STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF TILTON
TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Charles Mitchell at 8:00 a.m. The Moderator led the assembly in the Pledge of allegiance. The Moderator introduced Selectman Consentino to addressed the body:

Over the past 27 years, we have come to know Catherine Woessner at Town Hall. Catherine has been through many changes in Boards, committees and employees. She is known for her relentless attention to detail, her endless dedication and commitment to her work and compassion for our residents and co-workers alike. Catherine is retiring the end of this month. (I think perhaps she got an offer to finally write a book on all the secrets she has kept over 27 years!) We will miss you, Catherine. The body applauded Ms. Woessner.

Selectman Consentino continued: Well, next is Al. Although Al is not retiring completely, he is leaving us after two terms as a Selectman. He is a true example of a community giver, working two jobs and still finding time to give back to the community serving as a Selectmen. Al will continue with us as Code Enforcement Officer and perhaps still remain as our one and only "town hall handyman". She thanked him and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Board.

Selectman Consentino announced that there would be a pancake breakfast at Applebees on March 28th to support the Seniors, and that tickets were on sale in the front hall. She continued by giving an update on the Police Department, stating, that in 2014, the Tilton Police Department made over 504 arrests, handled 335 motor vehicle accidents and investigated over 534 crimes. Detectives have investigated 122 felony cases that required numerous man hours of interviews and followup investigation. Of those 122 cases, 108 arrests have been made so far with more pending indictment. The body applauded the Police Department.

The Moderator thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist for their service at Town Meeting and at the Elections. Mr. Mitchell introduced assistant moderators; Linda Burns, Helen Hanks, Bob Hardy and Scott Davis. Moderator Mitchell introduced Chairman of the Selectboard Pat Consentino. Selectman Consentino introduced the Selectboard; Katherine Dawson, Joe Jesseman, Al LaPlante, Jon Scanlon, Finance Manager Tim Pearson and Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler. The Moderator then introduced Wayne Brock, Chairman of the Budget Committee. Mr. Brock introduced the Budget Committee; Jane Alden, John Bossey, Eric Pyra, Juliet Harvey and Stan Brown. Moderator Mitchell introduced Town Clerk Tax Collector (TC/TC) Cindy Reinartz who presented the election results.

The 2015 Town voting was held at the Winnisquam Regional High School on Tuesday March 10th, 2015. Moderator Charles Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators inspected the ballot box ensuring that it was empty and the voting machine was zeroed. Moderator Mitchell led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator called for a motion to declare the polls open and was so moved by Selectman Joe Jesseman, seconded by Paul Rushlow. Absentee ballots were processed at 10:00 as posted, 4 in total. At 7 p.m., Moderator Mitchell called for a motion from the floor to close the polls, moved by Joe Jesseman and seconded by Kim Sowles. The vote was taken and the polls were declared closed at 7:00 p.m. 282 Ballots were cast.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Selectman – 3 years</th>
<th>For Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Fogg</td>
<td>Marie Mahoney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Brock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Consentino</td>
<td>For Sewer Commission – 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187</td>
<td>Katherine Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Budget Committee - 3 years</td>
<td>For Budget Committee - 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Pyra</td>
<td>Juliet Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Article 2. Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-b for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Tilton for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: to qualify a taxpayer must have a net income of not more than $26,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than $34,000, excluding the value of the person’s residence. (Majority vote required.) yes (230) no (45)

Article 3. Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37-b for disable exemption from property tax in the Town of Tilton for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: to qualify a taxpayer must have a net income of not more than $26,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than $34,000, excluding the value of the person’s residence. (Majority vote required.) yes (206) no (65)

Town Clerk Cindy Reinartz continued stating that a request from Wayne Brock was made for a recount for the position of Selectmen. The recount was conducted on March 13th at 9:00. A hand count was done all parties were present along with viewers. The results of the recount did not change from the original count made on Election Day using the Accuvote machine. Peter Fogg 126, Wayne Brock 124

Moderator Mitchel reviewed the Moderator’s rules with the assembly. Motion by Pat Clark to accept the Moderator’s rules. Motion seconded by Jerry Davis. Motion voted, motion passed.

Article 4. To see if the voters of the Town will vote to allow the Tilton Northfield Water District to replace any water main under the street that the town is doing a complete street reclaiming, as stated in the town 10 year road construction plan, with no cost for paving to the water district. Work will be completed within one month before the start of the town work. Any work outside the scope of the town’s paving plans will be paid for by the Tilton Northfield Water District. Submitted by petition. (Majority vote required.)

