

**State of New Hampshire  
Town of Northumberland  
2011 Results of Town Meeting**

**At 9:00 AM on 3/8/2011 Moderator Barry Colebank 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 8, 2011, 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 8, 2011 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Colebank announced that the absentee ballots would be opened at 1:00 PM. At 5:00 Moderator Colebank announced that the polls were closed.

Moderator Colebank opened the business meeting at 7:00 PM with the local Boy Scout Pack 233 leading residents with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Colebank introduced the head table of Town Officials and the Supervisors of the Checklist and went over his rules of the meeting.

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

**Election day ballots-264**  
**Absentee ballots- 61**  
**Total Ballots cast- 325**

\*Articles 1-2 were printed on official ballot.

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

**Results:**  
**Selectman-Michael Phillips (237)**

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Melinda Kennett (293)**  
**Town Treasurer: Melody Barney (293)**  
**Budget Committee-**  
**Tracey Morrill (253) and Write in James Tierney**  
**Library Trustee-Madeline Hart (283)**  
**Trustee of Trust Funds-Deborah Weeks (270)**  
**Cemetery Trustee-Terri Charron (289)**

**\*Article 2: To** choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing two years: one Trustee of Trust Funds and two Budget Committee.

**Results:**

**Trustee of Trust Funds-Kimberly DeBlois (293)**  
**Budget Committee-Debra Lakin (203) and Uldric Bernard (199)**

**Article 3: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 184,900 dollars to purchase the current Town Office Building located at 10 Station Square in Northumberland and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$122,500 dollars of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate the terms of such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The remaining \$62,400 dollars will come in the form of a \$50,000 grant from Rural Development, \$10,000 dollars from the Municipal Office Fund and \$2,400 from monthly rent payments. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (2/3 Ballot vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen 2-1)  
(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1)

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

Discussion: Al Beland asked if the Selectmen had a building inspector come to the building yet. Jim Tierney responded that Terrance Bedell was our building inspector and that he had come to the building. Terrance Bedell added that during the construction stages he had been over and looked over the work that was done. Al Beland said that he noticed that the chimney looked like it was ready to come down and added that he thought it was an issue. Terrance Bedell answered that the State Fire Marshal office came and the chimney issue was cosmetic and added that inside of the chimney was fine. Mark Robinson asked if there was a fire system or sprinkler system inside the current building. Terrance Bedell answered that the square footage of the building didn't require it. John Robbins asked why we would want this building and added that the police department should go into the meeting room. Mr. Robbins said that the current building wasn't efficiency based. James Tierney said that Groveton Acquisitions is going to donate the land where the Eagle Hotel used to sit. He added that the paperwork is being drawn up by the attorney giving the town the piece of property. Mr. Tierney said that the school board off the modular classroom and

that would be moved to the land given to us. He added that the police department would be moved into that. Mr. Tierney said that the town would own the land and the buildings and that everything would be right there together and would be paying only a mortgage on the Town Hall building. Addison Hall said that the town had already invested \$27,000 into the building so the price of buying it would be \$209,000. James Tierney answered that it was the same as any other business for repairs and such. He added that the owners of the building say "thank you very much" and said that if we moved we would lose the investment already put into the building. Mr. Tierney said what we spend we won't get back. Norman Cotter asked if the town could get the land behind town hall and also asked if the town ever considered a new building and he added that he thought that it made more sense to looking into building new. James Tierney answered that the building was built in 1930 and added that the building committee looked at new construction and recommended buying the current building at this time. Mr. Tierney also added that the town could buy the building and sell it at a later date to build new as an option. Tierney said that it would be the same with the piece of property that is going to be given to us. Tierney said that there would be no increase in what we are paying for rent right now. Sally Pelletier asked who was approached in the school board because she didn't recall it being approached at any meeting. James Tierney answered that this offer had come from the school board to the building committee. Paul Bouchard asked what the time frame was for all of this to be done. James Tierney answered that the rent was month to month and the modular was going to be free after June. Deborah Weeks said that Dave Peel wrote her personally that the school board would be done with the modular this summer and would like to set it up with the selectmen to turn it over to the town. Uldric Bernard said that the price of \$182,000 for the building and then maybe spending \$10,000 to put the modular into the empty lot and probably would need some maintenance as well and then the chimney on the current building, the leaks in the bathroom were all a bunch of band aides. Mr. Bernard added that the town would be further ahead with building a new building. Karen Grant asked why the town was considering purchasing the building for a higher price than the assessment. James Tierney said that the price was higher than the assessment and that was the owners asking price. Ron Caron asked if the building committee was aware of the free land and if they had gone to the Mayhew building. Alan Rossetto answered that the building committee came to this conclusion to purchase the town complex where it is now because the Mayhew building, Groveton Paper Board office and others talked about were inadequate without any parking or extra land. He added that with the gift of the land the building that we are currently in was very adequate. He said that building a new building for about \$200 per square foot that met the requirements was too much. Mr. Rossetto said that the building that the town is currently in has an appraised value of \$155,000-\$160,000 and that's what the building committee suggested to put in for an offer and that was without knowing about the land as part of the equation to make it all work. He added that this was for a municipal building and he wanted to see it all work. Amanda King added that if this doesn't work what happens to the money that we spent? Alan Rossetto said that he wanted to negotiate that off of the price and it was

