

REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING

March 8, 2022

Assistant Moderator William Lambert called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 AM on March 8, 2022 at the Boscawen Elementary School, and declared the polls would remain open until 7:00 PM. The election of Town Officers requires polling hour balloting.

Assistant Moderator Lambert announced a delay of action on Articles 6 through 26 until the official ballots were counted. In addition, that absentee ballots would be cast beginning at 3:00 PM. Once the Town Officers were elected, the Town Meeting would resume.

Ballot Clerks:

Penny Sarcione

Haley Dilts-Brown

Nicole Hoyt

Polls closed at 7:00 PM. Moderator Charles Niebling explained that Town Meeting would resume at the conclusion of the ballot counting process for the write-in votes, at Boscawen Elementary School.

Moderator Niebling opened the meeting at 7:34 PM on March 8, 2022. He recognized and thanked Town Officials and Merrimack School District for the use of the Elementary School. Fred Reagan and his staff, Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt, and other Town staff for all their assistance for today's preparation for an efficient and orderly election. The Moderator requested retired Fire Chief, Ray Fisher to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Niebling then recognized those in attendance who are veterans of armed services, active duty, reserves, and guard.

Moderator Niebling recognized Chair of the Select Board Lorrie Carey, to introduce the head table. Select Board Members Matthew Burdick, and Paul Dickey were recognized. She also introduced Moderator Charles Niebling, Town Administrator Katherine Phelps, Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt, Deputy Town Clerk Haley Dilts-Brown, Finance Director Kate Merrill, Assistant Town Clerk Norma Caporale, Public Works Director Dean Hollins, Facilities Director Gary Moore, Lieutenant Jason Killary, Police Chief Kevin Wyman, Deputy Planning & Community Development Director Kearsten O'Brien, Fire Chief Tim Kenney and volunteer firemen. Supervisors of the Checklist Agnes Colby, Sherlene Fisher, and Sarah Gerlack who is also our Community Services Director. Selectwoman Carey recognized Agnes Colby for her many years of service and announced that she would be retiring as a Supervisor of the Checklist.

Selectwoman Carey asked for a moment of silence to honor volunteers of the Town we have lost: Rhoda Bergeron, former Representative Claire Clarke, Therese Cunningham, Charles Jaworski, Roy Roy, Sr., William Urbach and most recently Bruce Crawford. She also recognized retired Town Administrator Alan Hardy for his decade and a half years of service. A well-deserved standing ovation ensued.

Moderator Niebling then summarized the rules of the meeting, according to the Moderator, loosely based but not adhering strictly to Roberts Rules of Order. All articles will be read by the Moderator prior to deliberation. No comments from the floor will be recognized. You will be

allowed comments at one of the two microphones. If you cannot get to a microphone, one will be brought to you. All comments shall be directed to the Moderator, limited to the article on the floor. Speakers will be allowed a second time at the microphones after all first timers have spoken. Voting will be by voice vote or voting cards. This is for Boscawen registered voters only. Secret ballot requests must be accompanied by five registered voter signatures. This must be done prior to the voice vote. He went on to explain the rules for applying RSA 40:10, which restricts reconsideration of an article once voted upon during the meeting deliberations. The Moderator recognized Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt, who will keep the official record of the meeting, and asked that everyone who speaks state their name and address clearly for the record.

Moderator Niebling thanked Lieutenant Jason Killary and Police Chief Kevin Wyman for tabulating the write in results.

Article 1 — To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. The votes were counted in a total of 167 ballots cast, and the results are as follows:

Office	Name	Vote
Cemetery Trustee – 3 years	Rhoda Hardy	34
	Other	13
Library Trustees – 3 years	Elaine A. Clow	127
	Other	2
Moderator – 2 years	Charles Niebling	129
Selectperson – 3 years	Lorrie J. Carey	116
	Other	9
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years	Pamela Hardy	29
	Other	10
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years	Lyman Cousens	127
	Other	1
Treasurer – 3 years	Tama Tillman	114
	Other	3

Article 2 — Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, Use regulations, Table of uses – Residential? Ballot vote: YES – 90, NO – 39. **Article 2 is approved.**

Article 3 — Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance, Article XII Definitions? Ballot vote: YES – 93, NO – 36. **Article 3 is approved.**

Article 4 — Are you in in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance, Article XVIII Village District Ordinance? Ballot vote: YES – 94, NO – 35. **Article 4 is approved.**

Article 5 — Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance, Article XXI Conditional Use Permit Ordinance? Ballot vote: YES – 92, NO – 37. **Article 5 is approved.**

Article 6 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,580,241 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

William Lambert motioned to adopt Article 6, Mark Varney seconded.

