

2020 TOWN OF BOSCAWEN ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING

March 10, 2020

Assistant Moderator William Lambert called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 AM on March 10, 2020, and declared the polls would remain open until 7:00 PM. The election of Town Officers requires polling hour balloting.

Moderator Lambert announced a delay of action on Articles 3 through 16 until the official ballots were counted. In addition, that absentee ballots would be cast beginning at 2:00 PM. 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 7:00 PM. 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 7:35 PM on March 10, 2020. He recognized and thanked Town Officials, Administrator Alan Hardy, Town Clerk, Nicole Hoyt, Supervisors of the Checklist, Doddy Fisher, Agnes Colby, and Pam Malcolm. Pam is retiring from public office, office and the Town thanked her for her service. He thanked Police Chief, Kevin Wyman and his staff; Public Works Director, Dean Hollins and his staff; other Town staff for all their assistance for today's preparation for the election. The Moderator requested Ray Fisher lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then recognized those in attendance who are veterans of armed services, active duty, reserves, and guard.

Moderator Niebling recognized Emergency Director, Mark Varney, Fire Chief, Tim Kenney, and Penacook Rescue Squad Chief, Shawn Brechtel. Director, Varney gave an update on the spread of the Corona Virus and some basic precautions to implement into our daily routine. The Corona Virus has been around since the 1960s, however, Covid-19 is a new strain, which the Center of Disease Control is aggressively working on containment and immunization. He explained that this is not an airborne virus, it is spread by droplet. Subsequently it is very important that you practice social distancing and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly.

Moderator Niebling recognize Select Board Chair, Ed Cherian to introduce the head table. Deputy Town Clerk, Haley Dilts-Brown, Town Clerk, Nicole Hoyt, Town Administrator, Alan Hardy, Ed Cherian, Lorrie Carey, Roger Sanborn. He also introduced Town's counsel, Jim Raymond, employees, Katie Phelps, Kellee Jo Easler, and Sarah Gerlack. Cherian went on to announce that is was Rogers last Town Meeting as a member of the Select Board. Sanborn has been in service to Boscawen since 1970. His volunteerism includes, the Fire Department, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board (40 years), Planning Board, Agricultural Commission, and most likely countless others. The Town thanked Roger Sanborn for his service. Sanborn stated that he worked with a great team and he will still be around. ☺

Niebling then summarized the rules of the meeting, according to the Moderator, loosely based on Roberts Rules of Order. All articles will be read by the Moderator prior to deliberation. No comments from the floor will be recognized. You will be allowed comments at one of the two microphones. If you cannot get to a microphone, one will be brought to you. All comments shall be

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directed to the moderator, limited to the article on the floor. Speakers will be allowed a second time at the microphones after all first timers have spoken. Voting will be by voice vote or voting cards. This is for Boscawen registered voters only. Secret ballot requests must be accompanied by five registered voter signatures. This must be done prior to the voice vote. 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.

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. Bill Lambert moved to accept the rules of the meeting as read. Roger Sanborn seconded. Motion was approved.

Article 1 – To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. The votes were counted in a total of 167 ballots cast, and the results are as follows:

Office	Name	Vote
Cemetery Trustee – 3 year	Adam Egounis	80
	Lauren Hargrave	82
Library Trustees – 3 year (2)	Beverly Lacey	126
	Bertina Larochelle	102
Selectperson – 3 year	Paul Dickey	110
	Other	24
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 year	Sarah Gerlack	146
Supervisor of the Checklist – 2 year	Agnes Colby	149
	Other	1
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 year	Tama L. Tillman	130
	Other	1
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 2 year	Tracy Bartlett	3
	Other	17
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 1 year	Polly Dawson	2
	Other	9

A registered voter, moved to re-elect the incumbents for Official Weighers: Bruce A. Davis, Ray Fisher, and Mark N. Harbour. There was a second. Voice vote. Motion was approved.

Tom Gilmore moved to re-elect the incumbents for Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: William Bailey Jr., Frederick J. Egounis, and Michael W. Fisher. Ray Fisher seconded. Motion approved.

