

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

Moderator Cedric Dustin called the 2009 Town Meeting to order at 10:05am on Saturday, March 14, 2009 in the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium.

Moderator Dustin pointed out the exits of the gymnasium to those in attendance.

A member of the Pittsfield Boy Scouts Troop #84 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Dustin explained the ground rules for the meeting. There will be no debate until a Motion has been made and seconded. The debate is limited to the motion in question. Anyone wishing to speak will use the microphone and identify him/herself. All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Moderator and not to members of the body present. Any amendment to a Motion must be made in writing and given to the Moderator. Only one amendment will be considered at a time. All votes will be by cards unless it is a secret ballot. The use of the secret ballot on any one Article is permitted if and whenever five voters make a written request to the Moderator prior to the card vote on that Article.

Moderator Dustin read the introduction to the posted 2009 Town Meeting Warrant ~

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

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall Meeting Room at 85 Main Street in said Town on the second Tuesday in March next, March 10, 2009, to act upon the subjects herein mentioned. You are hereby warned that on said date and at said place the polls will be opened at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 7:00 PM for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are hereby warned that on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 10:00 AM at the Pittsfield Elementary School Gymnasium, the matter of appropriations and such other business properly coming before said meeting will be taken up for your consideration and action.

Moderator Dustin read the results of the ballot votes of the 2009 Annual Town Election held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 ~

Article 1: To choose by ballot the following officers: two Selectmen for a three (3) year term; one Selectmen for a one (1) year term; two Planning Board Members for a three (3) year term; one Planning Board Member for a one (1) year term; a Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a three (3) year term; a Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three (3) year term; a Library Trustee for a three (3) year term; two Ethics Committee Members for a three (3) year term; one Ethics Committee Member for a one (1) year term;

Annual Town Election Results ~

Two Selectmen for a three (3) year term –

Edward L. Vien elected – 470 votes, **Frederick T. Hast elected** – 395 votes

One Selectmen for a one (1) year term –

Lawrence J. Konopka elected – 514 votes

One Planning Board Member for a one (1) year term –

James A Pritchard elected – 375 votes, Marilyn Roberts – 245 votes

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Two Planning Board Members for a three (3) year term –

Daniel Schroth elected – 334 votes, **J.W. “Bill” Miskoe elected** – 389 votes

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a three (3) year term –

Elizabeth A. Hast elected – 459 votes, **Colleen A. Laro** – 194 votes

Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three (3) year term –

William J. Provencal elected – 558 votes

Library Trustee for a three (3) year term –

Dana M. Sansom elected – 560 votes

One Ethics Committee Member for a one (1) year term –

Merrill Vaughan elected – 55 write-in votes

Two Ethics Committee Members for a three (3) year term –

Donald D. Chase elected – 421 votes, **Denise Patterson elected** – 48 write-in votes

Article 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Table 1 (Zoning Districts and Uses) as it relates to commercial agriculture, bakeries, cluster developments, greenhouses, restaurants, truck/heavy equipment and trailer repairs, two family dwellings and manufactured housing parks? (Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3)

Article 2 was defeated – Yes (127) – No (516)

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Table 2 (Dimensional Regulations) to add density and minimum lot size requirements for the suburban and rural zoning districts? (Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3)

Article 3 was defeated – Yes (135) – No (512)

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Table 2 (Dimensional Regulations) to exempt fences, driveways, roads, flag poles, light poles, wells, septic systems, electric and phone boxes, signs, sidewalks, curbing, drainage and/or sediment ponds from setback requirements? (Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3)

Article 4 was defeated – Yes (152) – No (492)

Article 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: add a definition of frontage? (Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3)

Article 5 was defeated – Yes (161) – No (484)

Article 6: Are you in favor of the following petitioned zoning amendment as proposed below:

1. Replace existing Article 1, Purpose and Authority, with new Article 1, General Provisions, to correct and combine the existing Article 1 with existing Articles 22, Penalty Clause: Clause 23, Administration and Enforcement; and 24, Miscellaneous.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