reasonable to ask the current owners to do that. Tracey Morrill asked if the money was in the budget to move the modular. Marcel Platt told him that it was not. Kathy Wiles asked what moving the modular to the new location would save. James Tierney said that if we bought the building it would save \$1200 for rent from the town and \$500 for rent of the police station. Kathy asked if the total was \$1700 which James Tierney confirmed was correct. James Tierney said that the payment would be less than \$1700 for the new building as the loans are roughly 4% for 10 years at #1225-\$1250 or 12 years for about \$1200. He added that what we are paying now could be paying a mortgage and that the town could own the building in 10-12 years. Barbara Wheelock said that there were too many "ifs" and what if the modular were not up to code and also wondered why we offered more than the assessment of the current building. Arnold Tilton added that we would still have operational costs. James Tierney answered that we pay for all of that now. Dave Auger said that he supported this article but that the modular were still being used and he had no answer yet on them. Carl Coulombe asked what the age of the building was and how much heat was costing. James Tierney ran the math and said about \$600 per month. Nancy Merrow asked if there was a lien on the Groveton Paper Board office building and stated that it was a viable building that we could also look into using. James Tierney said that in 2012 we could take that building for the Tax Collectors deed for non payment of taxes but they had declared bankruptcy so we can't touch it. He added that bankruptcy would have to release it before we could take it and it was the judges call. Alan Rossetto answered that the committee went and looked at the paper board office and it would need a small addition to meet the needs of the town and that the money that was already put in the current building and with some grants thought the current building was the best place. He added that he thought the modular was available until tonight's revelation that it wasn't which puts a monkey wrench into the plans because he was under the impression that it would happen. Mark Robinson asked about any negotiations and said that this building was way over priced. He added that it needed to be reassessed and bet that the building was only worth \$50-\$60,000 and we keep putting money into it. He suggested that we did not purchase this building. Ron Caron said that the budget committee approved this warrant if they were sure that they got both lots. He added that the town pays the taxes now so if we were to build our own new building the owners would have to pay taxes if we moved out. James Tierney said the building committee recommended the building plus 1 lot, the old Eagle Hotel lot. He added that the L shaped one the selectmen brought up but Groveton Acquisitions wasn't willing to give that away at this time. John Robbins said that the mill was only assessed at \$1.3 million so the current building we are in must only be worth \$30,000-\$40,000. Rae Hurlbutt said that deciding on this would be premature. She added that she felt the building committee and the select board needed to do their homework and it made sense to wait. Addison Hall said that the ambulance office was upstairs and thought it needed to be handicapped accessible. He also stated that we are paying \$1500 a month because we also pay the taxes on the current building. James Tierney said that the downstairs is handicapped accessible and no one was allowed upstairs. He said that if someone comes in they call up and the ambulance personnel comes downstairs. Beverly

McFarland asked that if all state buildings had to be handicapped accessible. Barry Colebank responded that the ground floor was handicapped accessible. James Tierney added that no handicapped person was being denied services which is exactly what the law states. Kathy Wiles made a motion to move the question. Richard Cotter seconded it. No further discussion.

