

**State of New Hampshire  
Town of Northumberland  
2012 Results of Town Meeting**

**At 9:00 AM on 3/13/2012 Moderator Keith Young 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 Northumberland Town Office, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square on the second Tuesday in March next, March 13th, 2012, 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 evening for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on said date and at the Groveton High School Ryan's Auditorium in said Town, 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 Election for the Town of Northumberland and the Northumberland School District was opened at 9:00 AM Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young announced that the absentee ballots would be opened at 1:00 PM. At 5:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed.

Moderator Young opened the business meeting at 7 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.. Barry Colebank presented Chief Marcel Platt with Employee of the Year for 2011. Mr. Colebank thanked all of the mutual aid and volunteers who were here to help during the fire at the old town garage on 2/28/12. Moderator Young went over his rules of the meeting.

The results of the ballot vote and Town Meeting are as follows:

**Election Day Ballots for Town 256**  
**Absentee 34**  
**Total ballots cast 290**

**Election Day for School 256**  
**Absentee 33**  
**Total Ballots cast 289**

**School results:**

**Moderator-Barry Colebank (256)**  
**Clerk-Kathy Wiles (write in)**  
**Treasurer-Melody Barney (272)**  
**Board of Education-Nancy Mellow (222)**

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

**Results:**

**Selectmen-Barry Colebank (244)**  
**Library Trustee-Sally Frizzell (261)**  
**Trustee of Trust Funds-Joel Kennett (write in)**  
**Cemetery Trustee-Richard Paradis (write in)**  
**Budget Committee-Mark Robinson (177)**  
**Budget Committee-Uldric Bernard (write in)**

\*Article 2: To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing two years: one Moderator.

**Results:**

**Moderator-Keith Young (write in)**

\*Article 3: To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing six years: one Supervisor of the Checklist.

**Results:**

**Supervisor of the Checklist-Joanne Paradis(267)**

\*Article 4: To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing one year: one Budget Committee Member.

**Results:**

**Budget Committee-Debra Lakin and Douglas Carriger tied (both a write in)**

\*Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to add certain permitted uses to the Heavy Industrial District within Section 3.3 (Industrial District) along with a related addition to the Definitions (Article VIII) section of the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board in Zoning Amendment No. 1. Copies of the complete proposal are on file for public inspection at the Town Offices and will be available on the day of the voting. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 1 changes the Heavy Industrial District in Section 3.3 (Industrial Districts) by inserting additional permitted uses for this district specifically allowing commercial activity associated with plant or fish-based production as well as electrical and heat production from renewable energy sources along with a related addition to the Definitions (Article VIII) section of the Zoning Ordinance.”

Results: Yes 211 No 66 13 were skipped **Article 5 passed.**

\*Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to add new language to Section 7.3 (Building Permits) along with related additions to the Definitions (Article VIII) section of the Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board in Zoning Amendment

No. 2. Copies of the complete proposal are on file for public inspection at the Town Offices and will be available on the day of the voting. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 2 changes Section 7.3 (Building Permits) by inserting additional language which is intended to clarify the criteria for the building permit process that includes raising the threshold amount for a project in order for a building permit to be necessary as well as revises the fees in a cost-effective manner for the public along with related additions to the Definitions (Article VIII) section of the Zoning Ordinance.”

Results: Yes 157 No 119 14 were skipped **Article 6 passed.**

\*Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to add new language and delete existing language to the Floodplain Management Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board in Zoning Amendment No. 3. Copies of the complete proposal are on file for public inspection at the Town Offices and will be available on the day of the voting. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 3 changes the Flood Plain Management Ordinance by inserting additional language as well as deleting existing language in an effort to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.”

Results: Yes 188 No 85 17 were skipped **Article 7 passed.**

\*Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to add new language to Section 4:15 (Northumberland Flood Plain Zoning), as proposed by the Planning Board in Zoning Amendment No. 4. Copies of the complete proposal are on file for public inspection at the Town Offices and will be available on the day of the voting. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of Zoning Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amendment No. 4 changes Section 4:15 (Northumberland Flood Plain Zoning) by inserting additional language in an effort to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.”

