

Summary of Annual Town Meeting  
Lancaster, New Hampshire  
March 10, 2020

At 7:30 pm Moderator John L Riff, IV opened the Annual Meeting.

Moderator Riff introduced himself and then introduced Edward Samson, Town Manager who said a few words of thanks to Ann Huddleston, Town Treasurer for her over 40 years of service to the Town. Ann decided not to run for another term. Moderator Riff then introduced the Boy Scouts to present the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Isabella Gaetjens-Oleson then sang the National Anthem.

Moderator Riff reviewed the ground rules: He will read the article and ask for a motion and a second. If we get a second, then we will open the floor to discussion. Once discussion is over, we will move it for a vote. He would like to request that people keep comments to a minute or less to keep the meeting moving. It is also subject to how the conversation is going. He expressed that he expects everyone to keep the discussion civil.

Article 1 results, voted on by written ballot during the day, attached.

Article 2 results, voted on by written ballot during the day, attached.

Article 3 – Operating Budget – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Million Six Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$6,691,672.00)** which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include any other Warrant Articles.

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 3 carried.

Article 4 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00)** to be added to the following Capital Reserve Fund accounts previously established for the purpose and in the amounts indicated:

Highway	\$40,000
Fire Department	\$20,000
Library	\$ 5,000
Cemetery	\$10,000
Total	\$75,000

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 4 carried.

Article 5 – Reimburse Industrial Development Fund – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$28,819.00)** to be added to the Industrial Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established with the said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 5 carried.

Article 6 – Money received from fundraising & donations – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$9,363.00)** to be added to the Colonel Town Capital Reserve Fund

previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. The amount represents monies from donations to Colonel Town Recreation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 6 carried.

Article 7 – Town Office renovations – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** for the purpose of renovating the town offices, add a handicap ramp to the lobby of the town hall auditorium and contributing to the cost of curtains for the stage and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Town Hall Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 7 carried.

Article 8 – New Loader – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$126,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new loader for the Highway Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 8 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 8 carried.

Article 9 – Lease/Purchase New Sidewalk Plow – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a three-year lease agreement for **One Hundred Ninety-One Thousand One Hundred Six Dollars (\$191,106.00)** for the purpose of leasing a sidewalk plow for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Two Dollars (\$63,702.00)** for the first year's payment for that purpose with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

Article 9 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 9 carried.

Article 10 – Purchase New Ambulance – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000.00)** for the purchase of a new ambulance for the Fire Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 10 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 10 carried.

Article 11 – Purchase Air Packs – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)** for the purchase of 6 air packs for the Fire Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 11 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 11 carried.

Article 12 – Purchase Radios & Mobile Equipment – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing radios and mobile equipment for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 12 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 12 carried.

Article 13 – Purchase Cardiac Monitors – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a three year lease agreement for **One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000.00)** for the purpose of leasing 3 cardiac monitors for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Five Thousand**

**Dollars (\$35,000.00)** for the first year's payment with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

Article 13 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 13 carried.

Article 14 – Purchase Grader Tires – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$14,400.00)** for the purpose of purchasing six (6) grader tires for the Highway Department and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum to come from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 14 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 14 carried.

Article 15 – Upgrade/Renovate Col Town apartment kitchen – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** for the purpose of updating/renovating the kitchen in the apartment at the Colonel Town house with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 15 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 15 carried.

Article 16 – Engineering designs – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** for the purpose of hiring an engineer to design roadway reconstruction on Bunker Hill Street from Main to Summer Street in conjunction with the renovation of the old Parker J. Noyes building. The designs will be to replace water and sewer infrastructure, redesign the drainage of the municipal parking lot to include separating the store water runoff from the sewer system, redesign the parking along Bunker Hill Street and the municipal parking lot behind the PJ Noyes building, and to redesign the sidewalk along the street with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 16 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 16 carried.

Article 17 – Playground Project – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00)** for the purpose of upgrading the playground at the Colonel Town Recreation facility with **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to come from the unassigned fund balance and the remaining **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00)** to come from grant funding. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the playground upgrade is completed or by March 10, 2025, whichever is sooner. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 17 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 17 carried.

Article 18 – CASA – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)** for the support of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Hampshire.

Article 18 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 18 carried.

Article 19 – Tri-County Transit – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00)** for the support of Tri-County Transit.

Article 19 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 19 carried.

Article 20 – Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$5,921.00)** for the support of Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health.

Article 20 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 20 carried.

Article 21 – Senior Meals of Coos County – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00)** for the support of the Senior Meals of Coos County Program.

Article 21 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 21 carried.

Article 22 – Northern Gateway Chamber of Commerce – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,640.00)**, for the support of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Article 22 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 22 carried.

Article 23 – Center for New Beginnings – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)** to help support the Center for New Beginnings in Littleton, which provides counseling and mental health services to individuals throughout the North Country.

Article 23 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 23 carried.

Article 24 – Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00)** for the support of the Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers who serves the needs of senior citizens in the community.

Article 24 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 24 carried.

Article 25 – Tri-County CAP Energy Services Program – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$4,600.00)** for the support of the Tri-County Community Energy Services Program.

Article 25 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 25 carried.

Article 26 – North Country Home Health & Hospice – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$17,991.00)** for the support of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency.

Article 26 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 26 carried.

Article 27 – ServiceLink – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$1,820.00)** for the support of Coos ServiceLink Resource Center.

Article 27 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 27 carried.

Article 28 – Mt. Washington Regional Airport – Read by Moderator Riff.  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$3,786.00)** for the Town's share of the operating budget for the Mt. Washington Regional Airport for the current fiscal year.

Article 28 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 28 carried.

Article 29 – Homeless Intervention & Prevention – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$1,758.00)** for the support of Tri-County CAP's Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program.

Article 29 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 29 carried.

Article 30 – NH North Country Veterans Inc. – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the support of the New Hampshire North Country Veterans Inc.

Article 30 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 30 carried.

Article 31 – Soup Kitchen – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)** for the support of the Lancaster Soup Kitchen. (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 31 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 31 carried.

Article 32 – Food Pantry – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)** for the support of the Lancaster Food Pantry. (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 32 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 32 carried.

Article 33 – Video Recording & Streaming – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00)** for the purpose of video recording and streaming of bi-monthly select board meetings at the Town Hall. (Submitted by Petition) (Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 33 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 33 failed. 30 in favor. 51 against.

Article 34 – Backpack Feeding Program – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00)** to assist with the cost of the weekend "Backpack" feeding program which St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 113 Main Street, Lancaster, NH, currently funds.

Article 34 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 34 carried.

Article 35 – Transact Other Business.

To transact other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Terri Anderson wanted to make a comment regarding the streaming. She was concerned about the others that were in favor of the streaming not getting a chance to speak. They just moved the question and it was voted to stop discussion and no one else could speak. Jay explained they had right to overrule and she expressed that she felt she didn't even have a chance to do that.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Charity Baker*

Charity M. Baker, Town Clerk