

**State of New Hampshire  
Town of Stratford  
2016 Town Meeting Warrants**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Stratford in the County of Coos qualified to vote in Town affairs: you are hereby notified to meet at Fuller Town Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 10 a.m. to act on Articles 1 through 13. Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

D. Frost: spoke of history of ballot box.  
Moderator: Gave rules of meeting.

**Article 1.** To choose by non-partisan ballot the following Officers: 1 Selectman (3 years); 1 Library Trustee (3 years); 1 Library Trustee (1 year); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 years); Supervisor of the Checklist (6 years); Supervisor of the Checklist (4 years); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (2 years); 1 Town Moderator (2 years); 1 Treasurer (3 years) and 1 Town Auditor (1 year).

Motion: Ladd. Second: Davis

Article passes as written. The following officers were elected:

Selectman, 3-Yrs: Clayton Macdonald 76 votes, Charles Goulet 2 votes, James Davis 1 vote. Clayton Macdonald having plurality of votes was elected Selectman.

Library Trustee, 3-Yrs: Dana Cassell 76 votes, Robin Scott 1 vote. Dana Cassell having plurality of votes was elected Library Trustee, 3-Yrs.

Library Trustee, 1-Yr: Robin Scott 76 votes, Dawn Hall 1 vote, Claire Martineau 1 vote. Robin Scott having plurality of votes was elected Library Trustee, 1-Yr.

Cemetery Trustee, 3-Yrs: Terry Place 16 votes, Ron Connary 2 votes, Charles Goulet 1 vote, Sonya Zanes 1 vote, Harlan Connary 1 vote, Wayne Deyette 1 vote, Wayne Hall 1 vote, James Kennett 1 vote, Joe Hakey 1 vote, Bruce Blodgett 1 vote. Terry Place having plurality of votes was elected Cemetery Trustee.

Supervisor of Checklist, 6-Yrs: Lynette Emerson 69 votes. Lynette Emerson having plurality of votes was elected Supervisor of Checklist, 6-Yrs.

Supervisor of Checklist, 4-Yrs: Wayne Labatte 61 votes, Candy Livingstone 1 vote, Claire Martineau 1 vote. Wayne Labatte having plurality of votes was elected Supervisor of Checklist, 4-Yrs.

Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-Yrs: Ben Blodgett 1 vote, Linda Renaud 1 vote, Bona Ladd 1 vote, Robin Scott 1 vote, Wilson McMann 1 vote, Sharon Corbeil 1 vote, Bruce Blodgett 1 vote, Cathy Burns 1 vote, Jenny Hakey 1 vote. Ben Blodgett whose name was picked from a hat was elected Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-Yrs.

Trustee of Trust Funds, 2-Yrs: Wilson McMann 2 votes, Scott McMann 1 vote, Charlie Goulet 1 vote, Sharon Corbeil 1 vote, Pete Livingstone 1 vote, Terry Place 1 vote. Wilson McMann having plurality of votes was elected Trustee of Trust Funds, 2-Yrs.

Town Moderator, 2-Yrs: Jamie Sayen 75 votes, Steve LaFrance 1 vote. Jamie Sayen having plurality of votes was elected Moderator.

Treasurer, 3-Yrs: Wendy McMann 80 votes, Christine Whiting 1 vote. Wendy McMann having plurality of votes was elected Treasurer.

Town Auditor, 1-Yr: Sue Goulet 1 vote, Reba Nadeau 1 vote, Anne Emerson 1 vote, Nicole King 1 vote, Claire Martineau 1 vote, Clayton Macdonald 1 vote, Cathy Burns 1 vote. Sue Goulet whose name was picked from a hat was elected Town Auditor.

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$725,973** for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article.

Motion: Ladd. Second: Davis  
Article passes as written.

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,325** for ambulance services to be provided to the municipality by the Town of Northumberland; further to include this service in the operating budget in subsequent years.

Motion: Davis. Second: Ladd  
Article passes as written.

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,200** to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Motion: Davis. Second: Ladd  
Article passes as written.

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$35,000** to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund.; \$25,000 to be raised by taxation; \$10,000 to come from unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd. Second: W. Hall  
Article passes as written.