2. Replace existing Article 2, Zoning Districts, to add new zoning district descriptions and use and dimensional regulations and to move existing parking regulations to the new Article 16, Parking Regulations.
 3. Replace existing Article 3, Definitions, to revise existing definitions, including for cluster subdivision, and to add some new definitions, including for frontage on Class V highways.
 4. Replace existing Article 4, Non-Conforming Structures, Lots and Uses, with new Article 4, Nonconforming Structures, Uses, and Lots, to clarify the language generally.
 5. Replace existing Article 5, Board of Adjustment, to clarify Board of Adjustment administrative procedures and to provide for popular election of Board of Adjustment members.
 6. Replace existing Article 6, Special Exceptions, to clarify special exception permitting conditions and procedures.
 7. Replace existing Article 7, Variances, to clarify variance permitting requirements according to *Boccia v. Portsmouth*.
 8. Replace existing Article 8, Cluster Development, to revise permitting conditions for cluster development.
 9. Replace existing Article 9, Signs, to remove the existing requirement for Zoning Board approval of signs that do not emit light or noise, and to set standards for home occupation signs.
 10. Revise existing Article 10, Manufactured Housing & Manufactured Housing Parks, to change capitalization and references to renamed regulations in Article 2.
 11. Add Article 13, Site Plan Review Exemption Thresholds.
 12. Revise existing Article 14, Storage Containers, to change capitalization and punctuation.
 13. Replace existing Article 16, Parking Requirements, to include parking regulations removed from Article 2, and to provide for special exceptions.
 14. Delete existing Articles 22, 23, and 24, which have been combined in the new Article 1.
 15. Add a Table of Contents.
- (Submitted by Petition) (Not Recommended by the Planning Board 3-2)

Article 6 was defeated – Yes (276) – No (341)

Article 7: Pursuant to RSA 673:2 II (c), are you in favor of returning to the methodology for choosing the members of the Pittsfield Planning Board to that of appointment by the SelectBoard, as was utilized by the Town of Pittsfield until March 2008, instead of the present one year old method of electing members to the office. (Submitted by Petition)

Article 7 was defeated – Yes (257) – No (337)

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Dustin then moved on to the warrant articles that were to be taken up at the 2009 Town Meeting, March 14, 2009 ~

Article 8: Are you in favor of amending the Town of Pittsfield Housing Standards Ordinance as proposed by the Housing Standards Agency to make editorial changes; to correct code references; to limit the duration of a permit to two years, renewable; and to change the enforcement procedures to comply with RSA 48-A?

Selectman Konopka moved to accept Article 8 as read, Selectman Vien seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 8 and a card vote passed Article 8.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and consider entering into a long-term land lease with Septic Disposal Solutions, LLC (SDS) for the purpose of allowing Septic Disposal Solutions, LLC to continue to dewater and compost septage.

Selectman Konopka moved to accept Article 9 as read, Selectman Vien seconded.

Louis Houle made a motion to indefinitely postpone Article 9. Chris Ward seconded the motion.

A lengthy discussion took place about the septage handling facility. Numerous voters spoke, including Louis Houle, Cathy McHugh, Joe McHugh, Joseph Cortese, Ted Mitchell, Michael Drew, and Dan Couturier, who are all abutters to the Waste Water Treatment Plant on South Main Street and/or the Town's Belcastro Pit land on Dowboro Road.

Louis Houle, abutter, voiced concern about the lack of notification to the public, especially to the abutters of the town's septage-receiving property, regarding the details of what the negotiations are and what activity is actually being proposed.

Bill Gosse, 50% owner of Septic Disposal Solutions, LLC (SDS), was allowed to speak on the article after Moderator Dustin conducted a card vote to see if the voters would allow him to speak (since he was not a resident/voter). He explained that SDS has been operating at the Waste Water Treatment Plant dewatering septage since 2003, when the pilot program with NH Department of Environmental Services started. SDS has been operating on one and two year contracts since 2003 and has made upgrades to the facility to improve the processing, but to continue to make upgrades banks are not willing to finance the upgrade activity with the short-term contracts in place.

Selectman Vien explained that the lack of information about the future of the septage-receiving activity was because there was no information to present yet, this article was placed on the warrant to obtain guidance from the voters to see if the SelectBoard should begin to research entering into a long-term lease with SDS for continuing the septage-receiving facility or not.

Don Chase asked for clarification that this article is only granting the SelectBoard the ability to negotiate and consider a contract, and that contract approval would have to go before the voters first – the SelectBoard assured that Public Hearing would have to be held for contract approval.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Louis Houle, abutter, urged the voting body to wait for the SelectBoard to have the contract details already researched before a vote is taken, to wait until next town meeting since SDS has a contract for this current year, and that a Public Hearing is not enough notice, abutters should be notified of what is going to be presented and should be able to voice concerns and opinions of the activity, since the odors are already an issue without any further expansion.

