

**2015 Town Meeting Minutes
Town of Sanbornton
State of New Hampshire
March 11, 2015**

The 2015 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Moderator, Timothy Lang. Moderator Lang led the Legislative Body in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Land recognized Reverend Scott Manning of the First Baptist Church to give the invocation.

Budget Committee (BC) Chairman, Earl Leighton introduced himself and the other members of the Budget Committee, Roger Grey, Ralph Rathjen, Katy Wells and John Olmstead. BC Chair Leighton recognized Jeff Jenkins that stepped down from the committee but has also served on many other boards/committees and shared a great deal of knowledge with everyone. The Budget Committee thanks you!

Moderator Lang recognized Selectmen's Chair Karen Ober, Selectman Johnny Van Tassel, Selectman David Nickerson, Town Administrator Robert Veloski, Attorney Christopher Boldt, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Marla Davis and Administrative Specialist April Rollins (Pro-temp for TC/TC Davis).

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Marla Davis introduced the Supervisors of the Checklist, Mary Ahlgren, Sandra Leighton & Sheila Dodge and thanked them for all of their hard work in preparing for tonight's meeting.

Moderator Lang read the Election & Ballot results from Tuesday, March 10, 2015, as well as the results of the School Board's Election.

Selectman Ober announced that this year's Annual Report Dedication was a suggestion made by Selectman Nickerson to recognize the Town's many Board/Committee Members & Volunteers. Selectman Ober stated she did a great deal of research and the Town has a total of twenty (20) Board/Committees, if the Town were to pay all of them minimum wage for their time, they would make around \$50,000 dollars annually. Selectman Ober asked those members to stand for recognition and the crowd applauded. Selectman Ober announced current Board/Committee vacancies and provided sign-up sheets for those who may be interested.

The Moderator read Article #1 as follows:

Article 01: Operating Budget–Town

Operating budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Million Eight Hundred Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$3,804,438)** for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. The Selectmen recommend **\$3,809,821**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

DRA Acct. #s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4130-4199	General Government	1,175,990	1,181,372
4210	Police	440,811	440,811
4220-4299	Fire & Emg Mgt	353,679	353,679
4311-4319	Highways & Streets	849,801	849,801
4321-4329	Sanitation	197,373	197,373
4411-4449	Health & Welfare	108,264	108,264
4520	Recreation	109,292	109,292
4550	Library	121,804	121,804
4583	Other Culture and		
4611-4659	Patriotic Purposes	3,251	3,251
4711-4799	Conservation	1,825	1,825
442,349	Debt Service	<u>442,349</u>	<u>442,349</u>
Total ----->		3,804,438	3,809,821

Moderator Lang recognized BC Chair Leighton for the purpose of a motion. Second by Roger Grey. BC Chair Leighton explained the only difference in this article is the increase of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's (TC/TC) salary by \$5K, which the Board of Selectmen approved and the Budget Committee asked that the voters approve the increase.

The following amendment was presented for Article #1 by Selectman Ober; to increase the Budget Committee's recommendation for General Government by \$5,382 dollars and the total to \$3,809,821 dollars. Second by Susan Shannon. Selectman Ober explained last year there was an oversight for the increase and it was reduced until an experienced person was elected, so this would be correcting that oversight.

Tom Salatiello spoke in favor of the amendment because of the enormous amount of money the position handles and they come into contact with every person in Town. Roger Grey stated he voted against the increase and it wasn't an oversight but it is very hard for the Budget Committee to determine what the TC/TC does because they do not report to us.

Roger Grey stated the "incumbent" recommended a salary of \$40K and she was making \$49K after 28 years of service, which he feels was reasonable for the job. Roger Grey referred to a salary study conducted by the Town of Tamworth that had ranges from \$18 dollars an hour to \$28 dollars, with the average being \$22 dollars an hour.

TC/TC Davis asked the voters to support her increase to \$45K a year because even though she may only be open to the public for 34 ½ hours a week, doesn't mean she doesn't work more than that. TC/TC Davis stated she is sometimes in the office in the mornings, on the weekends, sometimes later in the day and during elections, always giving 110%.

Don Bormes stated the Budget Committee is balancing the budget on the backs of the Town's employees and TC/TC Davis is not a new kid on the block.

