

2019 Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Sanbornton

State of New Hampshire

March 13, 2019

Town Moderator Tim Lang opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and recognized Pastor Jeff Dietrich of Mountain View Church to give the Invocation. Selectman Olmstead was recognized to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked that all of the Veterans in attendance stand to be recognized. Debbie Gibson sang the National Anthem.

Members of the Budget Committee introduced themselves. Ralph Rathjen Chairman, Craig Weisman, Justin Barriault, Kate Osgood, Bob Presby and Bob Lambert.

Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Katy North introduced those sitting at the Selectmen's table. Courtney Plamondon - Town Clerk/Tax Collector, John Olmstead - Selectman, Tom Salatiello - Selectman, Katie Ambrose - Town Administrator, Eric Maher - Attorney, April Rollins - Recording Secretary and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector - Irene Gosselin.

Chief Dexter announced that the cafeteria is over capacity and he has placed crowd managers in each aisle, just in case the alarms go off.

Moderator Lang announced Steve Ober, Dick Gardner, Terry Rasp and Jim Dick are Assistant Moderators for this evening.

Moderator Lang announced the results of the Town & School District ballot voting results from yesterday and noted that the proposed Zoning Amendments also passed. Moderator Lang noted the meeting would follow "Robert's Rules of Order" and urged everyone to be courteous & polite.

Recreation Coordinator Lonergan presented Heather Goodwin with flowers due to her resignation from the Recreation Commission in which served on from 2005 through 2018. Heather you will be missed!

Moderator Lang read Article #1 as follows:

Article 01: Bond for Construction of New Town Office Building and Renovations to the Old Town Hall, Life Safety Building & Current Town Office Building

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 \$4,998,120 (gross budget) for the construction of a new town office building connected to the old Town Hall, renovations to the old Town Hall and site, the conversion of the current Town Office building to a Police Station and the conversion of the current Life Safety Building to a Fire Station, with \$4,998,120 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); to authorize the 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 Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the date, rate of interest, maturity, denominations, place of payment, and other details, as the Selectmen determine to be in the Town's interest; to further raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$124,953 for the first year payment on the bond; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

(2/3 Ballot Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-2)

Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: Chair North stated the Board has been presented with a conceptual building design for a construction plan that the Legislative Body tasked the Selectmen with in an overwhelming vote last year, the conceptual plan is in its infancy stage but will be moving the Town forward to address safety and space needs for all of the Town's buildings & employees. Chair North noted the Town's long-term debt is being paid off which will help to offset the costs. Chair North explained that in 2001 a Community Profile was completed to help repair & preserve the Old Town Hall. Keith McBey of BPS and Evan Mullen of Port-One Architects are here to present the conceptual plan to the body tonight. Keith McBey stated the results from 2018 was that there are program deficiencies and they had a lot of past studies to go through Evan Mullen stated it has been a pleasure to work with the Town and they will be providing an overview for all three of the Town's buildings due to inefficiencies of safety & space. The Town Hall will have a connector for two floors of administrative offices with additional parking and the basement will be raised for document storage plus the fire suppression system. The Police will move in to the current Town Office which will receive security upgrades, a sally port and holding cells. The plans were developed with the Chief Hankard. The current Life Safety Building will become the Fire Department exclusively which will have bunks, shower facilities, a code compliant sprinkler system and the windows would be replaced. Keith McBey provided the project's timeline; the

design would be worked on until August 30, 2019, then the project would go out to bid with a deadline of October or December 2019, work would tentatively begin on the Town Hall from January through June 2020, then work would move to the P.D. from July to November 2020 with a certificate of occupancy in December and the Fire Department will only take a few months to renovate. TA Ambrose stated if the article is approved, in June the Town will go to the Bond Bank with the decision of a 20-year level principal bond note and after the bond sale the interest rate (2.21%) will be finalized with an anticipated first payment in February 2020. Craig Weisman read from the Budget Committee's handout, "There are numerous reasons that the majority of the Budget Committee does not support this article. There will be an estimated \$2.1 million in interest payments over twenty years, a period longer than any previous Town debt. Another cost not included in Article 01 is maintenance. The Life Safety Building and Town Offices are being repurposed at a significant cost and will require ongoing maintenance. The maintenance of the proposed new structure (with its electric generator, elevators and other high-tech amenities) and additional cleaning services implies the town will incur additional costs above the cost of the bond". Mr. Weisman stated we feel this is a terrible time to put on the taxpayers because people are struggling after the revaluation and we were hoping for more reasonable options but absolutely can not support an 8,000 square foot Town Office that is currently 2,500 square feet, it just doesn't make sense to us. Jim Cluett stated he agrees with the Budget Committee, so if there is \$2.1 million dollars in interest then the project will cost \$7 million? TA Ambrose replied the interest will depend on the debt schedule plus the interest could be lower after the bond sale or the Board could go with a schedule that has more years.

