

**State of New Hampshire
Town of Northumberland
2010 Results of Town Meeting**

At 8:00 AM on 3/09/2010 Moderator 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 Groveton High School Ryan's Auditorium in said Town on the second Tuesday in March next, March 9, 2010, 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 **8:00** 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 said date and at said place, at **8:00** 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 Meeting for the Town of Northumberland was opened at 8:00 AM Tuesday, March 9, 2010 to 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 PM.

The business meeting opened at 8:00 PM with Moderator Young leading residents with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Young announced the death of long time resident, William Osgoode, who faithfully attended & was passionate about Town Meeting. Moderator Young introduced the head table of Town Officials and Supervisors of the Checklist. Moderator Young went over his rules of the meeting.

The results of the ballot vote and Town Meeting are:

Ballots cast: 507 Regular and 45 Absentee for a total of 552.

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

Selectman: Robert Gauthier 252
Budget Committee: Michael Phillips 347
Budget Committee: Alan Rossetto (Write in) 19
Library Trustee: Linda Caron 501
Trustee of Trust Funds: VACANT (Selectmen will appoint until 2011 Town Election)
Cemetery Trustee: Thomas Covell 500

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

Cemetery Trustee: Reggie Charron 462
Moderator: Barry Colebank 424

***Article 3:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing one year: one Cemetery Trustee and one Budget Committee.

Cemetery Trustee: Terri Charron 474
Budget Committee: Tracey Morrill 402

***Article 4:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing six years: one Supervisor of the Checklist.

Terri Charron 486

***Article 5:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Town Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: amend the Zoning Ordinance according to RSA 674:63 to regulate the construction of small wind energy systems for onsite consumption as part of the Zoning Ordinance ?

Yes 325 No 145 Article 5 passed

***Article 6:** 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?

Yes 215 No 262 Article 6 Failed

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 451,497 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 the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1-1)

Motion made by Terry Bedell and seconded by James Tierney to move to Article 18 to start the meeting. Voice vote. Motion to move to Article 18th first passed.

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to pass article as read.

Discussion: Ron Caron asked the Selectmen what the current projection was for water fees or in other words what the fees were going to go up this year with a \$450,000 budget. He added that the balance was only \$85,000 and it was \$300,000 just a few years ago. James Tierney replied that there was no plan to raise the water rate at least for 3 cycles. Mr. Tierney said that there should be sufficient enough funds with cycles 1-4 to be able to not raise the rates for the 2010 cycle. Ron Caron asked what the projection was for 2011 and asked if the projection was to have \$85,000 to start next year. James Tierney said that he thought that it wouldn't be zero, but closer to zero than \$101,000 depending on how folks paid their bills in 2010. Mark Robinson said that he thought it was estimated that the 2010 bills would go up 60% and that there was a \$166,312 difference. James Tierney responded that what was being generated was for water \$85,000 x 4, a quarter, would be about \$440,000 so it would be close but he didn't anticipate raising it for 2010. Mark Robinson said if we voted on this it could go up. James Tierney said that it was tight, but no, not in 2010. Mr. Tierney said if the water revenues come in at 50% for the first quarter and 50% for the second that oh yes maybe by the third quarter you might see a raise because the folks aren't paying their bills. Mr. Tierney added that the plan was to hold the rate for 2010.

Ron Caron made a motion to amend the dollar amount of Article 7 to read \$406,347 instead of the \$451,497. Wade White seconded it.