This is a 1 hr secret ballot vote. (7:50-8:50)

Ballot vote: Yes 23 No 166 Article 3 failed.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 444,744 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 7-0)

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

Discussion: Ron Caron asked if the general fund or sewer owes money to the water department. He also asked which quarter for 2011 we could expect an increase in the water/sewer bill. James Tierney answered that as of yesterday the sewer owed the general fund and also owes water. Mr. Tierney added that there would be a rate hike for about 3 years. Tierney gave some rates and said that the selectmen could lower the sewer rate in 3 years or keep the rate flat to get the surplus built up again. Ron Caron asked if it would be 3 years before we saw a savings and James Tierney confirmed that. Ron Caron said that he wanted to hear from Mario Audit and Rob Gauthier of the increase and when. Rob Gauthier answered that the water would not be increased and that they would discuss the sewer rate. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 4 passed as read.

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 308,670 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 7-0)

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

Discussion: Ron Caron said that he was hoping someone else would talk but never the less he wanted to ask about an increase. Rob Gauthier answered that he wasn't sure which quarter would reflect the increase but they were talking

about a 50 cent per thousand gallon increase. Uldric Bernard said that the sewer department owed the water department and wanted to know when it would be paid back. James Tierney stated that right now we are currently billing out \$195,000 per year and said that the town pays \$70,000 for the street drainage. He said that the town brings in septage hollage fees and fees from the swimming pool. He added that the 50 cent increase didn't include paying back the water department and that it would take a substantial increase or a big sewer user coming into town to do that. Ron Caron said that it stated in the town report that the town pays \$60,000 for the run off to the lagoons and now it was proposed for \$70,000. He asked that percentage of ground water goes into the drains. He added that on page 108 of the town report quarter 4 had not been billed or collected and not included in the town report unpaid. James Tierney answered that the percentage of storm water was about 55-60% and that the town as a whole was not paying to what is actually run off. He added that it wasn't as polluted as what comes from home. Ron Caron added that he wouldn't drink it. James Tierney said that on page 104 of the town report are from how they were balanced. He said that the reason they are not showing is because the quarter 4 was not billed yet. James said that he had the actual numbers as of yesterday. Ron Caron stated that another quarter needed to be listed in there to balance. John Robbin said that we should use a quarter from the year before. James Tierney said the page wasn't there before. He added that quarter 4 went into bookkeeping for 2010 but the money hadn't been collected yet. Robbins added that it could be estimated. James Tierney said he wanted to put the right year and right numbers in there. Barry Colebank said that the fourth quarter billing for 2009 was billed in 2010 and that it does go into the bookkeeping for 2009 and it took him a bit to understand it too, but that he did. Richard Cotter made a motion to move the question which was seconded by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. There were more questions so Moderator Colebank couldn't recognize the motion. Mark Robinson asked why the sewer owes the water department. James Tierney said that it was when we cleaned the lagoons last time. He added that the water department paid for it because the sewer department needed to borrow it. Mark Robinson stated that he thought we would never get that caught up. James Tierney said that Mark was correct and the rate would have to be significantly higher to pay it back. Theresa Brooks asked why the water was still the same way in the town book. Richard Cotter made a motion to move the question and that was seconded by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 5 passed as read.

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,823,819 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 6-1)

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

Discussion: Nancy Merrow asked about the status of the TAN notes as far as where we are now and what the prediction is going to be over the next 2-3 months. James Tierney answered that the town has used 200,000 as of today there was \$128,000 in the checkbook. He added that also that as of today's bills, wages, AP and the payment to the school it added up to \$213,000 and with only \$128,000 in the checkbook there was a \$85,000 shortage.