Scott Davis moved the Article to the floor for discussion. Motion seconded by Jerry Davis. Article opened for discussion. Mr. Scott Davis submitted an amendment to Article 4 as follows: To see if the voters in the Town of Tilton will vote to allow any utility to replace any existing infrastructure, or install any new infrastructure, under any street that the Town of Tilton is doing a complete street reclaiming (as stated in the Town of Tilton’s 10 year plan) with no cost for paving to the utility. Work will start and be completed within a time frame set by the Town of Tilton Public Works Director. “Any work outside the scope of the Town’s paving plans will be paid by the utility.”

Motion seconded by Heather Bishop Dumka. S. Davis explained that coordination of projects just made sense for the taxpayers. P. Consentino stated that by stating “any utility” it could put the burden on the back of the taxpayer, for paving for companies such as the gas company, etc. The Selectboard had discussed water and sewer projects, but were hesitant to state “all utilities”.

Amended Article 4 was restated. Motion voted to accept amendment submitted by Scott Davis, standing vote was called, motion passed.

Motion by Pat Consentino to amend Article 4 as follows: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to allow the Tilton Northfield Water District and Tilton Sewer Commission to replace any water main or sewer line under the street that the town is doing a complete street reclaiming, as stated in the town 10 year road construction plan, with no cost for paving to the water district. The Tilton Northfield Water District and Sewer Commission shall coordinate their construction start and completion date with the Tilton Director of Public Works, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. Any work outside the scope of the town’s paving plans will be paid for by the Tilton Northfield Water District.

S. Davis noted they had been working with the Vets home, who would eventually like to have natural gas, he would like to see residents have access to gas, and if the money is already being spent to reclaim the road, he would like to see it be done at one time. Motion to amend seconded by Sandy Plessner. P. Consentino stated that the Vets Home is located on a State Rd. and that they would be responsible, not the Town. Joe Jesseman stated that there is another utility in Town, The Lochmere Village Water District. Lucinda Hope stated that if the Town was paying to rip up a road, it makes sense to only do so once, and that she supports the original amendment. P. Clark stated he was in favor of all utilities coordinating projects, rather than just the Town utilities. Amended Article 4 was restated. Motion voted, motion failed. Article 4 returns to original amendment authored by S. Davis. The vote was taken on the amendment and passed.
Article 5.  To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Tilton Sex Offender Residency Ordinance adopted at the March 13, 2007 Town Meeting restricting sex offenders from residing within a certain distance from schools and child-oriented organizations. Two recent NH Supreme Court decisions (State v. Jennings and Thomas v. Merrifield/Goldstein) have declared it violates the NH Constitution and is not enforceable. A copy of the ordinance to be rescinded is printed in the town report. (Majority vote required.)

Article 5 was brought to the floor for discussion by Selectmen Pat Consentino. Motion seconded by Sandy Plessner. Selectmen Consentino noted that the Ordinance had been deemed unconstitutional and needed to be taken off the books. Mr. Chris Dornin of the Citizens for Criminal Justice Reform spoke to banning residency restrictions, as they drive people underground and out of towns. He spoke to how the ordinances were unconstitutional. P. Clark spoke in favor of the Article as the ordinance was unconstitutional and indefensible and did not work to protect citizens or children as originally intended. Lauren Noether stated she was in favor of the Article and called the question. The vote was taken on Article 5 as presented and passed.

Article 6.  To see if the Town will vote to amend the Tilton Solid Waste Haulers Application/Licensing Rules and Regulations adopted at the March 10, 1992 Town Meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is printed in the town report. (Majority vote required.)

Article 6 was brought to the floor for discussion by Selectmen Joe Jesseman. Motion seconded by Linda Burns. Mr. Jesseman noted the amendment was printed in the Town Report. Article 6 was restated. As there was no discussion from the floor, Article 6 voted, Article 6 passed as presented.

Article 7.  To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Tilton Housing Standards Ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance is printed in the town report. (Majority vote required.)

Selectmen Katherine Dawson made a motion to indefinitely postpone the Article. Motion seconded by Selectmen Consentino. K. Dawson explained that the Selectboard had chosen to send the ordinance to an attorney and were working on language changes. It will be presented at the next Town Meeting. As there was no discussion from the floor Motion to postpone Article 7 voted, motion passed as presented.

Article 8.  To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000) to be added to the Tilton-Northfield Island Park Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Selectmen Jon Scanlon motioned that Article 8 be brought to the floor for discussion. Motion seconded by Jerry Davis. J. Scanlon stated that the Island suffered significant damage over the years and the intent of the Article was to have money set aside to repair the Island. The fund currently holds $45,000.00. Project costs of needed work were discussed. The Island is shared with Northfield who have opted not to put any money away for Island work at this time. Ken Norton stated he was in favor of the Article and spoke of its importance to the Community. S. Davis stated he would like to see the Selectboard come back with a solid number for needed work and that the issue should be addressed sooner rather than later. Many spoke in favor. Article 8 was restated. Article voted, Article 8 passed as presented.

