

**State of New Hampshire
Town of Northumberland
2009 Results of Town Meeting**

At 9:00 AM on 3/10/2009 Moderator Tippitt announced:

“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 Groveton High School Ryan’s Auditorium in said Town on the second Tuesday in March next, March 10, 2009, 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 **9:00** in the forenoon and will remain open until **5:00** in the afternoon for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on said date and at said place, at 7:00 in the evening, 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 for the Town of Northumberland was opened at 9:00 AM Tuesday, March 10, 2009 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Tippitt announced that the absentee ballots would be opened at 1 PM.

The business meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Moderator Tippitt leading residents with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The results of the ballot vote and Town Meeting are:

Ballots cast: 288 Regular and 27 Absentee for a total of 315

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

Selectman: Mario Audit 267 votes
Library Trustee: Sally Frizzell 294
Trustee of Trust Funds: Joel Kennett 281
Nancy Merrow (Write-in) 32
Theresa Brooks (Write-in) 48

***Article 2: To** choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing two years: two Budget Committee.

Barry Colebank 208
Tom LeDuc Jr (Write-in) 23~4/8/09 declined position. Budget committee will appoint at their next meeting for the remainder of the year.

***Article 3: To** choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing one-year: two Budget Committee.

Budget Committee: Moira Bundschuh 205 and Michael Phillips (Write-in) 23

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,687 dollars to

purchase and outfit one new police cruiser. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brian Sullivan asked what the tax impact would be to the town? James Tierney said that it would be approximately 18 cents. James explained that DRA recommended that the tax impact wasn't in the Town Report because the tax rate is not set until October and it could change what was published. Arnold Tilton asked how many cruisers we had in town and what would we do with the oldest one. Marcel explained that there were 2 cruisers. The oldest one is a 2004 and it would be sold.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 4 passed as read.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Early Rubbish Removal, for the purpose of curbside garbage pick-up. The contract is for 3 years, beginning with Town Meeting 2009 and ending with Town Meeting 2012. The cost of the contract is as follows:

2009	\$54,600
2010	\$67,600
2011	\$67,600
2012	\$13,000

Additionally, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,600 dollars for the 2009 budget year. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Ronald Caron to accept the article as read.

Discussion: Barbara Benoit asked if anyone else bid on this. James Tierney responded that yes they were the only one to bid and it was \$150 a week hike. Barbara commented that they needed to do a better job. Arnold Tilton suggested that a one-year contract might be a better idea due to the financial crisis in the area. James Tierney responded that the one year contract was more expensive and that the contract was \$1355 per week for the first year, \$1325 per week the second year and the third year is \$1300 per week. To go just with one year would be \$2310 more. Arnold Tilton and James Tierney discussed the increase per year. The first year was lower due to the contract only being from Town Meeting date on and the other two years were for the whole year up to the Town Meeting date. Uldric Bernard said that if Early decided to leave then we would have no one and wanted to know what kind of assurance we had. James Tierney responded that they got paid on a weekly basis so if they decided to go, they wouldn't get paid. He added that no one else responded to the RFP for pick up. Ann Pelchat asked why the decrease. James Tierney said that it was 10 weeks because of the Town Meeting date. Uldric Bernard asked why can't everyone just bring their own rubbish to the dump and have no more curbside? James Tierney said that if we voted NO then the curbside would be done as of Thursday. Uldric Bernard asked in a year do we have a contract? James Tierney said that we had a contract with Early unless it's breached. Barbara Benoit added that she didn't think that it was right that they crossed back and forth to pick up the trash and wanted to know why they could do that. James Tierney said that he could only guess to save gas and it wasn't illegal to cross the road. They were simply crossing the street. Brian Sullivan wanted to know if driving on the wrong side of the road was legal. James Tierney said the postal services does it. Terrance Bedell made a motion to move the question and seconded by Harry Lee Rice Jr.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 5 passed as read.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Commerford, Nieder and Perkins, LLC for assessing services. The contract is for 5 years, beginning with Town Meeting 2009 and ending with Town Meeting 2014. The cost of the contract is as follows:

Year 1	\$25,500	(already included in the operating budget)
Year 2	\$27,500	
Year 3	\$30,500	
Year 4	\$34,500	
Year 5	\$39,000	

