

**TOWN WARRANT 2014
HANCOCK NH**

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Hancock, in the County of Hillsborough in said state qualified to vote in Town Affairs; You are hereby notified to meet at the **Hancock Town Office Building on March 11, 2014** at eight of the clock in the forenoon until seven of the clock in the afternoon to vote on ballot of Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote; and, to meet at said **Hancock Fire Station** in said Hancock, on **Saturday, the fifteenth (15th) day of March 2014** at nine of the clock in the morning, to act upon the following subjects:

The reconvened meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. by Moderator Haskins at the Hancock Fire Department. Police Chief Andy Wood led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MaryAnn Bates representing the Fire Department Auxilary decided that they wanted to do some community service, so they are giving out File to Life. This is a benefit to you and the first responder when in the need of help. This is a refrigerator magnet, that inside is a two sided card take it to your doctor office, have them fill it out. It has your medical data, prescriptions and medical conditions. Put it on your refrigerator, use pencil to make changes. Take them, use them.

Ballot clerks for today are Bob and Marie Fogg, Beth GrosJean, Clay Sherman and Jacob Lussier as our runner.

Moderator Haskins introduced the Select Board Erik Spitzbarth, Chairman, James Mose, John Jordan, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Meeting Joan Joseph, Supervisors of the Checklist Roberta Bell, Nancy Daniels and Jane Richards-Jones, Town Administrator Diane Kendal, Moderator Richard Haskins, Fire Chief Nevan Cassidy, Police Chief Andrew Wood, Director of Public Works Kurt Grasset, Library Director Amy Markus, Finance Department Sheila Bamford, Executive Secretary Linda Coughlan and Treasurer Lois Haskins

John Jordan presented Certificates of Recognition to the following:

John Hayes	Old Home Day Committee	1 Year
Robin Mose	Fire Works Committee	4 Years
Elizabeth Hanson	Conservation Committee	5 Years
Eric Masterson	Conservation Committee	5 Years
Nancy Daniels	Supervisor of the Checklist	2 Years

Mary Covington	Historic District Commission	2 Years
Timothy Lord	Historic District Commission	3 Years
Ruth Wilder	Historic District Commission	4 Years
Peter Ryner	Library Trustee	6 Years
Jeffrey Wilder	Recreation Committee	10 Years

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. By a voice vote, those present granted Police Chief Andrew Wood, Diane Kendall and Executive Director of Contoocock Valley Transportation to Ellen A. Avery (a nonresident) to speak at Town Meeting. Pink card will be used for a show of hands vote.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Moderator Haskins read the results of the March 11th Town Election:

268 ballots were cast 9 absentee ballots

1274 Voters were on the Checklist

Library Trustee for Three Years

Suzanna G. Shevenell 244

Trustee of Trust Fund for Three Years

David Huntington 253

Supervisor of the Checklist for Three Years

Robin Mose 251

Cemetery Trustees for Three Years

Jody Simpson 91

Kenneth Chester 167

Moderator for Two Years

Richard M. Haskins 249

Select Board for Three Years

John Jordan 218

Water Commissioner for Three Years

Jeffrey Wilder 253

Common Commissioner for Three Years

Sonja Mucha 240

Moderator Haskins presented the rules of order for the meeting. Pink card will be used for a show of hands vote.

By a voice vote, those present granted Police Chief Andrew Wood, Diane Kendall and (a nonresident) to speak at Town Meeting.

Moderator Haskins asked Diane Kendall if the Warrant was posted at least seven days prior today at the Town Office, Post Office and the Fire House for all to read, her response was YES.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the Amendment 1 to the existing town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, that is, an amendment to Article 8.5.2.9 relating to the jurisdiction of the Hancock Historic District Commission? If adopted, the Commission will cease to have jurisdiction relating to the removal of trees.

