TOWN OF TILTON
2019 TOWN WARRANT

At 8:00 a.m. Moderator Charles Mitchell called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for all Veterans attending to stand which results in a round of applause. Moderator Mitchell asked for a motion to accept the Moderator’s rules. Pat Consentino moved to accept the Moderator’s rules, seconded by George Helwig. The vote was taken, and the motion passed. Moderator Mitchell introduced Assistant Moderator Helen Hanks, Town Clerk Tax Collector Cindy Reinartz and Selectmen Jon Scanlon who then introduced the Board. Budget Committee Chair was then introduced who then introduced the committee. Moderator Mitchell explained the 2 bond issues and by state law the polls needs to be open for 1 hour. The Moderator then explained postponing and restricting for protecting your vote. Moderators Mitchell noted that the results of the election were on the Tilton website.

The 2019 Town Elections were held at the Winnisquam Regional High School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. The Town Clerk along with Ballot Clerk Sandra Stedfast-Marshall and Moderator Charles Mitchell verified that the ballot box was empty and the tape was zeroed before securing. Sandra Stedfast-Marshall moved the meeting to the floor, seconded by Selectmen Joseph Jesseman. Moderator Charles Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m and then lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Absentee ballots were processed at 10:00 a.m., as posted, 6 in total. At 7:00 p.m. The Moderator called for a motion to declare the polls closed. Selectmen Patricia Consentino moved to close the polls 2nd by Assistant Moderator Helen Hanks. The polls were declared closed at 7:00 p.m. 260 Ballots were cast.

Article 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year as presented on the ballot prepared for the same.

For Selectman: 3 year term - Vote for 1
Joseph Jesseman 133
Richard H. Olson III 35
Eric Pyra 87

For Selectman: 1 year term - Vote for 1
Katherine Dawson 134
Jason Wright 115

For Treasurer: 3 year term – Vote for 1
Sandra J. Hyslop 226

For Budget Committee: 3 year term - Vote for 1
Christine Dembitzky 216

For Trustee of the Trust Fund: 3 year term - Vote for 1
Stanley H. Robinson 224

For Sewer Commission: 3 year term - Vote for 1
Richard H. Olson III 106
Jason Wright 128

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt changes to the Tilton Zoning Ordinance proposed by the Tilton Planning Board as follows:

1. (Certificate of Occupancy) 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 Article 10 to clarify that a Certificate of Occupancy may be suspended due to noncompliance with local requirements including failure to allow for required inspections? Yes 171 No 71

2. (Accessory Dwelling Units) 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 Article 10 to establish that detached accessory dwelling units may be permitted by Special Exception in zones where accessory dwelling units are currently permitted? Yes 177 No 64

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3. (Parking) 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 Articles 3 & 10 to establish that required residential off-street parking shall be exclusively designated and within immediate proximity of the associated dwelling unit?  Yes 171  No 70

4. (Small-scale Manufacturing) Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Articles 2 & 6 to define “small-scale manufacturing” and establish that such uses may be allowed by right in the Regional Commercial, Resort Commercial, General Commercial, Downtown and Industrial districts, through Special Exception in the Mixed Use and Rural Agricultural districts, and not permitted in the Village Residential and Medium Residential districts?  Yes 149  No 93

5. (Floodplain Development Ordinance) Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: comprehensively amend Article 13 “Floodplain Development Ordinance”?  Yes 143  No 82

6. (Residential Care Facility) Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Articles 2 & 6 to define “residential care facility” and replace the term “residential adult care facility” on the Chart of Permitted Uses with the term “residential care facility”?  Yes 188  No 55

7. (Special Exception) Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amend Article 11 to enumerate an additional special exception criterion stipulating that operations in conjunction with a use proposed for special exception approval shall not be more objectionable to surrounding properties than would be operation of uses permitted by right in the district?  Yes 164  No 72