Discussion on Article 6 — Michael Fisher, 4 Circle Drive. Mr. M. Fisher read a quote from Governor Chris Sununu, “If your Town is not lowering property taxes, go to Town Meeting and fight it.” He mentioned that the taxes have not lowered and explained that even with COVID relief, taxes did not lower, they have gone higher. He feels that if this Article is adopted our taxes will increase.

Selectwoman Carey stated she was disappointed that the Governor made a comment like that especially with the down shifted costs that have come to the towns from the State. She explained that the State downshifted hundred millions of dollars in education costs, downshifted pay in retirement costs, and the revenue sharing is not where it used to be. She suggested to take a good look at the State, the State needs to balance their budget not by downshifting to local towns and schools, but be more transparent and fair.

Ray Fisher, 211 Water St. Mr. R. Fisher asked about the CIP on page 33 in the 2021 Town Report. In the capital reserve accounts, he read the Municipal Building, Fire Department Equipment, Police Cruiser and Fire Station expenditures. He asked who has the authority to spend money and where did these expenses go. Selectwoman Carey answered that he is able to access the minutes. She further explained that when a transfer occurs this happens in a public session with the Select Board, a specific item and specific amount is presented by a Department Head. The Select Board will motion, second and a roll call count is made in order to move from a capital reserve account for a specific and documented item. Mr. R. Fisher then asked what the \$23,587.65 was used for at the Fire Station. Fire Chief Tim Kenney answered that the money was spent to have a study done on the Fire Station to see what is needed for the future. He explained that the Fire Station currently does not have showers and there is need for showers for the members after a fire so that they are able to remove the carcinogens or any other mess and not track any contamination back to their own homes. Chief Kenney also stated that the study was completed and three plans were presented in a public meeting. During that public meeting the Select Board decided not to go forward because it was too expensive to consider at this time. They decided to look for other alternatives like government grants to help fund the Fire Station. Mr. R. Fisher asked about the \$15,000 expense for the Fire Department Equipment? Chief Kenney answered that this was used to purchase a SCBA breathing air fill station. In the past, the volunteers were operating with half full tanks and that is not safe or sufficient for them in an emergency situation. Mr. R. Fisher then referenced page 34 of the 2021 Town Report and asked what the perceived discrepancy of assessment is on the Schedule of Town Property between the old Police Station and Fire Department buildings. Selectwoman Carey explained that these assessment values come from an Assessor and the Towns assessing firm is Avitar Associates. Moderator Niebling stated that the difference is potentially based on the land associated with the old police building.

There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 6 is adopted.**

Article 7 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,200 to be contributed to the Town Capital Reserve Funds previously established as follows:

- A. Fire Truck \$65,000
- B. Highway Heavy Equipment \$45,000
- C. Public Works Building \$20,000
- D. Municipal (IT) \$30,200
- E. C&D Landfill Closure \$32,000
- F. Municipal Buildings \$50,000
- G. Police Cruiser \$25,000

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Ray Fisher motioned to adopt Article 7, Bill Lambert seconded.

Discussion on Article 7 — Selectwoman Carey made a couple clarifying comments; the amount for the Police Cruiser is only half of the cost. The increase for the Municipal Buildings is that all municipal buildings have been combined for identifying projects and deferred maintenance on all Town owned buildings.

There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 7 is adopted.**

Article 8 — To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Municipal Building CRF created in 2003. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board.

William Lambert motioned to adopt Article 8, Ed Cherian seconded.

Discussion on Article 8 — Selectwoman Carey reiterated, a new Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve fund was created in 2020 for the maintenance and upkeep of all Town owned buildings. That is why this article is to discontinue the old fund of just one building.