Discussion on amendment: Barry Colebank, Budget Committee Chair, asked Ron Caron where this number was coming from. Ron pointed out some items that he thought could come out and pointed out that \$17,000 had been added to it. He felt that cutting it 10% or \$45,000 should be cut out at the discretion of the board. Rob Larson told Ron that he appreciated his homework and said that the \$17,000 was for the pumps and asked Ron when the pumps were replaced. Ron Caron answered that it was his guess that it was 3-4 years. Rob Larson asked Ron Caron how long the pumps would last. Ron said that they lasted 4 to 5 years and that the last time he was working with the water pumps they were running as well as they were when they were new. Rob Larson said that every 4 years they should be replaced. Mr. Larson added that the secondary pump was too small and this would jeopardize having no water if the pump shut down. He added that it was up to the taxpayers if they did or didn't want a reserve pump, as it was a catch 22 situation. Ron Caron added that he agreed with Rob to an extent. He added that there were other areas that we could save and they chose not to do that such as doing 1 water billing a year instead of 4. He added that there was money in the budget for this and it was up to the discretion of the board. Ron said that the last time the pump went out we had water. He said that it was close but we did have water. Ron stated that it is what it is. Norman Cotter that we read the meters 4 times per year and asked if it was ready twice a year would we estimate the other 2 and wanted to know if it would be a savings and if so how much. James Tierney answered that it would be a 1-week salary on 1 individual 2 times per year and that the mailings were around \$300 plus the paper and that wasn't at \$3000 yet. Barry Colebank said that his input was that the Budget Committee listened very closely to the Department Heads and that it was very important to look at the numbers and verify the numbers. He disagreed with Ron Caron on this. Mr. Colebank said that being able to foresee saves money. He added that the Budget Committee felt that based on that the Water and Sewer Department budgets were adequate. Barry felt that the town needed to invest in this pump and that based on the projection the budget submitted was appropriate. Barry added that he strongly felt that the town needed to invest in these pumps. Moderator Young moved forward with voting on the amendment on Article 7. The amendment to Article 7 failed.

Discussion on Article 7 as originally read by Moderator Young: Alan Rossetto asked if we were depleting our reserves would the town be in trouble for the coming years down the road? James Tierney answered Mr. Rossetto with a yes. He added that when the reserves are gong the only mechanism is with adjusting the water rate and that would go up by a third. Ed Bezanson wondered why nothing legally was being done to Guildhall to get something back from them. James Tierney responded that Guildhall did pay for its water. He explained that Northumberland had a 10-year agreement with

Guildhall and that Guildhall still had 3-4 years to go. Mr. Tierney said that Guildhall pays the same as residents do but that they didn't pay for Capital improvements but do for operating expenses. Mark Robinson asked if the town could change that. James Tierney said that we were under a binding contract with Guildhall and once the contract was up it could be renegotiated. He added that if we wanted to open it up and they agreed to it then it would open everything up and we could win or we could lose. Mark Robinson wanted to know if we charged Guildhall more how we could lose. James Tierney said that the Guildhall residents could go back to the wells that most of them already have still on their land before they got town water. Mark Robinson said that it was a risk the we might have to take and that if he didn't pay his water bill he got charged interest on it. James Tierney explained that the Town of Guildhall got the bill from Northumberland and in return charges their residents themselves. Mark Robinson added that if we were to adjust the capital improvements so that Guildhall paid some of it the residents wouldn't feel so burdened by it. James Tierney said that the town owns it's own water department and we were selling a product and they were buying a product. Mark Robinson said that businesses shouldn't be giving away their product. James Tierney said we were not giving it away. Mark Robinson said that if we pay a water rate and we have extra water and they want it then Guildhall should pay more. James Tierney said it was a contract that both sides would have to agree to open up.

Harry Lee Rice, Jr. made a motion to move the question and Terry Bedell seconded it. Motion passed.

Hand held card vote. Article 7 passed as originally read.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 305,713 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 the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1-1)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Al Beland asked that the septic tanks that don't have sewer don't pay sewer but are taxed on it and wondered how much. James Tierney responded that septic tank owners were taxed on an assessment of \$4500. Al Beland asked if that was for a septic and well. Mr. Tierney answered that it was \$4500 for septic and \$2500 for a well. Al Beland wondered why this money didn't go into the water and sewer account. James Tierney told him that it was a tax and included on the warrant articles as a tax much like a house or garage. He added that the State of NH sets the amount of the assessment on wells and septic and that everyone was charged the same. Al Beland asked what a warrant meant. James Tierney said he would ask DRA if the town could legally do that to folks.

No further discussion

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 \$ 1,789,377 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-2)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Robert Larson to pass article as read.