Article 3. "To see if the Town will vote to approve the purchase of approximately 4.586 acres for the purpose of building a new Tilton Police Station and/or other municipal purposes. Located off of Sanborn Road, the acreage is in the northerly portion of a land described in a boundary survey dated January 22, 2019, is presently owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole (Tax Map R-23, Lot 5); and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three-Hundred-Fifty-Thousand dollars ($350,000) for the purchase; and to authorize the issuance of no more than Three-Hundred-Fifty-Thousand dollars ($350,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

Moderator Mitchell read Warrant Article 3 and called on Pat Consentino to speak to the Article, and Pat Consentino moved the Article to the floor, seconded by Richard Olson. Pat Consentino yielded the floor to Kevin LaChapelle. Kevin LaChapelle stated 173 properties were evaluated through the Route 3 corridor for the location of a new police department. The property selected by the study committee is located at 27 Sanborn Road and is currently owned by the Manchester Diocese. The property is appraised at $450,000, and the Town can purchase it for $350,000. The diocese will only sell the property for use of municipal purposes. Water, sewer, and natural gas are in close proximity to the property at the street, and there is already in existence a controlled intersection with preemption. The property will not be on the tax rolls if it is not purchased by the Town. Kevin LaChapelle recommends the unused piece of property stay as recreational land as it is currently being used as a football field. Kevin LaChapelle yielded the floor to Tim Pearson, who gave an overview of the different options the Selectmen have for purchasing bonds and/or notes.
Tim Pearson described that a 5-year note would add 16 cents per thousand onto the tax rate which equates to $16 for a 100,000-dollar home and that if there were no financing and the Town purchased the property with cash, 69 cents per thousand would be added onto the tax rate for 2019 which equates to $69 for a 100,000-dollar home. Kevin LaChapelle stated the committee is in unanimous agreement that this property should be purchased. Bob King stated the land is beautiful, and it's one of the best locations for a police department. He recommends purchasing the land. Jason Wright stated the property is 4.5 acres and wants everyone to think about the future and recommends purchasing the land. Dick Olson stated he feels this is the correct property to purchase but warns of overspending in other areas. Doug Richard a parishioner of St. Gabriel's parish read from the parish bulletin, which states that the church is in support of selling the property. Scott Davis asked for the fund balance, and Tim Pearson stated the unassigned fund balance was $487,000; the 2018 audit is not yet complete, and he projects the unassigned fund balance will be around $600,000 at the end of the 2018 financial audit. Scott Davis asked if the Town feels it can use money from the fund balance to pay for the purchase of the land and offset the 69-cent increase to the tax rate. Tim Pearson said he would recommend not using over $100,000 from the fund balance, and that would net a 20-cent offset.

Scott Davis made a motion to amend Article 3 to state, “To see if the Town will vote to approve the purchase of approximately 4.586 acres for the purpose of building a new Tilton Police Station and/or other municipal purpose. Located off Sanborn Road, the acreage is the northerly portion of land as described in a Boundary Survey dated January 22, 2019 and is presently owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole (Tax Map R-23, Lot 5); and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three-Hundred-Fifty-Thousand dollars ($350,000) for that purpose.”

Mike Sitar seconded the motion. Scott Davis spoke again in favor of purchasing the property with cash. Bob King asked how much money the Town would save in interest if the Town purchases the property with cash, and Tim Pearson answered the savings would amount to $6,500 per year over five years. Bob King expressed his support for the amended Article. Richard Olson and Kevin LaChapelle spoke in favor of the amended Article. Juliette Harvey moved the question, and Kevin Cate seconded the motion.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 3 as amended by Scott Davis, he then read the amended Article again, “To see if the Town will vote to approve the purchase of approximately 4.586 acres for the purpose of building a new Tilton Police Station and/or other municipal purpose. Located off Sanborn Road, the acreage is the northerly portion of land as described in a Boundary Survey dated January 22, 2019 and is presently owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole (Tax Map R-23, Lot 5); and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three-Hundred-Fifty-Thousand dollars ($350,000) for that purpose.” A voice vote was taken, and the amendment submitted by Scott Davis passed.