Nina Gardner stated she was the Chair of the Space Needs Study Committee which was comprised of seven (7) members and at that time they were tasked with three issues/ needs, Recreation, Welfare and document storage. Nina Gardner explained that she was asked to Chair this committee because she was actively involved in the \$17 million dollar bond for the school district. Nina Gardner stated the committee's final report is four pages long and identifies very clear deficiencies but safety was biggest area of concern due to past shootings in municipal buildings. Nina Gardner stated bonds are expensive projects, they are like a mortgage so a short bond will have higher payments but the Town has the opportunity to negotiate an interest with a long bond which is a step in the right direction. Nina Gardner explained that the H.L. Turner report showed that a second floor could not be put on the current Town Office. Nina Gardner urged residents to read the H.L. Turner report because there are a lot of working pieces. Paul Litchfield stated he feels the design is way over built and a lot of buildings are made of steel which he feels would be more cost effective but a new P.D. is definitely needed now and centrally located. Chair North stated there have been multiple studies by multiple committees and engineers, so all of this work is what got us here today. Chair North noted that four other parcels in Town were looked at but were not feasible. Doug Rasp stated that 6 Bay Road is another option and this bond will sink the Town if it goes through. Brian Gallagher asked if this article is amendable? Attorney Maher replied yes but it depends on the amendment, if it is monetary then it can be proposed unless it were to increase the budget by more than 10% but an amendment can not destroy the subject matter. Brian Gallaher stated the general fund has \$1 million dollars in case of emergency or unanticipated needs, the Town needs to look at the capital reserve funds that could be utilized to come up with the best solution. Tim Grant stated he is a structural engineer and he feels the Selectmen plus the people they hired, have a done a good

job because the plan puts the Town's buildings into code compliance without a lot of extras in the proposed plans. Tim Grant noted the Town needs to do this now and stop kicking the can down the road because the longer this is put off, the more it will cost and the proposed price is phenomenal, he thought it would be double.

Earl Leighton asked if he could amend the article by reducing the amount to \$2.5 million? Attorney Maher replied yes. Keith McBey stated the soft costs at \$729K with \$392K in building support, the estimate for Town Hall is \$2.3 million, the P.D. is \$852K, the Fire Department is \$104K and fire suppression is \$596K. Keith McBey explained the figures are intertwined because of the "domino effect". Earl Leighton asked how much the figure would change if the 2nd floor and elevator were eliminated? Keith McBey replied approximately \$450K. Earl Leighton made a motion to reduce the original figure of the article to \$2.5 million. Second by Lisa Beel. Discussion; Jim Cluett stated he would like to see a more progressive plan or something in between. Craig Weisman stated he can not vote in favor of the amendment with no idea of what the figure will be approving. TA Ambrose stated the concept of cutting the figure in half is that the bond rate would be higher and the bid will not be as competitive, so it will cost the taxpayers more. TA Ambrose clarified that the basement of the proposed Town Hall will be 3,000 square feet and each floor will be 2,500 square feet. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote and the amendment failed in the negative.

