

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
Annual Town Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016 – Town Elections

March 9, 2016 – Town Meeting

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Tuftonboro, County of Carroll, and State of New Hampshire on Tuesday, the eighth day of March 2016, at eight o'clock in the forenoon 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
William Marcussen	386
Write in	46

Budget Committee for Three Years	
Robert Theve	248
Garreth (Gary) A. Chehames	185
Alicia Gettman	182
John Libby	211
Write in	6

Moderator for Two Years	
Daniel F. Barnard, Jr.	423
Write in	7

Trustee of the Trust Funds for Three Years	
Chris Sawyer	306
Write in	28

Cemetery Trustee for Three Years	
Guy Pike	334
Write in	27

Library Trustee for Three Years	
Mary Ann Murray	389
Write in	18

Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years

Anne C. Hunt
Write in

423
4

March 9, 2016 – Tufonboro Central School

Moderator Daniel F. Barnard, Jr. called the second portion of the 2016 Annual Meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

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.

Mr. Barnard recognized Mr. Lee White who informed those in attendance that the 12th Annual Tufonboro Road Side clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th, starting at 8:00 AM. Bags and vests will be supplied. Those interested in helping can sign up at the Town Office. Heather Cubeddu, Town Clerk was also recognized by the Moderator and informed everyone about the Tufonboro Old Home Days events scheduled for August 26, 27 and 28th. Information will be posted around town and on the Town's website.

Moderator Barnard announced the results of the election on March 8th. The officers elected stood to be recognized. The Moderator announced that all the school district articles passed. The meeting then proceeded with the remaining articles of the Town warrant.

Chris Coulter made a motion to **“change the order of the articles to be presented this evening and move Article 9 to be considered first.”** The motion was seconded by Max Ledoux. Paul Thornton wanted to know the reasoning for the motion. Mr. Coulter explained that he felt it was important that we dealt with this article when we were fresh and ready. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to change the order of the articles and begin with Article #9. **The motion was passed.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Four Hundred Forty Three Thousand and Eight Dollars (\$3,443,008.00) for general Town Operations. The Selectmen recommended \$3,451,901.00. This article does not include any special or individual warrant articles addressed separately.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-3)

The article was moved by Gordon Hunt and seconded by Paul Thornton. Selectmen Carolyn Sundquist addressed the article explaining that the 2016 budget is up 5.6% not 9.1% which has been reported by some. The difference is \$184,337.00 with the amount to be raised by taxes is \$48,398.00.

Steve Brinser made a motion to amend article 9, ***“to change the total amount of the proposed operating budget to the sum of three million two hundred fifty three thousand six hundred seventy one dollars (\$3,253,671.00).”*** The motion was seconded. Mr. Brinser explained that over the past 5 years the budget has increased \$821,000.00 yet there has been no social security cost of living increases and he feels we are heading to a recession. Mr. Brinser does not feel it is a good time to increase the budget and the Town needs to keep spending under control. Others questioned where the cuts would come from. Carla Lootens, Budget Committee Chairperson, explained that during the budget process, no one reduced any of the Department budgets. She also explained that the Town is not a business and does not have a product it sells. The salaries and benefits of the employees are the cost to operate Town government. Fire Chief Adam Thompson explained that the Budget Committee requested the Town do an independent study to evaluate Town employees’ wages and benefits with other comparable towns. The increases are a result of that pay study and not something employees asked for. Others expressed concerns.

A motion was made by Wayne Black to call the question. The motion was seconded. The Moderator asked for a show of hands to vote on the amended article. **The amended article failed.**

The Moderator asked for any further discussion on Article 9 as written. Mr. Brinser presented the Moderator with a petition signed by 9 registered voters (voters names were read and asked if they were present) asking for the vote on Article 9 to be done by secret ballot. Article 9 was read once again by the Moderator and voters were instructed to use the blue yes/no ballot attached to the voting card and cast their ballot in the ballot box. Results of the secret ballot vote.

YES – 185 NO – 104

The article was declared passed.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000.00) to repair Lang Pond Road. One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to be raised from taxation..

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 7 – 0)

Selectmen Lloyd Wood moved the article and Paul Thornton seconded. Ben Ladd, Chairman of the Mirror Lake Watershed Committee gave some history about the

project. Lang Pond Road is unique having a 100 acre watershed on one side and a 321 acre lake on the other. The proposed work would replace 3 culverts, reshape the road bed, create a perched beach and pave a 200 ft. portion to prevent washouts, etc. Susan Weeks made a motion to amend the article by inserting ***“The contractor is to be designated following an open competitive bid process”***. The motion was seconded. The Moderator asked for any further discussion on the amendment. No further discussion. The Moderator re-read the amended article “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000.00) to repair Lang Pond Road. ***The contractor is to be designated following an open competitive bid process.*** One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to be raised from taxation”. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the amended article. **The amended article was declared passed.** No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the amended article. **The article with the amendment was declared passed.**

**Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be deposited into the previously established Library Capital Reserve Fund.
(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 4
- 3)**