Results: Yes 195 No 79 16 were skipped **Article 8 passed.**

\*Article 9: Do you approve of having 2 sessions for the annual town meeting in this town, the first session for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot and the second session, on a date set by the selectmen, for transaction of other business?

Results: Yes 126 No 107 57 were skipped **Article 9 passed**

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote yes to disband the Budget Committee and allow the elected School Board Members and the elected Selectmen to oversee their respective budgets. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Ballot Vote Required) (Polls to be open no less than one hour) (Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

Motion made by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. and seconded by Richard Paradis to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Ballot vote: Yes 107 No 81 **Article 10 passed.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established: (Majority vote required). (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

1. Road Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (Established 2009) – Purpose building and maintaining town roads.
2. Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (Established 2009) – Purpose construction and equipment to improve/expand operation at transfer station.
3. Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (Established 1982) – Purpose to purchase equipment for public works.
4. Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund (Established 2001) - Purpose to purchase new cruisers for the police department.
5. Brooklyn Street Bridge Capital Reserve Fund (Established 2004) – Purpose rebuild Brooklyn Street bridge.
6. Municipal Office Building Capital Reserve Fund (Established 2010) – Purpose for a municipal office building
7. Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund (Established 1990) - Purpose the purchase of new ambulance.

Motion by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to pass article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank explained the article to the voting body. He explained that if this passed that the Selectmen could authorize to expend and not have to wait for a special meeting. Mr. Colebank added that this would be the same process as the school has. Tracey Morrill made a motion and Uldric Bernard seconded it to amend article 11 to drop off the Police Department, Ambulance, and Highway. Mr. Morrill said that he personally felt that those three departments should be voted on at Town Meeting. David Hurlbutt asked if the balances were available. Deborah Weeks answered that the totals for these funds were on page 63 of the Town Report. Barry Colebank said that he appreciated the effort of the amendment but asked that people do not approve it. Barry added that if the Town was to lose a cruiser then the Selectmen hands were tied and that they could only spend the fund that is approved. Barry urged the voters to vote against the amendment. Tracey Morrill said that they can call to have a special meeting for expansion and that the court could legally approve a meeting. Barry Colebank answered that the court could approve a meeting at more expense. Nancy Merrow asked why it wasn't in the Town Report on whether the Budget Committee approved the articles or not. Barry Colebank answered that there were no expansions of money. Terrance Bedell said that if the court awarded a special Town Meeting that it would be lengthy. He said it would take months to process. Tracey Morrill said that the town could

always rent a skid steer. Terrance Bedell added that it would be of more expense. David Auger asked what the process would be if this article passed. Michael Phillips said that there would be no hearing required but that they would do this. Michael said that he is creating an inventory and the people would be aware of expenditures. Tracey Morrill asked if the intent of the original article was passed would other articles be passed over. Barry Colebank answered that it was his intent to pass over some articles. Norman Cotter asked if the Selectmen could just go ahead and buy a new ambulance and added that he was confused. Barry Colebank answered that repairs to an ambulance would not be covered by this fund. Barry added that they could only spend what is in the fund and would only do it in an emergency. Norman Cotter asked if the articles at Town Meeting would end. Barry Colebank answered that all fund by appropriations are done at Town Meeting and that agents to expend had to be done at Town Meeting. Carl Ladd said that the school has a public hearing to expend.

Voice vote. Amendment failed.

No further discussion on the original article as read.

Voice vote. Moderator Young asked for card vote.

Hand held card vote on original article as read.

Results: 120 yes 53 No. **Article 11 passed.**

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$459,341.00 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 Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 12 passed.**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$334,281.00 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 Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to amend article 13 to the amount of \$352,281.00.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that a week ago the sewer department had issues on the pumps located on Perras Road. He added that they have a long life, but have now failed. He said that it was about \$18,000 to replace and that this wasn't in the original budget. Barry

said that this was a unique situation. Mark Robinson asked about the number to start with and then said he made a mistake and was reading it wrong.