Robert Trousdale asked what the total cost of building the new police station will be, and Scott Davis answered that phase one of the study committee only studied which property to purchase, and the study committee will need to be reformed to study the next phase which will determine the total cost. Kevin LaChapelle asked the Moderator to ask Mr. Trousdale if he is willing to further discuss the topic of the full cost during the discussion of Article 4. Juliette Harvey moved to call the question, and Kevin Cate seconded the motion.

The Moderator read Article 3 as Amended, “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the purchase of approximately 4.586 acres for the purpose of building a new Tilton Police Station and/or other municipal purposes. Located off Sanborn Road, the acreage is the northerly portion of land described in a Boundary Survey dated January 22, 2019 and is presently owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole (Tax Map R-23, Lot 5); and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three-Hundred-Fifty-Thousand dollars ($350,000) for that purchase.” A voice vote was taken on the Amendment submitted by Scott Davis and passed.
Scott Davis made a motion to protect the vote, and Pat Consentino seconded the motion. The Moderator explained this means restricting reconsideration of the vote. The vote was taken, and the Moderator stated, “So ruled. Protected.”

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand dollars ($267,000.00) for the purpose of developing an architectural and engineering design for a new Tilton Police Station; and to authorize the issuance of not more than Two Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand dollars ($267,000.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This article is not included in the operating budget. This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (A 2/3 Ballot Vote Required.)

Moderator Mitchell read Warrant Article 4. Pat Consentino moved Article 4 to the floor for discussion and for amendment, and Katherine Dawson seconded the motion to move Article 4 to the floor. **Pat Consentino made a motion to amend Article 4 to read as follows:** $194,500 for pre construction, architectural, and engineering for the police station.

Pat Consentino stated that this would get the Town biddable documents.” Jon Scanlon seconded the motion. Pat Consentino asked for permission for Gary Goudreau to speak to the Article. Although Gary Goudreau is not a resident of Tilton, the Moderator gave him permission to speak. Gary Goudreau stated the money requested in the amended article is for all architectural and engineering services only to get to biddable documents. The fees include the architect’s fees, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and also included is geotechnical engineering and civil engineering services to produce a biddable set of documents. Kevin Cate asked if the geotechnical and civil engineering services are being removed, and Gary Goudreau answered no; that geotechnical and civil engineering services are included. Katherine Dawson asked if the $194,500 will produce construction documents and not just biddable documents, and Gary Goudreau answered yes. Marion Abbott asked if the police department will be consulted before coming up with an architectural plan for the new police station, and Kevin LaChapelle answered that the study committee has included police department input and will continue to do so. Kevin LaChapelle stated he is in favor of Article 4 as amended. Richard Olson asked if the $194,500 will be bonded or paid with cash. The Moderator answered that the vote on the floor is the amendment to Article 4.

The Moderator then read the amendment to Article 4, “**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One-Hundred-Ninety-Four-Thousand-Five-Hundred dollars ($194,500) for the purpose of developing an architectural and engineering design for a new Tilton Police Station; and to authorize the issuance of not more than One-Hundred-Ninety-Four-Thousand-Five-Hundred dollars ($194,500) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This article is not included in the operating budget.**” A voice vote was taken on the amendment submitted by Pat Consentino. The Moderator stated, “Passed unanimously to change the amount of money.”