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000** to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Motion: W. Hall. Second: Davis  
Article passes as written.

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000** to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of a baler and compactor. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd. Second: Davis  
Ladd: The baler and compactor are getting older and will need to be replaced.  
R. Davenport: How much do we have now?  
Ladd: We currently have \$3,000 in the fund.  
Article passes as written.

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500** to be added to the previously established 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held in 2023. (Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd. Second: Davis  
Article passes as written.

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000** to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.  
(Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd. Second: Davis

R. Davenport: What buildings does this include?

MacDonald: It includes all Town Buildings. Maintenance is something that needs to be done and it can be costly. It's nice to have reserve funding to do necessary maintenance.

C. Goulet: How much money is in the fund now?

MacDonald: \$25,000.

Article passes as written.

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund to also include the construction of town buildings; further name the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. (2/3 vote required). (Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd. Second: MacDonald

V DeLalla: On the 2015 warrants, see page 19, Article 11 (2015 warrants): what is the difference between the current article and last year's?

MacDonald: under the old article, the town is only allowed to do maintenance. The new article allows construction as well. If we had to do anything to a building that didn't pre-exist, we wouldn't be allowed to do it. This new article covers any grey areas such as a new handicap ramp—which is construction, not maintenance.

Labatte: Any new construction—including a new building—would that also be covered?

MacDonald: The townspeople can amend the article as written. Spending couldn't be more than what is in the fund anyway. Technically, you are correct.

Labatte: I question that this is an open article that can allow the Selectboard to spend without going before the Townspeople.

Skillen: I make the motion to amend. Labatte seconds. Skillen: I want to amend so that the Selectmen must be limited to what's already in the budget which is \$25,000 right now.

MacDonald: As the article is written, only monies from the Trust can be used at this time.

W. McMann: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund to also include the construction of town buildings; further name the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Article passes as written.

Brooks: My concern is, we have to be concerned for future boards. I make the motion to pass over this year.

R. Rheaume: Seconds.

Moderator: We are still discussing Skillen's amendment.

Skillen: I make the motion to rescind my motion.

Martineau: Seconds.

Vote to rescind amendment passes.

We are back to original article.

R Rheume: What is considered maintenance? What is new? What about the salt shed? I think the town has to have a say in it.

MacDonald: The salt shed is an excellent example. It may collapse sometime soon.

Sometimes you can't wait a year. Fantastic Fridays would like a pavilion. The thought is that it would mostly be paid for from outside sources. One way the Town can assist is if they fall \$1,000 short, then the town can put in a smaller amount. This is just an example. Something like the salt shed, a new addition.

Rheume: I still think that if something is new, the town should have a say. This open-ended wording without saying why, isn't preferable.

D Hall: I agree with T Brooks, we don't know what future boards will do with regard to maintenance. This board may keep up with maintenance, a future board may not. The amount in the fund could build.

T Brooks: I'd like to make a motion to pass over.

W Labatte: Seconds.

Vote to pass over passes by voice vote.

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000** to be added to the previously established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Motion: Ladd

Second: Labatte

Ladd: I'd like to explain the article. We used to have a Capital Reserve Fund for a cruiser in the past. For some reason, that fund went away.

C Goulet: How much is in there now?

W Hall: \$25.74.

Labatte: What condition is the cruiser?

W. Hall: the cruiser is 7 years old, around 70,000 miles. I asked the Selectboard to add this Article. Cruisers are expensive. The Capital Reserve will help off-set expenses.

Labatte: Should the need arise, what would happen? What do we do? If something happens to the cruiser? This is a needed necessity for the town.

Martineau: Wouldn't a special town meeting be called for such an event?

MacDonald: Yes

Brooks: How much does the cruiser cost?

W Hall: Not for sure, between \$25-30,000.

Brooks: It could work, the Board is authorized to spend a bottom line but they'd have to pull it from somewhere else.

Article passes as written.

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,300** in donations to the following groups: \$100, Northwoods Home Health & Hospice; \$100, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital; \$100, Northern Human Services; \$1,600, Tri-County CAP (fuel assistance); \$2,900, Tri-County CAP Senior Meals (meals on wheels); \$100, Tri-County CAP North Country Transit (bus service); \$100, Child Advocacy Center of Coos County; \$100, CASA; \$100, North Country Chamber of Commerce; \$100, Backpack Program.

