

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021 – Town Elections

May 15, 2021 – Town Meeting (postponed from March 10, due to COVID)

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Tuftonboro, County of Carroll, and State of New Hampshire on Tuesday, the ninth day of March 2021, at 8:00 AM at the Tuftonboro Town House, the meeting was called to order by Moderator Daniel F. Barnard, Jr. The polls were declared open for voting and to remain open until 7:00 PM or until all present that wish to vote have voted.

Ballots were cast for school officers and for articles on the school warrant, as provided for under the SB2 plan. The school district ballots were taken to Wolfeboro to be counted.

Listed below are the results of the town balloting for **Article 1: to choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing:**

Selectman for Three Years	Votes
Guy Pike	297
Lloyd Wood	166
Write In	7

Town Clerk for Two Years	
Jennifer Coulter	445
Write In	2

Budget Committee for Three Years	
Ethel "Penny" Hug	346
Write In – Chris Sawyer	88
Write In – Jeff Jordan-Reisner	35
Other Write In	32

Trustee of the Trust Funds for Three Years	
David Braun	401
Write In	5

Cemetery Trustee for Three Years	
Susan H. Weeks	388
Write In	14

Library Trustee for Three Years	
Jamie O'Hagin	404
Write In	9

Listed below are the results of the town balloting for **Tuftonboro Zoning Amendments**.

1. Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board? (***Bold letters indicate changed wording.***)

Amend Section 3.6.F.13 as follows:

- 3.6 Table of Uses, F. Commercial Uses, 13. Storage Buildings, **Outside Storage, Commercial**

YES 289

NO 153

2. Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board? (***Bold letters indicate changed wording.***)

- 16.2.5 **Driveway Permits: Any person before commencing construction, alteration, paving or repaving of a driveway must first obtain a permit duly granted for such work by the Code Enforcement Officer.**

A. New Driveway: Permit application should be accompanied by a design or sketch showing location, culvert size and pitch.

B. Existing Driveway: Permit application should be accompanied by a design or sketch showing existing culvert size and pitch and any alterations necessary to bring the driveway into compliance with specifications.

YES 209

NO 246

May 15, 2021 (postponed from March 10) – Tuftonboro Central School, Davis Field

Moderator Daniel F. Barnard, Jr. called the second portion of the 2021 Annual Meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 15 under the tent at Davis Field at Tuftonboro Central School.

The Moderator explained the voting card each voter received when they checked in at the meeting. Non-registered voters were identified by a show of hands. Housekeeping reminders were announced. The 60' x 90' tent, rented by Tents-R-Us, had a seating capacity of 311. Thanks were given to Dave Cash and the janitorial crew at TCS for assistance with set up, along with the Tuftonboro Fire and Police Departments who assisted with setting up chairs. Kyle Williams was also recognized for his assistance with the sound equipment.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag. Rev. Thom Christian provided an invocation.

The moderator noted that May 15 is Peacekeeper Appreciation Day, along with Armed Forces Day. The moderator asked that all those who have served or are currently serving our country stand to be recognized.

Town counsel, Barbara Loughman, was introduced and would be available for any legal questions that might arise during the meeting.

Gary Qua, Chairman of the Master Plan Steering Committee, was introduced. The committee has been working for the past four months to prepare a Master Plan for 2022. The current plan in place is from 2006. Municipal Resources in Plymouth, NH has been hired to help. They will have the ability to create graphs and charts from the data. Town Boards and Committees will be able to use this data to determine needs and requirements moving forward. Gary reminded everyone that community surveys have been sent out by Municipal Resources. Surveys can be returned by mail or at drop boxes around town at the Town Offices, the Town Library and Pine Cone Café.

The Moderator asked School Board Chair Jack Widmer to give the GWRSD voting results. Majority of towns had voted in March, Effingham held their election on Tuesday, May 11. Mr. Widmer reported all the articles on the school district ballot passed. Elected school board members are Tim Eldridge for the At-Large seat, Stephanie King representing New Durham, Jack Widmer representing Tuftonboro, and Randy Walker as the Moderator. The school year has been challenging due to COVID. All schools are back in session now, and still offering remote options. Jack thanked Tuftonboro residents for their support.

