

Town Meeting Minutes State of New Hampshire Town of Northumberland

To the inhabitants of the Town of Northumberland, Coos County and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Northumberland Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square on the second Tuesday in March next, March 12, 2019, to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. You are hereby warned that on said date and at said place the polls will be opened at **11:00** in the forenoon and will remain open until **7:00** in the evening for the reception of your ballots on Articles 1 through 3 under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on Saturday, March 16, 2019 and at the Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium in said Town at **10:00** in the forenoon, the matter of appropriations and such other business properly coming before said meeting will be taken up for your consideration and action.

The Annual Town Meeting Election for the Town of Northumberland and the Northumberland School District was declared opened at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, March 12, 2019 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young also announced that the absentee ballots would be processed at 1:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed and the counting process began.

303 ballots were cast. (25 absentee, 278 Election Day)

School Ballot Results:

Moderator: Keith Young 82 (Write in)

Clerk: Kathy Wiles 43 (Write in)

Treasurer: Melody Barney 283

Board of Education: Louise Collins 218, Jessica Riendeau 186, Jesse Hern 105

The business meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on March 16, 2019 by Moderator Keith Young at the Groveton High School gymnasium. Moderator Young led the attendees in honoring our nation's colors with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Young went over the common sense guidelines of his meeting. There were 82 registered voters in attendance with approximately 100 citizens in total attendance.

Prior to the Town Meeting being called to order, Tammy Letson from Crane and Bell hosted a PowerPoint of Tax Rate Setting 101 for the voters.

*Articles 1-3 were printed on the official ballot.

***Article 1:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing three years: one Selectman, Library Trustee, Trustee of Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustee.

Results:

Selectman: James Weagle 161, Alan Rossetto 129

Library Trustee: Mark Robinson 264

Cemetery Trustee: Thomas Covell 281

Trustee of Trust Funds: Heidi Platt 278

***Article 2:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing two years: one Library Trustee.

Results: Donna Hamilton 286

***Article 3:** Are you in favor of adopting an amendment to the Town Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Town Planning Board, to insert new language in Section 4.17 Small Wind Energy Systems which would exempt those systems with a height of 40 ft. or less from the regulations of site plan review and conditional use permit?

Results:

Yes 168

No 72

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$405,604 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be offset by the water user fees. Any shortfalls in the water user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the “regular water account”. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: no discussion. Article 4 passed as read.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358,208 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be offset by the sewer user fees. Any shortfall in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the “regular sewer account”. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Christopher Wheelock

Second: James Weagle

Discussion: No discussion. Article 5 passed as ready.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,490,853 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: no discussion. Article 6 passed as read.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 dollars to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds at the amounts shown:

Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001	\$ 10,000
Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009	\$100,000
Municipal Buildings CRF, established 2010	\$ 10,000

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: No discussion. Article 7 passed as read.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,719 dollars to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents the 2018 scrap metal sales). (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: no discussion. Article 8 passed as read.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,235 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1990. This sum is to come from the surplus fund balance from revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2018 fiscal year. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Selectman Christopher Wheelock made a motion to amend the amount to read "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2422 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1990. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Michael Phillips seconded it. Vote to amend article passed.

Article 9 passed as amended.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,004 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency	\$12,759
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action (Energy Services)	\$ 4,225
Senior Meals of Coos County-Meals on Wheels	\$ 1,970
Tri-County Transit	\$ 2,500
American Red Cross NH & VT Region	\$ 2,200
Center for New Beginnings	\$ 500
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,219
Caleb Caregivers	\$ 2,000
Coos ServiceLink Resource Center	\$ 2,600
St Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program	\$ 931
Project Homebound	\$ 1,000