No further discussion on the proposed amendment.

Voice vote. **Amendment to article 13 passed.**

Discussion on the amended article 13: Mark Robinson asked if this amount could come out of the capital reserve fund. Barry Colebank answered that we had no such fund to handle sewer. He added that it happened just before Town Meeting so they took advantage of the timing of it now. Emily Langford asked if it would fall under the shortfalls that could be made up. James Tierney answered that it could but only the Selectmen are only allowed to spend what is appropriated. He added that this would only affect the sewer users and exceeds the appropriated amount and thought it was proper to ask in advance.

No further discussion.

**Voice vote. Amended article 13 passed.**

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,801,267.00 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Not recommended by Selectmen 2-01 Abstain) (Recommended by Budget Committee 5-4)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Alan Rossetto to accept article as read.

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Michael Phillips to amend the article to the sum of \$1,823,819.00.

Discussion: Michael Phillips said that he was learning a lot about the numbers and added that the Selectmen proposed an even budget with a goal not to affect the tax rate. Mr. Phillips asked the voting body to approve this amendment as it was the same as last year. He said that those who follow the Budget Committee numbers would know that this is \$60,000 less than the original budget proposed. He said that this would not impact the tax rate on the towns part. Michael Gagnon said that any budgets brought up through taxation were a hardship. He asked where the money was going to come from because we have a \$800,000 shortfall. Michael asked how the town was going to pay the bills. Barry Colebank answered that it was just like running a business with account receivables. He added that the \$800,000 of uncollected debt was an asset in the accounting world. Colebank said that a TAN note covers the period until the money comes in. He added that the town sends the bills, collects the money for the town, school and precinct and that the county, schools, and precinct get ALL of their money. Colebank continued that anything unpaid falls upon the town side to absorb and it fluctuates. Barry explained that the cash flow pays the bills. Mark Robinson asked if the TAN note was paid off or was there \$350,000 on it. Barry Colebank added that the TAN note was not paid off and added that there was still \$250,000 left on it. Mark Robinson added that it was accumulating. Moderator Young stopped Robinson for being off the point of the budget. Kathy Wiles asked what was going to be cut and what were we going to be losing. She added that she had only heard rumors that the police department was going to be cut. Michael Phillips answered that there would be no changes to the police department. He said that the curbside trash pick up had a warrant article of its own and not in these numbers

because it was time to renew the contract. Michael added that there were lots of rumors on top of what they had intended. He added that there would be no Town Administrator this year. Norman Cotter said that last year the trash removal was included in the budget. James Tierney answered that the budget only included 11 weeks of the trash removal.

Voice vote. **Amendment to article 14 passed.**

No further discussion on the amended article.

**Voice vote. Amended Article 14 passed.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$355,002.00 to be added to the Town operating budget as submitted by the Select Board on Dec. 19, 2011. This will allow the town to keep the Northumberland Police force as a four (4) full-time force with the necessary Part-time officers needed to provide the Town with Twenty-Four (24) Hour coverage. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Not Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)(Not recommended by Budget Committee 9-0)

Motion made by Jonathan Woodworth and seconded by Gina Bedell to pass over article 15.