Article 9.  To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars ($35,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Article 9 was brought to the floor for discussion by Selectmen Al LaPlante. Motion seconded by J. Davis. Article 9 voted, Article 9 passed as presented.
Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars ($65,000) to be added to the Town Roads, Streets and Bridges Reconstruction and/or Repair Capital Reserve Fund established in 2005. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Article 10 was brought to the floor for discussion by Selectmen Al LaPlante. Motion seconded by J. Davis. A. LaPlante stated there was currently $270,000.00 in the fund. Article voted, Article 10 passed as presented.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established in 2002. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Article 11 was moved to the floor by Selectmen Consentino. Motion seconded by J. Davis. P. Consentino explained the 5 year plan for revaluation and that they were being proactive. Article voted, Article 11 passed as presented.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars ($1,500) to the Lake Improvement/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established in 2007. This appropriation is not included in the operating budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Article 12 was moved to floor by Selectmen Jesseman. Motion seconded by J. Davis. J. Jesseman explained that money is set aside, a little at a time, to offset costs. He detailed work recently done to fight Mil foil. Article was restated. Article voted, Article 12 passed.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of $5,464,821 for general municipal operations as posted as part of the warrant and MS7 Form. This article does not include special or individual articles. (Majority vote required.)

Article 13 was moved to the floor by Wayne Brock for discussion, seconded by Jerry Davis.

Pat Clark made a motion to amend Article 13, seconded by J. Jesseman as follows: By increasing the amount in the budget line #01-90-4520.99-970, Tilton – Northfield Rec. Council (Pines) by $7,250.00 making the total for the line at $64,750.00.

P. Clark noted the history of the Pines and the importance to the community. Many spoke in support of the amendment. The Moderator recognized James Doane, Executive Director of the Center, asked for support of the amendment and thanked the citizens for the past support. Motion to amend line item #01-90-4520.99-970 voted, motion passed.

Lynne Fox asked for an explanation of the Deputy Town Clerk wage increase and the proposed wage increase for the TC/TC.

The Town Clerk Tax Collector was recognized stating, first of all I did not recommend the increase for Kim nor did I know anything about it until after it was done. Now that it is done I am adjusting my salary accordingly. I researched using 30 random towns regarding the difference between the Deputy and Town Clerk Tax Collectors salary and used the middle of the percentages that I found. I have been with the Town of Tilton for 16 years and Kim was hired in 2010. With that being said you would not pay the Chief of Police $4,000 more than a patrol officer or the Director of Public Works the same as one of his team. My office collected $12,616,561.26 with approx 12,500 transactions, and I am solely responsible for not only the monies that come in and out of my office but also any transaction on a daily basis. If Kim makes an error, I am the one that either the Secretary of State, Director of Motor Vehicles, DRA, AG, Vital Records, Residents throw the hammer down on. She asked that the Legislative Body give her the same consideration for the responsibilities of her position as did the Selectboard to her Deputy.
Selectmen Consentino stated that the Deputy TC/TC wage adjustment had taken place last year, and as it was a personnel issue there were limits to what could be discussed, but the Selectboard looks at wages and salaries of employees and compares them to the LGC wage and salary book and adjusts accordingly. Bernie Chapman stated he had worked closely with the TC/TC over the years, he praised her expertise and spoke in favor of the increase. D. Fox stated it was a 16% increase and that she had known the wage when she had accepted the position. P. Consentino explained that the only way to increase the wage for the position was to bring it before Town Meeting.

Scott Davis asked for a ballot vote on the issue. Selectman Consentino presented the Moderator with a signed request (7 signatures) asking that the line item 01-64-4140.30-130 be voted upon by secret ballot.

Motion by Lynne Fox to level fund line 01-64-4140.30-130 at $51,390.00. Motion seconded by H. Bishop Dumka.

K. Dawson explained that if the proposed amendment was passed, there would be no raise at all allowed. The position is not eligible for a merit raise. History of the item was reviewed. The question was asked if the position needed to be filled, would the next applicant automatically receive the same amount. P. Consentino replied they would not. S. Davis questioned the proposed increase of other Town employees. P. Consentino explained Town employees are being considered at 2% and under the contract the PD are at 3 1/2%. S. Davis questioned if past increases were unlawful. K. Dawson explained in the past increases had been done under the merit increase, it had since been discovered that the wage needed to be determined by Town Meeting. C. Reinartz stated she was only making $4,000.00 more than her Deputy after working for the Town for 16 years and asked the body to consider her commitment to the Town. The Deputy is a Town Employee and not an elected official, so is eligible for merit increases. A lengthy discussion continued. Kirk Young called the question. Motion to amend the line item to level funding, voted by ballot, 67 voted, 48 no, 19 yes, motion failed.