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: No discussion. Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Senior Fellowship Program for 2019. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: No discussion. Article 11 passed as read.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of the unused portion of the bond approved in 2017 for the utility easement and the construction of a water connection and to raise and appropriate \$200,000 in unused bond proceeds for matching funds for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant received per RSA 33:3-a,II. No amount of money needs to be raised by taxation. This article is contingent upon Article 13 passing. (2/3 ballot vote required) (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Ballot vote. Yes 74 No 3. Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$800,000 dollars for the construction/reconstruction of sidewalks and curbing in Groveton, with \$800,000 dollars to come from a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant all ready received. This article is contingent upon the approval of Article #12 (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Article 13 passed as read.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of purchase, construction and maintenance of recreation facilities and to raise and appropriate \$5,000 dollars to put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further to name the Recreation Commission as agents to expend from said fund. (Recommend by Board of Selectman 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: Article 14 passed as read.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5 year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$175,516 dollars for the purpose of purchasing a new plow truck with snow removal package. The cost of the contract is as follows:

2019 - \$37,902.28

2020 - \$37,902.28

2021 - \$37,902.28

2022 - \$37,902.28

2023 - \$37,902.28

And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,902.28 dollars for the first year's payment for 2019. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape/non funding clause. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 3 year installment sale in the amount of \$87,000 dollars for the purpose of purchasing three (3) Zoll Defibrillator Units. The cost of the contract is as follows:

2019 - \$29,000

2020 - \$29,000

2021 - \$29,000

And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000 dollars for the first year's payment for 2019. This installment sale contains a non-appropriation clause. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: Article 16 passed as read.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 dollars for the purpose of a water/sewer engineering study. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Article 17 passed as read.

Article 18: Shall the Town accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-c providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: Article 18 passed as read.

Article 19: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d authorizing indefinitely until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose? Prior to the acceptance of a gift valued at over \$5,000 dollars the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips

Second: James Weagle

Discussion: No discussion. Article 19 passed as read.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to accept gifts of personal property, other than cash, to the municipality for any public purposes. This authorization, in accordance with RSA 31:95-e, shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting. (Recommend by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: Article 20 passed as read.

Article 21: Shall the Town vote to ratify and clarify the Recreation Revolving Fund established at the 1996 Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 35-B:2 II so that the money received by the Town from all recreation activities, events, or trips will be deposited into the fund. These funds may be expended only for the purposes authorized in RSA 35-B and no expenditures shall be made in such a way as to require that the expenditure of other Town funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose. 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 or the Town's general surplus. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Recreation Commission and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Article 21 passed as read.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to approve money being expended out of the operating budget to paint all crosswalks with a solid center. To be done annually in the spring. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion: Donald Cheney

Second: Kathy Frechette

Discussion: Article 22 failed.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 80:80 (I) and (III) indefinitely, until rescinded authorizing the Board of Selectmen to sell tax deeded property. If approved by affirmative vote of the Town Meeting, RSA 80:80 (I) would provide the Board of Selectmen with the ability to convey property, taken by tax deed, either by public auction or by advertised sealed bids. Additionally, an affirmative vote would also allow, pursuant to RSA 80:80 (III), the ability of the Board of Selectmen to dispose of such tax deeded property as justice may require. In order for the Board to undertake the authority under RSA 80:80 (III), the Board of Selectmen must make an affirmative finding that neither method, under RSA 80:80 (I) [public auction nor sealed bid], would be in the public interest. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Christopher Wheelock

Second: James Weagle

Discussion: Article 23 passed as read.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to accept a section of the Brown Road as a Class V road. This section of road begins at Station 0 where US Route 3 and the Southerly entrance to the Brown Road intersect continuing Westerly where it ends at Station 530 where the Brown Road and Craggy Road intersect. This acceptance and layout of this portion of the Brown Road shall begin, by the Town, upon completion of Phase I and II road upgrades by the State of New Hampshire. If the Town Meeting accepts this segment of the Brown Road as a Class V, the Town shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of same until the road is either reclassified or discontinued at some point in the future. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Christopher Wheelock

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: No discussion. Article 24 passed as read.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Christopher Wheelock

Discussion: No discussion. Article 25 passed as read.

Article 26: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: No discussion. Article 26 passed as read.

Article 27: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

Discussion: Article 27 passed as read.

Motion to adjourn: James Weagle

Second: Michael Phillips

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by Moderator Keith Young on March 16, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Kennett

Certified Town Clerk
Town of Northumberland