

Town Election & Meeting Minutes

State of New Hampshire Town of Northumberland

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 Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square on the second Tuesday in March next, March 14th, 2017, 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 **7:00** in the evening for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 and at the Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium in said Town at **09:30** in the forenoon, 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 declared opened at 9:00 AM, Tuesday, March 14, 2017 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young also announced that the absentee ballots would be processed at 1:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed.

375 Ballots were cast (39 Absentee, 336 Election Day)

School Results:

Moderator: Write-in Keith Young 96

Clerk: Kathy Wiles 339

Treasurer: Melody Barney 359

Board of Education (two three-year terms): William Everleth 276 and James Weagle 231

The business meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM on March 18, 2017 by Moderator Keith Young. Moderator Young recognized our Veterans and led the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 85 registered voters in attendance with approximately 100 people in total attendance. Moderator Young went over the common sense guidelines of his meeting.

James Weagle gave a brief history of the Boston Post Cane in the Town of Northumberland. Terri Charron presented the Boston Post Cane to Elizabeth Lewis. It was accepted by Archie Lewis, Deb Lewis, and Sally Lewis. Archie is Elizabeth Lewis son.

James Weagle also asked the voters if naming our bridge after Pop Langley and Lyle Hersom was okay. The voters agreed and he will notify Senator Jeff Woodburn.

*Articles 1-2 will be printed on the official ballot.

***Article 1:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing three years: one Selectman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Treasurer, Library Trustee, Trustee of Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustee.

Results:

Selectman: Chris Wheelock 155, Alan Rossetto 122, Jesse Hern 49, Julie M. Boisselle 38, Kenneth F. Strong 4, and Write-in Mario Audit 5

Town Clerk & Tax Collector: Melinda “Min” Marshall Kennett 349

Town Treasurer: Melody Barney 350

Library Trustee: Nancy Merrow 333

Trustee of Trust Funds: Wendy Weagle 287

Cemetery Trustee: Write-in Terri Charron 25

***Article 2:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing one year: one Auditor.

Results: Kimberly DeBlois 342

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$200,000 dollars for the acquisition of an underground utility easement and the construction of a water connection, in said easement, up Reservoir Rd to the water tank, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$200,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate the terms of such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (2/3 vote by ballot required)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Ballot vote results: Yes 71 No 13 Skip 1

Article 3 passed as read.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$361,376 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)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Motion made to amend article 4 to \$368,696 made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle.

Hand held card vote. Amendment passed.

Article 4 passed as amended.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$323,398 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be offset by the sewer user fees. Any shortfall in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the “regular sewer account”. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle to amend the article 5 to \$336,623.

Hand held card vote. Amendment passed.

Article 5 passed as amended.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,194,237 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-Michael Phillips

Seconded by: James Weagle

Hand held card vote.

Article 6 passed as read.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 dollars to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds at the amounts shown:

Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001	\$5,000
Water System CRF, established 2011	\$ 5,000
Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009	\$70,000

(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: James Tierney

Hand held card vote.

Article 7 passed as read.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$485 dollars to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established 2009, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount represents the 2016 metal sale proceeds. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: James Tierney

Hand held card vote.

Article 8 passed as read.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,726 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established 1990, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount represents surplus revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2016 fiscal year. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

James Tierney made a motion to amend article 9 to \$21,103 and James Weagle seconded it.

Hand held card vote. Amendment passed.

Article 9 passed as amended.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,793 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Groveton Senior Meals	\$13,500
Northwoods Home Health & Hospice	\$12,759
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,225
CASA of New Hampshire	\$ 500
American Red Cross NH & VT Region	\$ 2,200
Center for New Beginnings	\$ 500
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,219
Caleb Caregivers	\$ 2,000
Coos ServiceLink Resource Center	\$1,590
St Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program	\$1,200

Project Homebound \$1,000
(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Tierney

Seconded by: James Weagle

Hand held card vote.

Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,970 dollars for the Tri-County CAP, Inc., North Country Elder Program in support of the Senior Meals Program home delivery. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 11 passed as read.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Cal Ripken Baseball Program, to be used to cover accident and liability insurance, tournaments and registration fees. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13: To see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars in support of the Tri County Transit Bus Service. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read- Michael Phillips

Seconded by: James Weagle

Hand held card vote.

Article 13 passed as read.

Article 14: 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 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 14 passed as read.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 dollars for the Groveton Beautification Organization. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read- James Tierney

Seconded by: James Weagle

Hand held card vote.

Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Chem-Free Graduation Fund. These funds to be used to promote alcohol and drug free youth by sponsoring a chemical free graduation celebration. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Not Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Melinda Kennett
Hand held card vote.

Article 16 passed as read.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Conservation and Conservation Projects Capital Reserve Trust Fund created in 2011. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be placed in the General Fund. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)
Motion made to accept article as read- James Tierney

Seconded by: James Weagle
Hand held card vote.

Article 17 passed as read.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund account as authorized by RSA 36-A: 5 with the fund to be held by the municipal treasurer (RSA 41:29) and further to raise and appropriate \$75,735 dollars to be placed in the fund. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. These represent the monies from the discontinuation of the Conservation and Conservation Projects Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This article is contingent on the passage of article 17. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read- James Weagle
Seconded by: James Tierney

Hand held card vote.

Article 18 passed as read.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1982. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the General Fund. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read- James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 19 passed as read.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Works (Highway, Water/Sewer, Sanitation) Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as authorized by RSA 35: 1 with the fund to be held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds (RSA 41: 29) and further to raise and appropriate \$28,777 dollars to be placed in the fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. This represents the monies from the discontinuation of the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in article 19. Furthermore, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. This article is contingent on the passage of article 19. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read- James Weagle

Seconded by: James Tierney

Hand held card vote.

Article 20 passed as read.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$800,000 dollars to be used for construction/reconstruction of sidewalks and curbing in Groveton, with \$640,000 dollars to come from a Transportation Alternative Program grant and \$160,000 dollars to come from taxation. This article is contingent upon the receipt of the grant. (Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

Motion made to accept article as read- James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Motion by Norman Cotter and seconded by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. to pass over this article.

Hand held card vote.

Article 21 passed over. (Did not pass)

Article 22: To see if the Town of Northumberland, NH will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72: 28-b known as All Veterans' Tax Credit. The amount of this credit shall be \$100. This credit shall take effect April 1, 2017. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 22 passed as read.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion made to accept article as read-James Weagle

Seconded by: Michael Phillips

Hand held card vote.

Article 23 passed as read.

Article 24: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made to accept article as read- Michael Phillips

Seconded by: James Weagle

Hand held card vote.

Article 24 passed as read.

Article 25: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion made to accept article as read- Elaine Gray

Seconded by: Melinda Kennett

Norman Cotter asked how long the contract with the newly hired Police Chief is for. James Tierney answered that it was a one year contract.

James Weagle thanked James Tierney for his years of service, which was followed by a big round of applause from the voters in attendance. Weagle also welcomed newly elected selectboard member Christopher Wheelock.

Glenn Cassady thanked everyone for their patience during the last snow storm.

Hand held card vote.

Article 25 passed as read.

Motion to adjourn was made by Melinda Kennett and seconded by James Tierney.

Hand held card vote. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM by Moderator Young on 3/18/2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda A. "Min" Marshall Kennett
Certified Town Clerk & Tax Collector
Town of Northumberland