Pam Watson, 100 N Water Street. Ms. Watson asked if the Municipal Building money could be used for repairs on the Town Hall. Selectwoman Carey replied that this is for all Municipal Buildings. The Facilities Director has worked on prioritizing the work that needs to be completed on all of our buildings. They then create a schedule of repairs as revenue is available. The Town Hall is not currently open and as such is not high on the priority list.

There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 8 is adopted.**

Article 9 — To see if the Town will vote to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$33,000 to put in the fund? This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the Fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund.

(Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Gary Tillman motioned to adopt Article 9, Ray Fisher seconded.

There being no discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 9 is adopted.**

Article 10 — Shall the Town vote to accept the provisions of RSA 79-E giving the Select Board authority to grant Community Revitalization Tax Relief based on the specified areas spelled out in RSA 79-E:4 with such authority to remain in effect until rescinded.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mason Donovan motioned to adopt Article 10, Gary Tillman seconded.

Discussion on Article 10 — Member of Economic Development Committee John Porter, 41 River Road. Mr. Porter explained that this is an incentive to improve and further develop old buildings. He stated that the Town has already voted in RSA 79-D that is a tax incentive for improvement and updating of barns. Ed Maloof, 55 D.W. Highway. Mr. Maloof asked what buildings they are talking about. Selectwoman Carey stated that it would be up to the property owner to apply. The application process is made to the governing body by property owners desiring to make improvements that meet 79-E guidelines as well as the public benefit test. In return, the governing body may provide tax relief at a pre-rehabilitation value for a finite period. Mr. Maloof asked if this would be by approval of the Board. Selectwoman Carey answered in the affirmative. Loren Martin, 225 Water Street asked if this relief was for only specific areas in Town. Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, stated that all of King Street, 8 D.W. Highway, and specific parts on North Main Street within the village district are the areas targeted and property owners should refer to their property card.

There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 10 is adopted.**

Article 11 — Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:65-68 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with wind powered energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualified wind-powered energy system equipment under these statutes.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board.

William Bevans motioned to adopt Article 11, Loren Martin seconded.

Discussion on Article 11 — Selectman Paul Dickey explained that wind powered energy is not currently in Town or assessed, but if the exemption is adopted, then the exemption is available when the time arrives.

There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. **Article 11 is adopted.**

Article 12 — Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:69-72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with wood heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying wood energy system equipment under these statutes.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board.

William Lambert motioned to adopt Article 11, Ed Cherian seconded.

Discussion on Article 12 — Mr. Maloof asked what is considered a qualified wood system, with a follow up suggestion that there is clear definition prior to a vote on this article. Ms. Martin stated that it is clearly defined in statute 72:69 Definition of woodheating energy system. She then proceeded to read the statute. *In this subdivision "Wood heating energy system" means a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood solely or burn wood in combination with another fuel. A central heating system shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or similar distribution system throughout a single building or group of buildings. A wood burning appliance shall not include a fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration whether or not it may also be closed and operated closed; or a wood stove meaning a wood burning appliance designed for space heating purposes which does not operate as a central heating system or as a sole source of heat.* Town Administrator Katherine Phelps clarified that these systems are not currently under taxation if they are a secondary source of heat. William Bevans, 416 High Street. Mr. Bevans asked if an indoor wood burning boiler would qualify if it is the only source of heat. A response was given but not recorded by hand written notes or the sound recording. It appeared that it would qualify.

There being no further discussion and voice vote was taken. **Article 12 is adopted.**

Article 13 — To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the Select Board to acquire or sell land, buildings or both; provided however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board.

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article 13, Alan Hardy seconded.

Discussion on Article 13 — Selectman Matthew Burdick explained that there are a few Town-owned properties that are not currently being utilized and are deteriorating, and these properties will cost the Town money to upkeep. Potentially the Select Board could be able to sell these to someone to make investments of their own. He explained that this could alleviate some of the tax issues and be able to use the revenue from the sale elsewhere. Member of the Planning Board Ms. Martin asked why they would want to take this right away from the residents in Town leaving it up to a handful of taxpayers to decide. Planning Board Chair, Mark Varney of 12 Terrace Hill, answered that the Select Board would come to Planning Board or Conservation Commission to ask for a recommendation only. Mr. M. Fisher asked who comes up with a fair amount for buying or selling and added that the 1913 Library is Historic and has been in the Town for many years. Selectman Burdick responded that the value of property would be based on real estate value at that time. Elaine Clow, 357 Queen Street pointed out that the 1913 Library is listed on the NH State Register of Historic Places. Selectwoman Carey explained that there is a long list of properties in the Town Report that are becoming expensive to maintain. She added that a positive solution, could be to sell some properties for example, a possibility of partnering with the Water Precinct to get additional wells or water tanks in Town. She pointed out that our Town continues to grow and we may exceed our service capacity. William Lambert, 13 Weir Road pointed out that this does not include any protected lands. Beverly Drouin, 19 Tremont Street, Mason Donovan, 121 Water