No discussion. Hand held card vote. Article 9 passed as read.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 38,605 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Senior Meals	\$14,000
Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$ 1,650
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,025
Weeks Med Ctr Home Health&Hospice Services	\$12,759
American Red Cross	\$ 1,101
North Country Elder Programs	\$ 1,970

(Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-2)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Robbins asked why we donated to these groups because the town had no money and if the people

wanted to donate and take it of the taxes they could but wanted to know why the town had to do this. James Tierney said that the town has donated in the past and we vote on it. He said if the voters say yes then we donate and if the voters say no then we don't donate. Michael Cloutier said that usually there was a representative there when asking for a donation and wanted to know if anyone was at this meeting to talk about these. James Tierney said that these charitable organizations all submitted letters and no one was here to talk about it. He added that if at subsequent meetings there was a wish to have someone at town meeting then the office would notify the organizations of that. Kim Wheelock said that she thought we should support our elderly. Rae Hurbutt said that the town's people directly benefit from these. James Tierney added that the town's folks do benefit from all of these. He said that the senior meals have been around for as long as he knows of and it is 2 times per week. Rita Gibson said that she works at senior meals. She said that in the winter there were about 30 people each week, two times a week, which is Monday and Wednesday. She added that in the summer there were 48-50 people as an average. Rita said that besides what we give for a donation she also collects money at the door and that Debbie Montgomery has 12, 18, or 20 meals that are delivered. James Tierney said that the request was down \$2000 from last year. Brian Bresnahan said that he hazards a guess that the amounts that we donate are far less than what is spent in the community. Kathy Shannon said that on page 101 of the Town Report there was a letter from her company.

Harry Lee Rice Jr, made a motion to move the question and James Morse seconded it. Motion to move the question passed.

Hand held card vote. Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote not to transfer the sum of \$17,467 dollars, received from the sale of metals, to the Transfer Station Fund previously established, as stated in the 2009 Town Warrant. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-1)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Amanda King asked what this meant. James Tierney explained that we have the money and it was voted on in a warrant in 2009 to put it in a Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund. He said the board was asking to let it stay in the general fund because of the cash flow problems right now. Paula Colebank asked about this years sales. James Tierney said it would probably be affected next year, as it is generally 2 years in between sales. Ed Bezanson asked what the money was used for. James Tierney said the money would be used to pay the bills and it would stay in the general fund to lengthen the time we don't need a TAN note. Norman Cotter asked if using the money on the transfer station would save money in the long run. He added that he thought it was going to be used to only make 1 dump and change the whole transfer station over. James Tierney said eventually based on sales like this that yes it would happen. He added that warrant article 25 was for a grant was to do what Mr. Cotter just mentioned as far as fixing the transfer station but that the money in the account now wasn't enough to do anything.

No further discussion.

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 the Selectmen 3-0)(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 2-2-4)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by James Tierney to pass article as read.

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if this was outside during the summer or for the school season and wondered if the school insurance covered. James Tierney said that this was the summer program. Samantha Canton added that it was for ages 8-12 and not to do with the Rec. Center. She said it was for area towns and that they were on a strict budget. Samantha said that without this money the program wouldn't be. Mark Robinson asked if it was insurance separately. Rae Hurlbutt asked why this wasn't added to the Rec. Center budget. James Tierney answered that this wasn't a rec. department function and that it was a private function. James said the rec money was separate.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13: To request that the Town 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 the Selectmen 3-0)(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-3-2)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to pass article as read.

No discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article 13 passed as read.

Article 14 To see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 (Two thousand dollars) to support North Country Transit's Senior Transportation. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-1)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Paula Colebank to pass article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that this was the bus that ran 5 days a week and went anywhere. He added that this bus would go shopping or to an appointment. Mr. Normand pointed out that the bus was handicapped accessible and that it went from Groveton to Whitefield.

No further discussion.

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 \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Community Christmas Organization. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-2-3)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Joanne Paradis to accept article as read.

Discussion: Marie Pivin asked if we raised this money every year. James Tierney told her that we did. Mrs. Pivin asked where the new décor was. James Tierney told her that it wasn't just for décor that it was also for the senior baskets. Joanne Paradis also added that it was for 300 senior baskets, the kids had Santa; they made up 250 stockings and also changed to LED lights to save on the light bill for the town. James Tierney added again that it was covering a lot more than just the decorations.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President. Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage". (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to move onto Article 17 until the ballots and ballot box was ready from the prior secret ballot vote because there was a petition for a secret ballot. Motion passed to move on.

