

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF HILL, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

POLLS OPENED: 11 am
At the Hill Public Library, 30 Crescent Street
By: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

ARTICLE 1 and ARTICLE 2: To choose all necessary Town officials for the ensuing year and vote on any ballot questions as required by NH State Statutes. **See attached official ballot results.**

NOTE: By law, the meeting must open before the voting starts. Therefore, the meeting and the polls will be open at 11:00AM for the consideration of Articles 1 – 2. At noon, the meeting will recess but the polls shall remain open and shall not close until 7:00PM.

POLLS CLOSED: 7:00 PM
By: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

Registered Voters on Checklist: 718
New voters registered: 8
Total Registered Voters: 726

Ballots Cast: 213 29 % of registered voters

The meeting will reconvene at the Jennie D. Blake Elementary School on Thursday, March 15, 2007, at 7:00PM to act on the remaining articles of the Town Warrant.

MARCH 15, 2007

MEETING OPENED: 7:05 pm
BY: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers
ELECTION & BALLOT QUESTION RESULTS READ BY: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS:

Fire Chief, Matthew Desrochers presented a plaque of appreciation to former Fire Chief, James Morey for his dedication to the Fire Department for the past 14 years. Mr. Morey had resigned his position of Fire Chief due to health issues in 2006.

Fire Chief, Matthew Desrochers also presented a plaque of appreciation to retired Fireman, Robert Kerkawich for his dedicated service to the fire department for the past 18 years. Mr. Kerkawich is now retiring from the Hill Fire Department.

The Town of Hill New Hampshire State Representatives for District 2, Jim Ryan and Leigh Webb, presented a Commendation from Governor, John Lynch to Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Desiree L. Mahurin. The commendation was to honor her for her dedication and commitment to the Town of Hill since 1995.

******Voters present: 118 2/3 majority = 79**

ARTICLE 3: (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 \$1,100,000 to repair and improve approximately six (6) miles of town roads, including portions of Bunker Hill Road, Cass Mill Road and Currier Road and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,100,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (2/3 ballot vote required.) (The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation)

MOVED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen presented this warrant article to see what the people want to do about the condition of our roads. If this passed it would cost approximately \$70,000 a year for 20 years to repay the loan. The roads haven't been worked on in approximately 15 years.

The question was asked, "Shouldn't this type of project be part of the Capital Improvement Plan?" The Selectmen clarified that this will not improve all the Town roads. There are a total of 12 miles of Town roads and this will only fix approximately 6 miles.

**The polls opened at 7:32 pm to vote on this article. While the polls remained open until 8:32 pm, discussion was moved onto Article 4 after all voters had processed their ballots. After the hour of 8:32 pm the polls were closed and ballots counted.

VOTED BY BALLOT:

YES = 23

NO = 94

ARTICLE FAILED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$850,000 for engineering, construction, and related services to replace water mains, improve the access road to the water tank, repair the water storage tank, and install water meters for each water user. This sum to be funded by State and Federal grants or low interest loans paid fully by the users of the Hill Water Works system. No money to be raised by taxation. (2/3 ballot vote required.)(The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECONDED: Selectman, Mike Brady

DISCUSSION: The Water Commissioners confirmed that they will not be able to complete the entire project unless they are able to receive substantial funding. It is not their intention to acquire much if any from loans.

A break down of the estimated costs of the project is:	Line repairs	\$504,000
	Installing meters	\$ 45,000
	Tank replacement	\$301,000

Questions were asked about how rates are comprised and raised. The Water Commissioners explained that rates are determined by operation costs and capital improvement plans. If rates are changed in any way, the Water Commissioners hold a public hearing on the topic.

**The polls opened at 8:15 pm to vote on this article. While the polls remained open until 9:15 pm, discussion was moved onto Article 5 after all voters had processed their ballots. After the hour of 9:15 pm the polls were closed and ballots counted.

VOTED BY BALLOT: YES = 107 NO = 8
ARTICLE PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 5: (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 \$250,000 to purchase a new Fire Tanker, and authorize the withdrawal of \$38,000 from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment capital reserve fund created for this purpose, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$212,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (2/3 ballot vote required.)(The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.)