Moderator Lang recognized a request for a secret ballot vote, which was quickly withdrawn. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote on the amendment to Article #1. **It was in the affirmative and Article #1, as amended passed.**

Selectman Ober made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #1, Second by Tim Grant. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #2 as follows:

Article 02: Other

Engineering for Lower Bay Road Reconstruction

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000)** for the purpose of hiring an engineering firm to develop plans for the reconstruction of portions of Lower Bay Road in Sanbornton from Bay Road to Upper Smith Road and any related expenses such as the acquisition of any easements. This section of road is a state aid road. The State of New Hampshire to pay 80% (**\$120,000**) of the cost of engineering and 80% of the reconstruction of this section of road, the Town to accept this section of road after the reconstruction is complete. The other 20% (**\$30,000**) of the cost to be raised through taxation. The cost of the reconstruction to come before the legislative body in the FY 2017 budget. This article is dependent upon the passage and acceptance of Governor and Council.

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. Selectman Ober explained the article would allow for this section of Lower bay Road to be completed and then the Town would take maintenance of the road over but this is a better deal than last time.

Bill Whalen stated the last sentence in this article scares him, what if the Governor & Council does not give approval, what would happen with the \$150K? Selectman Ober replied the State made the list and if the Town agrees to do this because we have done this before, we would get priority treatment but the funds wouldn't be spent on anything else.

Tim Grant stated this is an unusual split for the State because typically they will only fund 70% but the Town's roads need to be rebuilt from the ground up and we should do it now before the funds are unavailable.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #2. The vote was in the affirmative.

Tim Grant made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #2, Second by Andy Sanborn. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #3 as follows:

Article 03: Other

EMS Billing and Paramedic intercept fees paid for

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500)** to pay fees for EMS billing and Paramedic Intercepts; further these fees to be paid for out of the Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Apparatus & Equipment Special Revenue Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

Appropriations under this Warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Van Tassel for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Ober. Selectman Van Tassel explained this article.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #3. The vote was in the affirmative.

Carol Dinitto made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #3, Second by Bob Dinitto. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #4 as follows:

Article 04: Other

To hire 2 full time firefighters

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred dollars (\$134,700)** for salaries and benefits to hire two Full Time Firefighter/EMT's and add hours of coverage from 8 hours daily to 12 hours daily each with one Full Time Firefighter/EMT and one Per Diem Firefighter/EMT.

Appropriations under this Warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Not Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Carol Dinitto. Selectman Ober shared her personal experience with the Fire Department and as a wife of a Firefighter but feels this issue is important enough the governing body should discuss it, for a decision.

Selectman Nickerson stated he voted against this and has heard people say he doesn't support the Fire Department but he does because he used to be a volunteer, as well as his brother & father. Selectman Nickerson stated the Town has the best volunteer Fire Department but doesn't feel the Town can afford full-time and not enough research was done. Selectman Nickerson noted there are other things the Town needs, a new building for the Police, a new Town Office and repairs to the Town Hall.

Earl Leighton explained this is a change and once the Town votes to accept this, the department will expand.

Fire Chief Dexter explained he has thought long & hard over this for the past year, year & a half and has been the Chief for 4 years and watched the trends in call volume changing dramatically. Chief Dexter provided some call response percentages during certain times of the day. Chief Dexter stated response times are enhanced by having people in the Fire Station and he wants to be able to handle 80% of those calls. Chief Dexter noted his hands are tied with the volunteers due to the new 30-hour rule, making them full-time.

Don Bormes asked how many actual fires they have responded to this year and Chief Dexter replied three. Don Bormes explained even with full-time staff in the station, this would not be helping the perimeter of Town and explained why. Don Bormes suggested contracting with surrounding communities for shared services.

Peggy Graham stated she approves of everything the Fire Department does and asked if there have been any lost lives. Chief Dexter replied over the past 2 years there have been \$180K in losses but five homes remained on the tax rolls with no lost lives.

Representative Brian Gallagher asked what the impact to the tax rate would be? Chief Dexter replied the average \$250K home would see an increase of \$100 dollars a year.

Paul Litchfield asked if they would be living in Town? Chief Dexter replied his goal is to hire two current members of the Fire Department, preferably EMT's and a "Residency Clause" was discussed but he can set a time restriction of living within 15-20 minutes from the Fire Station.