Motion made by Reverend John Taylor and seconded by Allan Holmes to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard asked why we had to do a secret ballot. Moderator Young answered that a petition for this had come in. Brian Bresnahan said that he was over 60 and that he was taught by his parents and church about tolerance and compassion especially community compassion and by voting for this would be discrimination. Brian added that he had watched discrimination all of his life. He added that this would be against our state motto. Reverend Taylor said that he took the petition around and got signatures and he would have gotten a lot more. He added that all he was asking for was a right to vote to express ourselves. He said that there was 5000 years of traditions and boundaries. Reverend Taylor said that he would like to be able to vote on major issues. Daniel Becker commented that this was discrimination. He added that he wasn't telling anyone who he or she can marry. John Roberge asked that this article be passed over like our neighbors of the north. He said that we elected all forms of government and that our State Representatives vote for what the people want in Concord and asked that this didn't change now. John asked that the constitution not be changed. Amanda King said that this was very broad and we do have the right to vote in important matters. She added that this is not important because we were trying to focus on one group and it was discrimination. Brian Bresnahan said that if we

voted to amend the constitution this is a vote to legislate discrimination. He said we tell our representatives and they do the job that we ask them to do and asked that we did not pass this.

Harry Lee Rice Jr asked to move the question and John Roberge seconded it. Motion to move the question passed.

Ballot Vote: Yes 57 No 104 Article 16 Failed

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the Town owned land at the corner of Church and Spring Streets (Map 107 Lot 91) to the Groveton Village Precinct. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Amanda King asked the board what this meant. Terry Bedell answered that the Precinct had a grant to update the firehouse and to add an ambulance bay. The Precinct owned the building but the taxpayers own the land and want it transferred over to the Precinct so that it may get this grant. He added that if the grant was accepted then they would build plus update all of the sprinkler systems and more. Mark Robinson asked what would happen to the teachers and students that park there now. Michael Cloutier said that if the new bay went in the parking lot would lose 6 parking spots. Terry Bedell said that they have done studies, they know what they want for the addition and know the numbers for Sunday church and senior meals. He added that the school would have an agreement with the Selectmen for parking if they got the grant. Mr. Bedell said again that if they got the grant and built onto the firehouse it would eliminate 6 parking spots. Moderator Young said that the spots gone would be where the building would be. Ed Bezanson said that he wanted in writing about the parking spots because the police would leave tickets. Terry Bedell said that this wasn't true because it was public parking. He added that where the building is being discussed is not ticketed. Ed Bezanson said again that he wanted it in writing. John Robbin asked if the precinct included Stark and Stratford and if we plowed the parking lot. Terry Bedell told him that it was just our town. Tony Haskins asked if the residents could park in the parking lot behind the church. James Tierney said that currently the town has an agreement with the church that the town would plow the back parking lot as long as the church allows people to park there. Tony Haskins pointed out that therefore the people could park there then. James Tierney said that the people could park there. Nancy Merrow said that she researched old town reports and that the town had taken that land by eminent domain in 1985. She said that it was the old Red & White store parking lot. Nancy said that it was taken as space for parking and for emergency related vehicles and that the town would maintain that land for that purpose. James Tierney told her that in spirit of what she said that is still true. Nancy Merrow said that the addition to the firehouse is not what it was intended for and that it was strictly for parking. Nancy said she doubted that it was meant for parking in the building and that voting yes would go against that intent. Richard Brooks presented the letter to Moderator Young to read to the voters. This letter was from the Groveton Village Precinct to the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Northumberland.

John Robbin made a motion to move the question and Harry Lee Rice Jr seconded it.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 18: 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 RSA 32:14,III)

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

Discussion: Sandra Cross said that she with anyone who didn't want the Budget Committee. Alcide Bean added that he thought that the town should keep them to keep the "town" straight. David Hurlbutt said that we did this one-year ago and it was 2:1 to keep them. He added that he felt it would be an awful thing not to keep them. Mr. Hurlbutt said that we should be supporting the Budget Committee. Michael Cloutier said that we have elected officials that we vote for and we should trust them to do the job at hand. Rae Hurlbutt said that the Budget Committee was in place and that they offered suggestions and is an extra set of eyes and asked if she was wrong. Barry Colebank explained how a Budget Committee works. Ed Bezanson said that the committee doesn't get paid and agreed that with an extra few eyes it helps to keep an eye on the town and that the Budget Committee gives extra help and a close eye. Terry Bedell said that it comes down to the taxpayers at town meeting to decide. He added that if the Budget Committee recommended that people need to understand that if they cut 10% the town can only bring it up 10%. If they cut 20% the town can only bring it up 10%. James Tierney agreed with Mr. Bedell on the 10%. Gina Bedell said that we all had a voice and that the problem is that the town can only bring up the budget by 10%. She added that she had a problem with only 10%. Mrs. Bedell said that the members of the committee she agreed with sometimes and others she didn't agree with because the committee takes some of the voting rights away. David Hurlbutt said that in a practical matter no budget has ever been increased by 10% and it was more of an emotional issue. Rich Langford asked if more than 10% was cut, what would the town do. James Tierney

said that there was no limit to cut. He added that if the town chose to cut the budget to \$1 they could. James said that the budget couldn't be raised by more than 10%. Michael Phillips said that the committee looked at the money that was coming in and the cash flow. He added that the town was in a severe recession right now and everyone needed to look at the big picture. Mr. Phillips said that the cuts from the Budget Committee didn't even come close to the 10%.

Christopher Canton made a motion to move the question. James Tierney seconds it. Voice vote. Motion to move the question passed.

Ballot vote. Polls were open for 1 hour starting at 8:20 pm.

Ballot Vote: Yes 104 No 127 Article 18 Failed

James Weagle made a motion to go on with other articles while voting was going on and Norman Cotter second it. Voice vote. Motion to move along passed. Moderator Young went back to Article 7.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a lease/purchase contract for the purpose of obtaining one new pickup type truck. The contract is for 4 years. The approximate cost of the truck is \$24,987. The contract contains an "escape clause". The cost of the contract is as follows:

2010	\$7,000
2011	\$7,000
2012	\$7,000
2013	\$7,000

Additionally, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 dollars for the 2010 budget year. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-2-1)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: James Tierney made a motion and it was seconded by Terry Bedell to restrict reconsideration of any article voted on. Motion passed by hand held card vote. Alan Rossetto asked why the town needed a new truck when a used one would fit our needs that we have. James Tierney answered that we were looking to buy a vehicle. He added that they had received a quote and that was the number that was in there. He added that most could look in the flyers and see a lower price and that we were looking at a new one because it gave us the ability to have a long term lease agreement. James said that the escape clause meant that if after year 1 or year 2 the town didn't want it anymore we could bring it back and walk away with a null and void contract. He said that it was a ¾ ton truck, gas, auto transmission, heavy duty with a plow but just a regular cab pickup and it would replace the 2000 Dodge that was dead parked behind the Town Garage that would eventually go to the scrap metal pile. Addison Hall asked if all departments would get to use it. James Tierney responded that any department that needed it at the town would be using it. James added that the departments borrowed back and forth for whoever needed it as it is a town truck. Norman Cotter asked if it was a regular body or a mechanics body. James Tierney answered that it was a regular body and it was that there was a full warranty on it whereas if it were used we would have to buy an extended warranty. Donald Young asked if there was specific use for this truck. Mr. Tierney said that it wasn't designated to a specific department. Denise Normand asked if this was going to be a spare and it certainly sounded like it was. James Tierney said that it would be available during a snowstorm because the 2 big trucks are all that we had as we have no other vehicle. He added that the water department could be working on a project and have to deliver samples to their designations for example and that currently they had to use their personal vehicle and the town paid mileage. Mark Robinson asked if there was a mileage restriction on this new truck because of being a lease. James Tierney said that it was a lease to purchase deal and that the miles were at no extra cost. He added that the amount was for financing 4 years plus interest. Gerald Crompton asked if this was an "in case" vehicle and wanted to know what it was replacing. James Tierney answered that it was replacing the 2000 Dodge that was used for 10 years. Mr. Crompton stated that if we get along without it now we could get along without it. Richard Paradis said that the transmission was gone, the body was rotted, and the rear-end was making a funny noise. Amanda King asked if personal vehicles were being used now what was the mileage. James Tierney said that the water mileage in 2009 was \$2847. Wade White said that we have 2 articles back to back for trucks and that we needed to shoot 1 down. Robert Larson said that the town needs to reinvest back in the town. Larson added that this truck wasn't going to pass inspection and the town workers can't do their job without their equipment. James Morse asked if this was a 2-wheel drive or a 4-wheel drive pick up. Tierney answered that it was a 4-wheel drive. Morse wanted to know why we need a 4-wheel drive. Richard Paradis answered that because of our roads a 2-wheel drive you have to get a running start. He added that this truck would be able to have a sander in the back of it and it was a multi use. Norman Cotter asked if this included a plow. Tierney answered that the price didn't include a plow and added that the front-end loader in a 2-week stretch used \$5000 worth of parts. He added that it was 13 years old and all of our vehicles were getting old and the cost of rebuilding was more than buying. Deborah Weeks said that the town needed to start to save for tomorrow. She added that last year there was a warrant article to put \$3000 in a