Street and Bryan LaBarge, 429 High Street. All expressed that they want the decision should be left up to the residents in Town and are concerned about potential developments. Selectwoman Carey explained that we cannot restrict the use of a property that is zoned for a particular use. Assistant Moderator, Lambert read RSA 41:14a Acquisition or Sale of Land, Buildings, or Both; Demolition or Disposal of Buildings. *I. If adopted in accordance with RSA 41:14-c, the select board shall have the authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings, provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition, sale, demolition, or disposal to the planning board, the conservation commission, the heritage commission, and the historic district commission if the building lies within a defined district for review and recommendation by those bodies, where such board or commissions exist. After the select board receives the recommendation of the planning board, the conservation commission, the heritage commission, and the historic district commission if the building lies within a defined district, where such board or commissions exist, they shall hold 2 public hearings at least 10 but not more than 14 days apart on the proposed acquisition, sale, demolition, or disposal; provided, however, upon the written petition of 50 registered voters presented to the select board, prior to the select board's vote, according to the provisions of RSA 39:3, the proposed acquisition, sale, demolition, or disposal shall be inserted as an article in the warrant for the town meeting. The select board's vote shall take place no sooner than 7 days nor later than 14 days after the second public hearing which is held. II. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the sale of and the selectmen shall have no authority to sell: (a) Town-owned conservation land which is managed and controlled by the conservation commission under the provisions of RSA 36-A. (b) Any part of a town forest established under RSA 31:110 and managed under RSA 31:112. (c) Any real estate that has been given, devised, or bequeathed to the town for charitable or community purposes except as provided in RSA 498:4-a or RSA 547:3-d. III. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the demolition or disposal of, and the select board shall have no authority to demolish or dispose of, any real estate that has been given, devised, or bequeathed to the town for charitable or community purposes except as provided in RSA 498:4-a or RSA 547:3-d.* Paul Mathews, 151 King Street. Mr. Mathews asked what has brought this to the Select Boards attention. Selectwoman Carey, explained that this was recommended by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission and that this is a two public hearings process. There being no further discussion and voice vote was taken. **Article 13 is defeated**

Article 14 — Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a), to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body?
(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board.

Mark Kaplan motioned to adopt Article 14, Alan Hardy seconded.

Discussion on Article 14 — Selectman Burdick explained that this article is for the purchase of the Walker Pond Dam in the amount of \$1.00. The dam is currently owned by Webster and the idea is to be able to join the pond together. Mr. Maloof stated that he would vote in favor if this article was limited to this one purchase. Moderator Niebling responded stating that it is not possible to change statutory wording in a warrant article. Pauline Dawson, 14 Woodbury Lane asked who would own the dam and would it be expensive if needed to be repaired. Selectwoman Carey recognized Public Works Director Dean Hollins, and asked him to expound on the construction of

the dam. Director Hollins stated that the dam is 40' across and 3' high, an inspection has been reported with no significant damage and the reason for this purchase is so the Town can maintain Walker Pond. He added, if we do not take ownership the pond could dry up over time and we would lose this great spot. Conservation Commission Member Mark Kaplan of 121 Water Street, remarked that Walker Pond is a beautiful place and fantastic resource for the Town. Alan Hardy, 219 Water Street, explained that the dam was the missing piece of the puzzle and that two towns are not able to share a piece of property.

After questions regarding where the pond is located a voice vote was taken. **Article 14 is adopted.**

Article 15 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,100 to complete an Assessment Study to determine required safety upgrades to bring the Town Hall into compliance with life safety and Building Codes.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget

Pam Watson motioned to adopt Article 15, Gary Tillman seconded.