The Moderator recognized Kevin LaChapelle to speak to Article 4 as amended. Kevin LaChapelle stated that the major concerns are for safety in the current building: there is no air handling system in the current building; the booking room and the offices are in the same space; there is no separate juvenile holding area; there are not separate holding areas for males and females; one of the bathrooms for prisoners is located in the office area; interview rooms have no privacy; and the department has outgrown the office space. Scott Davis asked how long the architectural plans are good for. Gary Goudreau answered that they design to code and ADA requirements, and he stated if the codes have not changed at the time of build, then the plans will still be valid. Richard Olson asked how the Town is paying for the $194,500, and the Moderator answered that it would be paid for with bonds.
Lucinda Hope asked if the geothermal study will be completed first at the cost of $6,500 as shown on the slide, and if it were found the lot were unbuildable, would that stop construction, and Gary Goudreau stated he doesn’t anticipate the site will present any problems to bar the construction of the building, but any problems presented would be remediated. Ms. Hope asked if the geothermal study would be done first, and Gary Goudreau answered yes. The Moderator asked Tim Pearson to speak to the financing of the $194,500, and Tim Pearson stated that using a five-year note would add 9 cents per thousand to the tax rate, which equates to $9 on a $100,000-home; $18 on a $200,000-home. Total interest generated would be $17,850. Joe Jesseman stated that if the Town is not going to build the new police station right away, that there is no sense to spend $194,500 on architectural plans that won’t be used. Jason Wright and Zach LaCroix expressed their support. Heather Bishop-Dunka expressed her concern that the fire department will soon be asking for a new building, and the Town might want to table the new police station for a year or two. Jim Villa expressed his support to go forward with the purchase of the property and the architectural designs. Kathi Mitchell moved the question, seconded by Cindy Reinartz. The vote was taken. The Moderator stated, “Debate is closed.”

The Moderator stated this is a bond article, and it will have to remain open for a period of one hour after the vote.

The Moderator gave instructions as to how to fill out the ballot, and he read Article 4, “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One-Hundred-Ninety-Four-Thousand-Five-Hundred dollars ($194,500) for the purpose of developing an architectural and engineering design for a new Tilton Police Station; and to authorize the issuance of not more than One-Hundred-Ninety-Four-Thousand-Five-Hundred dollars ($194,500) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This article is not included in the operating budget.”

The Moderator stated the time is currently 9:44 a.m., and the polls will remain open until 10:45 a.m.

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. **This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.** (Majority vote required.)

The Moderator read Article 5. Peter Fogg made a motion to move Article 5 as proposed, seconded by Jon Scanlon and Richard Olson. Peter Fogg stated the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund is to purchase heavy equipment. Currently, the fund has a balance of $35,851, and adding the $15,000 will bring the balance in the fund to $50,851. Scott Davis asked what the money would be spent on in the future, and Peter Fogg answered the 99 International six-wheeler would be next to be replaced at a cost of $150,000.

The Moderator read Article 5, “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget.” A voice vote was taken, and the Moderator stated, “Article 5 passes, and I so declare.”

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Four Thousand Dollars ($94,000) to be added to the Town Roads, Bridges and Sidewalks Capital Reserve Fund. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. **This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.** (Majority vote required.)
The Moderator read Article 6. Joe Jesseman made a motion to accept Article 6 as proposed, seconded by Pat Consentino. Joe Jesseman stated currently the capital reserve fund balance is $134,945, and by adding the extra $94,000 the balance will be approximately $229,000. Joe Jesseman stated the Main Street sidewalk needs repaired in three separate sections: between School Street and Tryon Lane; between Tryon Lane and Rescue Road; and between Rescue Road and the parking lot entrance by the Providian Bank on the north side only; there is also a plan for doing a Cedar Street, Pine Street, Highland Avenue, and Linden Avenue project. If the $94,000 is added, all of the listed projects can be completed leaving a balance in the fund. Jim Villa asked if there was an inventory of roads, bridges, and sidewalks that are in need of repair in the future, and Joe Jesseman stated there is a 10-Year Plan for the roads and sidewalks, and Mr. Villa is more than welcome to review it. Jim Villa followed up with a statement that this list should be on the Town’s website so citizens can know what the future holds for road, bridge, and sidewalk repairs, and the Moderator stated that it is possible to post the list on the website. Chuck Drew suggested that perhaps the Town could link its information to other social media avenues, and the Moderator stated that that could probably be done. Eric Pyra asked if the money in the capital reserve fund will be enough to fund the construction projects proposed, and Joe Jesseman answered yes.

The Moderator read Article 6, “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Four Thousand Dollars ($94,000) to be added to the Town Roads, Bridges, Sidewalks Capital Reserve Fund.”
A voice vote was taken, and the Moderator stated, “Article 6 passes.”