highway fund because we need these vehicles. Weeks said that the special town meeting in August the highway dept. lost \$24,000 and the department had no money to repair. Weeks said that she didn't submit a warrant article this year because the town doesn't have the money but that the department needs to replenish. She said that the town needs to move forward and plan ahead. Ed Bezanson said that we just got done voting on taxes for this stuff and thought other towns need to help pay for this stuff. Christopher Canton made a motion to move the question and Terry Bedell seconded it. Motion passed.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a lease/purchase contract for the purpose of obtaining one medium duty dump truck. The contract is for 5 years. The approximate cost of the truck is \$ 83,285. The contract contains an "escape clause". The cost of the contract is as follows:

2010	\$ 18,250
2011	\$ 18,250
2012	\$ 18,250
2013	\$ 18,250
2014	\$ 18,250

Additionally, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 18,250 dollars for the 2010 budget year. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-3)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Calvin Crawford asked what we were thinking. James Tierney said that this truck would replace the old truck that Brian Hurlbutt uses for taking the stuff from the dump to Berlin. He added that it would be used by Highway for snow removal. Tierney said that the truck we have now is 17 years old and that it needs severe amounts of welding and bodywork to pass inspection and also has a shaky transmission. He said that the new truck wouldn't have a big plow. Richard Paradis added that they have put the tiger hair to it, bondo, and the front end needs to be rebuilt for close to \$2500 and that the body was very rotted. He added that a light duty truck couldn't be used as a sander but that this one could haul sand and gravel. Brian Bresnahan asked if the old truck paid for itself. Richard Paradis responded with a very loud YES. Brian Bresnahan made a motion to move the question and James Tierney seconded it. Motion passed.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Forestry Funds, with said funds and with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to be transferred to the Town's general fund.

Town of Northumberland Forest Maintenance Fund with current balance of \$ 22,459.18

Town of Northumberland Fund with current balance of \$ 82,155.79

Town of Northumberland Forest Maintenance Fund with current balance of \$ 58,273

Forestry Fund with current balance of \$ 26,386.54

(Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-3)

James Tierney made a motion to pass this article over and Mario Audit seconded it.

James Tierney explained to the voters that there was a verbiage issue with this article and article 22. DRA wouldn't allow moving the money and we didn't want it just sitting in the General Fund.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Motion to pass over this article passed. Article 21 as read failed.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of conservation and conservation projects. Furthermore, any and all monies derived from the Town Forest will now be deposited into this newly created Conservation Fund. Additionally, the sum of \$ 189,274.51 plus accumulated interest, from the four funds named in Article 19, is to be transferred from the Town General Fund to the Conservation Fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-2-3)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to pass over Article 22 as explained in Article 21.

Discussion: Winston Hawes asked if they had money saved for the year. James Tierney said that everything was staying the way it currently is so anyplace that they were getting money out of they can still pull it. Article 23 would still be done.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Motion to pass over Article 22 passed. Article 22 as read failed.

Mario Audit presented Winston Hawes with the 2009 Employee of the Year award.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for stabilizing the riverbank in the Town Cemetery. Said funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until completion or expiration date on any required permits, which ever comes first, or five years from this Town Meeting if no contract has been made. This article will be passed over if Article 19 & 20 passes.

James Tierney made a motion to amend this article to delete the last sentence of Article 23 and Robert Larson seconded it.

Hand held card vote. Amendment to Article 23 passed.

