

BOSCAWEN TOWN MEETING

March 10, 2015

Moderator William Murphy called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00AM, and declared the polls would remain open until 7:00PM. The election of Town officers and five warrant articles require polling hour balloting.

Moderator Niebling announced a delay of action on Articles 7 through 21 until the official ballots were counted. Once the Town Officers were elected and the results of the six warrant articles to be voted on with a yes or no official ballot vote were read, the Town Meeting would resume in the evening at the Boscawen Elementary School.

Ballot Clerks:

Kellee Easler Pamela Hardy Beverly Lacey Penny Sarcione

Polls closed at 7:00PM. Moderator Niebling explained the Town Meeting would begin at the conclusion of the ballot counting process for the write-in votes, at Boscawen Elementary School. Moderator Niebling opened the meeting at 7:54PM and reviewed the rules of order for the meeting process and ballot votes. All comments shall be directed to the moderator with the speaker stating their name and using one of the microphones provided for the meeting. He also explained the rules for applying RSA 40:10, which restricts reconsideration of an article once voted upon during the meeting deliberations. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief, Ray Fisher. Moderator Niebling recognized all those in attendance who have served in the armed forces.

Article I – To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. The votes were counted with a total of 376 ballots and the results are as follows:

Office	Name	Vote
Selectperson – 3 years	Mark Edward Varney	88
	Lorrie J. Carey	111
	Bernard O Davis, Jr.	168
Town Clerk – 3 years	Michelle Brochu	342
Moderator – 1 year completing term of the recently resigned Moderator	Charles R. Niebling	330
Supervisor of Checklist – 1 year completing term of a recently resigned Supervisor	Agnes Colby	330
Cemetery Trustees	Diane Martin	315
Library Trustees	Lawreen “Lawre” Murphy	317
	Steve Green	25
Trustees of the Trust Funds	Paula Scrivens	7

Robert Tucker moved to re-elect the incumbents for Official Weighers: Bruce Davis and Mark N. Harbour. Michele Tremblay motioned that Charles Niebling be nominated as the third Official Weigher. Ray Fisher seconded. Motion was approved

Robert Tucker moved to re-elect the incumbents for Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: William Bailey Jr. and Frederick J. Egounis. A vacancy existed with the passing of James Colby, therefore Justin Malcolm motioned that Michael Fisher be added as a third. Ray Fisher seconded. Motion approved.

Craig Saltmarsh moved to re-elect the incumbents for Fence Viewers: Ray R. Fisher, Douglas R. Supry and Michele L. Tremblay. Bernie Davis, seconded. Motion approved.

Article II – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article V – Lot Dimensions & Area?

Moderator Charles Niebling read the results of the vote: YES – 227 NO – 95

The article was approved.

Article III – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2, as proposed by the Planning Board, to ammend the Zoning Ordinance, Article VI – Supplementary Regulations?

Moderator Charles Niebling read the results of the vote: YES - 217 NO – 96

The article was approved.

Article IV – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article XII – Definitions?

Moderator Charles Niebling read the results of the vote: YES – 225 NO – 86

The article was approved.

Article V – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance as follows: To amend the Zoning Map to change the parcel known as Map 83, Lot 8, Sublot 1, from the Commercial District to the Residential – Medium Density District, (R-2)?

Moderator Charles Niebling read the results of the vote: YES – 219 NO – 100

The article was approved.

Article VI. – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance as follows: To amend the Zoning Map to change the parcel known as Map 81A, Lot 37, from the Commercial District to the Residential – Medium Density District, (R-2)?

Moderator Charles Niebling read the results of the vote: YES – 221 NO – 97

The article was approved.

Article VII – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,351,081.95 which represents the operating budget? Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed separately (Majority vote)

William Murphy moved to adopt Article VII as written; Craig Saltmarsh seconded. There being no discussion, Article VII was approved.

