

TOWN ELECTION MARCH 11, 2003 TOWN MEETING MARCH 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 7:00 A.M. Checklist total was 711. Polls were closed at 8:05 P.M. after 746 had voted. This included 43 absentee voters. Checklist total was now 832.

Results of the election were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: C. Christopher Guiry 414
 Tamara A. Huston 173
 Mark D. Hager 93

Auditor for 1 year: No one elected
Library Trustee for 1 year: Jenny Scholl 609
Library Trustee for 3 years: Lynn McCann 625
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Robert B. Larochelle 620
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: George S. Schwenk 613
Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year: No one elected

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:30 P.M. She reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Thanks were expressed to all whom were involved in the election process. She introduced those who were sitting at the head table. Selectman Anne Richards expressed thanks to those whose work brought out a record number of voters for the 50/50 Warrant Article on the school ballot.

She acknowledged 20 years of service to the Town of Mason for Charlotte N. Hastings as Town Clerk and as Tax Collector, 35 years of service for Kenneth B. Wilson as Building Inspector. She then presented Kenneth Greene with a plaque for his service as a selectman.

Corrections to the Town Report were as follows: On page 42, the total for Benson should be 298 and for Sununu 79.

Boy Scout Troop 264 presented the colors. Steve Dunn led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the Warrant.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred sixty-six thousand forty-seven dollars (\$966,047) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

A motion was made seconded and passed to increase the Moderator's fees from \$100 to \$200. Under Highway Town Maintenance, increased Other Salaries by \$4001. Highway Dept expenses: Increased chains by \$500, equipment by \$4000.

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred forty eight dollars (\$974,648) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed. This included the changes noted above. The vote was unanimous.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for reconstructing Meetinghouse Hill Road and authorize the withdrawal of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose of reconstructing paved roads. The balance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to vote on this after Article 6.

Article 4. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that five year lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a dump truck equipped with combination sander/dump body and front plow and wing for the Highway Department, total cost of the new truck will be One hundred nine

thousand one hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$109,177), and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-six dollars (\$21,836) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto. This lease agreement contains a fiscal funding escape clause.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) to begin the site work for adding a Little League field at the Mason Recreation Field, or take any other action relative thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the fieldwork is completed or by December 31, 2004.

By a count of hands, the vote was yes 84, no 75.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$30,500) for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the town and the purchase of assessing software and to authorize the withdrawal of three thousand three hundred dollars (\$3,300) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose. The balance of Twenty-seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$27,200) is to come from general taxation.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for reconstructing Meetinghouse Hill Road and authorize the withdrawal of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose of reconstructing paved roads. The balance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 7. The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the Town of Mason, a Conservation Easement from Charles W. Fifield, III on 539 acres of his land in Mason, included in parcels D-8, D-10 and D-37; and further to authorize the Town of Mason to accept funding from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in the amount of Fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) and to authorize the Town of Mason to grant Executory Interest in said Conservation Easement to the State of New Hampshire, acting through LCHIP authority.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to purchase new turnout gear for the Fire Department.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to re-side the fire station, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) for the purchase of an OHRV, equipment and training for the Police Department, to be partially funded by the Conservation Commission fund for two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and by the Forestry Fund for two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The balance of Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) is to come from general taxation.

This article failed to pass. The standing vote was Yes 56, No 98.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for the purchase of a new dump body for the old fire truck for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) from the Highway Capital Reserve Equipment Fund created for that purpose.

The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to advance Article 24.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25, or take any other action relative thereto.

A long discussion was held, many questions asked, problems explored and opinions expressed. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article "to see if the Town will vote to study withdrawal from the Mascenic School District". In accordance with RSA 195:25. This motion failed to pass.

Article 24. The Town voted to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of engineering fees and test pits for a proposed new municipal building.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Article 14. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the following purposes: \$1,500 for the maintenance of the Mason Railroad Trail for recreation and forest fire protection purposes, \$1,000 for the planting and maintenance of trees on town property, and \$1,000 for the additional clearing work on the field area on town owned Lot L-36. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established for that purpose.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purchase of a new Cub Cadet mower for the maintenance of the Town's cemeteries and common.

Article 16. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of painting the Town Hall.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the purpose of a personnel classification study to be conducted by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or take any other action relative thereto.
This article failed to pass.

Article 18. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) for the purchase of a database for the Police Department.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 19. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Three hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$333.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2002 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2002 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 20. The Town wished to amend the existing agreement under Section 218 of the Social Security Act by excluding the services performed by election workers for a calendar year in which the remuneration paid for such service is less than \$1,200. The \$1,200 limit on the excludable amount of remuneration paid in a calendar year for the services specified in this modification will be subject to adjustment for calendar years after 2002 to reflect changes in wages in the economy without any further modification of the agreement, with respect to such services performed during such calendar years, in accordance with Section 218 ©(8)(B) of the Social Security Act.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to consider **The Health Care for New Hampshire Resolution** to ensure that:

Everyone, including the self-employed, unemployed, un-and underinsured, and small business

**owners has access to an affordable basic health plan similar to what federal employees receive;
Everyone, including employers, consumers, and the state, local and federal government makes a
responsible and fair contribution to finance the health care system;
Everyone receives high quality care that is cost efficient and medically effective; and
That these efforts help control the skyrocketing cost of health care.**

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 22. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 23. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.

The vote was unanimous.

The Meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 10:50 P.M.

Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk