

2014 Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Sanbornton

State of New Hampshire

May 14, 2014

The 2014 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the Moderator, Timothy Lang. Moderator Lang led the Legislative Body in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Lang announced Susan Andy Jepson would be the Town's Moderator in 2015 and asked her to give the invocation. Moderator Lang asked for a moment of silence, for the Sanbornton residents that have passed this year and for the family of Officer Arkell from Brentwood who passed away this week.

Moderator Lang recognized Selectmen, Guy Giunta for the purposes of introduction. Selectmen Giunta introduced TC/TC Goss, Selectman Nickerson, Selectman Ober, Town Administrator (TA) Veloski and Attorney Boldt.

Moderator Lang introduced Budget Committee (BC) Chair, Earl Leighton for the purposes of introducing the rest of the Budget Committee. BC Chair Leighton introduced Roger Grey, Jeff Jenkins, Judy Burlingame-Rich, Katy Wells and Jon Olmstead.

Moderator Lang recognized the Supervisors of the Checklist, Sheila Dodge, Sandy Leighton and Mary Earley.

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purposes of a presentation; Jane Goss was recognized for her services as Town Clerk / Tax Collector from 1996 to 2014 and as Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector from 1988 to 1996.

A proclamation was read recognizing Guy Giunta Jr. for his service as Selectman for six years, as the Selectmen's Chair for one year, Budget Committee Representative for five years, as Cemetery Trustee for eight years, as Cemetery Chair for seven years, the Cable Television Committee, the Highway Safety Transportation Advisory Committee and as the Selectmen's Representative to various other committees/commissions.

Moderator Lang recognized Police Chief Hankard read a letter from the US Department of Justice, Office of the US Attorney regarding exemplary service provided by TC/TC Goss and Deputy TC/TC Davis, in their instrumental attention to a pattern of motor vehicle registrations that led to federal charges and convictions.

Moderator Lang recognized Fire Chief Dexter for a presentation; Fire Chief Dexter announced that the Sanbornton Fire Department is being acknowledged by Lakes Region General Hospital as the "EMS Service of The Year" and thanked all the members of the Fire Department for their service. A plaque that will be affixed to the department's tanker in honor of Deputy Chief Surowiec.

Moderator Lang recognized the Town's State Representatives, Ian Raymond & Dennis Fields. Representative Fields presented Jane Goss with a Certificate of Achievement from the Speaker of the House, in recognition of her twenty-eight years of service to the Town of Sanbornton as TC/TC and presented TC/TC Goss with a First of the Nation Primary ornament. Representative Fields presented TC/TC Goss with a Resolution from the NH Senate.

Representative Raymond presented TC/TC Goss with a letter from Secretary of State, Bill Gardner and a Citation from Governor Maggie Hassan.

Moderator Lang recognized those employees/ volunteers that would not be going forward in to the new year; Mary Earley as a Supervisor of the Checklist, Judy Burlingame-Rich as a Budget Committee member, Bill Whalen as a Zoning Board member, Patsy Wells as Moderator and Curt McGee as Finance Officer.

Selectman Ober announced that this year's Annual Report was dedicated to Deputy Fire Chief Surowiec and the Volunteers of the Fire Department for their 24/7 dedication to Sanbornton.

Moderator Lang read the results of the Election from May 13, 2014. Moderator Lang announced he would be following "Robert's Rules of Order" and asked that anyone wanting to be recognized, please step up to the mic. A brief procedural statement was made.

The Moderator read Article #1 as follows:

1. Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three million eight hundred seventeen thousand seventy-five dollars (\$3,817,075)** as recommended by the Budget Committee for the Operating Budget of the Town. The Selectman's recommendation is \$3,875,732.