A registered voter moved to re-elect the incumbents for Fence Viewers: Ray R. Fisher, Douglas R. Supry, and Thomas R. Gilmore. There was a second. Voice vote. Motion was approved.

Article 2 - To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map under RSA 675:3 at the following parcel of land: Map 47 Lot 49, totaling 15.100 acres from Residential-Low Density, R1 to Agricultural- Residential, AR.?

Recommended to be adopted by the Planning Board. Moderator Niebling read the results of the vote:
YES - 109 NO - 20

This article was approved.

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Article 3 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,074,145, which represents the operating budget? Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee

Bill Lambert made a motion to adopt Article 3 as written. Roger Sanborn seconded. Chairman Cherian, explained that there is a 3% increase, mostly from the increase in health care and adoption of Penacook Rescue in the budget as a line item. Article 3 adopted. Ray Fisher, asked why the Fire Department budget needs to be funded as if all volunteers attend every fire and training when historically this has not happened? Ray Fisher motioned to amend this Article to remove \$30,000 from the bottom line, with the understanding that it decreases the Fire Department. Cherian stated that is it good business practice to plan accordingly instead of a potential shortage. Mike Fisher seconded the amendment. Chief Kenney responded to these budget numbers. The problem with this reduction is that we have three new members and the other line items in the FD budget are tight. Adele Sanborn, 45 year resident, stated that she is grateful that we have not seen a large fire in many years. She also thanked all our volunteers and is in favor of budgeting for the full amount of the salary line. Mike Fisher, of 4 Circle Drive, 30 year volunteer of the Fire Department. He is frustrated that there are quite a few people getting more money than they are showing up for. Shawn Brechtel, of Terrace Hill, Chief of PRS. With the large increase in calls, they will be heavily relying on help from the BFD for assistance. Tama Tillman, retired accountant, 30,000 of this budget is less than 1%. This fund is a trust and will be there for years to come. Ed Cherian, wanted to remind the attendees will not be removed from the salary line but from the overall budget. There being no further discussion. Voice vote. Motion is defeated.

Article 3 is adopted as originally written.

Article 4 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$152,000, to be contributed to the Town Capital Reserve Funds previously established as follows:

- A) Highway Heavy Equipment \$45,000,
- B) Public Works Building \$20,000,
- C) Police Vehicle \$40,000,
- D) Information Technology (IT) \$15,000,
- E) C&D Landfill Closure \$32,000?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee

Ray Fisher motioned to adopt Article 4 as written, Mark Varney seconded. Article 4 adopted.

Article 5 - To see if the Town will vote to establish a Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of Town-owned buildings and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000, to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend. (Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Bill Lambert motioned to adopt Article 5 as written, Tim Vendt seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the repurpose of this fund from the original Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund. Administrator Hardy explained that \$125,000 was spent for the roof of the Municipal Building. The original amount was put away for the HVAC system. Once the balance is zero, this fund will go away and we will continue to fund the Municipal Buildings (plural) Fund. There being no further discussion. Voice vote. Article 5 adopted.

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Article 6 - 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 to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Tom Gilmore motioned to adopt Article 6 as written; Tama Tillman seconded. Bill Heinz asked what the purpose of this fund is. Chairman, Cherian explained that it is for the unexpected disaster. There being no further discussion, voice vote taken. Article 6 was adopted.

Article 7 - 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 to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Paul Dickey motioned to adopt Article 7 as written; Heather Wunschel seconded. There being no discussion, voice vote taken. Article 7 was adopted.

Article 8 - 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 to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee. Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article 8 as written; Sarah Gerlack seconded. There being no discussion, Article 8 was adopted.

Article 9 - 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 to be adopted by the Board of Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee. Paul Dickey motioned to adopt Article 9 as written; Deb Wentworth seconded. Diane Balch, Weir Road asked what the benefit is to Boscawen for our contribution. Selectwoman Carey, explained that our Senior Citizens participate in the PCC. She also read the extensive list of programs in the Town Report. There being no further discussion, voice vote taken. Article 9 was adopted.

Article 10 – 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 to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee. Bill Lambert motioned to adopt Article 10 as written. Rhoda Hardy seconded. There being no discussion, voice vote taken. Article 10 was adopted.