Moderator Barnard announced the results of the election on March 9th. The officers elected stood to be recognized.

Results from the vote on the zoning amendments were read by the Moderator. The meeting then proceeded with the remaining articles of the Town warrant.

Article 04: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) to build and equip a new Police Facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$685,742.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of Six Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Eight dollars (\$664,258.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant.

(Three-Fifth (3/5) ballot vote required per RSA 33:8)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0 and recommended by the Budget Committee 4-3)

Selectman Bill Marcussen moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded the motion. Selectman Marcussen made a motion to amend the article based on updated dollar amounts since the Warrant Article was posted.

Amended Article 04: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,772,000) to build and equip a new Police Facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Twelve Dollars (\$557,112.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of Six hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$673,825.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund Three Hundred Forty-One Thousand Sixty-Three Dollars (\$341,063.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant. Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to come from the Undesignated fund balance.

The cost of the building increased from \$1,600,000 to \$1,772,000, based on the most recent bid proposals. Funding options have also been amended, including an increase in the USDA grant from \$250,000 to \$341,063. Steven Brinser seconded the motion to amend. There was no discussion and the article was amended.

Selectmen Chip Albee spoke to the article. Articles 4 and 5 are both being presented with options to choose whether to finance over three years with Article 4, or to fund the police station in one year with Article 5. The USDA grant that has been awarded is based on the size and design of the building. If changes were made, the town would need to apply again. Some residents asked about the grant and how long it would be available. Selectman Albee advised that the grant is good for five years, based on the submitted design. Others expressed concern with the timing due to the increased costs of construction and suggested we wait for a couple of years for costs to come down. Others felt that we have been discussing the need for a new police station for years and that it was time to get this done. Voters asked for the cost breakdown for both Article 4 and Article 5. The cost per \$1,000 valuation for Article 4 would be \$0.16 per \$1,000 for 3 years. For Article 5, the cost would be \$0.25 per \$1,000 for 1 year. No further questions or discussion. The Moderator noted that because the Article requires a bond, voting is required to be by secret ballot. Article 4 was read once again by the Moderator and voters were instructed to use the green yes/no ballot attached to the voting card and cast their ballot in the ballot boxes. Polls were open for one hour. Results of the secret ballot vote.

YES – 66

NO – 99

The article failed.

While voting continued on Article 4, Selectmen Marcussen made a motion to change the order of the warrant articles to delay consideration of Article 5 and Article 6 until the vote on Article 4 was completed, the votes are counted and the result is announced. Steve Brinser seconded. All in favor of changing the order of warrant articles.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$248,000.00) for the replacement of Fire/Rescue Department SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) Equipment. Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$219,470.00) to be withdrawn from a previously established SCBA Capital Reserve Fund. Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$28,530.00) to be raised from taxes.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Guy Pike moved the article and Selectman Chip Albee seconded the motion. Peter Sluski, Treasurer of the Trust Funds, made a motion to amend the Article with updated figures.

Amended Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$248,000.00) for the replacement of Fire/Rescue Department SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) Equipment. Two Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$224,810.69) to be withdrawn from a previously established SCBA Capital Reserve Fund. Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Dollars and thirty-one cents (\$23,189.31) to be raised from taxes. The amendment was moved and passed.

