

**TOWN MEETING 2016
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Moderator Thaire Bryant called the Annual Town Meeting of Eaton, NH, to order on March 8, 2016 at 11 am. Moderator Bryant announced a quorum being present and the return of the School and Town Warrants showing that they had been properly served. Moderator Bryant called the meeting to order. At this time the entire School and Town Warrants and Moderator's Rules of Procedure were read, followed by the Moderator stating that the polls were open for voting on Articles #1 through #4 on the Town Warrant and Articles #1 through #5 on the School Warrants. The remaining Articles #5 through #19 on the Town Warrant would be considered when Town Meeting resumed at 8 pm. The remaining Articles #6 through #8 on the School Warrant would be considered when the School Meeting resumed at 5 pm. Moderator Bryant stated that absentee ballots will be processed at 2 pm.

At 8 pm, Moderator Bryant announced "A quorum being present, the 2016 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Eaton, Carroll County, State of New Hampshire, now resumes for consideration of Articles #5 through #19 on the Town Warrant duly posted here at the public meeting place of Town Hall and at the Eaton Village Store." Moderator Bryant opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Moderator Bryant stated that there are 342 registered voters and that 144 ballots were cast with the following results:

Articles #1 through #5 on the School District Warrant:

Moderator	Thaire Bryant
Clerk	Holly Fortin
School Board Member (3 years)	Christopher Kennedy
School Board Member (1 year)	September Quint
Treasurer	To be appointed by the School Board

The following were elected as Town Officers under Article #1 of the Town Warrant:

Selectman	Edward Reilly
Moderator	Thaire Bryant
Highway Commissioner	Stewart Heath
Supervisor of the Checklist	Suzanne Jones
Trustee of the Trust Funds	To be appointed by the Selectmen
Auditor	Joan Kojola

Article #2 amending Article IV, Section I (Erection of Buildings on Streets) of the Eaton Zoning Ordinance relative to references to NHRSA 674:41 was passed by majority vote (101 Yes, 29 No)

Article #3 amending Article VI (Non-Conforming Lots, Uses and Structures) of the Eaton Zoning Ordinance was passed by majority vote (102 Yes, 29 No)

Article #4 amending Article XIV (Definitions) of the Eaton Zoning Ordinance was passed by majority vote (109 Yes, 23 No)

Selectmen Richard Young and Richard Fortin honored elected officials Donald Philbrick and Cindy Goslee and Zoning Board of Adjustment member Bob Graf who are stepping down from service.

Paul Hennigan made a motion, seconded by Peter Klose, to dispense from rereading the Warrant. Motion unanimously passed.

ARTICLE #5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$528,341 for general municipal operations:

Executive	68,000
Election & Registration	7,000
Financial Administration	44,000
Revaluation of Property	11,000
Legal Expense	8,000
Personnel Administration	45,000
Planning & Zoning	3,500
General Government Building	23,000
Cemeteries	7,000
Insurance	6,000
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,200
Emergency Services	34,000
Building Inspection	2,000
Highways & Streets	180,000
Street Lighting	4,000
Solid Waste Disposal	61,341
Pest Control	300
Direct Assistance	4,000
Parks and Recreation	9,000
Contract Recreation	3,000
Library	2,000
Interest on Tan	5,000
Total	528,341

Peter Klose moved Article #5, Paul Hennigan seconded. There being no discussion, ***Article #5 was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.*** ***Paul Hennigan made a motion, seconded by Eugene Long, to restrict reconsideration.*** There being no discussion, ***motion was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.***

ARTICLE #6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for the following Capital Reserve funds established under RSA 35:1:

Highway Equipment	\$15,000
Buildings	\$20,000
Total	\$35,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Holly Fortin moved Article #6, Deb Bryant seconded. David Condoulis questioned which building this fund covers. Selectman Young explained that the Town will be receiving a matching grant to upgrade Town Hall with emergency lights, cell booster and generator and that the Town's portion will be taken from the Buildings Capital Reserve account. Selectmen Young also explained that the Town trades the highway trucks every four years and that the purchase of the new vehicles comes from the Capital Reserve fund. There being no further discussion, **Article #6 was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.**

