

# Town Election and Meeting Minutes

## State of New Hampshire Town of Northumberland

To the inhabitants of the Town of Northumberland, Coos County and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Northumberland Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square on the second Tuesday in March next, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. You are hereby warned that on said date and at said place the polls will be opened at **9:00** in the forenoon and will remain open until **7:00** in the evening for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and at the Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium in said Town at **11:00** in the forenoon, the matter of appropriations and such other business properly coming before said meeting will be taken up for your consideration and action.

The Annual Town Election for the Town of Northumberland and the Northumberland School District was declared opened at 9:00 AM, Tuesday, March 8, 2016 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young also announced that the absentee ballots would be processed at 1:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed.

The business meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Moderator Keith Young. Moderator Young recognized our Veterans and led the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 166 registered voters in attendance with approximately 200 people in attendance total.

\*Articles 1-4 will be printed on the official ballot.

### **403 Ballots were cast (50 Absentee, 353 Election Day)**

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

**Results:**

**Selectman: James Weagle 296**, Mario Audit 80, Marcel Platt 20

**Library Trustee: Diane Berube 376**

**Trustee of Trust Funds: Write in Angela Simino 4**

**Cemetery Trustee: Thomas Covell 366**

\***Article 2:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing six years: one Supervisor of the Checklist.

**Results: Terri A. Charron 371**

\***Article 3:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing two years: one Trustee of Trust Funds and Town Moderator.

**Results:**

**Trustee of Trust Funds: Write in Kathy Wiles 2**  
**Moderator: Keith Young 379**

**\*Article 4:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing one year: one Auditor.

**Results: Kimberly DeBlois 366**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$1,200,000 dollars for Phase II of the water/sewer extension on the river side of the former mill site, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$400,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate the terms of such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; further to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any grant monies that may become available for this purpose. \$800,000 is to come from a grant already applied for, if the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (2/3 vote by ballot required)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read. Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle to allow Mike Sterling, who is not on the checklist as a voter, to speak on behalf of Bob Chapman. Hand held card vote passed to allow Mr. Sterling to do his presentation.**

**Ballot vote: 140 YES 25 NO 1 SPOILED BALLOT**

**Article 5 passed as read by ballot vote with the 2/3 needed.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$384,616 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be offset by the water user fees. Any shortfalls in the water user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular water account". (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 6 passed as read.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$351,342 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be offset by the sewer user fees. Any shortfall in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular sewer account". (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

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

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

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,050,309 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 8 passed as read.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to enter into a contract with Early Rubbish Removal, for the purpose of curbside garbage pick-up. The contract is for three years, beginning with Town Meeting 2016 and ending with Town Meeting 2019. The cost of the contract is as follows:

2016 - \$54,600

2017 - \$67,600

2018 - \$67,600

2019 - \$13,000

Additionally to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,600 dollars for the 2016 budget year. (Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

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

**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 \$80,000 dollars to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds at the amounts shown:

Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001 \$10,000

Highway Equipment CRF, established 1982 \$25,000

Water System CRF, established 2011 \$ 5,000

Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009 \$40,000

(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 10 passed as read.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 dollars to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds at the amounts shown:

Sludge Removal ETF, established 2011 \$15,000

Water Tank ETF, established 2014 \$ 5,000

(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.**

**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 \$2,483 dollars to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, of which the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, established 2009, with \$2,483 dollars to come from fund balance (of which \$2,483 dollars is from 2015 metal sale proceeds ). No amount raised by taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 12 passed as read.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,742 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established 1990. This sum to come from the surplus fund balance from revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2015 fiscal year. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

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

**Motion by James Weagle and seconded by James Tierney to amend the dollar amount to \$62,032.00.**

**Hand held card vote. Amendment passed. No further discussion.**

**Hand held card vote. Amended article 13 passed.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,301 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Groveton Senior Meals	\$13,500
Child Advocacy Center of Coos County	\$ 2,438
Northwoods Home Health & Hospice	\$12,759
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,225
CASA of New Hampshire	\$ 500
American Red Cross NH & VT Region	\$ 2,200
Center for New Beginnings	\$ 500
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,219
Tri-County CAP Homeless Programs	\$ 1,260
Caleb Caregivers	\$ 2,000
St Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program	\$ 1,600

(Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 14 passed as read.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,970 dollars for the Tri-County CAP, Inc., North Country Elder Program in support of the Senior Meals Program home delivery. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Richard Paradis to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 15 passed as read.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 dollars, to fund Project Homebound, a charitable organization, in support of local home delivery of Thanksgiving Food Baskets. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Not Recommended by Selectmen 1-2)

**Motion made by Melinda Kennett and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 16 passed as read.**

**Article 17:** 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)(Not Recommended by Selectmen 1-2)

**Motion made by Michael Simino and seconded by Kari Hickey to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 17 passed as read.**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars to support the North Country Transit's Senior Transportation. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Richard Paradis to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 18 passed as read.**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Community Christmas Organization. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 19 passed as read.**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 dollars for the Groveton Beautification Organization. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 20 passed as read.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Chem-Free Graduation Fund. These funds to be used to promote alcohol and drug free youth by sponsoring a chemical free graduation celebration. (Inserted by petition of voters)(Not Recommended by Selectmen 0-3)

**Motion made by Melinda Kennett and seconded by Mario Audit to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 21 passed as read.**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,800 dollars for the purpose of paying for 50% of the cost of perambulation of the Town boundary with Stark over a two year period, with \$2,400 dollars allotted for each year. Said Funds to come from the town's Forest Maintenance Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the expiration of the two year contract with the forester, or three years from the Town Meeting, which ever come first. No funds to be raised by taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

**Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.**

**Hand held card vote. Article 22 passed as read.**

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72: 76, which would allow the Town to adopt a new property exemption for industrial use. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption does not apply to the state education property tax nor to the county property tax. The exemption shall take effect in the year beginning April 1 following its adoption. The exemption will run for three years and be for 50% of the valuation. If adopted by the local

legislative body, the percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted uniformly within the Town to all projects for which a proper application is filed. A vote adopting RSA 72:76 shall remain in effect for a maximum of five tax years; provided, however that for any application which has already been granted prior to expiration of the five year tax period, shall continue to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted.  
(Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

**Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by James Tierney to accept article as read.**

**Motion made by Deborah Weeks and seconded by Harry Lee Rice, Jr. to amend the article and add commercial use along with the industrial use.**

**Hand held card vote. Amendment passed.**

**Hand held card vote. Amended Article 23 passed.**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 dollars for payment of the Tax Anticipation Note. (Recommended by Selectmen 2-1)

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 24 passed as read.**

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 25 passed as read.**

**Article 26:** To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 26 passed as read.**

**Article 27:** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

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

**Hand held card vote. Article 27 passed as read.**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Normandeau and seconded by Denise Normand. Hand held card vote. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

**The business meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm by Moderator Young on 3/12/2016.**

**Northumberland School Ballot Results:**

**Moderator: Write in Keith Young**

**Clerk: Write in Kathy Wiles**

**Treasurer: Write in Melody Barney**

**Board of Education: Louise Collins 276, Jessica Riendeau 252, Saran Holden 132**

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda A. "Min" Marshall Kennett

Town Clerk

Town of Northumberland