Discussion: Jonathan Woodworth said that this was put in the last article so it didn't have to be voted on. Moderator Keith Young added that the petitioner was incorrect. Al Beland asked if we have 24 hour coverage. Chief Marcel Platt stepped up to answer but was shot down as John Normand announced that Chief Platt was not a resident. Barry Colebank said that the voters could authorize Chief Platt to speak. Voice vote. Unanimously voted to allow Chief Platt to answer Al Beland's question. Chief Platt said that we currently do have 24 hour coverage. Al Beland responded that we do not have someone on the road 24 hours a day, but that we do have 24 hour coverage if that person is at home. Chief Platt said that the town does not offer someone on the road 24 hours a day in a car.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 15 passed over.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established 1990. This sum to come from the surplus fund balance from revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2011 fiscal year. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-2-1)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to pass over Article 16.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that we didn't have a surplus and added that the Ambulance was \$1200 short so there was no money and recommended passing over this article.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 16 passed over.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 dollars to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, established 2001. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 6-2-1)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Norman Cotter asked if this article should be passed over. Barry Colebank answered that it shouldn't be because the voters at Town Meeting vote to put money into this fund. Tracey Morrill asked what kind of vehicle that was being looked at. Chief Marcel Platt answered that it would be a Ford product. He added that in 2013 there would be a new model. Carl Ladd asked how much was currently in the fund. Deborah Weeks answered that there was a list of accounts on page 63 of the town report and she added that the tax impact has not changed. Ms. Weeks said that there was \$17,408 in the fund now and this \$15,000 would give us enough for a new cruiser. Kurt Gilcris asked if the amount would be \$29,000 on top of this amount. Barry Colebank said that one was to expend and one was to put it into. Barry added that they are trying to switch to a new rotation of every 6 years, which would be 3 years out of each new cruiser. Barry added that Michael Phillips did an equipment inventory and is setting up a good rotation to save money. Norman Cotter said that he had a quick question and wondered if we would have 2 cruisers all of the time or would be have three. Chief Platt answered that we would only have 2.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 17 passed.**

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed in the Municipal Office Building Capital Reserve Fund, established 2010. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 8-1)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 18 passed.**

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 dollars to be placed in the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established 1982. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips said that he did an inventory of all of the trucks and realized that the town has a lot of equipment. He added that this warrant was the same as last year and it was a good practice to keep doing it. Tracey Morrill asked what the planning reasons were and why we need this right now. Michael Phillips said that the truck that we use right now is a 2001 one ton with a lot wrong with it. Alan Rossetto wondered why we should purchase it all this year and not spread it out over a 4 year period. Michael Phillips said that everyone wished that they had the money up front. He said that we had the money in this fund for a highway truck and the water truck we do not. Phillips said that if we can pay up front then

let's do it.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 19 passed.**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 dollars to be placed in the Water Pump Capital Reserve Fund, established 2011, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 8-1)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Tracey Morrill asked if we were planning on developing a sewer pump fund. Barry Colebank said that it was a good idea and one should have been set up for the last 20+ years. Reginald Charron said that a pump would last 25-30 years. Uldric Bernard asked if this was being taken from taxes or funds. Barry Colebank answered that it would be from taxes to the fund.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 20 passed.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed in the Sludge Removal Expendable Trust Fund, established 2011, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 8-1)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 21 passed.**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Brooklyn Street Capital Reserve Fund, established 2004. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's fund balance. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips said the Brooklyn Street Bridge fund has \$145,600 plus put aside over the last decade to restore or repair the bridge. He added that the plans were way over engineered and that the State makes you think that you can pull it off for additional funding. Mr. Phillips said that from the flooding last May the crew did a design of cement blocks and a walk way bridge. Phillips said the plan was to widen this and put in some steel beams. He added that this was not done last year because they were not agents to expend. Phillips said that the project isn't going to get done, but would like to add a walkway. He said that there were other articles to talk about later and that this money could be very useful to the town. Mary Sawyer asked if the intent was to fix the foot bridge. Michael Phillips said

that there was \$65,000 in the road maintenance fund and that \$15,000 or so would be for the foot bridge and that the intention was there.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 22 passed.**