Article VIII To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$228,000 to be contributed to the Town Capital Reserve Funds, previously established, as follows: (Majority vote)

a) Fire Truck	\$60,000
b) Fire Dept. Safety Equipment (New)	\$12,000
c) Highway Heavy Equipment	\$40,000
d) Public Works Building	\$20,000
e) Police Vehicle	\$16,000
f) Information Technology (New)	\$25,000
g) Municipal Building (LCHIP)	\$10,000
h) Municipal Building & Equipment	\$45,000

Ron Reed motioned to adopt Article VIII as written; Ray Fisher seconded. Michele Tremblay inquired whether labor to install was included in the Information Technology line item. Alan Hardy answered in the affirmative. There being no further discussion, Article VIII was approved.

Article IX – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 toward the operating expenses of the Penacook Community Center? (Majority vote)

Bernie Davis, motioned to adopt Article IX; Ron Reed seconded. There being no discussion, Article IX was approved.

Article X – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to contribute to the operating costs of the Boscawen Historical Society? (Majority vote)

Ron Reed motioned to adopt Article X; Doug Supry seconded. There being no discussion, Article X was approved.

Article XI – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,060 to aid the Penacook Rescue Squad for its emergency medical services and rescue operations provided to the Town, subject to the receipt of an independent audit of 2014? (Majority vote)

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article XI; Roger Sanborn seconded. Discussion ensued regarding what conditions warranted auditing. Michele Tremblay motioned to strike the words “subject to the receipt of an independent audit of 2014” from Article XI; Bernie Davis, seconded. Discussion ensued regarding what the conditions were that warranted independent audits. Selectman Sanborn clarified “requiring an audit is about accountability and good business.” There being no further discussion, the Moderator requested a hand vote. Supervisors and Police Officers began tallying: YES – 25 NO – overwhelming majority. Motion denied, moving forward with Article XI as originally presented. There being no further discussion, Article XI was approved.

Article XII – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to donate to the Boscawen Congregational Church to support the use of the Church Park by townspeople and local sports teams? (Petitioned Warrant Article) (Majority vote)

Ron Reed motioned to adopt Article XII; Bill Lambert seconded. Discussion ensued. Ron Reed presented a history of the church community park stating that it was established in 1916, the pastures were to be a town park, free of charge to Boscawen Residents and has been for 100 years, hosting a variety of events such as youth ball games and Old Home Day. MV youth ball leagues mow the fields and Eagle Scouts have done various projects to help maintain the field. The park is now considered taxable because it is not being used for religious purposes. Ron indicated that the church is looking to offset this tax liability and to secure the future of the park.

Discussion continued regarding the church working on improving parking, the playground, tennis court and basketball court. Ed Maloof cautioned, "this is a slippery slope. I'm happy that the church is donating the use of the park to the town, but it is also donating the use to other towns. There are other churches in town, the town has offered to purchase the land from the church, but the church has refused the offer." Further discussion ensued regarding the original assessed value of the park at \$135,000.00 and the decreased assessment value of \$59,658.00 after the Current Use application approval. This translates into original taxes of \$3,653.00 per year and decreased assessed value taxes of \$1,616.00 per year. Bill Lambert explained that Bug Field is used for T-Ball, for boys and girls. Not only do the kids make friends, but the parents do as well. Sheila Serrano's concern was not for the kids playing ball, but how do you say "yes" to giving money to one non-profit and not another? Robert Tucker asked if the taxes were only \$800, where is the other \$5200 going? Ron Reed remarked: \$1600 to pay the property tax and the rest going toward maintenance. Bernard O. Davis, Jr. asked if he could hear from the League President Eric Crane. Eric Crane explained there are 233 players in the league, 74 from Boscawen. Everyone, including parents take part in annual Field Maintenance Day. Ed Maloof motioned to table Article XII. Tom Gilmore seconded. A verbal vote was taken; motion to table was defeated. Moderator Niebling moved to return to the original motion to vote on Article XII as presented. Hand vote was taken YES – 48 NO – 34. There being no further discussion, Article XII was approved.

Article XIII – To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of paying the expenses associated with building inspection services, to be withdrawn from the revolving fund as needed. All revenues received for building inspection services will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and the money shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to put into the fund, to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and not from taxation. (Majority vote)
Roger Sanborn motioned to adopt Article XIII; Doug Supry seconded. There being no discussion, Article XIII was approved.