<u>DRA Acct. #s</u>	<u>DRA Account Name</u>	<u>Budget Committee Recommendation</u>	<u>Selectmen's Recommendation</u>
4130-4199	General Government	1,145,289	1,158,192
4210	Police	- 437,488	444,179
4220-4299	Fire & Emg Mgt	348,925	355,972
4311-4319	Highways & Streets	772,346	796,936
4321-4329	Sanitation	200,035	201,443
4411-4449	Health & Welfare	114,881	115,654
4520	Recreation	106,893	111,872
4550	Library	111,770	120,411
4583	Other Culture and Patriotic Purposes	2,901	2,901
4611-4659	Conservation	1,808	1,808
<u>4711-4799</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	574,739	574,739
Total ----->		3,817,075	3,884,107

(Majority vote required)

Moderator Lang recognized BC Chair Leighton for the purposes of a motion. Second by Katy Wells. Roger Grey was recognized to speak to the article. Mr. Grey explained the Budget Committee reviewed the Town's total tax burden over the past ten years, which was 46% for the School portion and 100% for the Town portion. Mr. Grey stated then the BC looked at the Town's income / growth over the past ten years, which is less than 1%. The cost is up and the income is down, so we raise taxes to pay for it. The BC decided to not accept any increases in line items but made exception for step increases for employees, who were working harder. So, in the end the BC's budget and Selectmen's budget has only a \$67K difference. Mr. Grey explained some of the differences.

The following amendment was presented for Article #1 as a motion by Selectman Giunta; to correct a scrivener's error by changing the figure of the Selectmen's recommendation from the figure "\$3,875,732" to the figure "\$3,884,107". Second by Selectman Ober.

Brian Gallagher asked what the projected surplus in the Town's general fund was this year.

TA replied last year's figure was \$280K and explained the complexity of the process due to final spending, so this year's figure will not be known until the end of the budget cycle.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Moderator Lang declared Article #1's amendment passed.**

The following amendment was presented for the opening text of Article #1 as a motion by Selectman Ober; **"Operating Budget - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three million eight hundred eighty four thousand one hundred seven dollars (\$3,884,107) as recommended by the Board of Selectman. The Budget Committee's recommendation is \$3,817,075".** Second by Selectman Giunta.

Selectman Ober provided an explanation of the differences between the Selectmen's budget and the Budget Committee's budget (\$67K).

Selectman Nickerson spoke in favor of the Budget Committee's budget. Selectman Giunta explained the amendment was proposed to not go through the budget line by line.

Earl Leighton replied lumping everything in to one sum doesn't give the taxpayers the opportunity to vote on each item.

Curt McGee spoke in favor of the Budget Committee's budget and Earl Leighton's previous comment.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. A hand vote was taken, Yes 62 No 93. **It was in the negative and Moderator Lang declared Article #1's amendment failed.**

The following amendment was presented for Article #1 as a motion by Peggy Graham; to amend budget line item #4191-900, Lakes Region Planning Commission membership from \$2,782.00 to \$0.00. Second by Bill Whalen.

Peggy Graham feels the Town has enough governmental oversight.

Bill Whalen spoke in favor of the amendment, due to a lack of representation.

Don Bormes stated this has been voted out before and put back in, the Planning Board needs tools for the job.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the negative and Moderator Lang declared the amendment to Article #1 failed.**

The following amendment was presented for Article #1 as a motion by Marla Davis; to increase line 4550, Library from \$111,770 to \$120,392 to restore the requested amount by the Library Trustees for the operation of the Library for FY 15. (Total budget \$3,825,697.) Second by Susan Shannon.

Marla Davis spoke to the amendment and the Budget Committee's procedures for making budgetary decision. Marla Davis reviewed the proposed Library increases.

Jeff Jenkins noted the \$6,164 dollar salary increase does not include the Library Director. Kris Rathjen discussed residents that may need the Library's full support during times of hardship.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. A hand vote was taken, Yes 97 No 65. **It was in the affirmative and Moderator Lang declared Article #1's amendment passed.**

Moderator Lang announced the new figure for Article #1, after the Library amendment that was just voted on is \$3,825,697 dollars.

The following amendment was presented for Article #1 as a motion by Andy Sanborn; to increase line item #4312.120 of the budget by \$10,000, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Second by Pauline Chapman.