Moderator Lang called for a Secret Ballot vote on Article #4, that was signed by Earl Leighton, Roger Grey, Kathleen Wells, Ralph Rathjen, John Olmstead and Jerry Lund.

80 - Yes 84 - No, the vote was in the negative.

Earl Leighton made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #4, Second by Roger Grey. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #5 as follows:

Article 05: Other

Capital Outlay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Forty-two Thousand Dollars (\$542,000)** for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

DRA Acct.#s	DRA Account Name	Budget Committee Recommendation	Selectmen's Recommendation
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equip:		
	DPW –Dump Truck Lease Payment	35,500	35,500
Sub-Total ----->	Police SUV Lease Payment	6,500	6,500
4909		42,000	42,000
Sub-Total ----->	Improvements Other Than Buildings		
Total for All Capital Outlays > Majority vote required)	Town Roads	<u>500,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>
		<u>542,000</u>	<u>542,000</u>

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Van Tassel for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson. Selectman Van Tassel explained this article is for things like loans & lease purchases.

Mitch Lewis stated mud season is right around the corner and asked what the plan is for the \$500K, in a general sense. DPW Director Bordeau replied the funds are designated for the road construction of the Town's paved roads, mostly and he would draw from the gravel line for the dirt roads but we may be knee deep in mud soon, so some of the funds may be needed. DPW Director Bordeau stated the roads are falling apart faster than we can fix them.

Stephen Benoit stated it doesn't seem the Town has a direction to re-build the roads from the ditch up and would want to know specifics. DPW Director Bordeau provided a detailed explanation of the work he is proposing for Burleigh Hill Road in the amount of \$400K, Johnson Road in the amount of \$289K, Morrison Road in the amount of \$505K and Philbrook Road in the amount of \$32K. Evelyn Auger suggested Johnson Road be considered first on the list.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #5. The vote was in the affirmative.

Carol Dinitto made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #5, Second by John Olmstead. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #6 as follows:

Article 06: Other

Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-one Thousand Dollars (\$31,000)** for the purchase and set up of a Police Cruiser. This cost includes: updating any equipment needed, installation of existing equipment, decommissioning a cruiser in order to send it to auction or for trade with the funds received to be used to offset the cost of the vehicle

Appropriations under this Warrant Article are not included in the previously voted upon Capital Outlay under Article 5.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Van Tassel. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #6. The vote was in the affirmative.

Carol Dinitto made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #6, Second by Bill Whalen. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #7 as follows:

Article 07: Other

Fire Department Utility Vehicle

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$40,900)** to purchase a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton four door pickup truck to replace the existing 1998 utility vehicle and to either trade in or send to auction the existing 1998 utility vehicle with the funds received to be used to offset the cost of the new vehicle, further these funds to be paid for out of the Fire Department Rescue Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund and no amount to come from taxation.

Appropriations under this Warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 5.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Nickerson.

Paul Litchfield asked what kind of truck was being purchased? Chief Dexter replied a Ford, 4-wheel drive because it is under the State bid prices and can't be beat.

Craig Weisman asked if the "trade-in or auction" language is standard wording because it limits what the Town can do and the older vehicles still hold some value. Earl Leighton replied the process is more palatable because then we know the fleet is not being expanded and it is the best approach to dispose of them.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #7. The vote was in the affirmative.

Carol Dinitto made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #7, Second by Steve Ober. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #8 as follows:

Article 08: Other

Transfers to Capitol Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000)** for the payment to the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

DRA Account Name	Budget Committee's Recommendation	Budget Selectmen's Recommendatio
To Capital Reserve Funds Fire Truck	0	70,000
Fire Truck Repair and Refurbish	10,000	10,000
Roads and Bridges	100,000	100,000
Milfoil/Phosphorus	5,000	5,000
Town Building Improvement	10,000	10,000
Town Facilities Maintenance	20,000	20,000
Town Hall Restoration	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	155,000	225,000
Total Operating Transfer		

(Majority vote required)
This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Van Tassel.

Nina Gardner made a motion to amend Article #8 to include the \$70K for the Fire Truck. Second by Barbara Whetstone. Nina Gardner immediately withdrew her previous motion because the Town is voting on the Selectmen's figure. Barbara Whetstone withdrew her second.