YES 195 **NO** 69

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to nine hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$985,000) gross budget for the repair and renovation of the Hancock Meetinghouse and to authorize the expenditure of funds raised for this purpose through fundraising, grants and other sources and to authorize the issuance of not more than nine hundred eighty-five thousand (\$985,000) of long term notes or bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33), as amended; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Selectboard recommends. **2/3 BALLOT VOTE REQUIRED**

This being a bond article, it is required to be a secret ballot, the poll will remain open for one hour. Moderator Richard Haskins introduced the Hancock Meetinghouse Restoration Committee.

Neal Cass, Judith Copeland, David Drasba, Kurt Grassett, Dennis Rossiter, Chuck VanHorn, David Huntington, Howard Mansfield, Paul Hertneky, Jarvis Coffin III and Gary Ryer.

The Fund Raising team: Hunt Dowse, Bryon Niederhelman and Robert Pettegrew.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Gary Ryer spoke to the article and presented a short presentation The Hancock Meetinghouse Restoration Committee formed over a year ago, comprised of various

members of the community and variety discipline in terms of professional background and knowledge.

The Hancock Meetinghouse was originally built in 1820, having replaced the original structure that had burned the previous year. The building was moved back to its present location and configuration in 1851. It was built with the greatest of skill and the best of materials available. It has served us extremely well in that time frame. On the only hand New Hampshire is here in good old New England where we have our winters, summers, wet and dry seasons, breaks things down. The largest and most recent work done on the Meetinghouse was in 1992. The bell tower was removed, put down on the ground. Restoration work and put back up again. Beyond that not a lot of work has been done to the building. This building is a very important component of the village. We have a stewardship, we have a responsibility to this to maintain it and we have issues to deal with.

Gary used the presentation to show the structural issues, the rocks, old posts and debris underneath the building. The slate roof was put on in the 1880 and things have moved and at this point slates are falling off and breaking causing a safety hazard and water damage that could happen fairly quickly. The windows at this point are in need of repair work, some painting and some glazing. Accessibility is restricted with in the lower level of the Meetinghouse.

About a year ago we applied for a grant from Land Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) which we did receive and it was a matching type of grant. We then formed a group to go out and fundraise and one of the key components to that fundraising was some art work done by Diane Kidd.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,970,606. This represents the operating budget, inclusive of the Water Department operations. Said sum exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

John Jordan spoke to the article giving an overview of revenue and budget expenses. In Administrative Department we are up \$3,500 on appraisal for reassessments. This year we are giving a three percent raise to all of our employees, we have excellent employees and want to keep them. Legal expenses are up \$3,000 some of this dealing with the abatement and under employee benefits health insurance is up

\$10,130. Because of the raises FICA and Retirement funds are up. Building maintenance is down \$9,000. Police Department is up due to the software upgrade and new computers. The Highway Department overall budget is flat. The library we have budgeted \$2,000 for the library building and grounds. Debt principal we are up \$13,000 a direct result of the two warrant article voted in last year to replace the F550 and the addition to the transfer station.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$146,803 for the purpose of retirement of the long-term note issued for Prospect Hill Land. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.

John Jordan spoke to the article

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) to purchase and outfit a new police cruiser sport utility, and authorize the sale or trade-in of the existing 2009 Crown Victoria. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard supports; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Police Chief Andy Wood spoke to the article.

George Kidd, Howard Weston and Dan LaPlante

David Carney would like to move to Amend the article to strike out the parts of selling or trade in, _____

Amendment to strike from the motion after the word utility, starting with the word “and authorize the sale or trade in of the existing 2009 Crown Victoria.”

Second by: Nathaniel Peirce

John Jordan expressed that having four cars in the police department is excessive. the existing 2009 Crown Victoria”.

A vote was taken and was to close to call.
Cards were counted Yes 62 No 56

The amendment stands, the language has been stricken from the motion. So the motion before you now reads:

Motion as amended passed.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to rebuild the 2003 New Holland LB-75 Backhoe; or take any other action relating thereto. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by James Mose.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article. The 2003 LB-75 backhoe, we use this to replace culverts, moving rocks and plowing downtown. We started see problems about a year ago and found that we have a couple bad cylinders. A total rebuild of this machine includes the engine transmission and hydraulics this can all be done in house. I have an extremely talented staff.