Andy Sanborn spoke to the amendment by stating the purpose of the \$10K is for secretarial / bookkeeping work, the Police & Fire Departments keep detailed records of activities to use for management decisions. The DPW keeps financial records but has no records of activities.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the negative and Moderator Lang declared Article #1's amendment failed.**

There being no further discussion on the original Article #1 with the addition of the Library amendment. Moderator Lang had a request for secret ballot vote but the request was withdrawn.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #1, as amended, passed.**

Brain Gallagher made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #1. Second by Dick Gardner. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

The Moderator read Article #2 as follows:

2. EMS Billing and Paramedic Intercept Fees paid for from Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five thousand Two hundred dollars (\$5,200)** to pay fees for EMS billing and Paramedic Intercepts; further these fees to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. Selectman Giunta spoke to the motion. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #2 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #3 as follows:

3. Emergency Medical Equipment and Supplies paid for from Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** to purchase Emergency Medical related equipment and supplies to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended/by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Nickerson for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Giunta. Selectman Nickerson spoke to the article. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #3 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #4 as follows:

4. Firefighter Protective Clothing paid for from Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to purchase Firefighter Protective Clothing to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. Selectman Giunta spoke to the article. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #4 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #5 as follows:

5. Capital Outlay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five hundred forty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$541,500)** for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

<u>DRA Acct.#s</u>	<u>DRA Account Name</u>	<u>Budget Committee Recommendation</u>	<u>Selectmen's Recommendation</u>
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equip:		
	DPW –Dump Truck Lease Payment	35,500	35,500

DPW – F250 Lease Payment	6,000	6,000
Sub-Total ----->	41,500	41,500
Improvements Other Than Buildings		
<u>Town Roads</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Sub-Total ----->	<u>541,500</u>	<u>541,500</u>

4909

Total for All Capital Outlays >

(Majority vote required)

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Ober. Selectman Giunta spoke to the article. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #5 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #6 as follows:

6. Lease/Purchase replacement for the Police SUV

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement for **Thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000)** for the purpose of replacing the SUV in the Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500)** for the first year's payment for that purpose. The old SUV to be sold at auction or for trade.

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the previously voted upon Capital Outlay under Article 5.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Nickerson for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Giunta. Police Chief Hankard spoke to the article and described the SUV's specifications.

The following amendment was presented for Article #6 as a motion by Selectman Ober; to include, "This agreement contains a non-appropriation escape clause". Second by Selectman Nickerson. Attorney Bolt explained the language is a statutory provision for the lease.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #6 with the amendment passed.**

The Moderator read Article #7 as follows:

7. Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-four thousand Dollars (\$34,000)** for the purchase and set up of a Police Cruiser. This cost includes: updating any equipment needed, installation of existing equipment, decommissioning a cruiser in order to send it to auction or for trade.

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the previously voted upon Capital Outlay under Article 5.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purposes of a motion. Second by Selectman Giunta. Selectman Ober spoke to the article. Police Chief Hankard spoke to the condition of the 2010 cruiser.

Moderator Lang called for the vote. **It was in the affirmative and Article #7 passed.**

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion, to restrict reconsideration of Article #2 through Article #7. Second by Selectman Giunta. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

The Moderator read Article #8 as follows:

8. Loader Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-five thousand Dollars (\$25,000)** for the repair and upgrading of the current Loader used by the Department of Public Works.

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the previously voted upon Capital Outlay under Article 5.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Nickerson for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Giunta. Selectman Nickerson spoke to the article.

The following amendment was presented for Article #8 as a motion by Selectman Nickerson; to include “the costs to be offset by the proceeds of the sale of the Stone Rhino, model Year 2000, purchased in 2006 with the proceeds from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the rest to be raised through taxes after the word “needed. This cost includes repairing and updating any equipment needed. ”. Seconded by Earl Leighton.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on the amendment to Article #8. **It was in the affirmative and Article #8's amendment passed.**

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #8 with the amendment. **It was in the affirmative and Article #8 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #9 as follows:

9. Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)** for the payment to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

<u>DRA Account Name</u>	<u>Budget Committee Recommendation</u>	<u>Selectmen's Recommendation</u>
To Capital Reserve Funds		
Fire Truck	60,000	60,000
Fire Truck Repair and Refurbish	10,000	10,000
Roads and Bridges	100,000	100,000

Town Building Improvement	10,000	10,000
Town Facilities Maintenance	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	200,000	200,000

(Majority vote required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a **Special Warrant Article**.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. No discussion.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #9. **It was in the affirmative and Article #9 passed.**

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purpose of a motion, to restrict reconsideration of Article #8 & Article #9. Second by Selectman Ober. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

The Moderator read Article #10 as follows:

10. Establish a Capital Reserve fund to reduce phosphorus or Milfoil in Lake Winnisquam

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of reducing the phosphorus level in Lake Winnisquam and further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend such funds.

Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Transfers to Capitol Reserve funds total previously voted upon under Article 9.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Not Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Giunta. Selectman Ober spoke to the article.

Earl Leighton, Budget Committee, spoke against the article. Steve Ober, Don Bormes and Dave Witham spoke in favor of the article, as a preventative measure.

The following amendment was presented for Article #10 as a motion by Selectman Ober; to include “or milfoil”, after the words “phosphorus level”. Second by Selectman Nickerson.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on the amendment to Article #10. **It was in the affirmative and Article #10's amendment passed.**

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #10. **It was in the affirmative and Article #10, as amended, passed.**

The Moderator read Article #11 as follows:

11. Fire Department Special Duty

To see if the Town will vote to designate fees for special duty provided by the Fire Department, be deposited in the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund.

(2/3 Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. Selectman Giunta and Fire Chief Dexter spoke to the article.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #11. **It was in the affirmative and Article #11 passed.**

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purpose of a motion, to restrict reconsideration of Article #10 & Article #11. Second by Selectman Ober. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

The Moderator read Article #12 as follows:

12. Land Use Change Tax Adjustment

To see if the Town will vote to deposit 100% of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II & IV.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Nickerson for the purpose of a motion. Second by Katy Wells. Selectman Nickerson and Karen Bordeau of the Conservation Commission spoke to the article.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #12. **It was in the affirmative and Article #12 passed.**

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Giunta for the purpose of a motion, to restrict reconsideration of Article #12. Second by Jane Goss. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

The Moderator read Article #13 as follows:

13. Petitioned Warrant Article relative to Elderly Housing

To see if the Town will vote to have the Selectmen appoint a five person committee to investigate and develop a plan for elderly housing within the Town of Sanbornton and bring the plan before the 2015 Town Meeting for approval; provide supplies and space for monthly committee meetings and direct the town planner to assist the committee in completing its task.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Gail Morrison for the purpose of a motion. Second by Andy Sanborn. Gail Morrison spoke to the article.

Curt McGee raised concern over the lack of an appropriation being included in the article's language.

Bill Whalen spoke against the article due to past history.

Gail Morrison withdrew her request for a secret ballot vote.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #13. **It was in the negative and Article #13 failed.**

The Moderator read Article #14 as follows:

14. Petitioned Warrant Article relative to a Constitutional Amendment

TO SEE IF the town of Sanbornton will urge:

That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities including 47 in New Hampshire at March Town Meetings, and 16 other states including all other New England states, 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 support such a constitutional amendment; That the New Hampshire State Legislature support 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 notices from our selectmen within 30 days of the vote to our congressional delegation and to our state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents.

Moderator Lang recognized Lynn Chong for the purpose of a motion. Second by Ian Raymond. Lynn Chong spoke to the article.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #14. **It was in the affirmative and Article #14 passed.**

The Moderator read Article #15 as follows:

15. Petitioned Warrant Article to return to a March Town Meeting

To see if the Town will vote to return the annual voting and town meeting to the second Tuesday in March.

Moderator Lang recognized Nina Gardner for the purpose of a motion. Second by Andy Sanborn. Nina Gardner spoke to the article and provided the Town's voter history at the School District's Elections over the past ten years.

Nina Gardner expressed concern with the disconnect of Sanbornton voting or lack of voters at the March School District Meeting (\$24 million budget) since Town Meeting (\$4 million budget) was moved to May and she has concerns with participation.

Susan Shannon stated she was surprised at the people in attendance still tonight at 10:30 p.m., usually the place is half empty and suggested if the district was to propose changes in the school formula, there be some form of education provided.

Nina Gardner explained she wants both meetings on the same day.

Moderator Lang called for a vote on Article #15. **It was in the affirmative and Article #15 passed.**