Mark Robinson made a motion to amend the article to change the dollar amount to \$1,700,819.00 and was seconded by Edmund Robinson. Uldric Bernard said that in 2005 the unpaid balance in the town report people were behind \$297,000 and 5 years later it is \$769,403 which reflects people having a difficult time. Uldric added that he supported the cut as it was a modest cut. Terrance Bedell said that there were already 10 people looking at the budget now. James Tierney answered that the total unpaid was \$735,316.78 of that it was water, sewer, taxes, back taxes, land use change, timber tax. James added that it were also some from 2008 and 2009 unpaid. Paula Colebank asked what would get paid and what wouldn't get paid with a reduced budget amount. James Tierney said that the Selectmen would talk about it and hadn't decided yet. He added that the select board would have to come up with what wouldn't get paid. Amanda King said that Jim was the leader and wanted to know what the other 2 selectmen said about this. Robert Gauthier said that he didn't know where to cut that amount of \$123,000. He added that Jim had taken on that roll and he was hoping to work on that with Becky. Deborah Weeks asked where Mark came up with the \$123,000 cut. Mark Robinson said that there were too many guys on the crew that we do not need and too many people not paying their taxes. He added that it was a modest cut. Sam Oakes asked what the proposed budget would be calculated at for a tax impact. James Tierney answered that the 2010 assessed evaluation and \$123,000 cut would be about 93 cents cut. He added that the granted abatement list had already been cut by \$85,000 and 20 more abatement requests left. He said that if they were granted it would go into the following year. He also said that the town's tax rate is all of the meetings. Dave Auger said that he wanted to hear from the budget committee chair about the numbers approved. Alan Rossetto said that all that we are faced with this year and with demand increasing because the age is increasing. He added that the budget committee tried to hold the line and maintain the services to the town. Rossetto said that he wanted everyone to be aware that the taxes were going up we needed to set a common ground to maintain the services at a lowest cost that we could produce. Rossetto added that there was no 25 cent raise due to the economic situation. He said that the real issue was talking to people and working together to make the budgets as low as we could get them. Rossetto said that he has been watching the news and we are losing 25% that the state kicks in. He said that the employees would be paying more and that he wanted to work with all the employees all over town. Rossetto said that the budget committee worked on a middle level budget and didn't want to destroy what the town already has. He added that if we cut the budget we cut the services, where the rubber hits the road. Wade White said that he was all for cutting the budget but asked if fuel costs were figured in on the new budget. Alan Rossetto answered that they had considered it but added that he didn't know where the fuel prices were going.

John Robbins said that he couldn't understand why we are a town that was big on overtime. He added that Stark was a small town that cut their budget by \$200,000. Ron Caron asked what the select board is doing to increase revenues. He asked about the dump disposal collected. Mario Audit said that right now they were looking as a "pay as you throw". Ron Caron asked Mario about asked about the open top fees and Mario Audit answered that there would be fees. Brian Bresnahan asked if we cut services for a lower cost would it hurt attracting new business's to town. Alan Rossetto said that the budget was the selectmen dollar and they can spend it however. He added that if we cut the \$123,000 out of the budget that we would see a reduction in services and that would impact getting business's here. He added that they looked at everything including cutting the budget and only doing 2 water billings a year and they did their best to hold the line. Brian Bresnahan asked if he believed that if we cut the budget would it affect the ability new businesses into town and the economic development. Kathy Wiles asked why the tax impact wasn't in the town report. Barry Colebank answered her that the DRA doesn't recommend that it be done anymore because we cannot make an accurate prediction. Nancy Merrow asked how we could keep spending what we do not have. Moderator read the amendment to cut the budget. No further discussion.

Hand held card vote. 68 yes 86 no. Amendment to Article 6 failed.

Article 6 as written was put back on the floor.

Voice vote. Hand held card vote due to voice vote being too close. Article 6 passed as originally read.

**Article 7:** 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 RSA 32: 14, III)

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

Discussion: Tonya Cloutier said that we elected our selectmen and had our department heads to run our budgets. She added that everyone decided they needed a budget committee to babysit and what she was seeing tonight that even the babysitting didn't make anyone happy. Mrs. Cloutier said that all year there were meetings and the people were still not happy so we may as well get rid of them. Mark Robinson said that having the budget committee didn't cost the town anything. Terrance Bedell said it cost him time with his family if you have to go to the meetings. Michael Phillips said that he was on the budget committee and said that he admires the department heads for what they went through and how it all works. He added that the budget committee has a process of looking at the whole picture of the town, school, and precinct budgets. Mr. Phillips added that citizen involvement would be a good thing. Mike Cloutier asked what the attendance was and wondered if people show up. James Tierney said that 1/2

dozen to 9 people are all that show up. Samantha Canton that we already have a system in place and we didn't need to reinvent the wheel. She added that the budget committee made no difference and that our board members were also tax payers. Mrs. Canton said that this was a waste of time. Harry Lee Rice Jr. said that he was involved in town politics for a number of years. Mr. Rice said the budget committee wasn't a bad thing in theory but that taking a number out of hat with no rhyme or reason divides the town being them against us. Tracey Morrill said that there was a lot of money cut that if the budget committee hadn't suggested it that the department heads wouldn't have cut. Dave Hurlbutt said that it all depended on who was being effected or not. Mike Cloutier said that he didn't need any guidance because the precinct and every other department would cut if they could. He added that he was elected and he did answer to the people. Craig Hersom made a motion to move the question. Harry Lee Rice Jr. seconded it. No further discussion. Polls were open from 9:10-10:10