Article XIV – To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of providing public safety services, by municipal employees. All revenues received for public safety details, will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to put into the fund, to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and not from taxation. (Majority vote)
Bernie Davis, motioned to adopt Article XIV; Craig Saltmarsh seconded. There being no discussion, Article XIV was approved.

Article XV – To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$33,000 to put in the fund. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. (Majority vote)

Craig Saltmarsh motioned to adopt Article XV; William Murphy seconded. There being no discussion, Article XV was approved.

Point of order: Ron Reed motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article XII as per RSA 40:10. Seconded by Michele Tremblay. There being no discussion, motion passed.

Article XVI – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Boscawen/Canterbury Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of creating an educational kiosk for the Boscawen-Canterbury Bridge to be located on Depot Street. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation (Majority vote) Alan Hardy explained that during the 2013 Town audit, the auditors noticed that the Boscawen/Canterbury Bridge Capital Reserve Fund was overspent. The auditors created a receivable for that fund to be paid once the State of New Hampshire reimbursement check was received. When the 2014 year-end adjusting entries are entered, the fund will have more than \$30,000.00 in it. For this reason, the Warrant Article asking for funds is no longer necessary. Michele Tremblay motioned to table Article XVI; William Lambert seconded. There being no further discussion, Article XVI was tabled.

Article XVII – To see if the Town will vote to change the name of a Town Forest to the James F. Colby Town Forest. (Majority vote)

Kathy Reed motioned to adopt Article XVII; Ed Maloof seconded. Selectman Davis, stated that naming a single trail, after Jim Colby would be a more appropriate way to honor him. Deb Hinds from the Conservation Commission agreed with Bernie citing “That there are many residents who should be recognized for their service to the Town. Renaming the entire Town Forest after one individual would not be practical.” Ed Maloof shared his disappointment in the change in the motion, citing that Jim was a mentor to him and wanted to recognize him in this way. Deb Hinds made a motion to amend Article XVII to read “To see if the Town will vote to name a trail in the Town Forest the “Colby Loop Trail.” Roger Sanborn seconded. There being no further discussion, amended Article XVII was approved.

Article XVIII – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,786 to contribute to the operating costs of the American Red Cross? (Majority vote)

Roger Sanborn motioned to adopt Article XVIII; Craig Saltmarsh seconded. Ron Reed was concerned with why there was no reference to this amount in the Town Report. Alan Hardy explained it was in the actual budget as a line item, but changed because it needed to be consistent with the other warrants. There being no further discussion, Article XVIII was approved.

Article XIX – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,553 to contribute to the operating costs of the Community Action Program of Belknap & Merrimack Counties, Inc.? (Majority vote).

Doug Supry motioned to adopt Article XIX; Ron Reed seconded. There being no discussion, Article XIX was approved

Article XX – Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provide a comprehensive meaningful system of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our governor and our state legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the governor and state legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Majority vote)

Michelle Tremblay motioned to approve Article XX; Linda Meserve seconded. Lorrie Carey wanted to “respectfully show support for this warrant article.” Michele Tremblay expressed thanks to those who put this article together. Robert Tucker would like to see the Selectmen move aggressively toward lowering our tax rate. There being no further discussion, Article XX was approved.

Article XXI – To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting. Polly Dawson suggested that the Election workers park across the street to allow voters to park closer. Steve Landry remarked that he has been on the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC) for 20+ years, and Michele Tremblay wanted it noted that she too had been on the UMRLAC committee for 25+ years. Steve shared that they have served with distinction and were proud to represent Boscawen. They announced that the Board of Selectmen withdrew their support of their appointments to represent the Town. Polly Dawson asked if anyone else had been named to the Advisory Board. Selectman Davis, explained that it was a Planning Board decision. There being no further business, Moderator Niebling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dan Nudd motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ben Reed seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:54pm. Moderator Niebling thanked all that were involved in Town Meeting and Election Day.

Respectfully submitted by

Michelle Brochu, Town Clerk