Fire Chief Adam Thompson spoke to the need to replace the SCBA equipment. The ones that are currently being used are all due to expire in 2022. There will be a cost savings to replace all of them, instead of repairing. No discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) to purchase portable radios for the Fire Department. A grant in the amount of \$120,000 dollars has been applied for and if awarded the amount the Town will receive is \$90,000 dollars.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article and Bill Rollins seconded the motion. Chief Thompson has applied for the grant and will continue the discussion if the grant is not approved. They currently have 28 firefighters and don't have enough portable radios for everyone. They are using portable radios that were received through a grant in 2007. If this grant goes through, they will purchase 35 for the current firefighters and to allow for extras. No more discussions or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$124,625.00) to pay a third installment toward the fire truck acquired in 2018 as approved by voters pursuant to Article 6 of the 2018 Town Meeting. The principal amount is \$115,951.00 and the interest is \$8,674.00. This five-year lease agreement contains an escape clause.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Bill Marcussen moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded the motion. Adam Thompson explained that this is the third payment on the fire truck. The chief clarified that this is a lease to own payment. No more discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000.00) for the preparation and paving of Town Roads.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded the motion. Selectman Albee spoke to the motion advising that these costs include preparation of paving roads, including Dame Road, Shirley Way and Ledge Hill Road. Barry Ennis asked about the cost of asphalt. The quote from Carroll Paving reflects the price increase. This should be scheduled around June, not later in the year. No more questions or discussion. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for the Design and Permitting of the Lake Road Project.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Bill Marcussen moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded the motion. Selectman Marcussen explained that these plans are for the boat launch ramp in Melvin Village. The bulkhead has deteriorated and the funds are for design work to replace it. There is a DES permit for five years. No more discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000) to be deposited to the previously established Milfoil Expendable Trust Fund. All funds will be distributed from the Milfoil Joint Board. No funds to be raised by taxes.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Bill Marcussen moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded the motion. Selectman Marcussen explained that this request is to transfer funds between accounts, with no tax impact. No more discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to purchase land to add to the Great Meadow project. Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to come from Grants and Donations and Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) to be raised from taxes.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectmen Guy Pike moved the article and Gordon Hunt seconded the motion. Conservation Commission Chairman Steve Wingate presented information about the parcel in question which is between Melvin River and Sodom Road, adjacent to the trailhead. If approved, the commission would add a loop to the trail. The house on the land would be surveyed and the 2 acre parcel with the house remain on the tax rolls. Tax Collector Jackie Rollins stated that we should not be buying it, the town already owns the property and we should sub-divide and set a new boundary line. Selectman Marcussen explained that the town took the property by Tax Collector's deed. The law states that if the town sells the property, the back taxes are paid from the proceeds and the excess proceeds would go to the former owner. There were many questions about this and discussion about how to best move forward. Town Counsel Barbara Loughman clarified that the financial interest is the town's. Selectman Marcussen answered that the town had approached the owner with this offer. This article will secure the land for the Great Meadow, get the back taxes paid and allow the current owner to keep the house on the two acres. Jill Cromwell moved to call the question. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) for the purpose of completing improvements to the section of Willand Road that was approved for conversion from a Class VI to a Class V status by Article 24 of March 10th, 2020 Town Meeting. The sum to be paid by the property owners fronting said road through a betterment assessment as allowed by RSA 231:28 thru RSA 231:31.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0 and the Budget Committee)

The article was moved by Selectman Chip Albee and seconded by Steve Brinser. These funds will be used to complete the improvements done to get Willand Road up to Class V status. In 2020, the voters had approved reclassifying this road. Since improvements had not been done in the past, these repairs are needed now. The residents of Willand Road will pay back the town through a betterment assessment. Once the improvements are done and the road brought to a Class V status, the town will be responsible. No more discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a vote.

The article passed.

The results for Article 4 were presented – defeated with a 66 Yes and 99 No vote.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) to build and equip a new Police Facility. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of Six Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight dollars (\$664,258.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant and Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Two Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two dollars (\$285,742.00) to be raised from taxes. This article is contingent on Article 4 not passing. If article 4 passes, this article will be null and void.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article and Steve Brinser seconded. Selectmen Albee offered an amendment to update the dollar figures.

Amended Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,772,000) to build and equip a new Police Facility. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of Six hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$673,825.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. Three Hundred Forty-One Thousand Sixty-Three Dollars (\$341,063.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant. and Four Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$471,370.00) to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two dollars (\$285,742.00) to be raised from taxes. This article is contingent on Article 4 not passing. If article 4 passes, this article will be null and void.

The figures have been updated to included the current price proposal of \$1,772,000 and the updated grant money of \$341,063. Additional funding would come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. The amendment was seconded by Jill Cromwell. There was no discussion and the article was amended.