Earl leighton explained the Budget Committee voted several times to put the figure in then took it back out because they felt increasing the money lines for the DPW was needed more. The Budget Committee was trying to hold the bottom line and thought the Town could forego another year. Nina Gardner agreed with the approach of setting the money aside for the future.

Lynn Chong asked if the \$10K for the Town Hall Restoration fund was enough? There was a brief discussion regarding the remaining balance of the capital reserve fund. Leslie Frank asked why the Town is not adding more? Roger Grey replied they are waiting one year and placing funds into the roads.

Cindy Taylor asked why the \$5K was being considered for milfoil because the voters turned it down last year. Selectman Ober replied the Town has an account and it needed to be added to for the maintenance of the "BMP's".

Lynn Chong made a motion to amend the Town Hall Restoration fund from \$10K to \$20K. Second by Steve Ober. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept the amendment to Article #8. The vote was in the negative.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #8 as written. The vote was in the affirmative.

Selectman Ober made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #8, Second by John Olmstead. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #9 as follows:

Article 09: Other - Blank

Reform State funding for education

To see if the Town will vote to ask our governor and our state legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the governor and state legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Bill Tobin. Selectman Ober explained this article was proposed by a Selectman from Webster.

Earl Leighton stated he is opposed to this article, it's too vague.

Dick Shannon stated this should be handled by our State Representatives in Concord.

Dick Gardner stated the article's language is too generic and doesn't have enough thought put into it.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #9. The vote was in the negative.

The Moderator read Article #10 as follows:

Article 10: Change of CRF or ETF Purpose

Changing the Purpose of Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to expand the purpose of the existing "Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund" established in 2002, to the "Town Hall Repair/Restoration Capital Reserve Fund" to allow for planning, design, repair, retrofitting and restoration of the Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend such funds as necessary for planning, design, repair, retrofitting and restoration of the Town Hall.

(2/3 Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Nickerson for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Ober. There was no discussion.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #10. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #11 as follows:

Article 11: Other - Blank

Disorderly Action Ordinance

To see if the Town will vote to adopt an ordinance relative to Disorderly Action. The annual Town Meeting of the Town of Sanbornton ordains that is in the public interest and hereby establishes that it is public policy to regulate unnecessary noise in the public highways, sidewalks, commons and other public places of the Town in accordance with the provisions of NH RSA 31:39 and RSA 41:11. (Copies of the entire ordinance are available for review at the Town Office or on the Town's Web-site and at the Town Meeting.)

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Sharon Grant.

Chief Hankard was asked to speak as a non-resident. Chief Hankard explained the noise is hard to define without some way to measure it, so the proposed ordinance is reasonable and follows the State laws.

Chief Hankard noted compact areas would be considered places like Leighton Estates / tight neighborhoods.

James Cluett asked how this came forward? Chief Hankard replied one of the reasons was an early morning logging operation.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #11. The vote was in the negative.

The Moderator read Article #12 as follows:

Article 12: Other - Blank

Sale of Town Property

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of the following properties, the proceeds of the sale to benefit the general fund, transferred "as is":

Tax Map & Lot #	Acreage:	Address:	Assessment:
03.011	0.34 AC	8 Grove Drive	\$117,200

(Majority vote required)
Recommended by the
Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Kathleen Wells for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Van Tassel, who spoke to the article.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote to accept Article #12. The vote was in the affirmative.

The Moderator read Article #13 as follows:

Article 13: Other - Blank

Other Business

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

Moderator Lang recognized Selectman Ober for the purpose of a motion. Second by Selectman Van-Tassel.

Dave Whitham announced Old Home Day has been scheduled for July 25, 2015.

Mitch Lewis made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all prior Articles, Second by Tim Grant. The vote was in the affirmative.

Nina Gardner announced the School District Meeting will be held on 3/21/15 @ 9:00 a.m. at the W.R.S.D.

Moderator Lang recognized Dave Whitham for the purpose of a motion to adjourn at 10:08 p.m. Second by Kathleen Wells. The vote was in the affirmative and the Moderator declared Town Meeting 2015 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

April Rollins (pro-temp), BOS Recording Secretary