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established in 2002. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

The Moderator read Article 7. Katherine Dawson moved Article 7 to the floor for discussion, seconded by Peter Fogg. Katherine Dawson stated last year $20,000 was added to the fund, and she stated the $5,000 added this year will keep future years from reaching the $20,000 amount needed. Katherine Dawson stated the current revaluation will cost $71,004. The current balance in the fund is $94,153.

The Moderator read Article 7, “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established in 2002. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget.” A voice vote was taken, and after the vote the Moderator stated, “The ayes have it. Article 7 passes.”

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to accept the conveyance of Northfield’s one-half ownership of Island Park to the Town of Tilton. This article shall take effect only if the Town of Northfield votes to convey ownership.

Jon Scanlon moved that Article 8 be accepted as proposed. The Moderator read Article 8, Joe Jesseman seconded the motion. The Moderator stated Northfield has voted to convey their ownership of Island Park to the Town of Tilton. Jon Scanlon stated last year Article 15 passed, which was to own 100% of Island Park. He stated the heirs were notified, and the Town is able to purchase the property. Jason Wright stated his memory was there were no funds appropriated by the Town of Tilton for legal fees and asked what was expended to accomplish this, and Joe Jesseman stated a title search was done. Bob King stated several years ago the Town was putting money aside to fix Island Park and asked how much money is in that fund. Jon Scanlon answered that there is $61,275.55 in the Tilton/Northfield Island Park Capital Reserve Fund, and the Town can look into grants, also. Pat Clark asked if the heirs to the property were notified, and Jon Scanlon answered that the heirs were notified, and the Town can purchase the property legally.
Pat Consentino added that everything that Tilton has done was done legally. Scott Davis asked if there would be any impact to the summer concerts, and the Moderator stated there would be no impact as donations will continue to be made. Bob Damon suggested there is no impediment to private individuals donating money for the upkeep of the island. The Moderator stated that Jon Scanlon has donated money and his time in the past. Kathi Mitchell moved the question, seconded by Pat Consentino and Helen Hanks. A voice vote was taken. The Moderator stated, “Debate is closed.”

The Moderator read Article 8, “To see if the Town will vote to accept the conveyance of Northfield’s one-half ownership of the Island Park to the Town of Tilton. This article shall take effect only if the Town of Northfield votes to convey the ownership.” A voice vote was taken, and after the vote, the Moderator stated, “The vote passes, and so I declare.”

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of $5,648,531.00 for general municipal operations. The recommended amounts do not include special or individual warrant articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required.)

The Moderator stated there is an amendment to Article 9. The Moderator first read Article 9, Jane Alden moved Article 9 to the floor for discussion, seconded by Christine Dembitzky. Jane Alden stated that what was not taken into consideration in the operating budget was the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s position and that this position was in the past two years left level funded. Jane Alden stated that this year’s request was for 3% of the tax collector’s annual total salary of $62,506. The Selectmen recommended $62,201. The Moderator stated at this time it is not appropriate to discuss the amendment, and he asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak to the original Article. There was no response.

*Pat Consentino made a motion to amend Article 9 to read, “To see if the Town will vote to increase the operating budget by $5,636.00 for additional hours for the Land Use Technician. $5,117.00 will go into the Land Use Department budget for eight (8) additional hours per week beginning April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The remaining $519.00 will go into the Administrative line to cover the associated costs of social security, Medicare, and merit.”*