Discussion began with a question about how much money was in the Undesignated Fund Balance. Selectman Albee stated that at the end of 2019, there was about \$1,100,000. The 2020 audit is still going on, so those figures are not available yet, but expected to add \$150,000-200,000 to the fund. Department of Revenue Administration recommends maintaining at least 10% of the Operating Budget in the Undesignated Fund Balance. Concerns were expressed about the timing due to construction costs and whether there was a price guarantee for the facility. Selectman Albee stated that they are working to get a guaranteed price. If they were to go over, there would be a need to come back to the voters to approve additional funding. There was a discussion of the individual cost for this article at \$0.25 per \$1,000. For a home valued at \$300,000, the tax implication would be \$75 for one year. Joe Ewing moved to end discussion and vote. Jack Widmer seconded. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote. As the vote appeared close, Moderator Barnard asked for assistance counting the raised hands from Steve & Linda Brinser, Gordon Hunt and Chris Keating. The results of the vote were

YES – 98

NO – 54

The article passed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) to be added to the previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. This article is contingent on Article 4 and 5 not passing. If article 4 or 5 passes, this article will be null and void.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Since Article 5 passed, Article 6 became null and void. Selectman Bill Marcussen moved to strike the article. Steve seconded. All in favor.

Article 15: 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 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to put in the fund. Said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at year end will lapse into the general fund.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee)

Selectman Guy Pike moved the article, Selectman Chip Albee seconded. This is a yearly request to add money to the contingency fund for unanticipated expenses. No questions or discussion. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.

The article passed.

Article 16: To see if the Town would like to reinstate mixed paper recycling at the Tuftonboro Transfer Station commencing in 2022.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Selectman Bill Marcussen moved the article, seconded by Steve Brinser. There is interest in reinstating mixed paper recycling again at the transfer station. There are estimated costs to restart the program - \$45,000 for closed containers and the cost for additional manpower at the transfer station. Estimated savings in disposal costs would be \$5,000-7,500 per year. There was a discussion about the importance of paper recycling, with a reminder that we don't require it, but people want to do their part and this would be good for the environment. Gary Chehames reminded that this is to agree to reinstate the program, the budget committee would look closer at the true costs if the town approves. There is no funding attached to this article. No further questions or discussion. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.

The article passed.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint two (2) volunteer representatives from the Town to serve on the Carroll County Broadband "Communications District Planning Committee" for the purpose of drafting a "Communications District Agreement" under NH RSA Chapter 53-G:2, Communications District Planning Committee; Formation and Responsibilities.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article, seconded by Steve Brinser. No discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.

The article passed.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Four Million One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$4,195,600.00) for general Town Operations. The Selectmen recommended Four Million One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$4,196,100.00). This article does not include any special or individual warrant articles.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article, seconded by Steve Brinser. Gordon Hunt, Chair of the Budget Committee, indicated that the difference between the Budget Committee's recommended budget and the Selectman's recommendation was the cost of an outbuilding for Parks and Recreation. This is a minimal increase from last year's budget. There was no discussion or questions. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.

The article passed.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the Town of Tuftonboro to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Tuftonboro Selectmen to our state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (By Petition)

Ann Hackl moved the article, seconded by Jack Widmer. Ann spoke to the petitioned article indicating that this was to ensure a fair and open process when redistricting. Our NH State Representative, Glenn Cordelli, spoke against the article and felt it was unnecessary and just making a political statement. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.

The article failed.

Article 20: This warrant article is to have the Town of Tuftonboro, purchase property at North Country Village Cooperative, Inc. and each home owner can purchase their lot parcel at the assessed value. (By Petition)

Marilyn Stacy moved the article, seconded by Selectman Guy Pike. Marilyn Stacy feels that this proposal would be a better solution for residents, offering better services to those who live at North Country Village. Peter Billings from the Board of Directors at North Country Village advised that the mobile home park is not for sale. There are no funds attached to this article, the vote would be to authorize the town to purchase it. In the future, there would have to be a vote to appropriate money for the purchase. There were no other questions or comments. The Moderator reread the article and asked for a show of hands to vote on the article.


The article failed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 PM.

There were 167 voters in attendance, along with other observers.

I hereby attest to the minutes' authenticity and accuracy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Coulter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jennifer M. Coulter
Tuftonboro Town Clerk
May 19, 2021