Motion by Katherine Dawson to amend Article 13 as follows: line 01-64-4140.30-130 to increase $3,610.00 to $55,000 or 7.02%. Motion seconded by P. Consentino.

K. Dawson stated that Selectboard often reviews wages to make sure employees are fairly compensated in order to retain good employees, the TC/TC is currently on the low end, and to at least bring her to a competitive wage she would encourage this increase. Amanda Patten questioned the 33% increase to the Deputy wage. Percentage amount was discussed. P. Consentino explained the Selectboard had reviewed similar Town's wages and adjusted accordingly, as they do for other positions. S. Davis noted the substantial raise given to the Deputy mid year had generated the proposed increase and a lot of the discussion and urged the Selectboard to allow future increases to go before the Body. J. Davis noted the cost of living was going up, but that the employees work extra hard and deserve it. Noether questioned if Town Employees were at will or under contract and could salaries be changed at Town Meeting. K. Dawson stated Town Employees were at will, with the exception of those under the PD contract and that the Selectboard had the ability to change any line item in the budget. P. Consentino noted that Employees and Selectmen sign a PAR form regarding salary increases and that is a type of contract.

L. Noether questioned the duration. P. Consentino responded that it would be until they left employment. L. Noether questioned the validity of this, she noted that it was the position being funded and not a private matter, and that she would like the Selectboard to know the Body was interested in the issue. M. Mitchell noted the Selectboard has the right to spend money in their budget. P. Consentino stated the Town has the right to increase or decrease any line item, but they still have an obligation to pay the Employee so if a line is cut they would need to find the money elsewhere in the budget, and that the issue may need legal clarification. Bob King stated there was no doubt employees deserve a raise, but seniors only got a 1.5% raise this year, and that perhaps a 4 – 5% raise would be more appropriate. K. Dawson explained that decisions made on wages are done in non-public as it is an employee issue. Public Hearings are not required, but will be considered in the future. S. Davis urged the Board to bring it to Town meeting, rather than a Public Hearing. Ballot vote was taken, 71 votes taken, 51 yes, 20 no, motion passed on amendment submitted by K. Dawson.
Article 14. To enact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Article 14 was moved to the floor by Cindy Reinartz. Seconded by Katherine Dawson.

S. Davis questioned the Tilton Sewer Commission's reserve fund as it is his understanding that all projects are to be funded over the total tax base. Chairman of the Sewer Commission, Peter Fogg explained that the past vote at Town Meeting to spread funding over the tax base had been for new projects, but that the maintenance and repairs on the system are paid by the Commission out of the account. Reimbursement for preliminary engineering is not received until after the project is approved. S. Davis questioned what the target of the account is. P. Fogg responded that there is not a set amount at this time, but that proposed projects at the sewage plant would increase costs. He noted there was a metering study that would effect Tilton's portion of costs. D. Fox questioned what are the insurance and benefit costs for Town employees are. T. Pearson noted it depended on employee type, but that generally it ran 30 to 40%. How this would effect the budget was discussed. S. Davis noted the PD cruiser lease plan and questioned if it would cost more than buying outright. T. Pearson explained that although it would cost more by leasing it could be paid out of the Detail fund and would not effect the tax rate. Costs and future plans were discussed. S. Davis urged the Selectboard to reconsider the lease. Moderator Mitchell restated the original Article 13.

The vote was taken on Article 13 as amended for the sum of $5,467,071. Motion voted, Article 13 passed.

Ken Norton made a motion to add Article 15 as follows:

That all future cost of living or salary adjustments to non union Town employees be done in a public session and include comparative compensation studies of similar sized towns from Local Government Center or other sources. Discussions regarding merit increases may take place in non-public sessions and then be presented in public session.

Motion seconded by S. Davis. K. Norton stated his reason for the motion was for discussion to take place in public session. Jane Alden stated she felt it was inappropriate to discuss employees and that they should only discuss the position. Wording was discussed. Mover and seconder of motion amend to replace employees to positions.

That all future cost of living or salary adjustments to non union Town positions be done in a public session and include comparative compensation studies of similar sized towns from Local Government Center or other sources. Discussions regarding merit increases may take place in non-public sessions and then be presented in public session.

The vote was taken on the motion and passed.

Lynn Fox noted any article must be posted and it would be non-binding. Moderator Mitchell confirmed the wording and intent were further discussed and that this was a feel good warrant. Selectmen Consentino stated that the Board got the message. Pat Clark invited the Body to the upcoming Fire District Meeting. Jerry Davis recognized the Police Explorers.

As there was no further business, Town Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Reinartz, CNHTCTC
Town Clerk

A true attest copy

Cynthia D. Reinartz, CNHTCTC
Town Clerk