ARTICLE #7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the following Expendable Trust Funds established under RSA 31:19A

Asphalt	\$5,000
Total	\$5,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Jane Gray moved Article #7, Joan Kojola seconded. Joel Wasserman questioned if this fund is to repair or pave dirt roads. Selectmen Young explained that these funds are raised every year so that if a blacktop road needs repair, the funds are available. There being no further discussion, **Article #7 was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.**

ARTICLE #8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$770,000) for construction and construction engineering for the replacement of the Roberts Road Bridge over Snow Brook (NHDOT Bridge No. 078/114), a Town-owned and maintained bridge with critical deficiencies and limited loading capacity. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$616,000) of the actual construction and construction engineering costs by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) through the NHDOT Municipal Managed Bridge Aid Program. The remaining 20% of the costs (up to \$154,000) shall be funded by the Town through a withdrawal from

the Unreserved Fund Balance. No money shall be raised through taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Paul Hennigan moved Article #8, Peter Klose seconded. Nora Keith questioned the location of this bridge and Selectmen Fortin noted that it is the bridge next to the sleigh mill. Carol Mayhofer questioned whether NHDOT gives the Town funds before the project is completed. Selectman Young explained that the project is slated to go out to bid by the end of March with construction beginning in May and that NHDOT reimburses the Town for invoices paid. Peter Klose questioned the wording of no money raised through taxation. Selectman Young explained that the Town portion of this project will come from the fund balance and that tax rates will not be affected by this Article. There being no further discussion, **Article #8 was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.**

ARTICLE #9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for resurfacing of Class V gravel roads. This sum to come from unreserved fund balance and no amount to be raised through taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Holly Fortin moved Article #9, Nancy Williams seconded. Nora Keith questioned which roads are Class V and Selectman Young explained they are the gravel roads maintained by the Town. Shane Gurney questioned the funds raised last year which were not spent. Selectman Young explained that they have been encumbered for additional work on Glines Hill Road. There being no further discussion, **Article #9 was declared passed by unanimous voice vote.**

ARTICLE #10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support Eaton home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services by the Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Barbara Holmes and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Frank Holmes moved Article #10, Jane Gray seconded. Eugene Long stated that once a charity receives funding from the Town they are no longer a charity and questioned if steps are being taken to raise their own funds. Barbara Holmes explained the steps that the Gibson Center is taking to raise funds. There being no further discussion, **Article #10 was declared passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE #11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for Tri-County Community Action for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Eaton.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Nora Keith and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Nora Keith moved Article #11, Barbara Holmes seconded. There being no discussion, ***Article #11 was declared passed by voice vote.***

ARTICLE #12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of Children Unlimited, Inc.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Jacqueline Sparks and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Betsy Gemmecke moved Article #12, Jane Gray seconded. There being no discussion, ***Article #12 was declared passed by voice vote.***

ARTICLE #13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300 for the Eastern Slope Airport Authority for its use in operating the Eastern Slope Regional Airport.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Kenneth McKenzie and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Ken McKenzie moved Article #13, Cindy Goslee seconded. There being no discussion, ***Article #13 was declared passed by voice vote.***

ARTICLE #14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358 to assist The Mental Health Center.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Barbara Holmes and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Patricia McMurray moved Article #14, Judy Fowler seconded. There being no discussion, ***Article #14 was declared passed by voice vote.***

ARTICLE #15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750 in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Barbara Holmes and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Jean Reilly moved Article #15, Bob Graf seconded. There being no discussion, **Article #15 was declared passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE #16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$767 for the support of White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Eaton.