The article was moved by Selectman Carolyn Sundquist and seconded by Ernie Carter. Selectman Sundquist explained that this money will add to the current balance in the library capital reserve fund of \$278,293.45. Chris Sawyer offered other suggestions rather than capital reserve. Paul Matlock, Library Trustee explained there are fundraising activities scheduled for this coming year including accepting pledges. Gordon Hunt, Library Trustee acknowledged the vote for a new library has not succeeded however the need exists and the Town should look to the future. Several people expressed concerns about expending money on a project that has failed to get a super majority vote as needed. A motion was made to call the question. The motion was seconded. A petition was submitted to the Moderator with the signatures of 7 registered voters (voters names were read and asked if they were present) requesting a secret ballot for Article 3. The Moderator re-read the article and voters were instructed to use the red yes/no ballot attached to their voting card and place their ballot in the ballot box. Results of the secret vote.

YES – 161 NO – 105

The article was declared passed.

**Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be deposited into the previously established Police Department Facility Capital Reserve Fund.
(Majority vote required)**

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

Selectman Lloyd Wood moved the article and Carla Lootens seconded. Guy Pike expressed concern about putting money in a capital reserve account when there is no plan or project on the horizon. Mr. Pike feels the Police Department project is tied with the stagnant library project. No further discussion. A petition was submitted to the Moderator with the signatures of 8 registered voters (voters names were read and asked if they were present) requesting a secret ballot for Article 4. The Moderator re-read the article and voters were instructed to use the yellow yes/no ballot attached to their voting card and place their ballot in the ballot box. Results of the secret vote.

YES – 142 NO – 95

The article was declared passed.

Jill Cromwell made a motion ***“to restrict reconsideration of all votes previously taken tonight”***. Paul Thornton seconded the motion. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion. **The motion was declared passed.**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$235,000.00) for the paving and improvement of Town Roads.

(Majority vote required)

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 7
– 0)**

Selectman Dan Duffy moved the article. Ernie Carter seconded the motion. Selectman Duffy informed voters the work to be done will be reclaiming and paving Union Wharf Road and top coating 1/3 of Sodom Road. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on Article 5. **The article was passed.**

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$260,000.00 for the purpose of leasing a Rescue Vehicle for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,641.00 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 7-0)

A motion was made by Dan Duffy and seconded by Carla Lootens. Selectman Duffy asked Fire Chief Adam Thompson to address the article. The current rescue vehicle is 15 years old and goes out to 95-97% of all calls. Bob McWhirter asked if the current

rescue vehicle would be traded or sold and Chief Thompson indicated the current vehicle would not be kept but unsure if they will trade or sell it privately. Barry Ennis expressed concerns about spending and felt the current vehicle was fine. Carla Lootens did indicate that about \$6,000.00 in repairs are necessary to fix issues with the lights and the back springs. Susan Weeks and Russ Baerenklau also expressed concerns. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands to vote on the article. **The article was declared passed.**

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$165,000.00 for the purpose of leasing an Ambulance for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,775.00 for the first year's payment for that purpose. The lease agreement contains an escape clause.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and not recommended by the Budget Committee 3 - 4)

The article was moved by Selectman Dan Duffy and seconded by Gordon Hunt. Selectman Duffy asked Fire Chief Adam Thompson to address the article. Chief Thompson expressed concern about private ambulance services indicating many are going out of business or significantly increasing their prices. The Town currently pays \$183,060.00 per year for one dedicated ambulance. The Town has already had one ambulance company leave the Town in the middle of their contract. Chief Thompson cited several occasions when a second ambulance would have been helpful. If a second ambulance is needed it must come from either Wakefield, Tamworth, Alton or Laconia. The Town has personnel to man the ambulance. Tim Brown felt current providers of our ambulance service may think twice before raising prices if we had our own ambulance. Selectman Lloyd Wood indicated that the ambulance would be 4-wheel drive and they will also look at used vehicles as well. Guy Pike and Marilyn Stacy both expressed concerns on the expense and don't feel the Town needs it. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a show of hands to vote on the article. **The article was declared passed.**

Article 8: 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) for said purpose. Said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. 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 4 - 3)

Selectmen Lloyd Wood moved the article and Sarah Coplestone seconded. Selectman Wood explained this allows the Town to have a contingency fund for

unanticipated expenses. No discussion or questions. The Moderator asked for a show of hands to vote on the article. **The article was declared passed.**

Pat Cookson thanked the Board of Selectmen and all the Boards and Committees in Town for their work. Guy Pike and John Simms both expressed their thanks to Dan Duffy for serving as Selectman for 9 years and Mr. Simms also thanked Betsy Thornton for serving as Supervisor of the Checklist for 22 years.

A motion was made by Gordon Hunt and seconded by Robert Lootens to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 PM. There were approximately 301 people in attendance.

I hereby attest to the minutes' authenticity and accuracy.
Respectfully submitted,

Heather K. Cubeddu
Tuftonboro Town Clerk
March 23, 2016