Craig Weisman asked if each of the Selectman support this. Chair North replied yes. Selectman Olmstead replied in its current form no. Selectman Salatiello replied he feels \$5 million is too much money but wants feedback from the residents and he would like to see the figure closer to \$3 million with more thought. Chair North noted that a quorum vote from the Selectmen was taken to place the article on warrant. Karen Ober stated one of the first studies was from 1986 until 1988 showing the same problems over thirty-three years ago, it was \$1.7 million back then and has more than doubled today. Karen Ober noted that the Town lost two recreation buildings, so that is space that we had that we need to make up for. Peter Drouin asked if the project was bid? Chair North replied no, the plans are conceptual and the figure is a "not to exceed" number. Susan Dumais stated the bid can not go above the figure but could be below and the Town is required by law to store paper copies, so this would fulfill the demand. Andy Sanborn asked about the capital expenses. TA Ambrose replied in 2016/2017 legislation was passed that some things could be converted to "pdf" but the problem is that the older documents are not climate controlled. TA Ambrose provided those in attendance with the debt schedule's pay off years, which will offset the bond payments.

TA Ambrose explained that the scope of the 1st year's interest payment will cost a \$200K assessed home approximately \$46 dollars, a \$250K home \$57.50 dollars, a \$300K home \$69 dollars, etc. The second year will cost; a \$200K assessed home approximately \$168 dollars, a \$250K home \$210 dollars, a \$300K home \$252 dollars, a \$350K home \$294 dollars, a \$400K home \$336 dollars, etc. In the third year; a \$200K assessed home will decrease from the previous year by \$4 dollars, a \$250K home will decrease by \$5 dollars, a \$300K home \$6 dollars, a \$350K home by \$7 dollars, a \$400K home by \$8 dollars, etc. Heather Goodwin asked how much money could the Town occur due to deficiencies? TA Ambrose replied the current risks are; no fire suppression, security liability, insurance rates may increase, buildings are not up to code,

lack of ADA accessibility. Heather Goodwin stated she doesn't want her taxes to go up either but this could cause us money. Linda VanValkenburgh noted that 7 out of the 10 didn't recommend, so why would we second guess them. Moderator Lang stated the "yes/no" voting on the article will be left open until 10 p.m. and the results would be announced once he has them. Moderator Lang explained that they would be skipping over Article #2 until the results of Article #1 are ready.

Moderator Lang announced (later in the meeting) that 286 votes were cast and 189 votes are need for the article to pass. The vote was in the negative with 107 yes votes and 179 no votes - Article #1, failed without amendments.

Motion made by Mitch Lewis to restrict reconsideration of Article #1, second by Christine Gammon and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #3 as follows:

Article 03: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Lease/Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement for Two Hundred Sixty Thousand dollars (\$260,000) for the purpose of replacing the Fire Department's 22 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), 3 Rapid Intervention Packs and 22 spare SCBA cylinders; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

This agreement contains a non-appropriation (escape) clause.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair North.

Discussion: Selectman Olmstead provided a brief explanation that the SCBA units would be extending past their lifespan in August 2020'. Craig Weisman read from the handout, "While ultimately the BC supported this Article, this was viewed as a significantly outlay and some members questioned the need for 22 units. Others asked if the units could be phased in rather than a wholesale switch. The Fire Chief explained that the air packs must be completely upgraded to ensure equipment familiarization amongst personnel. The 22 units included 5 spares per the Fire Chief, which was questioned by the Budget Committee". Chief Dexter noted that he looked at placing funds in the CIP but the lease/purchase ended up being the best solution.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #3, passed without amendments.

The Moderator read Article #4 as follows:

Article 04: Capital Outlay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three dollars (\$670,953) for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

DRA Acct. #s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equip:		
	-DPW-Truck 5 Lease Payment	21,051	21,051
	-DPW-Truck 3 Lease Payment	33,726	33,726
	-DPW-Truck 4 Lease Payment	16,176	16,176
Sub-Total →		<u>70,953</u>	<u>70,953</u>
4909	Improvements Other Than Buildings		
	-Town Roads	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
Total for All Capital Outlays → (Majority Vote Required)		670,953	670,953