Ballot vote. Yes 87 No 103. Article 7 failed.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 37,832 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Senior Meals	\$13,000
Home Health & Hospice	\$12,759
Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$ 1,650
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,145
American Red Cross	\$ 1,108
North Country Elder Programs	\$ 1,970
Lancaster Comm. Cupboard & Kitchen Table	\$ 100

(Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1)

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

Discussion: Nancy Merrow said that she had a question on the charitable organizations. She wanted to know their criteria. She added that if they are approved we don't really know who is being serviced. Mrs. Merrow asked that someone from each organization represent themselves and tell her how much is spent in Northumberland. Mrs. Merrow said that if no one was there to support or represent it that we should cut it. Deb Montgomery coordinator for Senior meals and they only asked for \$13,000 which is \$1000 less than in 2010. She said that 5000 meals were served this past year and that it was the only program in Groveton for Seniors. She said that they paid directly for the gas used at Carter Hall to cook and for the food out of this money. The Caleb director said that they served 36 Groveton seniors for transportation. She added that it was mostly volunteer. She said that in 2010 they donated 305 hours, 4607 miles, 333 trips and 1/2 ton of pet food worth about \$2000. Northern Human services

representative Kathy Shannon said that there was a letter in the town report on page 127 from the agency. She added that they serviced 103 residents and 1919 hours of service. Judith Szurley spoke for Tri County CAP (Amy) and said that the \$4145 was for administrative costs to continue to run their office for fuel assistance. She added that in 2010 they serviced 386 residents from Northumberland. She added \$100,300 was spent for the free programs and 2100 meals to the residents. American Red Cross was represented by Robert Gauthier. He said that the Red Cross was a good resource we can tap for emergency management. John Normand said that he gets the meals delivered out of Whitefield which are served 3 days a week and cost only about 15 cents a meal. He added that he had 34 clients for 7 days a week. James Tierney said that a letter from the Lancaster people stated that there were 262 Groveton families serviced and asked for \$100 that's why it's in the warrant. Nancy Merrow asked Deb Montgomery about the propane. She said that she thought the propane was paid for by the Groveton Foundation. Becky Craggy said that the town paid for the propane. Nancy Merrow asked what the \$3.00 fee for citizens was for. Deb Montgomery said that it used to be free but 7 years they implanted a fee. She added that they used to accept donations but it wasn't enough to pay the cooks. Mrs. Montgomery said that they spend \$11,350 on their cooks, her salary and gas and paid for some of the food with about \$40 left over. Alan Holmes said that Red Cross helped him out once and then gave him a bill. Paul Bouchard said that when he burned out and the Red Cross was there for him. Mario Audit said that the Home Health Hospice was a great program and that many residents receive benefits and it's a good program. Norman Cotter added that the Home Health was a great program. Kathy Frechette said that the Home Health also runs a grief counseling group that costs nothing. Dan Becker stated that he thought we were getting pretty good services for our buck due to the cost of fuel and such it was money well spent. Brian Bresnahan said that with the economy we should be supporting all of them. Uldric Bernard said that he would like to see accounting for the money that we give and he would vote it in. Harry Lee Rice Jr said that perhaps next year in the town report we could get numbers. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 8 passed as read.

**Article 9:** 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) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-3)

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

Discussion: Mark Robinson asked if this was part of the summer rec program for away games and such. Samantha Canton answered that it was completely separate. She added that it serviced kids 4-12 years of age to play baseball. She

added that last year there was about 110 kids that participated and it helps to offset their costs. Mark Robinson asked if all the kids were from this town. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 9 passed as read.

**Article 10:** 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)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-3)

Motion made by Louise Collins and seconded by Deborah Weeks to accept article as read.

Discussion: Louise Collins, the President, said that she had a sheet with a breakdown of the costs and explained to the crowd about the chem. Free party. She said that the kids had been doing fund raisers since the fall. She added that they needed to raise \$9315 and that each senior gets a gift. Uldric Bernard asked what they did with the rest of the money after the bills were paid. Louise Collins said that they are at \$5200 and they are asking the town for \$1500. Uldic Bernard asked when they reached their goal what did they do with the rest of the money. Louise Collins answered that they left the rest for the next up and coming class and would like to leave \$500. Kathy Wiles said that she guaranteed that the seniors got the money and that she chaperoned it and it was great. She added that the money goes to entertainment for the kids benefit. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 10 passed as read.