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Rob Larson and seconded by Ronald Caron to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank wondered why article 7 is lower than article 6. James Tierney answered that article 7 is the current assessor. The town's people had indicated that they were not happy with their work so it was put out for bid. James added that they got five returns on the RFP's. Going through the RFP's the company in article 6 are the one's the Selectmen chose to recommend. Purvis was the lowest price and the lowest by a long shot and added that you get what you pay for. He said that the others were \$150,000-\$190,000. He said that the company in article 6 were former DRA employees and he can't say the same for everyone else. He agreed that they were more expensive than Purvis, article 7. Mr. Tierney suggested to the residents that if they were not happy with Purvis than to vote for article 6. Tierney added that if they wanted to save money than to vote for article 7. Rob Larson added that the town has a conflict with CAT finance and that Purvis didn't want to defend his own numbers. He feels that they do not deserve the contract. Diane Berube asked if we were getting another assessment? James Tierney replied to her that we have to get one every five years. Lorna Aldrich wanted to know what the tax impact on both was. James Tierney responded that it would be 18 cents per thousand, which is already in the operating budget, and that Purvis would be 13 cents per thousand. Christopher Canton asked if the new assessors did commercial properties. James Tierney said that yes they did assess commercial. Tracy Morrill wanted to know if this was already in the budget. James Tierney said that the bigger one is in the budget. Rob Larson made a motion to move the question and seconded by Gary Normandeau.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 6 passed as read.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Brett S. Purvis & Associates, Inc. for assessing services. The contract is for 5 years, beginning with Town Meeting 2009 and ending with Town Meeting 2014. The cost of the contract is as follows:

Year 1	\$18,000	(already included in the operating budget)
Year 2	\$18,000	
Year 3	\$18,000	
Year 4	\$18,000	
Year 5	\$27,600	

(Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded Paula Colebank to pass over article 7

Voice vote. Article 7 passed over.

PASSED OVER BECAUSE ARTICLE 6 PASSED

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Normandeau Trucking, Inc. for the purpose of solid waste transportation from the Town Transfer Station. The contract is for 3 years, beginning with Town Meeting 2009 and ending with Town Meeting 2012. The cost of the contract is as follows:

Year 1	\$30,000 estimate	(already included in the operating budget)
Year 2	\$30,750	
Year 3	\$32,226	

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0-1) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by James Tierney and seconded by Ronald Caron to accept article as read.

Discussion: Rob Larson said that article 9 was the same contract and that it was a little cheaper with Mr. Beattie. Normandeau had done this for years and had done an extremely satisfying job and always compliant. He added that his business is here and had been for a good number of years. Mr. Larson felt that it was important to keep the business in town and the employees in town. He also pointed out that Normandeau's registrations were done here in town and that there were about a dozen of them. Larson said that Mr. Beattie had lost his contract in his own hometown of Lancaster and Normandeau had satisfactorily been meeting that contract in that town. Mr. Larson recommended article 8. Lorna Aldrich said that if we were trying to save money why would we go with the higher bidder. Aldrich added that normally you would go with the lower bidder. Aldrich noted that Beattie was also local and did a terrific job for the mill and thought it was a shame to pay more for the higher bid. Denise Normand asked Mr. Larson why Mr. Beattie lost the contract in Lancaster. Mr. Larson replied that the Town Office in Lancaster had informed him that Beattie had gone 40% over the budget after the 1st year and then 45% over budget the second year and lost his contract the 3rd year. Larson added that he wasn't privy to the details all he knew is what he was told in his research. Ronald Caron added that the Budget Committee had discussed this a lot. Mr. Caron said as a business owner in town himself he is constantly asked for a donation. Normandeau puts ads in the yearbooks and as far back to his yearbook in 1982 there was an ad and Beattie was not. Groveton had never had a problem with Normandeau's service and he would like to see the money kept in town. Mr. Caron said as a community we need to try and support our local people. Caron added said that they have yet to see a problem with Normandeau's service. Caron said that Normandeau was a little bit more but it was well worth it to keep our money in town. Brian Hurlbutt stated that Normandeau was doing Lancaster for cheaper than they were doing Groveton. Hurlbutt added that they have cut us no breaks. Normandeau charged Lancaster \$175 per load with no fuel surcharge. Hurlbutt added that they were charging us \$205 per load plus a \$6 fuel surcharge. Rob Larson asked if they hauled to the same place and Hurlbutt replied that they did. Amanda King asked if Normandeau had gone over budget. Mr. Larson replied that they had not. Lorna Aldrich asked Mr. Larson how he would know. James Tierney said that Normandeau's bid was an estimate, an under guess and they could go over and asked if anyone ever could say that they don't. Whoever has done a budget could guess wrong. Fuel surcharges could sometimes cause anyone to go over budget. Amanda King asked if they had a history of going over budget would they be responsible for what was over. James Tierney replied that they had no over budget history. Gloria White stated that Normandeau was here. White added that they pay taxes here and they register their vehicles here. She recommended that we keep the business here. Michael Phillips said that we needed to get better at recycling which equals less loads and that would save us money. He received a hearty round of applause for his statement. Suzanne Batchelder asked if the bids were negotiable and would Normandeau match Beattie. James Tierney said that they both sent their bids. Norman Cotter asked if the figures evaluated on were based on number of loads and wondered if the price could go down. Rose Roberge added that she thought the business should be kept in town.

Motion made by Michael Gagnon and seconded by Allan Holmes to move the question. Voice vote. Question moved. Voice vote. Article 8 passed as read.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Beattie Enterprises, for the purpose of solid waste transportation from the Town Transfer Station. The contract is for 3 years, beginning with Town Meeting 2009 and ending with Town Meeting 2012. The cost of the contract is as follows:

Year 1	\$26,400 estimate (already included in the operating budget)
Year 2	\$27,852

Year 3 \$29,328
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Ronald Caron to pass over. Voice vote. Article 9 passed over.