Discussion on Article 15 — Ms. Dawson asked why it cost \$10,000 to have this study done. Selectwoman Carey explained that this study is necessary to get a full picture of what the cost to make the Town Hall compliant with life safety and building codes. In addition we will be looking into grants that would help to help pay for the updates and we would need very specific documents and proof of what we would use the grant monies for. She listed some of the items that we know will need to be repaired: water under the floors causing them to warp and deteriorate, the main entrance concrete steps are deteriorating, the stove does not have ventilation in place, causing the stove to be red tagged due to inadequate oxygen levels in hall and so on. Mr. Varney asked why the Life Safety, Code Enforcement and Building Inspectors can't do the study. Chief Kenney responded with the fact that he is not an engineer and that is what is necessary to document the necessary corrections that are needed. He did say from a life safety standpoint the assessable ramp going up and out is not ADA compliant. This can cause a conflict of interest. This should be done by a third party for complete transparency and a legitimate number. Edward Cherian, 7 Hollins Drive, added that we as a Town already know this is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and we should put our money toward something else. William Heinz, 55 Tremont Street agreed with Mr. Cherian and asked if it could be given to the church. Mr. M. Fisher, mentioned that he thought it a waste of money to do the fire station study, and he doesn't think it wise to do another study. He added that we should put it towards repairs.

There being no further discussion a voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 22 Yes, large amount by a decided margin No. **Article 15 is defeated.**

Article 16 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 to replace the roof on Torrent Station.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Ray Fisher motioned to adopt Article 16, Mark Varney seconded.

Discussion on Article 16 — Chief Kenney of 87 Water Street passionately expressed that Torrent is a historic building that needs to be taken care instead of being torn down or sold. Chief mentioned that an important group of people to our Town, the Penacook Rescue Squad, are

currently housed in this building. Old Home Day committee Chair, Ms. Dawson shared that Old Home Day and fire equipment are stored in this building as well. There being no further discussion voice vote taken. **Article 16 is adopted.**

Article 17 —To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,500 to install a new generator at the Municipal Complex. This will allow the Town's Emergency Operations Center, (EOC), to be housed in the Municipal Office Building. This project is eligible for a 50% matching fund grant from New Hampshire Homeland Security. The balance of \$49,750 to be raised through general taxation. The expenditure of funds appropriated by this article is contingent on the receipt of the grant.

(Majority vote is required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Gary Tillman motioned to adopt Article 17, Tama Tillman seconded.

Discussion on Article 17 — Facilities Director Gary Moore explained that the current generator is over 16 years old and is only 60KW. The current generator is too small to handle the expected elevator inrush and future growth of the building. The generator would need to be replaced with a 100KW generator to support the Police Department, elevator and the Town Offices. Tama Tillman, 83 North Main Street, voiced that if a power outage occurred at the Town Office there could be possible water pipe damage that would destroy any paper documents, electronics, etc. Ms. Tillman expressed that this is a perfect time because half of the money would be paid by the grant. She suggested to adopt this and it would be irresponsible to pass up this opportunity. Mr. Heinz stated that it is his belief that there is no such thing as free money if you pay federal taxes. He also said that the Municipal Building is on a highly reliable connection to the Penacook, Primary Transmission Facility. Christy Mank, 7 Weir Road asked if there would be additional cost to the Town to set up an EOC at the Municipal Complex. Selectwoman Carey replied that we do have all the other technology in place. Mr. Hardy explained that the grant is based upon the contingency that the EOC would be at the Municipal Complex. This grant and the EOC are tied together in this fashion. Mr. M. Fisher asked why the EOC couldn't be at the Police Station and use our current generator. Director Jason Killary said that all the technology is run through the Municipal Building. If there was a power outage all the generator would power would be lights and electricity in the Police Department only. All critical information technology is run through the Town Offices. And is not connected to the generator. He went on to say that in a catastrophic incident it would not be business as usual. The facility would be available to responding individuals at the state and federal level requiring use of internet and phones, etc. We would also still have a fully functioning Police Department. Mr. LaBarge stated that in light of the clarification from Director Killary, it's evident that this is a critical piece of equipment necessary to maintain emergency operations. Director Killary also stated that working in conjunction with the Library, our heating and cooling shelter is housed there and not in the conference room.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken. **Article 17 is adopted.**

Article 18 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,600 to install lightning rods on the Municipal Complex to protect from damage from a lightning strike.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Bill Lambert motioned to adopt Article 18, Ed Maloof seconded.