**Article 11: To** see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 (Twenty-five hundred 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 7-0)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Paul Bouchard to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that anyone can ride and it wasn't only for seniors. He added that for over 60 it was asked that a donation be made and that it was in Groveton 3-4 days a week and about 3 times per day even in Lost Nation, Stratford, Stratford Hollow even considering the cost of fuel. No further discussion.

Voice 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 Community Christmas Organization. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2-1)

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

No discussion.

Voice vote. Article 12 passed as read.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of conservation and conservation projects, to raise and appropriate \$191,606.55 dollars, with said funds to come from the town's forest maintenance/forestry funds. And furthermore, to name the Conservation Commission as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-3)

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

Motion made by Tracey Morrill to change the dollar amount to \$50,000 and seconded by Elizabeth Pearce. Motion to amend passed by voice vote.

No discussion.

Voice vote. Article 13 passed as amended.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to the sum of \$10,000 dollars from the Forest Maintenance Fund for the purpose of paying for the conservation/forestry portion of the Town operating budget. If Article 13 passes, this article will be passed over. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-1)

Motion made by Jim Tierney to pass over Article 14 and seconded by Mario Audit.

Voice vote. Article 14 passed over.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of RSA 41:11-a, which would allow the Board of Selectmen to manage town property, including the renting/leasing of said town property for a period of up to 5 years.

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

Discussion: Ron Caron asked if there was a tax deed did the selectmen intend to rent if no one bid and become a land lord. James Tierney said that wasn't the intent of the article but wanted to keep options open. He added that it was a request from the conservation commission. Ron Caron said that the way this was worded it sounded it. James Tierney said that if the selectmen chose to they could but that they would be crazy too with the liability of it. Ron Caron said he would like to hear that from the other members of the select board. Mario Audit and Rob Gauthier both said that they didn't want to rent. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 15 passed as read.

**Article 16: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 95,000 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 7-0)

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

Discussion: Tom Young asked if Preble Street could be done too. James Tierney answered that it was the Safe Routes program which is the main walking route to and from school. He added that if there was no money in the grant then we don't spend the money. Mark Robinson asked if it included labor and if it was local contractors. James Tierney answered that it would be a bid out. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 16 passed as read.

**Article 17: To** see if the Town will vote to enter into a lease/purchase contract for the purchase and outfitting of a new ambulance. The contract is for 10 years. The approximate cost of the ambulance is \$192,852. The contract contains an "escape clause". The cost of the contract is as follows:

2012	\$23,742
2013	\$23,742
2014	\$23,742
2015	\$23,742
2016	\$23,742
2017	\$23,742
2018	\$23,742
2019	\$23,742
2020	\$23,742
2021	\$23,742

(Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-1-2)

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

Discussion: Uldric Bernard said that this was too much money and being on the budget committee he voted against it. Sandy Mason said that she put it in for 10 years but we can pay it off sooner if they make more. She added that \$23,742 comes from the revenues above and beyond the budget. Sandy said that \$11,000 is in maintenance right now. Tracey Morrill asked what the “escape clause” meant. James Tierney said that the first year payment was already in and that the escape clause was meant so that the lending organization will take it back with no ill will. Tracey Morrill asked how they take it out of their budget. James Tierney said that to take it back it would zero out the budget. Ron Caron asked if this was a purchase or a lease. James Tierney said that it was a purchase and the amount of interest for 10 years was \$42,000. Ron Caron asked how much would the purchase be without the escape clause. James Tierney said that we went to this bank to finance it and it would take a 2/3 majority to do it. Sandy Mason said that they would be shopping for cheaper and looking at demos. John Robbin asked if the deposits made were \$260,000. Rae Davenport said that she doesn’t like the escape clause because she isn’t going to let the town go without an ambulance service budget. James Tierney said the good thing about this is that they would take it back and we would owe nothing. Al Rossetto said that there was no question that they need another vehicle but they don’t need new and would like to change that in the warrant article.

Motion made by Alan Rossetto to amend the article to take out the word “new” and seconded by Michael Phillips. Voice vote. Amendment accepted.