PASSED OVER BECAUSE ARTICLE 8 PASSED

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$416,970 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 the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Norman Cotter wanted to know if this meant our water rate could go up or down. James Tierney answered that yes it could go up or down. Tierney said that this was for \$2000 less than what was actually spent in 2008. Winston Hawes wanted to know if the extra funds ever made their way to those accounts, meaning water and sewer. James Tierney answered that they were done monthly. He added that money was taken in on a daily basis and put into the general fund and at the end of each month is transferred to their prospective accounts. William Everleth asked how much was in the surplus account. James Tierney responded as of the end of February there was \$205,424 in the water surplus account and a deposit was made March 1st. Addison Hall wondered if the mill cutting back on their usage would affect the budget in any way. James Tierney replied that it wouldn't affect the water but it would the sewer because they were knocking out 70 units, which is about \$6500 per quarter. Addison Hall asked if the sewer rate would go up. James Tierney said that probably yes it would be going up and also the water maybe because the mill is not using as much. James added that the water usage was steadily falling and everyone picked up the cost to pay for our fixed costs. He added that the revenue from the mill is gone.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$289,582 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be offset by the sewer user fees. Any shortfalls in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular sewer account". (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard asked how much surplus does the town plan to carry in the budget. James Tierney answered that he didn't understand what he meant. Uldric Bernard asked if \$200,000 was the baseline and wanted to know what the Selectmen planned on keeping in the budget. James Tierney replied that basically the water department had \$205,000 in it and sewer had \$276,000 in it. He added that the sewer department owes \$333,317 from being transferred back and forth over the years with the water department. Tierney added that the sewer department was going to start paying its bills out of the accumulated surplus. The remaining balance would then be transferred to the water department to boost its reserves. Sewer would then have \$63-64,000 in it as it still owes the water department \$112,000. He stated that there will be a surplus in it to cover expenses and the same with water. Uldric Bernard asked if the water account would have \$500-600,000 in it? James Tierney replied that there would be about \$500,000. Uldric Bernard asked what we would do with all that money. James Tierney replied that it would be used to keep the water rates down. He added that a large

amount would be used so that the rate wouldn't go up. Tierney said that the general fund may have to borrow some so that there is no TAN note and when the money is gone we will have to borrow money and pay the interest. Uldric Bernard asked if we pay ourselves interest. James Tierney answered that we didn't. Kathy Frechette asked if there was a break in the water line do we take it from surplus and James Tierney replied that it came from the operating budget.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 11 passed as read.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Cal Ripken Baseball program, to be used to cover accident and liability insurance, tournaments and registration fees. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Rob Larson and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Ronald Caron said the budget committee decided to go against this because it was already in the Recreation Department budget. Christopher Canton said that the Cal Ripkin isn't part of the Rec. department but that Babe Ruth used to be. Ronald Caron said that on the line item 864 in the Rec. department is now \$2500 for Cal Ripkin. Suzanne Batchelder said that she ran the Cal Ripkin league for 7 years there was no involvement in the Rec. department. If it was in the Rec. department then that department would govern it and that the checking account for Cal Ripkin was not tied in with the town money. Ronald Caron said that we charge water and sewer to earmark it. Suzanne Batchelder said that the uniforms, caps and such came from their own checking account. Batchelder added that the account was set up for Cal Ripkin. Tracey Morrill said that \$750 in the budget was spent on Babe Ruth. Lorna Aldrich said that Babe Ruth and Cal Ripkin are not the same. Tracey asked what was actually spent out of the budget. Rob Larson made a motion to move the question. Mario Audit seconded it. Voice vote. Question moved.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,735,277 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed, except as noted in Articles 5, 6, 15 and 16. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: James Tierney made a motion to amend the budget to \$1,731,577.00 because of taking the Cal Ripkin out of the operating budget plus the money saved on printing the town reports. Ronald Caron seconded it. Voice vote. Amendment to article 13 passed.

Discussion to the amendment: Uldric Bernard stated that he had several questions. Bernard wanted to know about the zeros in the budget. James Tierney explained that the changes were due to the personnel administration moving to the right lines. Correct lines were created in each department and those amounts were moved to that. Uldric Bernard said that the government building changed \$48,000 by an increase and what was that from. James Tierney said that the change was due to a \$50,000 sewer charge to the Town of Northumberland. Approximately 60,000,000 were pumped every year. He added that the sewer was processing 105-110,000,000 gallons per year so the difference is billed to the town. This is due to drained connected to the sewer system and that the town was treating water run off. This wasn't due always to storm drains it was the whole town so the charge was to assist in treating the water. Uldric Bernard asked why the police went up \$67,000. James Tierney said that the full time wage went up \$18,000 and they are down to 2, that's it, the Chief and Chuck. Tierney added

