

## **BOSCAWEN TOWN MEETING**

**March 12, 2019**

Moderator Charles Niebling called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00AM on March 12, 2019, and declared the polls would remain open until 7:00PM. The election of Town Officers require polling hour balloting.

Moderator Niebling announced a delay of action on Articles 2 through 16 until the official ballots were counted. In addition, that absentee ballots would be cast beginning at 2:00PM. Once the Town Officers were elected, the Town Meeting would resume at the Boscawen Elementary School.

Ballot Clerks:

Sarah Gerlack

Lois Hartford

Penny Sarcione

Polls closed at 7:00PM. Moderator Niebling explained the Town Meeting would resume at the conclusion of the ballot counting process for the write-in votes, at Boscawen Elementary School.

Moderator Niebling opened the meeting at 7:42PM on March 12, 2019. He recognized and thanked Town Officials for assistance in ensuring safe and accessible voting conditions; Police Chief, Kevin Wyman and his staff; Public Works, Dean Hollins and his staff; Board of Selectmen; Town Administrator, Alan Hardy; Town Clerk, Nicole Hoyt; Town office staff; Supervisors' of the Checklist; the Ladies Aid Society, and anyone else that participated. The Moderator requested that retiring Fire Chief, Ray Fisher lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then recognized those in attendance who are veterans, active duty, reserves, and guard.

Selectman Mark Varney, introduced those seated at the head table as well as the Supervisors' of the Checklist, and Town Counsel Jim Raymond. The Board of Selectmen thanked Fire Chief Ray Fisher and his wife, Doddy Fisher for their 56 years of service to the Town of Boscawen.

The Moderator then reviewed the rules of order for the meeting process and ballot votes. All comments shall be directed to the moderator with the speaker stating their name and using one of the microphones provided for the meeting. He stated that Assistant Moderator, William Lambert, will assist in bringing a microphone to anyone unable to come up to the front to speak. The Moderator recognized Town Clerk, Nicole Hoyt, who will keep the official record of the meeting, and asked that everyone who speaks will state their name and address clearly for the record. He went on to explain the rules for applying RSA 40:10, which restricts reconsideration of an article once voted upon during the meeting deliberations. Tom Gilmore moved to accept the rules of the meeting as read. Paul Mathews seconded. Motion was approved.

Moderator Niebling moved to return to Article I once the ballots were tallied.

Mark Varney, moved to re-elect the incumbents for Official Weighers: Bruce A. Davis, Mark N. Harbour, and Ray Fisher. Mike Fisher seconded. Motion was approved.

Ray Fisher moved to re-elect the incumbents for Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: William Bailey

Jr., Frederick J. Egounis, and Michael W. Fisher. Mark Varney seconded. Motion approved.

Mike Fisher moved to re-elect the incumbents for Fence Viewers: Ray R. Fisher, Douglas R. Supry, and Thomas R. Gilmore. Ed Maloof seconded. Motion approved.

Article II - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,878,979 which represents the operating budget? Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed separately (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Not recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article II as written; Barbara Randall seconded. Open for further amendment or discussion. Mark Varney stated that this amount was the original amount proposed for FY 2019. He stated that after budget meeting and hearings, the staff reviewed the budget to reduce the operating budget.

Mark Varney would like to amend the motion to **\$3,747,733**, which is an increase of 2% over last years approved operating budget. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. Edward Cherian seconded. Paul Mathews requested details on what areas of the budget were reduce. Mark Varney read from the informational handout, the account numbers and amounts that were affected. Further discussion and responses were in regards to adjustments made for a single administrator and promotion of PCD director, percentage of increases in relationship to other towns, cost of living increases, and suggestions that residents take the time to come to the budget meetings/hearings.

Roger Sanborn moved to the question. Doug Supry seconded. This is a non-debatable motion. Move the question, approved. Move to accept the amendment, approved. Move to adopt Article II as amended. Article II adopted.

Article III - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$98,000** to be contributed to the Town Capital Reserve Funds, previously established, as follows:

a) Fire Department Safety Equipment	\$13,000
b) Highway Heavy Equipment	\$45,000
c) Public Works Building	\$20,000
d) Police Vehicle	<b>\$20,000</b>

Thomas Gilmore motioned to adopt Article III as written, Paul Mathews seconded. Discussion; Mark Varney moved to amend Article III, line (d) police vehicle reduced to **\$10,000**, and total appropriation to **\$88,000**. Bill Lambert seconded. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Move to accept the amendment, approved. Move to adopt Article II as amended. Article III adopted.

Pamela Hardy made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article II. Edward Cherian seconded. There being no discussion, motion passed.

Moderator Niebling moved to return to Article I as all ballots were counted.

Article I – To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. The votes were counted with a total of 256 ballots cast and the results are as follows:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Cemetery Trustee – 3 years	Rhoda W. Hardy	127
	Lauren Hargrave	114
Library Trustees – 3 years	Craig Saltmarsh	38
	Elaine Clow	16
	Others	27
Selectperson – 3 years	Lorrie Carey	132
	Edward Maloof	43
	Mark E. Varney	79
Supervisor of the Checklist – 3 years	Sherlene Fisher	237
Town Clerk – 2 years	Nicole E. Hoyt	235
Treasurer – 3 years	Gail Egounis	223
	Others	18
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years	Brendon Jackson	5
	Others	34

Article IV - To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$33,000, to put in the fund? This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Lorrie Carey motioned to adopt Article IV as written; Mark Varney seconded. There being no discussion, Article IV was adopted.

