

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

POLLS OPENED: 11:00 am Tuesday, March 11, 2008
At the Hill Public Library, 30 Crescent Street
By: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

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

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 Article 1. 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: 691
New Voters registered: 2
Total Registered Voters: 693

Ballots Cast: 180 25% of registered voters

The meeting reconvened at the Jennie D. Blake Elementary School Amsden Auditorium on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:00 pm to act on the remaining articles of the Town Warrant.

MARCH 13, 2008

MEETING OPENED: 7:16 pm BY: Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

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

VOTERS PRESENT: 129 2/3 MAJORITY = 86

MOTION: To address ARTICLE 4 before ARTICLE 2
MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris
SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady
MOTION PASSED to address ARTICLE 4 first

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,000 to be deposited in the following capital reserve funds, as indicated:

	Board of Selectmen's Recommendations	Budget Committee's Recommendations
Fire Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000
Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000
Police Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$4,000	\$2,000
Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000	\$5,000
Road Improvements	\$20,000	\$20,000
Transfer Station	\$5,000	\$5,000
Wellhead Protection Area Capital Reserve Fund	1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$85,000	\$78,000

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

ARTICLE 4 PASSED as MOVED

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to purchase a new Fire Pumper/Tanker truck, and authorize the withdrawal of \$66,000 from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$234,000 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 per RSA 33:8)**

(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: Fire Chief, Matthew Desrochers explained that the town is growing outside of the hydrant system. The previous Capital Improvement Program that the town has stated that the old tanker would be replaced between the years of 1998 – 2000. Questions were raised if a 6-wheeler tanker would work better on our roads and if we would be able to locate an old vehicle instead of purchasing new? All questions were answered by Chief Desrochers.

The estimated bond payment as of March 11, 2008 for a 15 year bond at approximately 4.3% would be \$15,000.00 per year.

AMENDMENT: The amount to be raised amended down to \$286,000; \$91,000 to come from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; and \$195,000 to be bonded.

AMENDMENT MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

AMENDMENT SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

AMENDMENT PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 2 AS AMENDED: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$286,000 to purchase a new Fire Pumper/Tanker truck, and authorize the withdrawal of \$91,000 from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$195,000 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 per RSA 33:8)**
The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation

POLLS OPENED for consideration of ARTICLE 2: 8:02 pm by Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

POLLS CLOSED for consideration of ARTICLE 2: 9:02 pm by Moderator, Gerard Desrochers

VOTED BY BALLOT AS AMENDED: YES = 65 NO = 57

ARTICLE 2 FAILED AS AMENDED – MUST BE 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE (82 = 2/3)

ARTICLE 3: 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. 2007	Selectmen 2008	Budget Comm 2008	Amendments
Executive	\$38,915	43,274	41,750	
Town Clerk	\$39,293	47,302	42,943	
Tax Collector	\$6,070	6,220	6,220	
Reval of Property	\$17,550	22,310	17,310	
Legal Expenses	\$3,000	5,000	5,000	
Personnel Admin.	\$10,820	14,550	13,150	
Planning & Zoning	\$3,000	3,000	3,000	
Gen. Govt. Bldg.	\$22,384	32,684	26,384	
Cemeteries	\$2,000	2,300	2,300	
Insurance	\$12,350	12,350	12,350	
Police	\$65,655	94,478	69,264	
Ambulance	\$25,777	27,000	27,000	23,444
Fire	\$55,467	63,648	55,467	
Emergency Management	\$1,475	1,475	1,475	
Highways & Streets	\$209,947	255,882	247,532	
Street Lighting	\$3,600	3,600	3,600	
Recon. of Highways	\$46,866	46,572	46,572	
Solid Waste Disposal	\$73,960	76,725	74,975	
Water Services	\$86,016	114,182	114,182	
Health Agencies	\$4,274	3,904	3,904	
Welfare	\$5,030	5,000	5,000	
Parks & Recreation	\$5,609	5,695	4,195	

Library	\$26,203	24,921	24,921
Patriotic Purposes	\$800	800	800
Conservation	\$500	500	400
Int. on Tax Anticipation Notes	\$1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:			
	\$767,561	\$914,372	\$850,694
			\$847,138

MOVED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, Mark Dow

AMENDMENTS: Amend Ambulance amount down to \$23,444. The Selectmen had been waiting for the final amount from Bristol and just received it. This amendment brings the total Operating Budget to \$847,138