that they have 2 possibilities and you need to add health insurance, workman's comp, unemployment is up and pension for full timers. Uldric Bernard wanted to know why the ambulance went up \$20,000. James Tierney explained that the expenses went up that much and it was hard to figure because you can't figure out how many calls you are going to have. He said that the revenue was coming in but the costs are up. Uldric Bernard wanted to know why solid waste went up \$23,000 and James Tierney said he was confused because it went down not up. James Tierney suggested that Uldric Bernard turn to page 62 of the Town Report. Tom Grimes made note that the articles that James Tierney had mentioned earlier did not add up correctly. The figures were adjusted correctly with a motion by James Tierney and second by Allen Holmes. Amanda King wondered if the two new full time officers would offset the amount of part time officers or is this in addition to the part time officers. Chief Marcel Platt responded that this was in addition to. Platt said that there would be 4 full time people plus 10 part timers and 14 was correct. Michael Gagnon asked for an explanation from the budget committee as to what the process was for coming up with this budget and could they clarify it. Ronald Caron thanked everyone for the opportunity, as it was very educational. He added that the committee met endlessly throughout the year and that they had scrutinized every budget and they were at a learning curve. Caron said that he was very disappointed and had expected a lot more support. Caron added that getting on a budget committee would make it easier but they were met with resistance and now is getting some support. He said that the budget committee was going to amend this budget but the night of the workshop they were met with some resistance and they felt as though they were not doing their job. He added that the fact of the matter was they had cut \$430,000 in the last two years. Caron said that he felt the town, as a group needs to save the town. He suggested that everyone ask questions about the budgets and gather information. He said that he could go on endlessly about this. Caron added that the concerned citizens group had cut \$20,000 from the budget for sidewalks and that it was there this year to be voted on.

No further discussion. Voice vote. The amended article 13 passed.

Article 14: To disband the "Budget Committee" and allow the elected school board members and the elected selectmen to oversee their respective budgets. (Ballot vote is required) (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Lorna Aldrich and seconded by Rose Roberge to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard said that he believes that the budget committee was set up to help and that the people on it pitched in to help. Uldric wanted to tell the crowd that he commended the people for their efforts and hoped that the town voted to keep the budget committee. Barry Colebank said that last year he was not in favor for a committee but a majority of the town wanted it. He said that he now feels that he thinks the process actually helps people on the floor if the budget committee approves something. Barry added that he felt that they were hurting no one. He said that he put his name on the ballot and ready to put time into the group. Timothy Woodward asked how much the budget committee got paid. Rob Larson told him zero. Tracey Morrill wanted to comment that the questions asked today were certainly better answered this year. Nancy Merrow said that as a member she didn't scrutinize anyone's budget. She answered and asked lots of questions and being on the budget committee has been an eye opener. She suggested to everyone to keep the committee going and added that if you are not a member to at least go to the meetings. Mrs. Merrow said the answers were all there but they had a format to answer them. Merrow said that asking questions does not mean scrutinized. If the committee didn't survive then go to the meetings and ask the questions. Samantha Canton said that she did appreciate the budget committee. She added that the townspeople all had the right to go at anytime to the town or school meetings on their own and that the budget committee wasn't needed in a small community. She added that she felt like everything was asked and redone over and over and over again. She said that she didn't need a budget committee to ask questions

that we can ask ourselves. David Hurlbutt commented on Mrs. Canton's remarks and said that if reinventing the wheel was the case that he didn't need to be there and received a round of applause. He added that no one liked to be looked at over their shoulder but tend to do better work when someone else is looking over their shoulder and that was just the way it is. He went on to say that they had quite a few committees previously in town. He said that George Ververis, Pop Langley and Lyle Hersom used to inform them on what was going on. Hurlbutt said that now that they are gone it had been a few years since anyone could do that. Hurlbutt said that they had a revaluation shoved down their throat. Town's people tried to talk to the selectmen and no one would listen. He went on to say that then the citizens group was formed and came and did what George and Pop used to do. He said that the town had budget cuts and survived and didn't fall apart. He said the budget committee had the information so he felt we needed to let it grow. Dave Miles asked if a no vote would mean you support the budget committee and Moderator Tippitt replied that a yes vote would disband the committee and a no vote would keep the committee. Alan Merrow said that it wasn't required to leave the polls open for the hour. James Tierney responded that according to RSA 32:14 III that the voting by ballot had to be open not less than 1 hour so it was required for this by law. Moderator Tippitt then opened the polls at 8:25 PM.

No further discussion. Ballot vote. Results were YES 67 and NO 161. Article 14 defeated.