The motion was seconded by Katherine Dawson. Pat Consentino stated the Town Planner spends most of his time on administrative tasks. She stated last year a system was purchased to digitize a lot of programs in code enforcement. She stated the Town Planner wants to spend more time with the Town Administrator working in economic development and capital improvement plan, applying for local and federal grant funding, promoting revitalization and tax incentive programs, among other things. She stated the land use technician will work eight additional hours to specifically take on more of the administrative aspects of the Planning Board business while continuing to improve the department’s organization of digital and paper records. She stated this will enable the Town to utilize the Town Planner as more of a Town Planner and not an administrative secretary. Judy Tilton expressed that she feels there are very few commercial parcels in town and feels there is not a demonstrated need to support the additional eight hours. Jon Scanlon stated this was not approved by the Budget Committee nor the Selectmen. Juliette Harvey asked how much the Planning Department has increased over the last five years. Tim Pearson replied that taking out the new $6,000 that is in the land use budget, it's been a 41% increase over the last five years, and that includes adding the land use technician. Including the $6,000, the increase is 47% over the last five years. Kevin Cate asked what a land technician does. The Moderator called upon Pat Consentino who called upon Jeanie Forrester. Jeanie Forrester stated the Land Use Technician supports the Town Planner and does all the administrative work for the Town Planner so the Town Planner can focus on economic development. Katherine Dawson stated that allowing the extra money in the budget would allow the Selectmen to utilize the land use technician in more ways, and it would allow the Town Planner to do more than economic development. Jim Villa stated the current Master Plan is 10 years out of date, and he stated he knows of no one who is working on the Master Plan currently.

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Katherine Dawson stated there is a committee working on the Master Plan, and it is being done with the Town Planner’s input. Scott Davis expressed that he feels the Selectmen can move money around in the current budget, and there is no need to raise another $5,000 through taxpayers. Peter Fogg stated he feels this is more of a want and not a need, and he feels more research should be done. Jason Wright asks if the Town Planner would come forward and speak to the issue. The Moderator stated that the Town Planner is not present.

**The Moderator read the amendment submitted by Pat Consentino to Article 9, “To see if the Town will vote to increase the operating budget by $5,636.00 for additional hours for the Land Use Technician. $5,117.00 will go into the Land Use Department budget for eight (8) additional hours per week beginning April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The remaining $519.00 will go into an Administrative line to cover the associated costs of social security, Medicare, and merit.” A voice vote was taken, and after the vote the Moderator stated, “The amendment fails, and I so declare.”**

Moderator Mitchell asked if there were any other amendments.

Scott Davis asked how much of the $52,000 in the current highway budget has been expended. Jane Alden answered that there is $54,000 left in the budget now. Tim Pearson stated as of March, 2018, $51,000 was spent out of a $55,000 budget on winter sand and salt, and as of March, 2019, $36,492 has been spent of the budgeted amount of $52,000. Scott Davis stated every year the Town spends money to rent a huge lift for lighting for the Christmas tree behind the old post office, and he wants to know if the Town could have Christmas tree lighting at Riverfront Park instead of the current tree lighting.

The Moderator notified everyone that the polls are now closed for Article 4, and he asked the assistant Moderators to collect and count the ballots.

**The Moderator stated Katherine Dawson proposed an amendment, “To see if the Town will vote to reduce line item 01-78-4210.20-130, which is the police department salary line for officers’ wages by $48,988.” This is seconded by Richard Olson.**

Katherine Dawson stated she voted no to this amendment. She stated on page 15 in the budget it shows $48,988, but next year it will be $83,443. She stated she believes the police department does a great job and doesn’t need the eighth officer. Richard Olson stated there is only one officer on duty at 3:00 a.m., and he is not comfortable with that, and he supports adding the eighth officer. Chuck Drew asked if there would be a savings in overtime by hiring an eighth officer, and Peter Fogg answered the overtime budget gets reduced by $3,000 after adding almost $49,000 for the extra officer. Peter Fogg expressed he is not in support of the amendment. Pat Consentino stated in 2017 there were eight officers. She stated that the department has gone a year and a half without the eighth officer, and Pat Consentino asks if Chief Cormier can address the issue. The Moderator invited Chief Cormier to address the amendment.