Ted Mitchell, abutter, voiced concern about the expansion of the septage activity into the Belcastro Pit Area that is behind his property without a town meeting and specific information.

Joe Cortese, abutter, had concerns of more than just odor, but of the uncontrollable variables of what the septage receiving activity might impose on the town's resources, and of the legal and financial burden that the biohazardous waste may cause in the future.

Michael Drew, abutter, was concerned with the trucking impact on the road, and also noted that there was odor as far up the road as 137 Dowboro Road.

Brenda Butterfield, a certified organic grower, familiar with biosolids hazards, was concerned with the hazardous impact on the land, especially where the activity is near the river.

Joe McHugh, close abutter to the property, has seen an increase in the number of days that the odor of human waste is prevalent outside. Without more information the activity shouldn't be allowed to be increased.

Ed Patterson was concerned with the impact on the town of receiving unknown hazardous materials, and asked if there was a testing system in place for safeguards against illegal dumping - WWTP Superintendent Ron Vien, answered that proper safeguards will have to be presented as part of SDS's plan to the town.

Art Morse, supported the motion to table, and felt that the SelectBoard should negotiate and consider a contract and bring it to a special town meeting where it would be the only topic of discussion.

Bill Gosse, explained that SDS had just been dewatering the septage, now SDS is looking to take over the entire process and improve the way the solids have been handled, namely including odor control. He also explained that the biosolids from septage are not Class A biosolids.

Cathy McHugh, close abutter to the property, has noticed a significant increase in the odor outside her home, even strong enough to not even be able to be outside in the January winter.

Louie Houle, abutter, questioned (from a set of 9/2/08 SelectBoard minutes) why the WWTP Superintendent Vien recommended that the SelectBoard do away with the septage dewatering activity because of the difficulty of getting rid of Class A biosolids – Superintendent Vien clarified that his recommendation was for the town not to take over the activity for ourselves. The site at the Treatment Plant was too small, it would require having to construct a whole new building at the Belcastro gravel pit, a person would have to be hired to oversee the process and all the State standards would have to be met. This cost would take a twenty-year bond, and Superintendent Vien couldn't guarantee that five years down the road the State wouldn't change their septage requirements and then have to impose the taxpayers with the burden of treating the septage in a different way.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Robin Doucette, brought up the issues of what it may cost to have septic systems pumped if Gosse (SDS) is no longer at the Treatment Plant.

Dan Couturier, Dowboro Road resident, felt that the article should be tabled for more information to make an educated decision.

Selectman Konopka asked Superintendent Vien to answer what impact it would have if SDS left town – Superintendent Vien clarified that it would have no impact on the sewer rate, the septage funds taken in have offset the septage costs and the excess has gone back to the general fund.

A motion was made to move to question. The motion was seconded. Card vote was conducted on the motion and a clear 2/3 vote was made in favor to move to question.

Moderator Dustin clarified that the next card vote was to be on the motion to indefinitely postpone Article 9 and a card vote passed the motion to indefinitely postpone Article 9.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Public Works Salt Storage Building Capital Reserve created in 2005. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. It is estimated that approximately One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$1,125.) remains in the capital reserve. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 10 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Arthur Morse inquired if these funds were going to be applied against the tax rate or if they were going to be spent – Selectwoman Small responded that the funds were going to be applied to the tax rate.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 10 and a card vote passed Article 10.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town Hall Building Capital Reserve created in 1983. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. It is estimated that approximately Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars (\$5,158.) remains in the capital reserve. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 11 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

A discussion took place as to why this fund was being proposed to be closed, Selectwoman Small explained that they were consolidating the capital reserve funds for the town buildings, that the consolidated reserve fund was created at last year's town meeting (Municipal Buildings Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund). Concern was raised that these funds should be transferred to the consolidated building reserve fund instead of going into the General Fund.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 11 and a card vote defeated Article 11.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to create an expendable trust under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Health Insurance Premium Expendable Trust, for the purpose of limiting the impact of health insurance premium increases in any given year, and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) for this fund; and further to appoint the Selectmen as trustees of the fund and agents to expend. (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4)

A motion was made by Selectwoman Small to amend Article 12 as follows ~

To see if the Town will vote to create an expendable trust under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Health Insurance Premium Expendable Trust, for the purpose of limiting the impact of health insurance premium increases in any given year, and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.) for this fund; and further to appoint the Selectmen as trustees of the fund and agents to expend. (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4)

Selectwoman Morin seconded the motion.

Town Administrator Skowron explained that the importance of this article was the concept of the establishing the trust, not the dollar value of the article. By establishing the trust, the Board of Selectmen can then set aside funds to temper any tax increases attributable to rises health insurance premiums.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 12 as amended and a card vote *defeated* Article 12.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to create an expendable trust under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Emergency Appropriation Expendable Trust, for the purpose of purchasing supplies and maintaining equipment for Town Departments as a result of unanticipated emergencies, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.) for this fund; and further to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.05). (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-5)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 13 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

A discussion took place about the purpose of this article, both Selectman Konopka and Selectman Hast explained that this article is being proposed as a contingency fund to be used in the event of a weather emergency (another flood or tornado) or a large, unexpected equipment repair (two transmissions at once), so the operating budgets wouldn't be affected by such expenditures and department operations reduced - because the operating budgets were leveled and tightened up this year.

Elsie Morse inquired about overlay being used for such emergency expenditures - Selectwoman Small clarified the purpose, it is an amount determined at the tax rate setting for offsetting property tax abatements, not for contingency.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 13. As Moderator Dustin could not readily determine the outcome of the card vote, he requested another card vote be counted by the Supervisors of the Checklist. A card vote on the Article 13 passed with 73 Yes votes and 52 No votes.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) to be added to the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$232,805.83 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.10) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-2-2)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 14 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Both Selectman Hast and Fire Chief Johnson spoke of the importance of keeping the funding going into Capital Reserve funds for the costly emergency vehicles to keep the taxes from spiking.

Dan Couturier asked if Chief Johnson could prioritize the fire/ambulance articles.

Fire Chief Johnson explained that Article 24 for the \$76,000 does not come from taxes, it comes from the ambulance revenues that is used to offset the cost of the ambulance service, and that the ambulances are not purchased out of capital reserve fund, but from the ambulance service revenues. He also explained the importance of maintaining the municipal alarm circuit for the safety of the buildings connected to the system.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 14 and a card vote passed Article 14. **Merrill Vaughan requested Moderator Dustin conducted a recount. Moderator Dustin requested the card vote be counted by the Supervisors of the Checklist. A card vote on the Article 14 passed with 78 Yes votes and 46 No votes.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$1,047.24 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.05) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 15 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 15 and a card vote passed Article 15.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$6,845.) to be added to the Computer System Renewal and Replacement Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is 12,515.89 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.02) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 16 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Louis Houle voiced his concern regarding the decline in revenues and tax collections and stated that cutting the reserve fund articles this year would help minimize the tax impact in a year that the revenues are down.

Art Morse stated that each Capital Reserve article will have to be taken into consideration depending on how far out the projected purposes are, but this one would be a mistake not to fund at this time, the town hall computer systems need to be kept current to avoid a greater cost in the long run.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 16 and a card vote passed Article 16.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$48,235.76 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.23) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 17 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Superintendent Bachelder explained that for his department Article 17 and Article 22 are the most important articles being presented today. Both the Sterling (dump truck) and the 550 (small dump truck) have had lots of repairs and will need to be replaced soon. The estimated replacement cost for the Sterling dump truck is \$148,000 and this one will be sold at State auction.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 17 and a card vote passed Article 17.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Grader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$6,812.37 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.05) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 18 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Dan Couturier stated that Superintendent Bachelder's emphasis on Articles 17 and 22 should be taken into consideration and that this article (and the other ones not recommended) should be tabled – Moderation Dustin clarified that the voters were welcome to take Superintendent Bachelder's recommendation into consideration with their vote.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 18 and a card vote defeated Article 18.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Loader Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Fund balance is \$113,855.32 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

\$0.05) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 19 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 19 and a card vote *defeated* Article 19.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to be added to the Department of Public Works Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$54,500.94 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 20 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 20 and a card vote *defeated* Article 20.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to be added to the Sidewalk Tractor Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$21,591.10 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 21 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 21 and a card vote *defeated* Article 21.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to be added to the Small Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$54,631.55 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact \$0.03) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 22 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Selectman Hast expressed the importance of the Capital Reserve funds and of this article as this truck is six years old, is quite beat up, and needs to be replaced soon. To vote for the three cents this year for this article, could save a ten cent increase for the truck's replacement next year.