The Employee of the Year award was giving to Rebecca Craggy and also two retirement plaques were given to Lloyd Tippitt and Richard Marshall for their years of service to the town.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building and maintaining the roads within the Town. Further, the fund may be used for the construction and maintenance of ditching, swales and catch basins needed for storm water drainage. Additionally, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 dollars to be placed in said fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,769 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Senior Meals	\$16,000
Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$ 1,650
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,025
Weeks Med Ctr Home Health & Hospice Services	\$12,387
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$ 500
American Red Cross	\$ 1,107

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

Motion made by Rob Larson and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Florence Dupuis asked how come the senior meals was \$16,000 and thought that last year it was less but James Tierney said that last year was \$16,000. John Normand replied that article 26 was the senior meals in Whitefield.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 16 passed as read.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of construction and equipment purchases necessary for the improved operation and expansion of the Town Transfer Station. The proceeds from the sale of scrap metals at the Transfer Station and Town Landfill are to be placed into this fund by means of a warrant article submitted at the next Town Meeting following the scrap metal sales. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Paula Colebank asked that after town meeting would this be put in. James Tierney said that is exactly what that means. Tierney said that any sales made will be deposited in the trust fund and we are not raising any money for now. He added that at the next town meeting we would vote on x amount of dollars being deposited in the trust fund. William Everleth asked where the money now goes. James Tierney responded that it goes to the general fund.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 17 passed as read.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to institute a "Pay as you throw" garbage collection program. The program will cost extra above the annual costs of curbside pick-up. The proceeds from the sale of bags will offset the costs of the Solid Waste Department. The extra costs are as follows:

2009	\$10,920
2010	\$13,520
2011	\$13,520
2012	\$ 2,600

Additionally to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,920 for the 2009 budget year. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: William Osgoode wanted to pass this over. He said that this has been tried this back years and years ago and it didn't work. Emily Langford added that before we pass this over she feels that it would offset article 5. She used to live in Lancaster and the system in place there is like this and it works very well. She added that people who don't recycle will pay more and asked everyone to take a good look at this. James Tierney said that Dennis Patnaude who runs the Lancaster one came last week and gave an informational meeting. He added that in Lancaster's case they sent some 1500 tons of garbage before they started pay per bag that dropped to 510 tons, which is a 2/3 reduction. He said that garbage right now costs us \$67 per ton and feels that a \$53,000 savings in tipping fees in a year could happen not to mention a reduction in transportation fees. James added that recycling went up by 600 tons and said that Mr. Patnaude has no idea where 400 tons of garbage went and it wasn't beside the road. James Tierney said that 400 tons of garbage on the side of the road would be noticeable. He added that people started being careful. Tierney thirty-three gallon bag would be \$1.50 and a 20-gallon bag would be \$1.25. Tierney added that revenue would be money to the town to offset taxes. Tierney said that it this would start around June 1st and October, November and December and would be revenue to the town when the tax rate is set in October. He added that bags would be sold in stores and that it has to be a Northumberland bag or it would cost \$2.00 to drop. He added that there would be no more dump stickers and curbside pick up would still be there but that they would only pick up the Northumberland labeled bag. Tierney said that the bags, full, can't weigh any more than 50 pounds. Arnold Tilton said that it would cost him around \$150 a year. James Tierney said that the amount it will cost a family depends on how much trash you put out and what you do with your trash. Rob Larson said that he knows of a situation and has confirmed it that 2 or 3 people will create 1-2 bags per week and knows of a family of 2 or 3 that has 12-15 bags of trash because they were coming from Maidstone,