Discussion: David Hurlbutt asked if this was coming from the Forest Maintenance Fund because Article 21 said what the balance was and now they want \$30,000. James Tierney said that there is a second fund with \$80,000. He added that there were 2 different accounts both in CD's but in the same name. Mark Robinson asked if we were voting on \$30,000 to stabilize. James Tierney answered that the project costs about a million dollars and this would go towards it, which is similar to Colebrook, and the Mohawk River issues. Mr. Tierney explained the process of stabilizing the bank. Terri Charron added that she and Becky Craggy were working very hard on grants for this. She added that this was brought to the town fathers 20-years ago but nothing was done. She said that if this project had been done back then it wouldn't be as expensive. She said that FEMA might assist with the costs. Charron said that local loggers and residents have offered trees and transportation getting the trees there. Terri said that she is trying to keep the business local and also trying to keep the cost under \$1,000,000. She added that she had been working endlessly with Lana Gilcris and Becky Craggy on this and that it needed to be done if Northumberland wants a town cemetery. Harry Lee Rice Jr made a motion to move the question and James Tierney seconded it. Motion passed.

Hand held card vote. Article as amended passed.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 50,000 dollars for the purchase and installation of a photovoltaic system on the existing roof of the Town Library. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by Robert Larson and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Florence Dupuis asked what this article was talking about. James Tierney said it was a black shiny panel, if we were to get the grant, like a solar system. He added that it would save on the electric bill.

No further discussion.

Hand held vote count. Article passed as read.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 100,000 dollars for fencing, site work, building construction and equipment purchase for the Town Transfer Station. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Ed Bezanson asked if this was going to have the same fence as it currently has. James Tierney replied that it is the same as now, a chain link fence.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 15,000 dollars for installation of foam insulation at the main water plant for the Town. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if this was going to be insulated inside or out. James Tierney answered that it was inside. Mark Robinson said that chlorine and foam caused gas and added that chlorine eats a lot of things. David Peel said that the studies showed that this would be all good.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000 dollars for inventory and possible removal of street lighting in Town. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Ed Bezanson asked what streets the committee was going on. James Tierney said that it was not decided yet. He added that there was an energy committee formed of 5-6 people. Mr. Tierney said that if this passes the committee would go around and review the town and decide on which lights to be taken down meaning physically taking the pole down. Ed Bezanson asked if we got a response from PSNH. James Tierney said that all of route 3 to town from Ocean State the town pays for because they are our lights. Uldric Bernard said that the town should do it anyways even if we don't receive this grant. James Tierney said that the cost is about \$10 per month per pole. Richard Paradis asked if this would be in town or the outskirts of town. James Tierney stated that the energy committee would decide that. Donald Young asked if a request could be made for a particular light as to keeping it or taking it down. James Tierney said that requests could be made anytime.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 15,000 dollars for the purpose of conducting energy audits on 3 educational buildings in Town. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: James Tierney said that articles 28, 29, and 30 were all for the school but the school district wasn't allowed to apply for them so the town is applying for the school.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 50,000 dollars for updating lighting at the Groveton Elementary School and the Groveton High School. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if the grant for that was applied for by the library if the school could apply for that for

the schools. James Tierney answered that the time to apply for the grant was over.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 155,000 dollars for insulation, door and window replacement in the Groveton Elementary and Groveton High School buildings and a boiler replacement or upgrade at the Groveton Elementary. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Claire Prosper said that if we were lucky enough to get this grant then we should try to keep the contractors and materials locally for local business. James Tierney said that this was a federal grant and that all federal rules applied. Claire added that there were plenty of contractors and suppliers locally that were qualified.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 100,000 dollars for sidewalk repair/replacement along Main Street, Church Street and State Street. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, and no funds will come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: James Tierney said that these streets were not debatable. He added that the grant went in just for these streets.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Municipal Office Building, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000 dollars to be placed in this fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2-2)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if this was just a Capital Reserve Fund. James Tierney said this was to purchase a new Town Office building if we so chose to do that. Mark Robinson asked if it was for the building that we are now moving into. James Tierney answered not necessarily.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 200,756 dollars for the purchase and outfitting of a new ambulance. These funds will come from a grant already applied for, in the amount of \$ 190,719 dollars and \$ 2,037 dollars to come from the Ambulance Trust Fund. The remaining \$ 8,000 dollars to come from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0)(Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0)

