

## Town of Stratford – Annual Town Meeting 14 March 2026

The Town's Annual Business Meeting to consider Articles 2 through 14 was held on the third Saturday, March 14, 2026. The meeting took place at Fuller Town Hall and was called to order at 10:00 AM by Moderator Steve LaFrance. There were 44 registered voters and 3 non-residents in attendance.

**Article 1:** To choose by non-partisan ballot the following officers: 1 Selectboard Member (3 Year Term); 1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3 Year Term); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Library Trustee (3 Year Term); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 Year term); 1 Town Moderator (2 Year Term).

**Ballot vote held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.**

### **Election results:**

Select Board Member: (3years) Charles Goulet, 99  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: (3years) Maryann Lister, 103  
Cemetery Trustee: (3years) Charles Goulet, 101  
Library Trustee:(3years) Wayne E. Hall Sr., 101  
Trustee of Trust Funds: (3years) Sharon Corbeil, 103  
Town Moderator: (2years) Wayne Hall (write in)

### **Article 2. Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,019,006 for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article. Majority vote required

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Harry Juergens

**Article 2 passed as read, by voice vote.**

### **Article 3. Fire Department Expandable Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,670 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance.

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Charles Stinson III

**Seconded by:** Charles Goulet

**Discussion:** Board recommends

**Article 3 passed as read, by voice vote.**

### **Article 4. Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund.

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Charles Goulet

**Discussion:** Charlie Goulet gave the current fund balance of \$10,650, Brian McMann asked the town to look into the bridge at Bog Brook and discuss maybe the relocation of the bridge. The Selectboard will look into this request.

**Article 4 passed as read, by voice vote**

Town of Stratford – Annual Town Meeting  
14 March 2026

**Article 5. Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$50,000** to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Harry Juergens

**Discussion:** Chuck Stinson said that a new fire truck currently costs around \$600 000.

Sharon Corbeil asked if it is possible to trade-in the older trucks; Chuck replied yes.

Wendy McMann asked the question on applying for grants, Chuck stated that the grants go to the larger towns and cities, so a bond may be what we need to purchase a truck. Britni Haley stated she would be willing to help with a grant search and others stated they would also help, as a small grant maybe available. The Townspeople would like to see grant search or other avenues of help to bring the cost of truck down and not not be tax burden of a bond.

**Article 5 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 6. Recycling Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Charles Stinson III

**Seconded by:** Wayne Hall

**Discussion:** Charles Goulet said there is \$10,650 in the fund and a new baler was purchased last year and has been working great.

**Article 6 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 7. Add Money to Lawn Mower CR Fund**

To see if the Town of Stratford will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Lawn Mower Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Board Recommendations)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Ron Scott Jr.

**Seconded by:** Maryann Lister

**Discussion:** Ron Scott stated the current lawn mower has some bearing problems to work on and there were a lot of hours on the lawn mower now. A new lawn mower was quoted at approximately \$15,000

**Article 7 passed as read, by a voice vote.**

**Article 8. Government Buildings ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Government Buildings Maintenance ETF previously established. Recommendations required. (Majority vote required.)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Ron Scott Jr.

**Seconded by:** Wayne Hall

**Discussion:** Harry Juergens said we must keep up and maintain the buildings.

**Article 8 passed as read, by voice vote.**

Town of Stratford – Annual Town Meeting  
14 March 2026

**Article 9. Appropriate to Recreation Revolving Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Recreation Revolving Fund. These funds will be specific to upgrading/replacing the Hollow park equipment. (Board Recommends)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Tim Brooks

**Seconded by:** Wendy McMann

**Discussion:** Ron Scott Jr. stated the balance is \$6122.74 and looking for \$40,000 to replace and rebuild.

**Article 9 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 10. Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to be added to the previously established Cemetery Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Charles Goulet

**Discussion:** Harry Juergens reported the erosion at Baldwin Cemetery is getting worse and there needs to be some work done there.

**Article 10 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 11. To do Road Work on Stevens Terrace**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,510 for Stevens Terrace Infrastructure and Roadway improvements and authorize the withdrawal of \$29,755 from the Highway and Bridges Capital reserve Fund and \$29,755 to come from general taxation. (Board Recommends)

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Harry Juergens

**Seconded by:** Charles Goulet

**Discussion:** Harry Juergens commented on the need to invest on town roads. Josiah Homer asked if the town will look into the sewer lines and drainage prior to the work being done and any paving. The Selectboard will make sure that happens.

**Article 11 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 12. Donations Cohos Historical Society**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Cohos Historical Society in showing support of the Town in helping to match grants for the restoration of the Marion Blodgett Museum in Stratford Hollow.

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Molly Carr

**Discussion:** Wayne Hall asked to amend Article 12 to the amount of \$500.

**The amended article read as follows:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for the Cohos Historical Society in showing support of the Town in helping to match grants for the restoration of the Marion Blodgett Museum in Stratford Hollow.

**Article 12 passed as amended, by voice vote.**

Town of Stratford – Annual Town Meeting  
14 March 2026

**Article 13. Donations**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,432 in donations to the following groups: \$500, North Country Home Health & Hospice; \$1,000, Northern Human Services; \$1,655, Tri-County CAP; \$500, Helping Hands; \$500, Colebrook Food Pantry; \$777, Backpack Program; \$250, CASA; \$250, Stratford Old Home Day, Inc. to be funded by general taxation.

**Motion made to accept article as read:** Wayne Hall

**Seconded by:** Wendy McMann

**Discussion:** None

**Article 13 passed as read, by voice vote.**

**Article 14. Any other Business**

Wendy McMann stated the North Country ATV would like to make the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event they are holding a community event and ask the townspeople to form a committee for 4H events, a parade, and other events for the celebration. Volunteers did come forward and the idea was well liked.

Britni Haley & Suzanne Goulet wanted the townspeople to be aware that there is a ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for the finishing of the Stratford Backstreet River Recreational Park scheduled for May 16, 2026. There will be fliers posted on the town website, [www.stratfordnh.gov](http://www.stratfordnh.gov), and will be posted in other town locations as well. There will be vendors, games and food available for everyone as well as a celebratory cake.

Tim Brooks stated that he loves the way that the town is looking wonderful and joyous.

Christopher Caron reminded everyone that clean up week is May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> and bags will be available at the recycle center. If anyone wants to help cleanup, contact Chris.

Wayne Hall informed everyone of a Library Story Walk that they have been working on, which will be completed this year as well, for anyone to go and enjoy.

It was asked that Mike Lynch LLC be recognized for not only how great the roads were this past winter but also how the ice rink his family made for everyone to enjoy was appreciated.

**Discussion:** No further discussion.

**Motion to adjourn was made by:** Dan Smith

**Seconded by:** Wayne Hall

**The business meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM by Moderator Steve LaFrance on 3/14/2026.**

Respectfully submitted



Maryann Lister  
Stratford Town Clerk  
**March 19, 2026**