MOVED: Selectman, Mike Brady
 SECONDED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

DISCUSSION: Fire Chief, Matthew Desrochers presented for this article. This tanker would replace the 1200 gal tanker purchased in 1977 as used. The old tanker is starting to rust out and is under powered for what they need it for. The old truck has a 75-year old pump and has not passed a pump test. The tanker should have been replaced in 2001. Chief Desrochers explained that at this time chances of receiving grants for a new vehicle are slim.

The new tanker will hold approximately twice as much water as the old. The equipment on the old tanker will be used on the new tanker. The new truck being looked at is a 10-wheeler. The loan payment for the new tanker would be \$19,000 - \$20,000 a year for 20 years.

Question and concerns from the voters re: if the size of the vehicle would be able to maneuver on our roads, would the fire department crew be able to drive a truck of that size and whether more research should be done about getting a used truck.

**The polls opened at 9:27 pm to vote on this article. While the polls remained open until 10:30 pm, discussion was moved onto Article 5 after all voters had processed their ballots. After the hour of 10:30 pm the polls were closed and ballots counted.

VOTED BY BALLOT: YES = 65 NO = 53
FAILED AS MOVED – MUST BE 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE (79=2/3)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 41:14,a, giving the Board of Selectmen authority to acquire or sell land and buildings with Planning Board and Conservation Commission input prior to such action being taken.

MOVED: Selectman, John Nesteruk
SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen are seeking permission to sell some of the Town owned land to help raise revenue. They would also like to be able to acquire land for purposes such as the Wellhead Protection area easements, etc.

Comments of concern were expressed against too much more development. It was also clarified that the Selectmen already have authority to sell property that was taken by Tax Collector deed. At present the Town has approximately 7 parcels totaling approximately 117 acres that were taken by tax deed.

VOTED: FAILED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for the general municipal operations, exclusive of individual and special warrant articles:

	Approp 2006	Approp 2007	Budget Com 2007
Executive	38,835	39,134	38,915
Election, Reg. & Vital Stats. (T/Clerk)	42,561	43,322	39,293
Financial Administration (Tax Col)	5,570	6,070	6,070
Revaluation of Property	14,700	17,550	17,550
Legal Expense	3,000	3,000	3,000
Personnel Administration	7,200	10,820	10,820
Planning & Zoning	3,873	3,585	3,000
General Government Buildings	17,500	22,384	22,384
Cemeteries	4,223	2,000	2,000
Insurance	12,300	12,350	12,350
Police	65,085	65,654	65,655
Ambulance	24,615	25,777	25,777
Fire	33,399	55,467	55,467
Emergency Management	2,275	2,275	1,475
Highways & Streets	202,272	209,947	209,947
Street Lighting	3,600	3,600	3,600
Other (Recon of Highways)	49,283	46,866	46,866
Solid Waste Disposal	72,217	73,960	73,960
Water Services	97,000	86,016	86,016
Health Agencies	3,825	3,774	4,274
Vendor Payments & Other	5,030	5,030	5,030
Parks & Recreation	3,684	5,484	5,609
Library	19,285	26,203	26,203
Patriotic Purposes	800	800	800
Other Conservation	500	500	500
Int. on Tax Anticipation Notes	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	733,632	772,568	767,561

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECONDED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

DISCUSSION: Selectman Farris made a comment of concern regarding how the budget committee has appearing to be singling employees regarding salary increases. With very little reaction from the voters nothing more was discussed regarding salaries.