Article V - To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of paying the expenses associated with the annual production and presentation of the event known as Boscawen Old Home Day, to be withdrawn from the revolving fund as needed. All revenues received from Old Home Day activities will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and the money shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body 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. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Lyman Cousens motioned to adopt Article V as written; Polly Dawson seconded. There being no discussion, Article V was adopted

Article VI - To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Municipal Facilities – Information Technology (IT) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000, to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article VI as written; Polly Dawson seconded. There being no discussion, Article VI was adopted.

Article VII - To see if the Town will vote to establish a C&D Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of closing the Construction & Demolition Debris Landfill, engineering and design the cap and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000, to be placed in this fund. The sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance no amount to be raised from taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. William Lambert motioned to adopt Article VII as written; Lorrie Carey seconded. There being no discussion, Article VII was adopted.

Article VIII - To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of developing a Facilities Needs Assessment and pre-bid documents for the Fire Station at 15 High Street and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000, to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. Ray Fisher motioned to adopt Article VIII as written; Mark Varney seconded. There being no discussion, Article VIII was adopted.

Article IX - To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund of \$150,848, for replacement of the HVAC system to the Municipal Building, repairs, improvements, and renovations. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Two-thirds vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Edward Cherian motioned to adopt Article IX as written; Barbara Randall seconded. Questions asked were regarding, buildings current needs, types of roofing materials, and a potential L-Chip grant. Town Administrator, Alan Hardy explained that shingle tabs are blowing off the roof daily. The cupola trim is in need of repair and paint. As well as the chimney needs pointing. It was considered to spread these projects over two year span because of the cost, however it is cost effective to complete these projects as one time, based on quotes. The Town inquired The New Hampshire Department of Historical Resources, and their suggestion was slate or slate like shingles. Standing seam is not in keeping with the historic architecture. The Penacook Academy Review Committee was also briefed on the project and is in support of the recommended repairs. There being no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and Moderator Niebling determined that the vote comfortably exceeded the two-thirds majority required, and thus no standing count was necessary. Article IX was adopted.

Article X – In the event that Warrant Article IX fails to be approved, to see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Municipal Building Roof Repair and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000, to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Majority vote required). Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen or the Advisory Budget Committee. Alan Hardy made a motion to pass over this article. Mark Varney seconded. There being no discussion, motion to pass over approved.

Article XI – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000, to contribute to the operating cost of the Boscawen Historical Society? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Sean Skabo motioned to adopt Article XI as written. Mike Fisher seconded. There being no discussion. Article XI was adopted.

Article XII - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,600, for the continuation of services to the residents of Boscawen through the Concord Area Center of the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. Gail Egounis motioned to adopt Article XII as written. Sarah Gerlack seconded. There being no discussion. Article XII was adopted.

Article XIII - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,700, towards the operating expenses of the Penacook Community Center? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. Sean Skabo motioned to adopt Article XIII as written; Martha Dickey seconded. There being no discussion, Article XIII was adopted.

Article XIV - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500, toward the operating expenses of CASA, (Court Appointed Special Advocates)? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. Scott Maltzie motioned to adopt Article XIV as written; Sarah Gerlack seconded. There being no discussion, Article XIV was adopted.

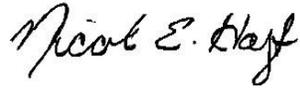
Article XV - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$204,000, to aid the Penacook Rescue Squad for its emergency medical services and rescue operations provided to the Town? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee. William Lambert motioned to adopt Article XIV as written; Courtney Insley seconded. Mike Fisher asked if Salisbury was going to add support for Penacook Rescue to their operating budget. PRS Trustee, Dave Collins answered that Salisbury just passed their budget with an appropriation in the amount of \$72,000, for PRS. Questions and discussion continued regarding, number of calls, billing, insurance, 24/7 staffing, auditing, combing resources, comparison of services, and a potential Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with Merrimack County. The residents are in agreement that PRS is providing a great service, however they are concerned about the increase. Christopher Blanchard reiterated that the service is great and made mention of the Police Department budget of \$600,000, to put things in perspective. Edward Cherian, let the meeting attendees know that the Towns with PRS have been meeting, discussing, and looking at the future of the emergency service of Boscawen. Mark Varney moved to the question. Bill Lambert seconded. Motion approved. Move to adopt Article XV. Article XV adopted.

Article XVI - To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting. Moderator Niebling recognized Keith Marshall. Keith wanted to thank all those involved for dedicating this years Town Report to his father, Kenneth Marshall. Next at the microphone was Fred Egounis. He wanted to thank Ray Fisher for his service and considered him "The Last of the Volunteers." Sally Fisher, read a letter she had written regarding her appreciation for her father in law, Ray Fisher and her disdain for the her perceived lack of transparency. She also suggested that the Town consider adopting an official budget committee.

David Collins announced that after over 20 years of service to PRS, Chief Richard Oberman was retiring. He was pleased to announce the new Chief, Shawn Brechtel.

There being no further business, Assistant Moderator Lambert made a motion to adjourn. William Lambert motioned to adjourn the meeting, Roger Sanborn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM. Moderator Niebling thanked all who were involved in Town Meeting and Election Day.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole E. Hoyt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole E. Hoyt, Town Clerk