Guildhall and Lancaster to leave their trash for us to pick up and pay for. He added that this wasn't working and we are paying for other people's trash. He wants to get this program going to offset taxes. Rob added that each house could figure their own plan and it would encourage recycling. He said that AVAARD makes money from us. He added that we could recycle more and make more money for ourselves to get our bond paid down. He said that if we are paying \$80,000 a year tipping fees that it can be reduced to \$53,000 if everyone participates and if we didn't like it after a year to go back to the dump sticker method. Rob assured the people that they would see a dramatic savings on the tax base. Sally Frizzell asked if anyone was going to come out of the shack at the transfer station and actually watch. James Tierney that the town will be charging \$2.00 a bag and not stopping anyone from leaving it unless it has the Northumberland stamp on it. He assured Mrs. Frizzell that no one would be sitting in the shack. John Normand asked about how we would handle dumpsters or big items of garbage and wondered if that would have to go in bags as well. Rob Larson responded that we had to come up with a method to calculate new charges. Larson said commercial accounts with Northumberland bags would be fine and they had a tonnage charge that they already pay for with their dumpster. John Normand asked where it comes from. Suzanne Batchelder said that she had a 30 yard dumpster and already paid for tipping fees so wondered if she would have to have the special bags too. James Tierney responded that she already paid a tipping fee. Suzanne said that residence and commercial were different. James Tierney said that the businesses didn't come to the transfer station. Suzanne said that the town was double dipping her. James responded that the taxes were going to go down. Suzanne said that the town needed to think of her business and other businesses because everyone was going to bring their stuff and dump it into her dumpster and she is the one who pays Normandeau. Terrance Bedell asked the selectmen if we passed this tonight would the budgets for Lisa and Kerry at the schools be affected and would it increase and did we have enough to cover? James Tierney said that the first year we need to eat it. He added that it was much like when we started billing the school for water and sewer. He said that the adjustment would have to be made for the following year. Rose Roberge wanted to know if we would have to hire someone else to collect fees. James Tierney responded that the town wouldn't do that the first year and that he was going to make sure that the person working comes out of the shack. Lisa Grimes asked what the school had to go by and James Tierney answered that they had nothing to go by. Lisa Grimes commented that they had 10 bags of garbage at the high school each week and that they recycled. She added that the recycling bins were in the boiler room. James Tierney said that the school kids would learn to recycle. James Morse asked how the garbage would be weighed. James Tierney said that they were not going to weigh it. He also said that no dumpster would be dumped at the dump or if so it would have to be paid for. The town has to put it in a bag also or they will pay \$2.00 for it. Christopher Canton believed that this would significantly reduce their garbage and give more incentives to recycle. James Tierney said that no matter what you are going to pay \$1.50 for whatever is in it so if you choose not to recycle that's ok, you just use more bags. Mr. Canton said that other towns were enforcing the recycling and this would give more incentive. Tierney said that there was no surcharge to recycle and that recycling cuts costs. Royden Hart said that he was at the meeting with Mr. Patnaude and he thinks this will make everyone more accountable for what they take to the dump and recycling center. He said that Lancaster pays for itself and they have become more accountable. Wade White said that if we went for this pay by bag the town's barrels were going to be full. Addison Hall said it was going to reduce tonnage why are we paying for curbside pickup. James Tierney said that the curbside was actually more work with the pay per bag because they have to go through it and only pick up the Northumberland bags. Mr. Hall asked if we were to pass this are we going to be stuck with the increase. James Tierney replied that if we had less garbage and more recyclables it wouldn't increase. Marie Pivin said that if we have curbside pickup why pay for the bags, as she doesn't want to leave a lot of trash in her kitchen. James Tierney told her should could put her garbage into the big bag from the house and she didn't have to have that bag in the house. He added that one would offset the other. Michelle Ladd said that the Lancaster School don't use those bags but do have the regular trash bags and dumpsters. James Tierney said that the business pays for the dumpster and or the haulers to take them to the landfill directly. Terrance Bedell made a

motion to move the question with Richard Cotter seconding it. Voice vote. Failed to moving the question. More discussion: Suzanne Batchelder asked James Tierney if the commercial businesses could use the curbside. Mr. Tierney said that no businesses pay or contract out to have their garbage picked up and it goes straight to the landfill. He said that personal trash doesn't make them money but the contracted person was making money off of the garbage so businesses who make money need to pay them. Suzanne Batchelder said that everyone will dump in her dumpster and what is going to happen to her. She said she thought that the townspeople shouldn't vote tonight because there are too many unanswered questions. Suzanne said she wanted to be certain about the information before she voted for it. James Tierney said that he can't answer everything and that he would come up with reasonable calculations. He added that to vote YES if you think that the vote will help you and to vote NO if you don't think it will. He is encouraging the YES as he believes it will help the town and enforce recycling. Suzanne Batchelder asked if we voted tonight and it went through are we making the rules up as we go along. James Tierney said that most likely we would be adopting the Lancaster rules. Mary Centner said that she picks up property on the side of the road along her property and wanted to know if she would have to pay for that. Rob Larson said that if we adopted this we are already paying for it as we pay a tonnage fee of \$67 per ton. He said it does make everyone accountable and it will prevent people who don't belong here from dumping their trash as we pay for that. Mr. Larson added that 12 towns wouldn't go back to the old way because they are very happy with this program. He encouraged people to call other towns to check to see how it is. He noted that Groveton was one of three towns in Coos County who don't do this. He said that for the answers that we don't have we will find out. Daniel Becker said that this proposal offers a savings to the town as the taxes would be going down and we need to recycle more. He noted that if we wanted to save money then he didn't understand the resistance. He said that a lot of people don't like to recycle and it's proven but this is a great chance to save money. Emily Langford said that this would be a great example to set for our children. Elizabeth Pearce said that she recycles everything and what else could she do. She wondered if she needed to pay for bags for roadside because people would be dumping everywhere up there where she lives. Uldric Bernard said that the State of NH has a program for picking up the trash that is being picked up by citizens. Mary Centner said since she's been living here since 2002 and had never seen that program. Arnold Tilton said that if everyone just used the blue buckets for recycling we wouldn't have to buy special bags and that was a way to save money. Arthur Parks said that he was at the meeting with Mr. Patnaude. He added that Lancaster has a large composting pile that people are allowed to add to. He said that the town gives it to people for hauling it off. Arthur wonders if everything is done that could be done to save the town some money. He added that he thinks this is a wonderful idea but just a bad time to do it. He said that this would be a business within itself and probably would have to add more men which adds insurance, expenses and the State will probably short change us. He told the people that they really needed to be thinking about this. He said that some towns are voting to have another town meeting in six months to make things easier. Arthur said that he wanted the questions answered and show us all the answers and promise the tax cuts. Harry Lee Rice Jr made a motion to move the question and Terrance Bedell seconded it.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 18 defeated.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds with said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the Town's general fund.