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: Chair North explained the capital outlay is comprised of the current lease payments and the budget for road repairs. Craig Weisman read from the Budget Committee's handout, "Ralph Rathjen is uncomfortable with the repeated funding of \$600,000 for Improvements Other Than Buildings – Town Roads. In his opinion this is a textbook case of throwing money at a problem without the benefit of knowing on what and where to spend. In March 2017 the town approved \$75,000 for the purposes of "repair and evaluation of existing roads". Now two years later we still don't have the benefit of the formal engineering evaluation which could help direct our spending of this significant amount. Unless we know we are spending money wisely, Rathjen feels we should not appropriate funds for this purpose". Chair North stated the Town approved funds to conduct a Road Evaluation Study but the Director's position was in transition until Johnny Van Tassel was hired, so the Town hopes to have something by this Spring. Highway Director VanTassel added that he had drafted a 10-year road plan which was upgraded by Brian Bordeau. Director Van Tassel invited Ralph Rathjen to ask him any questions, anytime. Director Van Tassel noted there are plans for Woodman Road, Bayshore Drive and Seth Road, the rest of the plans are in the 2018 annual report. There was a brief discussion regarding crack sealing, the supervision of crack sealing operations and the painting lines on the road.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #4, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #3 and Article #4, second by Dennis Fields and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #5 as follows:

Article 05: Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand dollars (\$35,000) 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 with the funds received to be used to offset the costs of the vehicle.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Chair North.

Discussion: Chief Hankard provided a brief explanation to the article. Mitch Lewis asked what happens if the funds do not get used, where do they go? Chair North replied the funds go in to the general fund and are use to offset the tax rate.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #5, passed without amendments.

Motion made by Cal DiNitto to restrict reconsideration of Article #5, second by Dennis Fields and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #6 as follows:

Article 06: Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Five Thousand dollars (\$285,000) for the payment to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

<u>DRA Account Name</u>	Budget Committee <u>Recommendation</u>	Selectmen's <u>Recommendation</u>
To Capital Reserve Funds		
Fire Truck	80,000	80,000
Fire Truck Repair & Refurbish	10,000	10,000
Road/Bridge Construction	100,000	100,000

Milfoil, Phosphorus Reduction	5,000	5,000
Town Building Improvements	25,000	25,000
Facilities Repair & Refurbish	65,000	65,000
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Total Operating Transfer	285,000	285,000

(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 Chair North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: Chair North stated the capital reserve funds are for future use of Town projects/needs.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #6, passed without amendments.

The Moderator read Article #7 as follows:

Article 07: Highway Truck Lease/Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement for One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$175,000) for the purpose of replacing Truck 1 for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Two Dollars (\$38,702) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The vehicle being replaced shall be sent to auction with the funds received to go to the general fund.

This agreement contains a non-appropriation (escape) clause.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen - Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Olmstead for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Chair North.

Discussion: Chair North made a motion to propose an amendment to be added to the last sentence after the word "replaced" to read, "shall be used towards trade-in with the funds received to be used to offset the costs of the new vehicle". Chair North noted she has spoken with the Highway Director and he feels they will get more for the trade-in versus sending the vehicle to auction.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #7, passed with the amendment.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #6 and Article #7, second by Dennis Fields and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #8 as follows:

Article 08: Amend Solar Energy Property Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to amend the exemption adopted pursuant to RSA 72:62 via Ballot Question #1 at the March 1983 Town Meeting to read: "The Town votes to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$10,000 of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes." This amended exemption shall take effect beginning April 1, 2019.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: TA Ambrose explained that this exemption was adopted in 1983 and essentially provides for an exemption of 100% of the assessed value. Ian Raymond stated the State's Office of Strategic Initiatives says the policy should be tax neutral and should be encouraging solar energy which is in accordance with the Town's Master Plan. Ian Raymond encouraged residents to vote no on this article plus article #8. TA Ambrose explained that currently a system is valued at \$50K, it is in perpetuity not by the assessed value. (I got lost here, due to the conversation and Chief Dexter's explanation may clarify) Tara Albert asked how the solar was being assessed because this needs to be thought through. Attorney Maher replied the system would need to be actively providing solar energy in order to be assessed. TA Ambrose noted the property owner would need to file an application for the exemption to be considered. Nancy Durgin stated if she adds solar to her home then do her taxes increase, the answer is yes. Mark Lible stated solar has no effect on our neighbors and we should all be doing this.

The vote was in the negative - Article #8, failed without amendments.

Motion made by Nina Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #8, second by Dennis Fields and the motion passed in the affirmative.

