

Summary of Annual Meeting
Lancaster, New Hampshire
March 13, 2021

At 10:00 am Moderator John L Riff, IV opened the Annual Meeting

Moderator Riff introduced himself. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the National Anthem was played.

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 the discussion is over, we will move it for a vote. He expressed that he expects everyone to keep the discussion civil. 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 and anyone can make a motion to move the question. He also mentioned that any one that is going to speak to an article would need approval by the voters in order to speak. He did mention that Tim Bilodeau the Water/wastewater supervisor, a non-resident, will be speaking to some of the articles if needed would like a vote for him to speak. Tim Bilodeau was granted permission by the voters to speak to the articles.

Moderator Riff let everyone know the meeting was being recorded and streamed.

Article 1 results, voted on by written ballot on March 9, 2021 (election day), attached.

Article 2 – Operating Budget – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Million One Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$7,146,634.00)** which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include any other Warrant Articles.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 2 carried.

Article 3 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00)** to be added to the following Capital Reserve Fund accounts previously established for the purpose and in the amounts indicated:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Highway | \$55,000 |
| Fire Department | \$40,000 |
| Police | \$ 5,000 |
| Library | \$ 5,000 |
| Cemetery | \$10,000 |
| | |
| Total | \$115,000 |

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

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

Article 4 – Reimburse Industrial Development Fund – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$30,448.00)** to be added to the Industrial Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

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

Article 5 – Money received from fundraising & donations – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)** 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 5 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 5 carried.

Article 6 – Establish Dispatch Services Capital Reserve Fund – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will vote to establish a Dispatch Services Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for future costs of dispatch service for the town's emergency services (Police, Fire and Ambulance) and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to be placed in this fund with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

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

Article 7 – Severance Package & Accrued Vacation – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventy-Six Thousand Dollars (\$76,000.00)** for the purpose of paying out a severance package and accrued vacation time with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

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

Article 8 – Masonry work on Town Hall – 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 completing the masonry work on the handicap ramp at the town hall with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 8 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 8 carried.

Article 9 – Purchase New Pickup w/Plow & Body – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new 1 1/2 ton pickup truck with plow and body for the Highway Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

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

Article 10 – Lease/Purchase Sidewalk Plow – 2nd Payment – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$69,129.00)** for the second payment on the three-year lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2020 for a sidewalk plow for the Highway Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Article 10 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 10 carried.

Article 11 – Purchase of New Police Cruiser – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$52,399.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 11 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 11 carried.

Article 12 – Purchase Air Cylinders & Hose – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing 20 air cylinders and fire hose for the Fire Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 12 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 12 carried.

Article 13 – Purchase Cardiac Monitors – 2nd Payment – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)** for the second payment on the three-year lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2020 for 3 cardiac monitors for the Fire Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

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

Article 14 – Purchase Water Meter Radio Transmitters – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$116,350.00)** for the purpose of purchasing 895 water meter radio transmitters for the Water Department with said funds to come from the Water Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 14 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 14 carried.

Article 15 – Upgrade SCADA system – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$113,890.00)** for the purpose of upgrading the SCADA system with said funds to come from the Water Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance. The SCADA system allows almost all functions of the water treatment plant and water distribution system to be alarmed, monitored and adjusted remotely.

Article 15 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 15 carried.

Article 16 – Purchase Chemical Feed Pumps – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$12,734.00)** for the purpose of purchasing two chemical feed pumps at the water treatment facility with said funds to come from the Water Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 16 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 16 carried.

Article 17 – Rehabilitate 20 sewer manholes – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000.00)** for the purpose of rehabilitating 20 sewer manholes with said funds to come from the Sewer Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 17 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 17 carried.

Article 18 – Purchase new Sewer Jetter – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$94,575.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new sewer line jetter machine with said funds coming from the Sewer Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

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

Article 19 – Purchase a New Sewer Grinder – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars (\$24,633.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new sewer grinder

for the main pump station with said funds to come from the Sewer Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 19 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 19 carried.

Article 20 – Water Tank at the intake – Read by the Moderator.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00)** for the purpose of adding a water storage tank at the water plant intake to help with pressure and volume to those water users fed directly from the intake with **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00)** to come from the unassigned fund balance and the remaining **Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00)** 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 water storage tank is completed or by March 9, 2026, whichever is sooner. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

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

Article 21 – 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 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 Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** for the support of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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

Article 23 – Caleb Caregivers – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00)** for the support of the Caleb Caregivers who serves the needs of senior citizens in the community.

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

Article 24 – Tri County Community Action Program – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$8,775.00)** for the support of the Tri-County Community Action programs to include Fuel & Electrical Assistance, Weatherization, Transportation, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Guardianship, RSVP, and Workforce programs.

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

Article 25 – 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 25 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. 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 – Mount Washington Regional Airport – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$3,882.00)** for the Town's share of the operating budget for the Mt Washington Regional Airport for the current fiscal year.

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

Article 28 – 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.

Article was moved and seconded.

Lucy Wyman made a motion to increase the article from One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. Amendment carried.

Moderator Riff read the amended article.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the support of the Lancaster Soup Kitchen.

Article 28 as amended was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 28 carried.

Article 29 – 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.

Article was moved and seconded.

Lucy Wyman made a motion to increase the article from One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. Amendment carried.

Moderator Riff read the amended article.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the support of the Lancaster Food Pantry.

Article 29 as amended was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 29 carried.

Article 30 – Backpack Program – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Thirty-Four Dollars (\$2,034.00)** to assist with the cost of the North Country Weekend Backpack program.

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

Article 31 – 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 31 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 31 carried.

Article 32 – Androscoggin Valley Home Care – Read by Moderator Riff

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the clients of Androscoggin Valley Home Care who live in Lancaster. (Submitted by petition) (Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee)

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

Article 33 – Implement video recording and streaming – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will take such measures as needed to implement video recording and streaming of all public meetings in the Town of Lancaster subject to NH Right-to-Know laws. Said recordings shall be made available within five business days on the town website. (Submitted by petition)

Article was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

Chad Fillion made a motion to amend article 33 from reading all public meetings to read all board of selectmen's meetings. The motion was seconded. Amendment of article 33 carried.

Discussion followed.

Rob Christie made a motion to amend the amended article 33 from just selectmen's meetings to all public meetings and to raise and appropriate up to \$20,000 to stream the meetings. The motion was seconded. Amendment failed.

Moderator Riff read the approved amended article 33.

To see if the town will take such measures as needed to implement video recording and streaming of all selectmen's meetings in the Town of Lancaster subject to NH Right-to-Know laws. Said recordings shall be made available within five business days on the town website.

Article 33 as amended was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

Doug Blanchette made a motion to move the question and was seconded by Madison Gonyer. Discussion followed. Motion to end discussion carried.

Moderator Riff reread the amended article:

To see if the town will take such measures as needed to implement video recording and streaming of all selectmen's meetings in the Town of Lancaster subject to NH Right-to-Know laws. Said recordings shall be made available within five business days on the town website.

Moderator Riff called for a vote on the amended Article 33 by show of voter cards. Article 33 as amended failed (26 for and 28 against).

Article 34 – Transact Other business

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

Fire Chief Randy Flynn wanted to recognize Ed Samson, Town Manager and thank him for all he has done for the Town of Lancaster and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. Along with Dennis Patnoe who retired at the end of 2020.

Motion made by Edward Samson and seconded by Andy Nadeau to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker
Town Clerk