ARTICLE 3 PASSED AS AMENDED: \$847,138

MOTION TO TABLE ARTICLE 5 until after ARTICLE 6

MOVED: Gary David

SECONDED: M. Cavallon

ARTICLE 5 TABLED

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,100,000 for construction of the Borough Road Bridge. This will be funded by an 80/10/10 split with \$880,000 coming from the State of NH Bridge Aid Program, \$110,000 coming from the Town of Bristol and the balance of \$110,000 to come from the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2013. (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: At Bristol's Town meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 they rejected to pay for half of the bridge costs as originally presented. Because of this the Town's portion will now be increased (80/20 split). Questions were asked of Town Counsel, Bart Mayer, if the Town could urge Bristol to pay. Don't they have legal obligation to contribute? Mr. Mayer stated that he will be looking into what can be done.

The proposed bridge will be a 2-lane bridge. Currently the State of New Hampshire has placed a "Bailey bridge" over the old bridge. The State has assured the Town that this bridge may be in place for up to 4 years if needed. There was no doubt that the bridge must be repaired for the Borough Road residents.

Many questions and concerns were brought up regarding whether or not the Town had the funds to proceed this year or not. An option suggested was to take funds from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

There were some concerns stated regarding this because of the fear of how it would affect the Town's cash flow and the possibility that the Town may have to take out Tax Anticipation Notes to cover this.

AMENDMENT #1: Increase the appropriation to \$1,343,340; 80/20 split would be \$268,668 from the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust and \$1,074,672 from the State of NH Bridge Aid Program.

AMENDMENT MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

AMENDMENT SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

AMENDMENT #1 PASSED AS MOVED

AMENDMENT #2: 80/20 split would be \$111,604 from the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust and \$157,064 from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

AMENDMENT MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

AMENDMENT SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

AMENDMENT #2 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 6 AS AMENDED (#1 & #2): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,343,340 for construction of the Borough Road Bridge. This will be funded by an 80/20 split with \$1,074,672 coming from the State of NH Bridge Aid Program, \$111,604 to come from the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust and the balance of \$157,064 coming from the Unreserved Fund Balance. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2013. (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

VOTED BY BALLOT AS AMENDED #1 & #2 (petitioned by voters) YES = 35 NO = 57

ARTICLE 6 FAILED AS AMENDED (#1 & #2)

ARTICLE 5 REMOVED FROM THE TABLE

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,000 to be placed in the Bridge Repair and Replacement Expendable Trust. (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

MOVED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, Mark Dow

DISCUSSION: Even though the Town of Bristol rejected their portion of the bridge replacement expense it was still felt that the bridge on Borough Road should still be replaced and that the Town still must put funds aside to repair bridges.

AMENDMENT #1: Reduce the appropriation down to \$17,000

AMENDMENT MOVED: Shaun Bresnahan, Jr.

AMENDMENT SECONDED: voter

AMENDMENT #1 FAILED AS MOVED

AMENDMENT #2: Increase the appropriation to \$95,000.

AMENDMENT MOVED: Shaun Bresnahan, Jr.

AMENDMENT SECONDED: Robert Dupuis

AMENDMENT #2 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 5 PASSED AS AMENDED (#2): \$95,000

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to withdraw \$15,156 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, J. Michael Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, Mark Dow

ARTICLE 7 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,409 to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to be agents to expend from this fund.. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation. (The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.)

MOVED: Selectman, Mark Dow

SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen explained that these funds represent \$44,409 from the 2007 Highway Block Grant funds that were not spent and \$20,000 represents the funds appropriated for the Road Study Committee for engineering costs that were not spent.

Questions were asked of how the Road Study Committee came up with plans for the roads and where is this plan? Selectman Dow explained that Lake Region Planning Commission came and inspected the Town's roads, made a plan, designs and provided software to help implement the plan.

AMENDMENT: Removed "Board of Selectmen to be agents to expend from this fund"

AMENDMENT MOVED: Gary David

AMENDMENT SECONDED: John Lynch

AMENDMENT PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 8 PASSED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell the old 1977 Chevy tanker truck currently not in use by the Fire Department.

MOVED: Selectman, Mark Dow

SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: This truck will be put out to bid and all the proceeds go to the general fund.