Discussion: Amanda King asked if the ambulance was self sustaining. Denise Normand asked how much of the budget pays for the Weeks paramedic. Sandy Mason responded that we pay nothing. Uldric Bernard asked what the intent was. Barry Colebank answered that the intent wasn’t changed. James Tierney said that the escape clause needs to be in the article. Wade White wondered why we wanted to buy a used one and beat ourselves to death. James Tierney said that perhaps it would be a demo which are all over the country. James added that those would be sold like a used one but it is really a new vehicle. Roger Chauvette asked what the tax impact would be. James Tierney said it would be zero out because the ambulance supports itself and it’s above the total revenue. Roger Chauvette wondered what the overall budget increase would be. James Tierney said it had no tax impact. Roger Chauvette asked that it wouldn’t increase. James Tierney said the 1<sup>st</sup> payment is already sitting in the trust fund James added that the money for years after will be generated from excess. Roger Chauvette added that we wouldn’t know if we would have any excess 5 years from now. James Tierney said that to get rid of it we would totally eliminate the ambulance budget. Roger Chauvette asked if it was in our budget then why are we voting on an escape clause. Chauvette added that if we turn it in we would lose the equity and have nothing to show for it. Sandy Mason said that if they didn’t have the call volume to make the payment they would watch the money

very well. Roger Chauvette said that he was a paramedic in Lancaster and said that medicare was getting harder and doesn't want the town funding this. Barry Colebank asked if Al and Mike wanted to withdraw the amendment. Al Rossetto and Michael Phillips withdrew their amendment and then redid it properly. Tracey Morrill asked how much the ambulance brought in on average. Sandy Mason answered that she brought in \$58,000 in 2009. Roger Chauvette said that this wasn't a good set up. James Tierney said that they brought in \$27,000 in 2010. Kathy Frechette said that it could be less each year if we bought one cheaper. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 17 passed as amended.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,583 dollars to be placed into the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2010 fiscal year. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0)

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

Motion made by Sandra Mason to change the dollar amount to \$27,995 and seconded by Terrance Bedell. Voice vote. Amendment accepted.

Discussion: Sandy Mason said that the reason for the amendment is because medicare made a direct deposit into the checking account that wasn't considered in the original article. Voice vote. Amendment accepted. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 18 passed as amended.

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 dollars to be placed in the Road Construction Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-3-1)

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

No discussion.

Voice vote. Article 19 passed at read.

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 dollars to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-0-2)

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

No discussion.

Voice vote. Article 20 passed as read.

**Article 21: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 dollars to be placed in the Police Cruiser Expendable Trust Fund, previously established. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-1)

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

No discussion.

Voice vote. Article 21 passed as read.

**Article 22: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,800 dollars for the purchase of 4 digital radios to be placed into town vehicles. These funds will come from a 50/50 EMPG grant already applied for, in the amount of \$3,400 dollars, \$700 dollars from soft match and \$2,700 dollars from taxes. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Selectmen 2-0-1) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0)

Motion made by Mario Audit and seconded by Alan Rossetto to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barbara Weagle asked what this meant. Robert Gauthier said that this was replacing the radios to comply. This was for 4 to start and in total we need 8. John Robbin asked what vehicles they were going to be put in and if they were also gonna have GPS. Robert Gauthier said that they hadn't identified the replacement places yet and not having GPS. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 22 passed as read.

**Article 23: To** see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of sludge removal from the town lagoons. Additionally, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed into the aforementioned ETF. Furthermore to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-1)

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

read.

Discussion: Ron Caron asked why this was being funded through taxation. James Tierney said that the town is not paying their fare share and that this was a start. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 23 passed as read.

**Article 24: To** see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of the purchase of pumps for the town water system. Additionally, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 dollars to be placed into the aforementioned CRF. Furthermore to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-2)

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

Discussion: James Tierney said that the owner was the Town and the users pay for it. He added that the town needed to contribute to it because they own it. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 24 passed as read.

**Article 25: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed into the Municipal Office Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article will be passed over if Article 3 passes. (Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2-1)

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

Discussion: Norman Cotter asked what this was. James Tierney said that this started a year ago and we are just adding to it. Alan Holmes said that saving was a good move. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 25 passed as read.

**Article 26: To** see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,917.50 to purchase 3 million dollars of liability insurance for the purpose of reinstalling the diving boards at the town pool. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by the Selectmen 2-1) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1)

Motion made by Samantha Canton and seconded by Robert Gauthier to accept article as read.

Motion made by Robert Gauthier and seconded by Samantha Canton to amend Article 26 to the dollar amount of \$2917.00 and the last sentence being "Funds to come from fund raising, grant applications and the pool user fees". Voice vote. Amendment accepted.