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 dollars to be placed in the Road Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established 2009), \$65,000 dollars to come from fund balance and \$20,000 to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips looked at the crowd of voters and said “Who thinks we have good roads?” and got a round of chuckles from them. He added that he had talked to the Stark selectboard and they put \$100,000 in this fund each year in Stark to keep up their roads. Michael said that the selectmen have a goal of reaching \$100,000 to absorb unanticipated expenses. He added that right now there is \$20,000 in this line item. He said he has a good street and road inventory such as manholes, grading, pipes and a lot of roads that need to be replaced the pipes have to be first but everyone has a voice in this process. Mr. Phillips said that the water bond would be paid off next year and it was time to do another big project. He said this is a way to get big projects done that we commit to and for sure to get our roads done. Michael said once we see a long range plan then we will see progress. Alan Rossetto asked if this had anything to do with the \$5.00 increase in registrations for Article 24. Michael Phillips said that Article 24 is connected to NH Motor Vehicle and would represent \$20,000 annually of the \$100,000 goal. He added that if the town likes the goal of fixing our roads plan then it will be \$20,000 of the goal. Douglas Carriger asked if the Selectmen need permission to expend, because it takes it out of the hands of the voting body. Carriger said he doesn't see a plan as to what to spend it on. Michael Phillips answered that this was a trust fund to spend on fixing the roads. He added that the State of NH was talking of giving Brown Road and Lost Nation Road to Northumberland. Michael said that the roads have been rated and it is an ongoing process as to what gets done first. Douglas Carriger added that he felt the selectboard that is currently in place was very good. Michael said to “keep on voting for the selectman on Lost Nation Road” followed by applause and laughter from the audience.

Voice vote. **Article 23 passed.**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize under the provisions of RSA 261:153 VI, the collection of an additional \$5.00 on every motor vehicle registration, additional fees to be placed in the Road Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, established 2009. (Ballot vote required) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips said that he had already addressed this and that the State allowed it. He said that all cars and trucks that use the roads will pay this. Kathy Frechette said that this did not impact every vehicle. Barry Colebank said per RSA 261:153VI it is

passenger and commercial vehicles with exemptions to all terrain, antique, and motorcycles. Christopher Ball asked if the handicapped and people on SSI were exempt. Keith Young responded that it would be for all passenger and commercial vehicles.

No further discussion. Ballot Vote.

Results: Yes 119 No 65 Total 184 ballots **Article 24 passed.**

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,416 to be placed into the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established 2009), with \$89,416 to come from fund balance (of which \$29,502 is from 2011 steel sale proceeds and \$18,284 from the transfer station CD maturing in 2012). No amount to be raised in taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)(Not recommended by Budget Committee)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to amend the article due to a "typo". The \$29,502 should be amended to \$20,502.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard said that the book says \$20,000 so what is the slip amendment. Barry Colebank explained that after the Town Report went to publisher, DRA recommended a different amount and it was a typing mistake so the slip of paper was for clarification.

Voice vote. **Amendment to Article 24 passed.**

Discussion on the amended article 24: Michael Phillips said that the Transfer Station Committee knew where the money was coming from as the sales of steel were good. He added that this CD was something from the early '90's and money from the Brooklyn Street fund. He added that the committee was working with the selectboard and highway crew to get a sound feel for this and this was all aimed at cleaning up the recycling area. Michael added that an inspiring example is Lancaster. He said that Lancaster budgets \$269,000 and only have to raise \$30,000 in taxes. He said that the rest is paid through their recycling program. Mr. Phillips said that he wants to make our transfer station more effected with revolution, more revenue, and user fees. Deborah Weeks asked for a clarification of the number in the amendment. Kathy Wiles asked if we were purchasing a new compactor. Michael answered that the correct word is baler. Wade White asked when we planned on starting this and would we need a TAN note for it. Michael Phillips said this would start in early spring or early summer it would be on the slate. James Morse asked if we were going to get out of the contract with AARVARD and start selling and making revenue. Michael Phillips said that was to be determined and that Lancaster was a good example. He added that there were several options to run more efficiently. Michael said his goal was to get money for recyclables and that there details were still being sorted.

Nor further discussion.

Voice Vote. **Amended Article 24 passed.**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$29,748 for the purchase of a new police cruiser with necessary equipment to up fit and detailing. Funds to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, established 2001 for such purpose. No money to come from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)(Not recommended by

Budget Committee)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Jonathan Woodworth to pass over Article 26.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 26 passed over.**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,800 to purchase a one-ton truck for the highway department funds to come from the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established 1982 for this purpose. No money to come from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Terrance Bedell II to pass over Article 27.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 27 passed over.**