ARTICLE 9 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to install a dry hydrant to be used in the case of fire. Location to be determined by the Fire Department and Selectmen.

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: Draft sites will be established to allow for easier connection to water sources in the ground. This type of piping would allow water to be drawn all year.

ARTICLE 10 PASSED AS MOVED

MOTION TO RECONSIDER ARTICLE 2

MOVED: Michelle Cuhna

SECOND: voter

DISCUSSION: Pursuant to state statutes the reconsideration could not be any earlier than 7 days from this date.

MOTION FAILED

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of hiring a grant writer. This writer will report to the Selectmen.

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: This person would be paid on a contract basis and receive no benefits. This person would be hired in conjunction with the Town of Bristol on a “shared basis”.

ARTICLE 11 FAILED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Fire Station Building Improvements and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in this fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen. Not recommended by the Budget Committee)

MOVED: Selectman, Steven Farris

SECOND: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: The fire department felt they were lacking facilities for training. The Budget Committee stated that they did not recommend this article because the Capital Improvement Plan does not slate these improvements for some time.

ARTICLE 12 FAILED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 13: (Submitted by petition) To see if the Town of Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 for the purchase of a new dump body and used loader for the highway department. The funding source to be \$55,000 from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

MOVED: Selectman, Mark Dow

SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: Currently the Town only uses a backhoe and it was felt that a loader would be extremely beneficial.

ARTICLE 13 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 14: (Submitted by Petition) To see if the Town of Hill will vote to rescind the authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under RSA 35:15 to act as agents to expend the following Capital Reserve Accounts:

Highway Heavy Equipment

Police Heavy Equipment

Revaluation of Properties

Transfer Station Improvements

MOVED: Selectman, Mark Dow

SECONDED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

DISCUSSION: Some concern was stated by the Selectmen that not allowing them authority would infringe on the flexibility to spend in emergency situations.

ARTICLE 14 PASSED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer ownership of the lot adjacent to the Hill Village Bible Church property, part of Town Tract #6, which they are currently leasing from the town, to the Hill Village Bible Church, Inc. for the consideration of \$1.00. (The Hill Village Bible Church would pay all costs associated with the transfer of the property).

MOVED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

DISCUSSION: This land consists of approximately 1/3 – 1/2 acre. Concern was stated that if the Town gives this away to the Church, we should entertain giving other property away to other interested parties. Any Town property should be sold for some value not just given away.

VOTED BY BALLOT (as petitioned by voters): NO = 40 YES = 20

ARTICLE 15 FAILED AS MOVED

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

(Submitted by petition)

Resolved: We the citizens of Hill, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the "Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

MOVED: Selectman, J. Michael Brady

SECONDED: Selectman, Steven Farris

DISCUSSION: Concerns were stated whether or not this would open up to more taxes of different sorts. This seems to scare most people. Others agreed that our leaders need to start hearing the concerns of tax payers Statewide.

ARTICLE 16 FAILED AS PETITIONED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:18 am March 14, 2008

Registered Voters present: 129

18 % of registered voters present

BUDGET SUMMARY:

		AMENDMENT	PASSED \$	
ARTICLE 2	Fire Truck	300,000	-300,000	0
ARTICLE 3	Operating Budget	850,694	- 3,556	847,138
ARTICLE 4	Capital Reserve Funds	25,000 Fire		
		20,000 Highway		
		2,000 Police		
		5,000 Reval		
		20,000 Roads		
		5,000 Xfer St		
		1,000 Wellhead		
			total	78,000
ARTICLE 5	Bridge Trust	34,000	+ 61,000	95,000
ARTICLE 6	Borough Rd Bridge	1,100,000	-1,100,000	0
ARTICLE 8	Road Improvement	64,409		64,409
ARTICLE 10	Dry hydrants	8,000*		8,000
ARTICLE 11	Grant Writer	20,000	- 20,000	0
ARTICLE 12	Fire Station	20,000*	- 20,000	0
ARTICLE 13	Dump Body&Ldr (HW)	55,000		55,000

TOTAL RECOMMENDED 2,502,103

(*Not recommended by Budget Committee)

TOTAL AMENDED & PASSED**-1,382,556****1,147,547**

10% increase of approved/recommended budget = \$250,210.30

Given under my hands and seal this 18th day of March 2008.

Desiree L. Mahurin
Certified Town Clerk/Tax Collector