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if we had 3 ambulances. James Tierney answered yes that we did have 3 ambulances. Mark asked if 2 were housed in here and 1 in Stark and if this replaces 2 or 1. Sandy Mason answered that it was replacing

1 ambulance. Mario Audit added that this was for a fully outfitted ambulance. Ed Bezanson asked why the ambulance doesn't pay for itself because he had always heard it did. James Tierney said that the town ambulance basically does pay for itself and that the reserves were funding the cash flow for the town. He added that the ambulance brings in about \$400,000. Ed Bezanson asked if James was telling him that the ambulance did not support itself. James Tierney replied that we didn't have a reserve right now. Mario Audit made a motion to move the question and Robert Larson seconded it. Motion passed.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 34: To promote new business and jobs in Northumberland would the voters approve video and table gambling in a facility placed in the community when the State passes a gaming bill. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by John Robbin to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brian Bresnahan said that he started this petition because the area lost a lot of jobs when the mill closed. He added that this was a 1-industry town and we lost that industry. He said that when he learned of this bill the state hadn't finished writing it. Brian said that when the politicians were approached they went to the "powers" in Concord and they all said Berlin but never said anything about Northumberland. Mr. Bresnahan said that there were problems and rewards with casinos. He added that 39% of the revenue was put back into the state, 3% to the community and it would generate about 100-150 jobs. He said that the details of the Berlin casino had the same square footage as the empty Outdoor Outfitter building here in town that sits empty. Brian added that route 3 we can handle more traffic and he was asking the community to make a choice. Bresnahan said that the police department was not in favor and that there was a lot of sway. He said that all this is going to do is that when and if this law passes and the Governor signs it we are asking to be considered as a location. Florence Dupuis said that it would create too much traffic and that there were too many people not paying their taxes now and that it would be worse because they would be gambling instead. Mark Robinson asked Brian Bresnahan if Lincoln was a possibility as well. Brian Bresnahan responded that Coos/Grafton were going to get 2 casinos. He added that the casino developer has to come up with \$10,000,000 for the license. Mark Robinson said Lincoln was a good spot and that it takes a lot to draw above the notch. Harry Lee Rice Jr made a motion to move the question and Mario Audit seconded it.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 35: Polling hours in the Town of Northumberland are now 8:00 in the morning to 7:00 in the evening. Shall we place a question on the state election ballot to change polling hours so that polls shall open at 11:00 in the morning and close at 7:00 in the evening for all regular state elections beginning 1 January 2011?

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barbara Wheelock asked why the town would want to change it. James Tierney said that this was not for any town election but for the state elections. He added that in 1996 the town voted to open the election at 8:00 am for the mill workers. He added that the state requires polls to be open from 11 am to 7 pm so that 11-7 was recommended. He said that if it passes now then it would go on the state ballot in November and be effective 1-01-2011. David Hurlbutt said that he didn't think we should eliminate the right to vote. Melinda Kennett said this was put in as an article because during the state election in February there was a complaint about paying too much for elections. She added that this was for the voters to decide if they want to change the hours or not. James Tierney added that it would save about \$250 per state election.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article failed.

Article 36 To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion made by Robert Larson and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

No discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 37: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Robert Larson to accept article as read.

Discussion: Harry Lee Rice Jr said he would like a round of applause for the Groveton Class S boys and girls champions.

No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. Article passed as read.

Article 38: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion made by Robert Larson and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said that Moderator Keith Young did a great job. With that, Keith received a nice round of applause. Nancy Merrow asked when we would be getting results of the ballot votes. Moderator Young said that they were going to be counted as soon as this meeting was over. Moderator Young announced: **State General Election Results:** John Tholl 237, John Roberge 288

Motion to adjourn was made by Mario Audit and seconded by Denise Normand. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:15 PM BY MODERATOR KEITH YOUNG on 3/9/2010.

School Election Results: Moderator: (write in) Keith Young 43, Clerk: (write in) Wendy Cotter 41, Treasurer: Tonia St Cyr 417, Board of Education: Ronald Caron 317 and Sally Pelletier 277

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda "Min" Marshall Kennett
Town Clerk
Town of Northumberland