Discussion on Article 18 — Mr. R. Fisher stated he was very much against this article. Kevin Marshall, 19 Gage Street, asked if it is true that this building was hit by lightning and took out the police equipment. Mr. Hardy explained, in 2017 the Municipal Complex was struck by lightning causing significant damage to our IT systems, elevator and Police Department radio. Primex reimbursed the Town for \$26,600.00 worth of the costs from the loss. Lightning rods are recommended by the Hazard Mitigation Committee and is presented in our Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Joint Loss Safety Committee has referenced it in their meetings, and the installation of lightning rods is recommended by Primex, our property and liability insurance. Director Moore spoke about a proposal that he received from Northeast Lightning Protection. Discussion ensued regarding grounding, potential sand issues, drawing from the Municipal Building fund instead of taxation, the insurance company, and the fire at Crete Farm due to a lightning strike.

Voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. Moderator Niebling noticed Beverly Drouin in a point of order. Ms. Drouin asked why the article says that it is recommended by the Select Board, however two members voted no. Selectman Dickey, stated that they recommended the warrant to go to the Town. There being no further discussion a voice vote is taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 28 Yes, 25 No. **Article 18 is adopted.**

Article 19 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,250 to repair and resurface the tennis court at the Boscawen Town Park and authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Tennis Court Capital Reserve Fund created for the purpose. The balance of \$26,250 is to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mark Kaplan motioned to adopt Article 19, Mabel Niebling seconded.

Discussion on Article 19 — Clarification regarding the Town owned park in all actuality is the Boscawen Town Park, 1 Depot Street. The baseball field is the Jamie Welch Memorial Field. It is located at Boscawen Town Park. Director Hollins, shared that both the tennis and basketball court are used during weather permitted times and is in need of repair. Director Moore received proposals for the tennis and basketball court from East Coast Sport Courts. He read the full proposal that include all specifications of the project. Discussion ensued by several residents regarding cracks in the surface of the tennis court, covering it with asphalt, liability if there is an injury, painting the basketball backboards, and potentially putting this off until next year.

There being no further discussion a voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 33 Yes, 28 No. **Article 19 is adopted.**

Article 20 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,280.00 to repair and resurface the basketball court at the Boscawen Town Park?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Bill Lambert motioned to adopt Article 20, Gary Tillman seconded.

There being no discussion a voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 35 Yes, 23 No. **Article 20 is adopted.**

Article 21 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to contribute the recruitment efforts of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Scott Maltzie motioned to adopt Article 21, Mark Varney seconded.

There being no discussion a voice vote taken. **Article 21 is adopted.**

Article 22 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100 to contribute to the operating costs of the American Red Cross?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Mark Varney motioned to adopt Article 22, Gary Tillman seconded.

There being no discussion a voice vote was taken. **Article 22 is adopted.**

Article 23 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,700 to contribute to the operating costs of the Penacook Community Center?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee.

Tama Tillman motioned to adopt Article 23, Elaine Clow seconded.

Discussion on Article 23 — Mr. Varney, stated that the Penacook Community Center was no longer in operation and is part of the Boys and Girls Club. Selectman Dickey explained that Penacook Community Center has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to reduce the operational costs. He explained that two buildings at PCC are planned to be demolished and the third building would be reconstructed. Selectwoman Carey clarified that this amount would be going towards supporting only children's programing. Stephanie Vangjel, 20 Goodhue Road stated that her children do benefit from this program as many children of working parents do.

There being no further discussion a voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 15 Yes, 36 No. **Article 23 is defeated.**

Article 24 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of the \$7,600 for the continuation of services to the residents of Boscawen through the Concord area Center of the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Rhoda Hardy motioned to adopt Article 24, Sarah Gerlack seconded.

