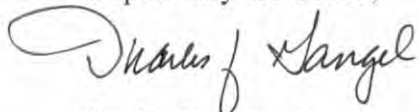
George Langwasser pointed out the excellence of this year's town report, with a special mention of Town Administrator Neal Cass and Administrative Assessing Assistant Robin Buchanan.

The Moderator asked that all those elected on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 join him at the front of the room after the meeting to be sworn in.

**It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared Town Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**

Moderator Ellsworth swore in the newly elected officials whom were present.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles F. Gangel  
Hopkinton Town Clerk/Tax Collector

## Notes