Article 11 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,500, for the design, purchase, and installation of a 600 amp transfer switch in the Town Municipal Complex and improvements to the electrical system that will allow the Municipal Office Building to connect to the existing 60 KW Diesel Generator. This will allow the Town's Emergency Operations Center, (EOC), to be housed in the Municipal Office Building? This Project is eligible for a 50% matching fund grant from New Hampshire Homeland Security. The expenditure of the funds appropriated by this article is contingent on the receipt of the grant. (Majority vote required). Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee. Tom Gilmore motioned to adopt Article 11 as written; Rhoda Hardy seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the intention of this article. Chairman Cherian explained that we could continue operations

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and would be capable of housing the EOC if necessary. Director Varney explained that the phones go down as well, when the power goes out. This includes the Police Department. There is an opportunity to receive a grant to fund this expenditure. The employees can bill time spent as in-kind match for this grant. Martha Vendt, DW Highway, BES is to be used as an emergency shelter. Varney explained that the EOC and shelter cannot be housed in the same place. Tim Vendt why do we need this if we are such a small town. Varney put together a proposal for a backup and upgrade which is recommended by Julia Chase of Homeland Security. Sheriff's dept. is a dispatch center. The Main EOC will be run out of the Fire Station. The Town Office would be the backup and would be capable of keeping the building heated or cooled and available. Chuck Houston mentioned that the added benefit is that it uses diesel and will remain up and running. Voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 34 Yes, 36 No. Article 11 is defeated.

Article 12 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500, to contribute to the operating costs of the Boscawen Church Park that is used by the community? (By Petition) (Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Ron Reed motioned to adopt Article 12 as written; Heather Wunschel seconded. Barbara Randall, DW Highway, mentioned that there is another church in Town and would not like to see this become a habit. Ron Reed, former trustee of Boscawen Congregational Church, shared the history of the church park. He detailed a list of organizations that use the park and asked the Town for help since they are being taxed. Sally Fisher, 4 Circle Drive, asked if the parking lot was repaired with the tax money given a few years ago. Reed answered in the affirmative. There being no further discussion voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 38 Yes, 33 No. Article 12 was adopted.

Ray Fisher, moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 11, under **RSA 40:10**. Martha Vendt seconded. Voice vote taken and motion to apply **RSA 40:10** is approved.

Ed Cherian, moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 3, under **RSA 40:10**. Mark Varney seconded. Voice vote taken and motion to apply **RSA 40:10** is approved.

Martha Vendt, moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 12, under **RSA 40:10**. Heather Wunschel seconded, voice vote taken and motion to apply **RSA 40:10** is approved.

Article 13 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600,000, for environmental cleanup and building removal activities on the former Allied Leather property owned by the Town located at 36-38, 40-46, and 48-56 Commercial Street, of which \$100,000 shall be raised from taxation and \$500,000 shall be raised through receipt of a Brownfields Cleanup Grant? The expenditure of the funds appropriated by this article is contingent on the receipt of a grant of at least \$500,000 for the expenses of the cleanup of the property. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the cleanup of the property is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required).

Recommended for the adoption by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Paul Dickey Motioned to adopt Article 13 as written; Bill Lambert seconded. Selectwoman Carey, explained the liability of leaving these buildings as is. She listed several potential uses and opportunities for this area and the tax impact would be substantial. Without the grant no work will

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be done. Several residents also shared their concerns for the liability if we do not get these buildings cleaned up. Carey shared that we are now meeting the threshold for housing to bring in a grocery store and property off exit 17 will be very attractive to commuters. Contaminants include but not limited to, lead paint, asbestos, PCBs, and typical tannery contaminants. This is a warrant of \$600,000, \$500,000 of federal money and \$100,000 of Town funds, however these can be in-kind contributions. There being no further discussion, voice vote, Article 13 is adopted.