Discussion on Article 24 — Rhoda Hardy, 217 Water Street, expressed that this contribution would highly benefit the Town. She pointed out on page 73 the total value of services to the Town was \$453,941.87. She said that the \$7,600.00 would be a good investment. Human Service Administrator Sarah Gerlack relayed that CAP is doing more than the Town can do and afford. CAP has helped families install a new water heater or replace a refrigerator. Administrator Gerlack explained that \$7,600 is not even a month's worth to help a family or cover expenses of those who are homeless. She voiced that this helps our local budget and our taxpayers. Beth Hayward, non-resident, spoke on behalf of the Community Action Program. Ms. Hayward wanted to thank everyone from Boscawen for their support even through these difficult times. Leah Richards, Community Action Director of Energy Assistance, wanted to thank the residents of Boscawen for their support by keeping everyone warm and in their homes.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken. **Article 24 is adopted.**

Selectwoman Carey moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 6, under **RSA 40:10** Bill Lambert seconded, voice vote taken and motion to apply **RSA 40:10** is adopted.

Article 25 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 to contribute to the operating costs of the Boscawen Historical Society?

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee.

Elaine Clow motioned to adopt Article 25, Polly Dawson seconded.

Discussion on Article 25 — Selectwoman Carey shared a potential conflict of interest as she is a financial supporter of the Boscawen Historical Society and their calendar fundraiser. She added that she greatly appreciates the resource that they provide to our community. The Historical Society maintains the museum and are open on Sundays during the warmer months. Historical Society President, Michael Nawoj explained that this appropriation covers a portion of their operating costs such as insurance, gas, electric and internet. Mr. Nawoj thanked everyone for their support and is happy to answer questions regarding Boscawen's history and community.

There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken. **Article 25 is adopted.**

Article 26 — To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Scott Maltzie, 57 Chandler Street. Dr. Maltzie stated that he appreciates the Select Board for bringing all of the Articles forward to the residents to be able to voice on how their money is being spent so that they know what is happening with their properties. He expressed that some articles say they are recommended by the Select Board, but when they look at the votes it is not reflective of how the Select Board really feel about particular articles. Kim Kenney, 87 Water Street agreed with Dr. Maltzie and Ms. Drouin regarding the wording on the articles to reflect the frame of mind of the Board, for example "recommended to go in front of the voters" or "recommended by the select board." She feels that she would like to see more clarity on how the Select Board really feels. Mr. M. Fisher announced that 230 students were not able to attend school in person today because of the Elections. He read a second quote from Governor Sununu "Students receive the best education with in person learning." He suggested to look for another location for the elections. Heather Wunschel, 245 King Street spoke in agreement with Mr. Fisher. She expressed that bus drivers and aides lost money out of their pay checks because of the elections. She suggested to have the election in the Fire Station. Mr. Marshall shared that he lived in Bedford for two years, Bedford shuts down the whole school system. Selectwoman Carey asked to do a straw poll to know how many people would be interested in opening the Town Hall with all of the work that needs to be done. She explained they do not have a proposal, but Alan Hardy estimated \$300,000.

There being no further discussion a voice vote taken. Moderator asked for a show of voting cards. 19 Yes, 20 No. This is a non-binding vote.

Selectwoman Carey asked a second straw poll vote to find out what the residents thought about reducing the Election hours from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM. She asked because there is not a huge turnout during the day. Mr. Maloof feels that it's important to keep the early hours for people going into work. Pam Malcolm, 11 Corn Hill, suggested the election to be held at the Fire Station or Select Board meeting room and the meeting to be held at the school. Selectman Dickey explained the reason the election was moved to the school was for social distance purpose. Chief Kenney

communicated that the election needs to be held somewhere ADA Compliant and it may be tough to find anywhere but the school to be ADA Compliant with the right amount of space. He thinks it's a good idea to move the election out of the school, but there needs to be an option to move it to. Mr. Donovan suggested to use the Avaloch Farm Music Institute on Hardy Lane. He is currently a board member and could ask about using the facility for future Town Elections. There being no further discussion William Bevans made a motion to adjourn, Scott Maltzie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM. Moderator Niebling thanked all who came out to participate in the Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole E. Hoyt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nicole E. Hoyt, Town Clerk

Haley Dilts-Brown, Deputy Town Clerk