- Recreation Fund current balance 0
- Fire Truck Fund current balance 0
- Swimming Pool Fund current balance 0
- Landfill Fund current balance \$2,760.51
- Concession Stand Fund current balance \$1,591.19
- Retirement Fund current balance \$2,392.43

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brian Sullivan wanted to know if the money in the Landfill fund was put aside to cap the landfill. Deborah Weeks answered him that yes that was the one. James Tierney said that the landfill was already closed and that nothing legally can be dumped into it. He said that the testing is costing \$3000-\$3500 bucks. The town has signed an agreement for Horizons to continue with their testing. The money in this fund has never been used. Ms. Weeks said that it could only be used to cap of the landfill and now it was closed so this money couldn't be touched. It's just leftover money that we should move to the general fund. Suzanne Batchelder asked what the concession stand fun was. Ms. Weeks said that it was to build a concession stand at the big ball field that never happened and the retirement fund was started but sat there and never got used. She added that in order to move it to the general fun you need to ask the townspeople at town meeting. Ms. Weeks asked to move them to get rid of them and put them in the general fund as a bookkeeping and housekeeping issue.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 19 passed as read.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400 dollars to be added to the Police Cruiser Fund previously established. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made for James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Deborah Weeks said that we previously had passed an article for a new cruiser. This article would make it so every year we could put it into the account and then not get hit so hard at one time for a cruiser. Timothy Woodward asked what the cost of a new police cruiser was and how often it got replaced. Chief Marcel Platt answered that it was a 2-year rotation and the oldest cruiser we have now is going on five years old and the normal rotation in the past is every two years. Mr. Woodward said that this was only \$2400 so wondered what the point was. Chief Platt said that if you start the account it would help with the rotation. Mr. Woodward said that he thought this was under funded. Ms. Weeks said that this fund had a zero balance for years and that in digging through old records found it. She added that this was just starting and is costing us nothing. This money is coming from the accounts that are being closed. Allen Holmes said that it was time to start saving for the future. He added that if we put some in now and some next year at least we had some saved.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 20 passed as read.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,700 dollars to be added to the Highway Equipment Fund previously established. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Deborah Weeks said that this was just another account that has sat there since the 50's and 60's that has not been funded in 10-12 years. She said that we have a loader that is 15 years old but have no money to buy a new one. She added that this money is a better savings than nothing. She added that if we start this now we can appropriate more next year for it.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 21 passed as read.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,590 dollars to be

added to the Ambulance Fund previously established. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Deborah Weeks said that this article was the same thing. She added that this has just been sitting there and that the ambulance had a small savings account of \$748, which would be added to this. She said that this would start raising money \$2400-\$2700 for this. Norman Cotter asked where the money goes that the ambulance gets. James Tierney said that many refuse to pay even though the ambulance keeps billing out and sending it to collection. James said that we billed was more than the cost of operating the ambulance but we didn't collect all that was billed probably due to Medicaid and fixing incomes. He added that expenses are not always paid and insurance companies argue so the collection didn't match what was billed. Uldric Bernard said that they billed out \$310,498.79 and \$79,372.96 was received a lot didn't pay. Terrance Bedell asked if the surplus goes above and beyond the budget. James Tierney said that if there was a surplus there would be a warrant article to put that money into the ambulance account. Kathy Frechette said that when she was in an accident in 2000 the ambulance came out and she refused to be transported but they had come out anyways. She said that she didn't get a bill even though they came out and thought that this was a great thing.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 22 passed as read.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,168 dollars to be added to the Brooklyn Street Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Norman Cotter asked when this project was going to get done. James Tierney replied that the \$43,000 was a reimbursement from the state for work already done per the 80/20 split and this it to put it back in the trust fund. He added that there was a meeting in Concord this Friday and is hoping one of the selectmen will go to it as it appears that the town will get money. He added that it has already been approved and is hoping MAYBE we will get 100% funded for the bridge. He added that he'd be finding out the specifics at the meetings and about how long we would have to complete the work and how long a builder would have to complete it, etc. He said first we had to be sure we had the stimulus money. Claire Prosper said that she was warning us of the Concord stimulus money package because she thought that there was a deadline on when it has to be done and that there was a limited number of supplies and workers who could do all the work. John Normand asked where the money in the trust fund would go. James Tierney said that there would be a warrant article next year on what we would do with it, as there would be about \$130,000 to divvy up. John Normand suggested reducing taxes.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 23 passed as read.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to reinstate a 3 member Board of Cemetery Trustees under the provisions of RSA 289:6. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Terri Charron said that 1.5 years ago they committee had gone to the court to ask to use some money. They were advised to become trustees, as there were only 3 active members anyways. They just want to be called a trustee instead of a committee and keep the same 3

members.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 24 passed as read.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$30,000 dollars for stabilizing the riverbank by the Perras Road. Said funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund. Further, to authorize the selectmen to apply for and expend any available grant money that may become available for this project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the riverbank is stabilized or by Oct 28, 2013 (permit expiration date), whichever is sooner. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Rose Roberge asked if the stimulus package comes to Groveton why couldn't some of that be used to fix the road. James Tierney said that the stimulus package is earmarked for certain projects. He added that this money the forestry folks decided that they would spend out of their account and that they were able to pay for the stabilization as it says up to \$30,000. He said that this project has to be done during low flow of the river, which is the end of summer with no heavy rains. Mr. Tierney said that this has no tax impact on taxpayers. Suzanne Batchelder said that there was no date and it doesn't signify that she has to wait that long. James Tierney answered that no, they are just waiting on a date from the State based on those darned little muscles.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 25 passed as read.