Mary Katherine Bateson asked if she could have a summary of the status of the unassigned fund balance subsequent to the retirement of the bond issue. We keep put in these things and I don't know how that ultimately gets sorted out.

John Jordan responded that our goal is to keep a threshold of \$400,000. We presently have an estimated unassigned fund balance of \$643,160 All the warrant articles, that we are saying are taken out of the unassigned fund balance total \$232,303.17 so we are still above our \$400,000 threshold.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Hancock will raise and appropriate up to eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) to repair the boat landing at Lake Nubanusit. Grant funding and specified donations may be used to offset the cost of the project; or take any other action related thereto. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.

Kurt Grassett spoke to the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** not unanimously.

JOAN JOSEPH ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, SUZANNA SHEVENELL, DAVID HUNTINGTON, ROBIN MOSE, RICHARD HASKINS, JOHN JORDAN, JEFFREY WILDER AND SONJA MUCHA.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purpose for funding a fireworks display on or about July 4th, 2014. This amount to be offset by unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

Robin Mose spoke to the article. We have gotten to the point where we will not be able to fund this year's show unless we get some money.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of funding The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center programs and services for the people of Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Frankestown. This amount represents the Town of Hancock's portion of the funds needed to support The Grapevine, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by James Mose.

Siobhan Martin spoke to the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010). Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan.

Des Ford wanted to know if we really needed this with the passing of Article 3

John Jordan and Kurt Grasset both agreed that it was a good idea.

David Carney expressed again that we should increase the amount of money that's going into the Capital Reserve Fund.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund established in 2007. Selectboard recommends; the HBAC unanimously supports this warrant article.

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by James Mose.

Kurt Grasset spoke to the article. This year we are scheduled to do a set of culverts on Old Dublin Road by the Mill Pond and an engineering study on the Longview Road. These two bridges are our last two red listed bridges.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$ 906.00 for the purpose of purchasing baseball equipment and doing maintenance and repairs to the ball fields; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Baseball Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1997 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$ 3,106.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of recreational facilities; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Recreation Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by John Jordan.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$ 3,329.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of town highway equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Highway Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1999 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by John Jordan.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$2,825.00 for the purpose of repairs and replacement of police equipment; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock Police Equipment Repair/Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by James Mose.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$3,274.00 for the purpose of preservation and storage of the town's archival records; and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Hancock History Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 1993 town meeting to fund this appropriation. Selectboard recommends.

The article was moved as read by Hunt Dowse and seconded by Nathaniel Peirce.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 18: Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict revenues from user fees and donations to expenditures for the purpose of repairs to the tennis court? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Tennis Court Special Revenue Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. (Majority ballot vote).

The article was moved by John Jordan and seconded by Erik Spitzbarth.

Diane Kendall explained that the amount left in the fund is zero and it's just a lot of words to say we would like to close this account.

James Mose responded that the auditors would like to comply with their bookkeeping structure for reporting town expenditures and revenue and do not want all these extra accounts.

David Carney wanted to know if he sent a check for tennis would they receive the funds?

Barbara Caverly suggested that the board go back and look at the wording on the Recreation Special Revenue Act, because under that there is a possibility is says Recreational facility.

YES 53

NO 5

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town of Hancock will urge: That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 local municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England state, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people not corporations. That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation supports such a constitutional amendment. That the New Hampshire State Legislature supports such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Hancock's congressional delegation, and to Hancock's state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Selectmen within 30 days of the vote. By Petition

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by Michelle Russell.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the purpose of funding The Contoocook Valley Transportation Company programs and services for the people of greater Contoocook Valley area. This amount represents the Town of Hancock's portion of the funds needed to support Contoocook Valley Transportation Company, a nonprofit service organization; or take any other action relating thereto. By Petition

The article was moved as read by Erik Spitzbarth and seconded by John Jordan. Hancock resident Winnie Skeates spoke to the article.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** not unanimously.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report.

The article was moved by James Mose and seconded by John Jordan.

The **ARTICLE** was **VOTED** by voice and **PASSED** unanimously.

ARTICLE 22: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The motion was **VOTED** by voice vote and **PASSED** unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.