Dan Couturier thanked Superintendent Bachelder for coming forward and speaking on the Articles for his Public Works Department.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 22 and a card vote passed Article 22.

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) to be added to the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Reserve Fund balance is \$11,749.34 on 12-31-08) (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 23 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Lyn Ward asked if the Park & Recreation Commission had any upcoming projects that this funding would be used for. There was no one present from the Commission to speak to this, but the SelectBoard did state that the Dustin Park gazebo project was under way and was already funded for (without this \$1,000).

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 23 and a card vote defeated Article 23.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Six Thousand Dollars (\$76,000.) for the purpose of ambulance repair, to fund eight hours of the forty-eight hour work week and any ambulance overtime or on-call personnel budgeted line items, paramedic intercepts, and for the replacement and repair of ambulance equipment, and to authorize the withdrawal of that sum from the Ambulance Replacement and Equipment Special Revenue Fund previously created, with no amount to be raised by taxation. This article is designated as a special warrant article and the appropriation shall not lapse until adjournment of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. (Fund balance on 12-31-08 is \$536,422.87) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-2-2)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 24 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 24 and a card vote passed Article 24.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.) from the Fire Alarm System Capital Reserve for the purpose of maintaining the fire alarm system. (Fund balance on 12-31-08 is \$11,374.62) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-2-2)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 25 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Elsie Morse inquired if this alarm maintenance was a line item in the town budget - Fire Chief Johnson replied that there was \$500 in the budget, but that amount is not enough to cover what work needs to be done on the system to keep it working while it is studied as to what alarm system to replace this current one with.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 25 and a card vote passed Article 25.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.) to be added to the Police Department Drug Awareness and Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the fund balance,

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

which includes a recent gift received from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for such purpose, and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Reserve Fund balance is \$9,944.74 on 12-31-08) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 26 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Michael Drew asked if the Town already has the funds – Moderator Dustin clarified, yes, that this was from a grant.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 26 and a card vote passed Article 26.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Seven Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty Dollars (\$3,728,640.) to fund the Town Budget and Capital Outlay as recommended by the Budget committee. Said sum does not include the sums contained in special or individual articles of this warrant. (Board of Selectmen by a Vote of 5-0 Recommend \$3,728,640.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1)

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 27 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 27 and a card vote passed Article 27.

Article 28: To see if the town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend to the existing Town Clock Maintenance Fund.

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 28 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

Ed Patterson questioned the status of the curfew ordinance and if the clock could be sounded at the curfew - Police Chief Wharem replied that there is still a curfew ordinance in effect but that the fire horn has to be manually sounded at 9 o'clock (p.m.) and that the clock couldn't be used for the curfew signal as the signal needs to be heard all throughout town, not just the downtown area.

Ted Mitchell asked what was being done with the clock – Selectwoman Small explained that two sides of the clock were working, but the hands were bent on the third side of the clock and large equipment was needed to gain access to the hands to unbend them. The funds that were appropriated at town meeting last year could not be spent to fix the hands, as the Board of Selectmen was not named as agents to spend the funds.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 28 and a card vote passed Article 28.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be added to the Town Clock Maintenance Fund previously established. (Estimated gross tax impact less than \$0.01) (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0)

2009 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Selectwoman Small moved to accept Article 29 as read, Selectwoman Morin seconded.

There being no discussion, Moderator Dustin re-read Article 29 and a card vote passed Article 29.

Article 30: To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Moderator Dustin announced that there were open positions on the Budget Committee and that any newly elected officials can be sworn in after the meeting.

Scott Brown inquired about the status of the Capital Improvements Plan, Selectwoman Small responded that the Town was still putting Capital Reserve funds away under the old plan, but that the plan was being updated.

Lyn Ward asked for an update on the Economic Development Committee, and the status of the fund that was created to purchase property, Selectman Vien replied that the Committee hasn't found the right project yet to invest the funds in.

Louis Houle announced that there was going to be a Volunteer Forum next Saturday, March 21st from 9am to 2pm to invite those looking to volunteer to join various town committees.

Selectman Konopka informed the voters that the SelectBoard has a current spending freeze and are keeping a close eye on revenues and expenditures.

Moderator Dustin adjourned the 2009 Town Meeting.

Minutes submitted by Cara Marston, Administrative Assistant, and approved by Elizabeth Hast, Town Clerk.