(Please see Article #1 for the yes/no vote tally and the vote to restrict reconsideration, which was taken into consideration at this point in the meeting)

The Moderator read Article #2 as follows:

Article 02: Operating Budget - Town

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million One Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen dollars (\$4,163,516) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. The Selectmen recommend \$4,219,744. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

(Majority vote required)

DRA Acct. #s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4130-4199	General Government	1,393,648	1,432,376
4210	Police	483,360	483,360
4220-4299	Fire & Emergency Mgt.	488,957	488,957
4311-4319	Highways & Streets	918,036	933,536
4321-4329	Sanitation	262,644	264,644
4411-4449	Health & Welfare	107,086	107,086
4520	Recreation	114,972	114,972
4550	Library	149,823	149,823
4583-4589	Other Culture and Patriotic Purposes	3,251	3,251
4611-4659	Conservation	1,875	1,875
4711-4799	Debt Service	<u>239,864</u>	<u>239,864</u>
Total	→	4,163,516	4,219,744

Moderator Lang recognized Craig Weisman for the purpose of a motion. Second by Ralph Rathjen.

Discussion: Craig Weisman read from the committee's handout, "The Budget Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and in large part endorsed those recommendations. The pay matrix adopted by the BOS drove both step and pay grade changes. In addition, the BOS proposed a 2% cost of living adjustment and applied this throughout the pay matrix. The Budget Committee supports these increases by the BOS.

With respect to the operating budget there is a total difference of \$56,228 between the BOS and Budget Committee recommendations. Of this difference, \$35,000 is attributable to Medical Insurance, \$15,500 is attributable to the Highway Department, \$3,728 attributable to Planning and Zoning and \$2,000 in Landfill Monitoring.

Medical Insurance: The BOS is requesting \$471,951 in this year's budget for Medical Insurance. In the view of the Budget Committee the increases in medical insurance costs (84% increase over three years) is unsustainable. Below is the actual Fiscal Year 2017, 2018 and estimated Fiscal Year 2019 Medical Insurance Expenditures.

	FY 17	FY 18	FY19*
	\$255,172	\$351,390	\$410,674

*FY19 expenditures through six months are \$205,377. This has been annualized to \$410,674. Actual ending amounts will likely be higher.

Additionally, the Medical Insurance Expenditures are taking an ever-increasing portion of the total operating budget as noted below.

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019*	FY 2020**
Medical Insurance Expenditures	274,113	255,172	351,390	410,674	471,951
Approved Budget before Capital Exp.	3,809,821	3,778,937	4,009,630	4,183,034	4,219,744
Expenditures as % of Budget	7.2%	6.8%	8.8%	9.8%	11.2%
* Expenditures annualized based on actual expenditures through 12/31/2018.					
**Amounts are based on Selectmen's Budget proposal.					

There were 19 employee participants during January 2019 in the Health Insurance program. If we use 20 employees as an estimate of the participants for the FY2020 period, the budget amount of \$471,951 translates into an average per employee cost of approximately \$23,600. The Budget Committee has no power to change the Town's generous medical benefits. However, by funding a lower provision of \$436,951, we hope to encourage the BOS to consider measures to address these runaway costs. Chair North proposed an amendment to add \$50K to the operating budget, \$35K to the medical insurance line item 4555-210 and to add \$15K to highway & streets hired equipment/trucking line item 4312.380 (total Selectmen's recommended budget \$4,213,516 dollars). Second by Selectman Olmstead. Discussion; TA Ambrose explained that the HRA has a policy but the Board doesn't receive the rates until November, so the Board will be reviewing the HRAs this coming year under their policy. TA Ambrose noted insurance for a single person versus a family has an impact, which is also a hard number to predict with new hires and the Town use to receive a 2% municipal discount but that is no longer offered. Chief Dexter stated he was paying \$3K as a deductible but now it is \$8K and this is not going to be solved tonight but he sees this as a reduction in his pay. Andy Sanborn spoke in favor of the amendment because he feels the number the Budget Committee used to decrease the budget was plucked out of the air, to try and change the policy which is not the committee's role. Ralph Rathjen replied the employees currently contribute zero for the medical insurance. Melanie VanTassel stated if the Town isn't paying us close to market value and doesn't retain the benefits, which is why some of the employees decided to take their positions, then how will the Town keep good employees. Melanie VanTassel explained that the Town has an Insurance Broker and a Health Insurance