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a lease/purchase contract for the purpose of obtaining a one-ton truck for the water/sewer department. The contract is for three (3) years. The approximate cost of the truck is \$52,000. The contract contains an "escape clause" which serves to allow the Town to avoid the terms and conditions of said contract in the event that the Town Meeting rejects any annual appropriation for this purpose. Additionally, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,400 dollars as the 2012 payment under this lease/purchase contract. 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 Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Tracey Morrill asked what type of vehicle are we going to buy. Barry Colebank said it would be a 1 ton with a utility body on the back. He added that a 1 ton was cheaper than a 3/4 ton. Barry said that this would be another rotation and would plan to purchase every 3 years. He added that after 3 years this truck would go to the highway department and lasts 10-12 years. Barry said that for the Water department it should last 6 years then go to the highway department. Tracey Morrill said if the 6 year old vehicle has another 6 years of life then why wouldn't we be buying a used truck. Barry Colebank answered that he didn't even consider getting a used vehicle. Alan Rossetto asked why this one was being paid for over years. Barry Colebank answered that there was no trust fund of the water and sewer truck but there was for highway trucks. Alan Rossetto said that there was a significant amount of money in the water reserve to use. Barry Colebank said that the board first had to get approval for appropriating. Alan Rossetto asked why we were spending tax dollars because he didn't have water. Barry Colebank answered that he wasn't and that it was the water user fees paying.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 28 passed.**

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to establish an Emergency Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding unanticipated costs associated with Federal, State and/or locally declared emergencies. In accordance with RSA 35:5 funds MUST be appropriated in to the trust fund by approval of the voters for a specific sum. And to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. And to appropriate \$30,000 dollars to be placed in the Capital Reserve fund, with said funds to come from the fund balance. No money to come from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Melinda Kennett to table Article 29 until the end of the other money articles.

Discussion: Barry Colebank explained that the town was getting close to the 10% increase in the budget and wants to consider Article 29 later as to not go over.

Voice vote. **Article 29 tabled until later in the evening.**

At 10:10 Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to amend Article 29 to take the \$30,000 out.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that based on the 10% rule there was no money left but would like to establish this anyways. He added that the weather problems last year FEMA didn't cover all of the expenses. He said that we got 75% through FEMA and insurance.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Amendment to Article 29 passed.**

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Amended Article 29 passed.**

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,633 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Groveton Senior Meals \$14,000

Child Advocacy Center of Coos County \$ 500

North woods Home Health & Hospice \$12,759

Northern Human Services \$ 3,100

Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers \$ 2,000

Tri-County Community Action \$ 4,025

Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce \$ 1,141

CASA of New Hampshire \$ 500

American Red Cross – NH Region \$ 1,108

Lancaster Community Cupboard (Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen) \$ 500

(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Not recommended by Budget Committee 8-1)

Motion made by Jane Hopps and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Deborah Montgomery, Coordinator for Senior meals, spoke about her program. She said that they ran a little short on the \$13,000 given last year so they were asking for more. She said that they served 2476 dinners on site and 1042 delivered out. She added that they serve on Monday and Wednesday. Mrs. Montgomery said that she received \$9512 from door donations and \$3600 from the Groveton Foundation and \$700 from Stark. She said that they have to pay wages, for supplies, gas, and groceries. She said that there was \$37.40 left at the end of the year. John Jaworawski spoke on behalf of the Chambers of Commerce. He said that it represented 10 towns and 2 townships. He added that the money was raised through dues, website, and that they were going to work with GREAT. He asked for support from the community for the work that they do. Rita Gibson recommended that we support the Groveton Senior meals program. Chief Marcel Platt spoke in support of the Child advocacy program and said that it was a great service. Brian Bresnahan said that all of the programs were great and should be supported. He said that the return exceeded what we give. Christopher Ball said that there were other places besides these to donate to as well.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 30 passed.**

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,970 for the Senior Meals, Meals-On-Wheels Home Delivered Program through Tri-County CAP, North Country Elder Programs. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 8-1)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Kevin O'Brien to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that 13,696 meals were brought in at no charge. He added that it was a donation only program.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 31 passed.**