VOTED: PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,000 to be deposited in the following capital reserve funds, as indicated:

Fire Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 6,000
Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Police Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 4,000

Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
Road Improvements	\$20,000
Wellhead Protection Area Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000

(Recommended by Budget Committee and Selectmen)

MOVED: Selectman, Mike Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

AMENDMENT: Increase Fire Heavy Equipment to \$25,000, making the total article \$80,000

AMENDMENT MOVED AND SECONDED

AMENDMENT VOTED PASSED AS MOVED

VOTED: PASSED AS AMENDED to a total of \$80,000

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be deposited into the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust. (Recommended by Budget Committee and Selectmen)

MOVED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

VOTED: PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to establish a committee of 5 voters, the road agent, a member of the Board of Selectmen, and a member of the planning board to study the condition of the town roads and present a plan at the 2008 town meeting for the repair and improvement of the roads, and to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for engineering services to support the committee. This article is a special warrant article. (Recommended by Budget Committee and Selectmen)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECONDED: Selectman, Mike Brady

DISCUSSION: An estimate has been received from Dubois & King for engineering services that would include an evaluation of the paved roads and core samples to verify what is under them.

Road agent, Dean Wheeler fielded questions and made comments on the conditions of roads.

VOTED: PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Transfer Station Improvements and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be deposited into this fund and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by Budget Committee and Selectmen)

MOVED: Selectman, Mike Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen wish to address and fix safety and access issues at the transfer station. The transfer station sits on 46.5 acres of land and only 1 acre is currently being used. A plan for improvements is the goal.

VOTED: PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to withdraw \$15,571.84 from the Edwin W. Ferrin Memorial Trust as per the trust document to be deposited in the General Fund to offset the General Government Expenses.

MOVED: Selectman, John Nesteruk

SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

VOTED: PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to purchase a new dump body for the Highway Departments dump truck and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Highway Heavy Equipment capital reserve fund created for that purpose. (Recommended by Budget Committee and Selectmen)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECONDED: Selectman, Mike Brady

DISCUSSION: Road Agent, Dean Wheeler explained that the truck that this dump body would go on has 113,000 miles on it.

Concern was expressed why we would put a new dump body on an old truck. Why not wait another year and use capital reserve funds to purchase a whole new truck.

MOVED AND SECONDED TO TABLE ARTICLE

VOTED: ARTICLE TABLED

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Wellhead Protection Area Capital Reserve, Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve, Road Improvements Capital Reserve and Police Equipment Capital Reserve.

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECONDED: Selectman, Mike Brady

DISCUSSION: Comments of concern were expressed against giving too much authority to the Board of Selectmen without such things going to town meeting for voting.

AMENDMENT #1: remove reference to all Capital Reserve accounts except for the Wellhead Protection Area Capital Reserve account.

AMENDMENT #1 MOVED: Gerard Desrochers

AMENDMENT #1 SECONDED: voter

AMENDMENT #1 WITHDRAWN

AMENDMENT #2: Article to read – **To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Wellhead Protection Area Capital Reserve for the year of 2007.**

AMENDMENT #2 MOVED: Gerard Desrochers

AMENDMENT #2 SECONDED: voter

AMENDMENT #2 PASSED AS MOVED

VOTED: PASSED AS AMENDED #2

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Hill.

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the town of Hill encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices.
(Submitted by Petition)

MOVED: Petitioner, David Maluchnik

SECONDED: Betty Meyerhoefer

DISCUSSION: This article was backed by the Carbon Coalition in NH. There were a lot of questions as to why such an article was at our Town Meeting.

VOTED: FAILED AS MOVED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:49 pm

Registered Voters present: 118

16% of registered voters present

BUDGET SUMMARY:

		AMENDMENT	PASSED \$
ARTICLE 3	Roads		0
ARTICLE 4	Water Dept		850,000
ARTICLE 5	Fire Truck		0
ARTICLE 7	Operating Budget		767,561
ARTICLE 8	Capital Reserve Funds		
	6,000 Fire	+19,000	25,000
	20,000 Highway		20,000
	4,000 Police		4,000
	10,000 Reval		10,000
	20,000 Roads		20,000
	1,000 Wellhead		1,000
ARTICLE 9	Bridge		20,000
ARTICLE 10	Roads		20,000
ARTICLE 11	Xfer Station		5,000
ARTICLE 13	Dump Truck	-15,000	0
TOTAL RECOMMENDED	1,738,561		1,742,561

***Not recommended by Budget Committee**

10% increase of approved/recommended budget = \$173,856.10

Given under my hands and seal this 22nd day of March 2007.

**Desiree L. Mahurin
Town Clerk/Tax Collector**