Agreeable to a petition signed by Jen Kovach and others.
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Holmes moved Article #16, Betsy Gemmecke seconded. Patricia McMurray thanked the citizens for the penny campaign and food box in the Eaton Village Store. Eugene Long stated that these funds should be raised privately. Patricia McMurray explained that WMCHC is not self-sufficient and that support from the Town is needed. Bob Blaney questioned how many Eaton residents are being assisted. Patricia McMurray stated that 29 Eaton residents are being helped. Bob Bridgham stated that the voters need to decide which services are important to the residents of the Town. There being no further discussion, **Article #16 was declared passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE #17

To see if the Eaton Selectmen will contract with the Sheriff Department to provide traffic and law enforcement for the Town of Eaton for a period of one year starting in the spring of 2016. In the last three years the traffic going through Eaton has more than doubled as traffic is using Route 153 to avoid Route 16 to get to Conway and Maine. Much of this traffic exceeds the current 35 mph speed limit. This dangerous situation has resulted in numerous traffic accidents, pedestrian problems and property damage including the Little White Church. Furthermore, the noise level now disrupts our once quite village. This traffic and noise is significantly lowering property values. Furthermore, Eaton has recently experienced several home break-ins which may have been avoided if law enforcement were present. Over 40 Eaton citizens signed a petition last year to the Department of Transportation regarding this matter to no avail. Having our own law enforcement has become our only option.

Agreeable to a petition signed by John Hartman and others.

Francis Leavens moved Article #17, Eugene Long seconded. John Hartman stated that there is a traffic problem and that there have been several homes broken into in Town and that a solution would be to contract with the Sheriff's Department for approximately \$21,000 per year. Selectman Young explained that the Town of Albany has a similar contract at a rate of \$21,819 which covers two four-hour patrol shifts per week. Carol Mayhofer suggested using an electronic device to take pictures of license plates. Francis Leavens stated that having a police presence in Town would reduce crime and this is about safety. Eleanor Jenkins questioned why the speed limit cannot be reduced in the Village. Selectman Young explained that the Selectmen have been working with NHDOT with no success at obtaining a reduced speed limit. Bob Blaney stated that he would like to explore blinking signs and cameras before putting in a police force. Peter Klose questioned which account the funds would come from. Moderator Bryant explained that this petitioned Article did not propose raising funds and, therefore, could not be funded for this year. Carolyn Lucet stated that the two four-hour shifts will not be effective and that she is unsure the Town wants the ambiance of flashing lights in the Village. Moderator Bryant explained that a yes vote on this Article means the Board of Selectmen should investigate and bring back to next Town Meeting. There being no further discussion, **Article #17 was declared defeated by hand vote. (29 Yes, 34 No)**

ARTICLE #18

To see if the Eaton Selectmen will establish a committee made up of parents and taxpayers independent of the Eaton School Board to explore higher quality, lower cost alternatives for the education of Eaton town children. This committee to report it's finding at a special town meeting in the early fall of 2016. Eaton taxpayers are now paying well over \$30,000 per student to attend the Conway school system. This is twice the average being paid by surrounding towns. More than half our town taxes go to the Conway school system. The current contract with Conway is outdated, potentially unlawful, does not reflect the long trend of significantly less Eaton students attending and restricts parent choice of alternative schools for the education of their children.

Agreeable to a petition signed by John Hartman and others.

Eugene Long moved Article #18, Bob Graf seconded. John Hartman stated that the problem is the number of children in Eaton is declining and that there are other options besides the Conway school system. John Hartman explained that a committee should be put together to look at the options. Jane Gray explained how the current school contract was researched and that the issue was brought to the voters for comment and vote. Chris Kennedy explained that the current contract is not unfair and noted that Eaton is 1.1% of the student population and pays 1.4% of the budget whereas Conway is 71% of the student population and pays 73% of the budget. Eugene Long stated that there is nothing wrong with looking at all the options. Jane Gray stated that the Eaton School Board has a

lot of information and should be involved. Randy Cooper stated that the Eaton School Board has jurisdiction over this decision and not the Selectmen. There being no further discussion, **Article #18 was declared defeated by hand vote.**

ARTICLE #19

To act on any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Dick Fortin stated that the Planning Board has just finished and published the Master Plan and encouraged residents to review the plan.

Paul Hennigan made a motion, seconded by Jeanne Hartman, to adjourn the Meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Moderator Bryant adjourned the Eaton Town Meeting at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Raiche".

Suzanne Raiche, Town Clerk