Study Committee that agreed on an 80/20 policy. Melanie VanTassel stated the Chair of the Health Insurance Study Committee is Ralph Rathjen and all of the members voted on a recommendation that went to the Selectmen, then was changed by the Budget Committee. Selectman Salatiello stated he is not sure only the Budget Committee wants to punish the employees because the Library is the lowest paid in Belknap County, Ralph Rathjen the employees have no skin in the game but the employees don't decide where they get services. Selectman Salatiello agreed that the problem should be addressed in Concord. Moderator Lang called for a hand count for the amendment, 109 in favor and 39 opposed.

The vote was in the affirmative - Article #2, passed with the amendment.

Motion made by Dick Gardner to restrict reconsideration of Article #2,

second by Dennis Fields and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #9 as follows:

Article 09: Amend Wood Heating System Property Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to amend the exemption adopted pursuant to RSA 72:70 via Ballot Question #3 at the March 1983 Town Meeting to read: "The Town votes to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:69-72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with woodheating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$10,000 of qualifying woodheating energy system equipment under these statutes." This amended exemption shall take effect beginning April 1, 2019.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: Chair North stated the Town voted to rescind this exemption in 1985 and made a motion to propose an amendment to read, "To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:69-72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with woodheating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$10,000 of qualifying woodheating energy system equipment under these statutes." This amended exemption shall take effect beginning April 1, 2019. Second by Selectman Olmstead. Discussion; TA Ambrose stated the amendment changes the language to an adoption. Mary

Ahlgren stated this is the same as the previous article, so vote no. Moderator Lang called the question on the amendment, the amendment failed in the negative. **Motion made by Gloria Moroscoe to restrict reconsideration of the amendment of Article #9, second by Mitch Lewis and the motion passed in the affirmative.**

The vote was in the negative - Article #9, failed without amendment.

Motion made by Mitch Lewis to restrict reconsideration of Article #9, second by Lynn Chong and the motion passed in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #10 as follows:

**Article 10: Petitioned Article for Sanbornton, NH's "Call to Prevent Nuclear War"
Proclamation/Resolution**

Whereas nine nations collectively have approximately 15,000 nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945; Whereas the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect all life on the planet, including in Sanbornton; Whereas the United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accident, mistaken or unauthorized launch; Whereas the United States continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely; Whereas the U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons; Whereas over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions; Whereas taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal; Whereas the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; Whereas in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; Therefore, we call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by: renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. And we call on our Sanbornton Selectmen, under direction of Town Meeting, to notify our U.S. Senators and our President, within one month's time, of our fervent support of this Resolution.

(by Petition)

(Majority vote required)

Moderator Lang recognized Lynn Chong for the purpose of a motion. Second by Andy Sanborn.

Discussion: Lynn Chong stated residents need to request that our leaders prevent nuclear war. Earl Leighton replied this would be better served at the Senate. Paul Litchfield spoke against the article and stated this shouldn't come from the Town. **The vote was in the negative - Article #10, failed without amendment.**

Motion made by Mitch Lewis to restrict reconsideration of Article #10, Second by Justin Barriault.

The Moderator read Article #11 as follows:

Article 11: Other Business

To transact such other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.

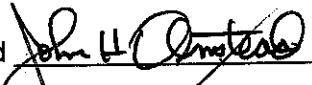

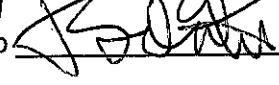
Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of a motion, Second by Selectman Olmstead.

Discussion: None.

Moderator Lang recognized Chair North for the purpose of adjourning the meeting, seconded by Selectman Olmstead, the vote was in the affirmative at 11:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
April Rollins, Administrative Specialist
(for TC/TC Courtney Plamondon)

Sanbornton Board of Selectman

Chairman, John Olmstead		Date: <u>8/7/19</u>
Katy North		Date: <u>8/7/19</u>
Tom Salatiello		Date: <u>8/7/19</u>