Motion: Ladd. Second: W. Hall

Brooks: The backpack program comes from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. There is a letter in the town report about the program. We help feed children here in Stratford.

W. Hall: Do they also accept personal donations?

Brooks: Yes, absolutely. Financial donations are always welcome.

W. McMann: I would like to amend the article to: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,300** in donations to the following groups: \$100, Northwoods Home Health & Hospice; \$100, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital; \$100, Northern Human Services; \$1,600, Tri-County CAP (fuel assistance); \$2,900, Tri-County CAP Senior Meals (meals on wheels); \$100, Tri-County CAP North Country Transit (bus service); \$100, Child Advocacy Center of Coos County; \$100, CASA; \$100, North Country Chamber of Commerce; \$100, Backpack Program; \$1,000 Fantastic Fridays pavilion.

Martineau: Seconds.

Rheaume: Is Fantastic Fridays a nonprofit?

V DeLalla: The article says for groups, not non-profits.

K. Kerner: We are not technically a non-profit. We don't have the nonprofit paperwork.

Rheaume: Who will own the pavilion?

MacDonald: The town.

Brooks: I feel like we're sneaking this in.

MacDonald: Even if we accept the amendment. We passed over the warrant that allows us to do construction. Instead, we could make a donation just to Fantastic Fridays for them to spend as they wish.

W McMann: I make a motion to rescind my amendment.

W Hall: Seconds.

Skillen: We have a pavilion in the Hollow right now. Ask people to volunteer and build it. After we built ours we gave it to the town.

Vote to rescind proposed amendment passes.

Moderator: We are back to original article.

Original article passes as written.

**Article 13.** To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting and to hear reports from any agents or committees heretofore chosen.

Motion: MacDonald. Second: Ladd

MacDonald: Fantastic Fridays approached the board about the pavilion. They're looking at grants and funding to build it. In order to get those they need a sense that the town supports the project. I'd like to make a motion for: The town supports developing a proposal to build a Farmer's Market Pavilion on the North Stratford Town Common.

K Kerner: I think it shouldn't read Farmer's Market. It should say:

Town supports developing a proposal to build a pavilion on the Stratford Town Common.

Davis: This is just so we can get proposals to see if the town is supportive of the idea for a pavilion in the north end of town. "Farmers Market," the reason why it's in there is because the grants are targeting USDA and needs to target farmers. Its use, however, wouldn't be limited to farmer's markets.

Kerner: I rescind my proposed change.

W. Hall: Seconds.

Vote to rescind the proposed amendment passes. We are back to the original wording:

The town supports developing a proposal to build a Farmer's Market Pavilion on the North Stratford Town Common.

Davis: There is no money involved in this. This just sees if the Town will allow us to look at proposals—that's it.

V DeLalla: Are you now saying that this has gone from a Fantastic Fridays project to a Town project? Now I don't know whose project it is.

MacDonald: Fantastic Fridays initiated the project. It becomes a town project because it would be built on Town property and would be a Town building.

Labatte: Are there any specs on size? How big will it be?

MacDonald: Roughly 20' x40'.

Davis: We can't apply for a grant until we know if the town is interested.

Martineau: What is the railroad's right-of-way?

Emerson: 99-feet of the land around RR tracks is owned by the State (the right-of-way is 99-foot wide).

Davis: Even if the Town wants a pavilion. We can't build it because we passed that article.

Labatte: Moderator, move the question.

Vote to move passes.

Back to motion: The town supports developing a proposal to build a Farmer's Market Pavilion on the North Stratford Town Common

Motion passes by voice vote.

Any other business: Ladd: Can we reconsider Article 10?

Delalla: Somebody who voted to move it aside must vote to bring it back.

Rob Maxwell: You can't reconsider an article that's been passed over.

Moderator: Then we will not go back to the article.

Motion to adjourn: Davis, Macdonald Seconds. Meeting ended at 11:30.

Respectfully,



Dawn Frost  
Town Clerk