Article 26: We, the undersigned, support the request being made by Tri-County CAP, Inc., North Country Elder Programs for Town of Groveton Funding in support of the Senior Meals Program (home delivery) in the amount of \$1,970 dollars. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that for \$1970 they brought 10,957 meals to the town of Northumberland, which is a 9.8 percent increase over last year. This program has been increased to 7 days a week with two hot meals a day for a suggested donation. Timothy Woodward asked if this was a different organization. John Normand said that this was partly government funded and the surplus comes from Catholic Charities in Manchester.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 26 passed as read.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of police special details. All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town treasurer shall have custody of all money in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Selectmen, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Chief Marcel Platt said that during budget season we all try to save money. He said that it was difficult to budget the roadside assistance, the racetrack and such properly by not taking a guess on overtime. He added that this would allow us to put this money into a fund,

which will deter costs such as gas and detailing. Chief Platt said that he researched towns who started a fund like this in 2006-07, 48 towns exactly, on how they created and used the funds. Chief Platt supports this article for these reasons. Norman Cotter asked if the costs were up for Riverside Speedway and if having a policeman at the racetrack was costing us taxpayer's dollars. Chief Platt answered that it had not and that the officers were paid directly by the speedway, which that doesn't allow for retirement and such. John Normand asked if the town was responsible for pension. Chief Platt said that this fund would cover that. James Tierney said that this was fee based basically we bill and they pay. He added that this would cover salary, FICA, insurance, etc and it would all go into this account. He said that if there was any overage some charitable organizations would benefit from this. Uldric Bernard asked what the town portion was of the pension. James Tierney said that this really works, makes money and pays for special details.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 27 passed as read

Article 28: To request that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton High School Chem-Free Graduation Fund, these funds to be used to promote and support alcohol-free and drug-free youth, by sponsoring a chemical-free graduation celebration. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2)

Motion made by Michele Ladd and seconded by Philip Pinette to accept article as read.

Discussion: Motion made by Michele Ladd and seconded by Melinda Kennett to amend the article to read \$1500 instead of \$2000.

No discussion on the motion. Voice vote. Amendment passed.

Discussion on amended article: Philip Pinette asked why Mrs. Ladd lowered the money. Mrs. Ladd explained that there was some concern about the \$2000 amount and she said she felt only right to ask for a lower amount. Mrs. Kennett asked if the Chem- Free would be ok financially. Mrs. Ladd answered that the amount of students is down and that there was controversy and didn't want people to have to pay any extra. Maidstone and Stark were each donating \$100 per student this year. Philip Pinette asked if the amounts from those towns would make up the difference. Michele Ladd said that she was just trying to meet everyone's concern. Ervin Connary suggested voting no on the amendment because if the town could spend \$2500 on Christmas decorations then the town could spend \$2000 on the senior class.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Amended Article 28 passed as read.

Article 29: To see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 (Two thousand dollars) to support the North Country Transit Senior Wheels Demand Response Program. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that this is the bus that he runs. He added that it goes from Groveton to Whitefield and it's wherever they need to go. Mr. Normand said that for seniors over 55 it's suggested a \$3.00 donation to go to Lancaster and back. Rose Roberge suggested that we take the \$500 saved on the Chem-Free and put it into this. John Normand replied that he didn't ask for that.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 29 passed as read.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Community Christmas Organization. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Ronald Caron to accept article as read.

No discussion. Voice vote. Article 30 passed as read.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

No discussion. Voice vote. Article 31 passed as read.

Article 32: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Rob Larson to accept article as read.

No discussion. Voice vote. Article 32 passed as read.

Article 33: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Craig Hersom wondered why there was no police officer at the crossing and thought that this had been voted on at a town meeting in years past to have a police officer as the crossing. Chief Marcel Platt said that he wasn't aware of this and that he had crossing guards in his budget so that's what we have. Suzanne Batchelder said that the Board of Selectmen had issues in the past with traffic issues in the past so it was only suggested that on Rt. 3 it was more effective and it worked for a period of time. She said that now we don't have the same traffic issues. Mario Audit said that it was more effective now to have a police officer cruise the street.

No further discussion. Voice vote. Article 32 passed as read.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Normand and seconded by Suzanne Batchelder. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:45 PM BY MODERATOR LLOYD TIPPITT on 3/10/2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Kennett
Town Clerk
Town of Northumberland