**The Moderator stated, “By the way, on Article 4 there were 85 votes in the affirmative; 17 votes in the negative. It achieved a percentage of 83.3, so Article 4 passes, and I so declare.”**

Pat Consentino moved to protect the vote, seconded by Chuck Drew. A voice vote was taken to restrict reconsideration, and after the vote, the Moderator stated, “Article 4 has passed and has been restricted from reconsideration.” Chief Cormier thanked the Moderator, and stated the reason he wants to keep eight officers on patrol is it allows for two officers on each shift. He stated that overdoses are very commonplace today, and crimes occurring after midnight have increased. He also stated the department does receive requests to patrol the trails and parks in town, and he feels the eighth officer is a real need. Jon Scanlon
stated that the budget currently includes all expenses for the eighth officer. He also stated that next year there may be two senior officers who may retire. Scott Davis asked for a point of clarification regarding the school resource officer, and he wants to know if this will really be a ninth officer. Katherine Dawson answered that during the year when school is not in session, then there would be nine officers. Pat Consentino clarified that the eighth officer position was not in the budget last year. Scott Davis asked how much expenses for dispatch increased over the last few years, and Tim Pearson answered that a new collective bargaining agreement went into effect, and that had an impact on the expenses, and there were a number of other minor things that caused the increase. Tim Pearson stated there was a 150% increase. Scott Davis stated he is in support of the eighth officer. Richard Olson stated the police department should look into staggering shifts and other creative ideas for staffing shifts instead of spending more money on an eighth officer. Tom Damon stated he is in support of the eighth officer for safety reasons and to ensure quick response time. Kathi Mitchell moved the question, seconded by Ken Norton.

_The Moderator read the amendment, “To see if the Town will vote to reduce the line item 01-78-4210.20-130, police department salaries, officers’ wages by $48,988.”_

Kevin LaChapelle made a point of order that he was at the microphone before the question was called. The Moderator gave Kevin LaChapelle time to speak. Kevin LaChapelle stated being a police officer is a high-risk job. He gave examples of some recent police officers getting shot and stated the Town of Tilton would really have to pay workers’ comp. claims if Tilton’s officers are shot.

_The Moderator read the amendment submitted by Katherine Dawson, “To see if the Town of Tilton will vote to reduce police department salaries and the officer wages line by $48,988.” A voice vote was taken, and after the vote the Moderator stated, “The vote fails. The amendment fails, and we are back now to the original amendment.”_

_The Moderator stated there is one more amendment. “To see if the Town will vote to increase line item 01-64-4140.30-130, which is the salary line of the TCTC, Tax Collector/Town Clerk, by increasing the line by $1,823 to a total of $62,506.” The amendment is being made by Pat Consentino._

Pat Consentino moved the amendment to the floor for discussion, seconded by Jane Alden. Pat Consentino stated the Tax Collector/Town Clerk is an elected official, and, unlike all other town employees who get merit increases executed by the Selectmen every year, the TC/TC has to come to Town Meeting every year to receive the raise, and that is a 3% increase in the budget, and she is in favor of it. Robert Trousdale asked what the percentage of increase for the salary of the Town Clerk has been over the past years, and Tim Pearson answered it is between 3 and 4%.

_The Moderator read the amendment submitted by Pat Consentino, “To see if the Town will increase the line item 01-64-4140.30-130, salary for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, to increase that line by $1,823 to a total of $62,506.” The Moderator called for a voice vote, and after the vote the Moderator stated, “It passes, and I so declare.”_

The Moderator asked Tim Pearson to state the new amount for the operating budget, and Tim Pearson stated it is $5,650,354.00.

_The Moderator read Article 9 as amended, “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended sum of $5,650,354.00 for the general municipal operating systems. The recommended amounts do not include the special or individual warrant articles previously addressed.” A voice vote was taken, and after the vote the Moderator Mitchell stated, “Unanimous. I so declare.”_
Article 10. To enact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Pat Consentino thanked Gayle Bestick, Jeanie Forrester, and Tim Pearson for their hard work. Moderator Mitchell thanked the Ballot Clerks, the Supervisors Of The Checklist, and the employees of Public Works. Jon Scanlon reminded everybody on March 21st, 2019 there will be a public forum on revaluation at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Moderator stated that all newly elected officials should remain after the meeting to be sworn in.

Pat Consentino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Helen Hanks. A voice vote was taken. After the voice vote, the Moderator stated, “Meeting adjourned. Thank you.”

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia D. Reinartz
Town Clerk Tax Collector

A true attest copy

Cynthia D. Reinartz
Town Clerk Tax Collector