Philip Pinette asked if the fund raisers would happen even if this didn't go through. Robert Gauthier said that they wanted to raise the money and that there was no tax impact. Rae Hurlbutt asked if this was successful would it pay for a new diving board. Samantha Canton said that we already had the diving board. Nancy Merrow said that if we didn't meet the criteria why would we be allowed to put the diving boards back in. Samantha Canton stated that there was some confusion and that the dimensions were not accurate. She added that by the time things were ironed out the season was over but that this information had been researched. Uldric Bernard asked if this was the same insurance as the town and if the numbers were the same. Robert Gauthier answered that it was a different company that would be willing to insure it. Ron Caron asked if this was comparable. Robert Gauthier answered that the town has a liability insurance of \$5,000,000 but the highest they'd go was \$3,000,000. Madeline Hart asked if the depth what it is suppose to be. Robert Gauthier answered that all of the dimensions were given to the insurance company. He added that if it were 2 feet deeper the current insurance company would have covered it. Madeline Hart asked who it was who is going to cover. Robert Gauthier said it wagoing to be Geo. M. Stevens. James Morse asked if this meant we were going to have 2 policies. James Tierney said that it was so that it covered just the diving board. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 26 passed as amended.

**Article 27: To** see if the Town will vote to register and disseminate to all concerned its objection, opposition and commitment to stop the construction of any portion of the 1200 Megawatt High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line in the Town of Northumberland as presently proposed by Northeast Utilities, NStar and Hydro-Quebec since such a huge scar constructed and erected through and above the Town's treasured residential and scenic private properties will cause inestimable damage to the orderly economic development of the Town economy, and the health and well-being of its residents; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Richard Paradis to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard said that he felt that the gas line company was asking for an abatement and that the Northern Pass would be doing the same thing. David Auger asked what is proposed for an increase to our tax base with this. James Tierney said that there were numbers out there of 2.5 million per line and with 4 miles in Northumberland it would be about \$10,000,000. George

Sansoucy sent an article that said the 4 miles should be about 20,000,000. Amanda King said that his company and all of the brochures are not telling that the values of our own land will be going down. She said that no one wants to stare at a tower and that it will not lower our rates. Mrs. King added that the jobs are only temporary and it would be a long term loss. Michael Phillips said that everyone needed to read the fine print. Mr. Phillips added that there was a disclaimer about the devaluation of your land. He added that we needed to say that we don't want this. Mark Robinson asked if the selectmen could appose this. James Tierney said that you can't tell the selectmen that they can or can't appose it. He added that you can appose it personally but you can't compel a board. Kevin Lakin asked if the selectmen had to represent the town. James Tierney said that the town meeting would vote to to one way but if the selectmen don't support it they have the authority to say no. Robert Gauthier said that one selectman works for the company and that personally he was against it after Amanda King asked him which he was. John Normand wants to move the question. Barry Colebank said that this has to be put in the town records. Norman Cotter asked why this article was here anyways. Kathy Wiles said that the selectmen should be representing the whole town. Barry Colebank said that sometimes you cannot tell Concord what to do. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 27 passed as read.

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37, the exemption for the blind, in the amount of \$15,000 dollars.

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

Voice vote. Article 28 passed as read.

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

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

Voice vote. Article 29 passed as read.

**Article 30:** To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

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

Voice vote. Article 30 passed as read.

**Article 31:** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

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

Mario Audit presented Rebecca Craggy with the Employee of the Year award.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard told the selectmen that this meeting was public and that the decisions are the will of the people and if they selectmen couldn't stand behind them they should get out of it because it was wrong. Norman Cotter said that the town reports were not delivered and he had to pick his up at the dump last Saturday. James Tierney said that they reports were delivered for free before and all that we have to do is to have them available as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that anyone wishing to volunteer to deliver could do that. Norman Cotter said that he didn't even know that they were available. Lisa Grimes said that the selectmen should contact the school to see if the kids might want to deliver them. John Roberge thanked James Tierney for his time as selectman. No further discussion.

Voice vote. Article 31 passed as read.

Motion to adjourn was made by James Tierney and seconded by Michael Phillips. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:08 PM by Moderator Barry Colebank on 3/8/2011.**

**School election results:**

**Moderator-Write in Barry Colebank**

**Clerk-Write in Kathy Wiles**

**School Treasurer-Write in Melody Barney**

**School Board, 3 yr-David Auger (206) and David Hurlbutt (176)**

**School Board, 1 yr-Nancy Merrow (180)**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Melinda“Min” Marshall Kennett**

**Town Clerk**

**Town of Northumberland**