Article 32: To see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 (Twenty five hundred dollars) to support North Country Transit's Senior Transportation. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 7-2)

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

Discussion: John Normand said that this was the bus that comes to town 3-5 times a day. He said that this bus serves several towns in the North Country and for seniors over 60 it was donation only and \$3.00 otherwise.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 32 passed.**

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 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 Selectmen 3-0) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee 7-2)

Motion made by Jane Hopps and seconded by Tyler Burt to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brenda Tilton said that they have had several fund raisers and that things were looking very good. She added that this was going to be on June 8, 2012 at the Red Jacket for about 44 graduating seniors. Kathy Frechette said that this was a great thing to do but recommended that next year we give \$50 per student and that Stratford and Stark pay for their own.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 33 passed.**

Article 34: 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 Selectmen 2-0-1 Abstain) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Jane Hopps and seconded by Shirley Sawyer to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 34 passed.**

Article 35: 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 Selectmen 2-0-1 Abstain) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee 6-3)

Motion made by Terrance Bedell II and seconded by Terrance Bedell to pass article as read.

Discussion: Kathy Wiles asked if the insurance was covering the decorations that we just lost. Jodi Paradis said that they ask for \$2500 a year for fruit baskets and the combination party with the fire department. Jodi added that we lost all of the decorations. Barry Colebank said that we didnt' know what the insurance was going to cover yet. Mr. Colebank said that he had called the fire marshal and hadn't heard back on the reports. He said that this \$2500 was aimed at the baskets and community party. He said a lot was lost in this garage fire.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 35 passed.**

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the position of elected Auditor under the provisions of RSA 41:31.

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that because of the changes to the law that towns are now required to appoint or elect an auditor. He added that if this was approved tonight then we would appoint one for the first year and then they would be elected. Barry said that we had to have one and that they would be sitting with the accountants to go over the books. He added that the accounting firm is already in place to do the paperwork and that he recommended this article to be passed.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 36 passed.**

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to adopt an ordinance that states, other than high voltage electrical transmission lines in existence as of the effective date of this ordinance, there shall be no further overhead development of alternating current or direct current high voltage transmission lines allowed within the borders of the Town of Northumberland. All such future electrical transmission lines must be placed underground within power line rights of way or within yet to be established power line corridors, and installed in a manner approved by the State of New Hampshire's Public Utility Commission and/or Department of Transportation. Distribution lines carrying electrical power and other utility lines such as telephone and cable television for local residential or commercial use may continue to be installed above ground, but under grounding of such lines, is strongly recommended and encouraged. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Alan Holmes and seconded by Tracey Morrill to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that the law firm for our town does not recommend that we approve this article. He also added that this didn't go through the proper channels before town meeting with a public hearing and zoning board. He said the this town didnt' need to spend money on litigation. Elizabeth Pearce said that she had heard a lot about planning for the future and that Europe laughed at us because our wires are above ground. She said that she thinks it's a good idea to have the people vote on this for the long term look down the road. Barry Colebank said that the ordinance rules were not followed and read the letter he received from the lawyer. He added that we have made our stand against Northern Pass already. He said that if this needs to be done then it needs to be done correctly. Barry said that taking personal property is no acceptable.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 37 failed.**

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the funds of the amount of \$1,355.00 per week or \$70,460.00 per year to keep curbside trash removal. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Not Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-1 Abstain) (Not Recommended by Budget Committee 7-1-1 Abstain)

Motion made by John Collier and seconded by Sandra Cross to accept article as read.

Discussion: Norman Cotter asked why we were even voting on this. Michael Phillips said that this was not included in the budget because it is a new contract and needs to be voted on. He added that the selectmen would like a user based system and only 600 households took advantage of this. Mr. Early charges \$2.20 per household (50 cents) per thousand or \$50.00 for a trash pick up per year. He said that the true cost is between \$112-\$156 for each house and out of the 1600 taxable properties only 600 use it. He added that he felt it wasn't fair to ask taxpayers to pay for it and that they were not getting rid of it but wanted it to become privatized. He added that the 600 that used it could pay for it. Alan Holmes said that he agreed to some extent but that we also had to look at the sidewalks and street lights too. David Hurlbutt said that we would approve the charitable foundations but would make users pay so we should look at the budget and pick and choose.