Article 14 – To see if the Town will vote to establish as a Town Forest under RSA 31:110 the following contiguous parcels of land: map 83 lots 7, 31, and 42: and map 81 lot 19A and 32, totaling 375.9 acres, more or less; to authorize the conservation commission to manage this Town Forest under the provision of RSA 31:112, II, and to authorize the placement of any proceeds that may accrue from this forest management in the pre-existing forest maintenance fund established by vote of Town Meeting in 1982, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:113? (Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board.

Tom Gilmore motioned to adopt Article 14 as written; Mason Donovan seconded. Tom Gilmore explained the history behind the Town purchasing this property in 2007. Making it a Town Forest will protect it from development and gives the control to the Conservation Commission to monitor and maintain. There will be no cost to the Town. Tim Vendt shared his concern regarding this property being protected from taxation. Gilmore explained that it would not change its current status and has not been taxable property since 2007. He also stated that the Town could not sell this land for profit as it was purchased with Conservation Commission funds. There being no further discussion, voice vote, Article 14 was adopted.

Article 15 – To see if the Town will vote to increase the Veterans' property tax discount from \$100 to \$500 annually? (By Petition) (Majority vote required)

Recommended to be adopted by the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article 15 as written; Joe Juliano seconded. Juliano shared that he started this petitioned article after discussions with other Veterans regarding tax credits. There being no further discussion, voice vote, Article 15 was adopted.

Article 16 – To see if the Town will vote and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for food any operating costs of the Boscawen Food Pantry, run by the Boscawen Congregational Church, and provided free to the citizens of Boscawen in need of food. (By Petition) (Majority Vote Required) Recommended to be adopted by the Select Board.

Martha Vendt motioned to adopt Article 16 as written; Kevin Marshall seconded.

Ron Reed amended the article to read, "To see if the Town will allocate from the 2020 operating budget the sum of \$3,000, for food any operating costs of the Boscawen Food Pantry, run by the Boscawen Congregational Church, and provided free to the citizens of Boscawen in need of food. Bill Lambert motioned to adopt the amendment of Article 16. Administrator Hardy explained that the article will be disallowed by DRA because of proper notice requirement. Moderator Niebling reiterated that Article 16 or any amendment to Article 16 will be deemed invalid by the Department of Revenue Administration, however the intent behind Article 16 provides sufficient guidance to the Select Board that within the authority they have to transfer funds among the line items within the budget, they find the funds to cover the \$3,000 to the Boscawen Congregational

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Boscawen Congregational Church, and provided free to the citizens of Boscawen in need of food.” Bill Lambert motioned to adopt the amendment of Article 16. Administrator Hardy explained that the article will be disallowed by Department of Revenue Administration because of proper notice requirement. That being said, this is advisory in nature, however, it is the Select Board’s authority to approve and/or locate the funds within the operating budget. Moderator Niebling summarized that Article 16 or any amendment to Article 16 will be deemed invalid by the Department of Revenue Administration, however, the intent behind Article 16 provides sufficient guidance to the Select Board that within the authority they have to transfer funds among line items within the budget, they find the funds to cover the \$3,000 to the Boscawen Congregational Church. Niebling stated to be procedurally correct suggested withdraw the motion, hear a motion to table any consideration of article 16. That we take up any consideration of this article under Article 17, to transact any other business, which may legally come before this meeting. Cherian stated that regardless of the disallowance by DRA the Select Board would like a vote by the people to provide them with some direction regarding this article. Niebling withdrew his suggestion. There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken, amendment to Article 16 was approved. Joe Juliano seconded, voice vote. Amended Article 16 is adopted. (However, is disallowed by DRA)

Article 17 - To transact any other business, which may legally come before this meeting. There being no further business, Roger Sanborn made a motion to adjourn. Sally Fisher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Moderator Niebling thanked all who came out to participate in the Town Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole E. Hoyt, Certified Town Clerk



THE RIGHT TO VOTE! August 26, 1920

Dr. Mary Louise (Rolfe) Farnum (1870–1965).

One hundred years ago, Dr. Farnum was one of the first two women to run for the New Hampshire House.

She ran as a Democrat from Penacook and Boscawen. It was too late to get on the ballot so she ran as a write-in for the Primary and won!

Her name was on the General Election Ballot and she defeated the well-known Republican incumbent 264–27.