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Kevin O'Brien to amend the article to read \$1355 per week or \$55,555.00.

Discussion: James Tierney said that the first 11 weeks for 2012 were already in the budget and said that this would be the one year. He asked if they wanted one year or three year. John Normand asked what was cheaper. James Tierney said that the one in Article 39 was. John Normand said why spend \$70,000 when we only have to spend \$67,000. Uldric Bernard asked if the dump hours would increase. Michael Phillips answered that he believed the 3 days a week was sufficient. He added that privatizing doesn't mean this is gone. Phillips added that by adding this we would be going over the 10% budget rule by \$8000 and it would have a tax impact and he wanted to be sure people understood that this was part of the picture. Terrance Bedell said that with the 10% rule the only option would be Article 38. Barry Colebank said that the the 3 year is only appropriated each year. David Auger said that he echoed some of the comments on the economy scale but he is concerned about a way for the senior citizens getting to the transfer station. He said that he commended the selectmen but the money was in the budget last year and so it should be offered as the same service. He said that maybe a fee should be sought for revenues as senior citizens are trying to find the next dollar. Arnold Tilton said the 3 year plan was better. Kathy Wiles asked if Early was the only one on that bid. Becky Craggy said that it was sent to 4 other companies and Early was the only one to send a bid.

Motion made by Rae Hurlbutt and seconded by John Normand to pass over the question.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said it needed to be voted on. David Auger said to save some confusion to talk about Article 39 now. Barry Colebank said that bids were sent to 4 companies but Early was the only one to respond. He added that there would be no additional fees for the next 3 years and the article also included 11 weeks into 2015. David Auger said that Article 39 was better and Barry agreed. Barry added that the transfer station committee and their efforts made the selectboard decide that they didn't want to be under contract, but the 3 year was better.

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. to move the question.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Amendment to Article 38 failed.**

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 38 failed.**

Article 39: 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 2012 and ending with Town Meeting 2015. The cost of the contract is as follows:

2012 \$53,300  
2013 \$67,600  
2014 \$67,600  
2015 \$14,300

Additionally, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,300 dollars for the 2012 budget year. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Not Recommended by Selectmen 30))  
(Not Recommended by Budget Committee 5-4)

Motion made by Carl Ladd and seconded by Barbara Wheelock to accept article as read.

Discussion: Kathy Wiles asked if there was a clause to get out of this. Barry Colebank and Michael Phillips both said no, we are stuck. David Auger said that there is opportunity in innovative ways to help offset this expense and challenged the selectboard to do that in the future. Gary Normandeau said there is no question on which way to go. He said that if anyone needs to see what a person goes through just to get to the transfer station and for a senior citizen it would be difficult.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 39 passed.**

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barbara Wheelock asked what was going to be done about getting another Selectman. Barry Colebank answered that anyone interested could put in a letter of intent for one term.

No further discussion.

Voice vote. **Article 40 passed.**

Article 41: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore

chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard said that he disagreed with the whole process of how the selectboard could do what they wanted. Barry Colebank said that if he wanted it changed he could get a hold of someone in Concord as all that was approved was the operating budget. Uldric Bernard said he wanted a town administrator. Kathy Wiles thanked Barry and Michael and said what a good job they did.

Voice vote. **Article 41 passed.**

Article 42: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by David Hurlbutt to accept article as read.

Discussion: David Hurlbutt wanted to thank the budget committee for their work. Barry Colebank said it was good to see some new voters here tonight and thanks the young folks. Christopher Balls brought up some signage requests for the cross walks. Kathy Frechette asked that the hill residents be informed if there are break ins.

Voice vote. **Article 42 passed.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Norman Cotter and seconded by Terry Niles. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:23 PM BY MODERATOR KEITH YOUNG ON 3/13/2012.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda "Min" Marshall Kennett  
Town Clerk  
Town of Northumberland