

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024 – Town Elections

March 13, 2024 – Town Meeting

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Tuftonboro, County of Carroll, and State of New Hampshire on Tuesday, the twelfth day of March 2024, at 8:00 AM at the Tuftonboro Town House, the meeting was called to order by Moderator Steve Brinser. The polls were declared open for voting and to remain open until 7:00 PM or until all present that wish to vote have voted.

Ballots were cast for school officers and for articles on the school warrant, as provided for under the SB2 plan. At the end of voting, the school district ballots were taken by the police to Wolfeboro to be counted.

Listed below are the results of the town balloting for **Article 1: to choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing:**

Selectman for Three Years	Votes
David W. Dauphinais	280
Tim Galvin	250
Write In	24

Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years	
William R. Rollins	539
Write In	4

Moderator for Two Years	
Andrew Shagoury	477
Write In	21

Budget Committee for Three Years – 2 positions	
Brendan Gaughran	320
Chris Sawyer	398
Lloyd P. Wood	272
Write In	9

Trustee of the Trust Funds for Three Years	
David Braun	509
Write In	4

Cemetery Trustee for Three Years	
Susan H. Weeks	528
Write In	4

Library Trustee for Three Years	
Jamie O'Hagin	520
Write In	2

Library Trustee for One Year

Betty Gunrud

542

Write In

2

Listed below are the results of the town balloting for **Article 2-12, Tuftonboro Zoning Amendments.**

Article 02: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #1** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to reverse the order of Sections I (Definitions) and II (Authority) so that Authority and Purpose are first, followed by Definitions?

The purpose of this amendment is simply to order the sections in a logical fashion.

YES 498 NO 85

Article 03: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #2** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 1.1.19 by deleting the word “Family” and replacing it with “Household”?

The purpose of this amendment is to eliminate the definition of Family, which is difficult to define and enforce, and replace it with a term that is used by the U.S. Census and others in describing persons living together.

YES 440 NO 158

Article 04: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #3** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 1.1.21 by deleting the definition of Family and adding a definition for Household, as follows?

“Household: All the people who occupy a single housing unit, regardless of their relationship to one another. A household can be constituted by a single person.”

The purpose for this amendment is the same as Amendment #2.

YES 443 NO 153

Article 05: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #4** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to add the following definitions to Section I (renumbered Section II) and renumber the section accordingly?

“Nonconforming Building: A building that lawfully existed prior to the adoption of the effective date of the ordinance with which it is now in conflict.”

“Nonconforming Lot: Means a lot that lawfully existed prior to the adoption of the effective date of the ordinance with which it is now in conflict.

Since the ordinance only defines Nonconforming “uses”, the purpose of this amendment is to add clarity to the ordinance in regard to the other types of nonconformities.

YES 452 NO 134

Article 06: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #5** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section I (renumbered Section II) – Definitions by

adding a definition for Wetlands, renumber the section accordingly, and replace references in Section XII to “Very Poorly Drained and Poorly Drained Soils” with “wetlands” as follows?

“Wetland: An area that, either through surface water or groundwater, is wet enough and wet for a long enough period of time, to support a predominance of vegetation that grows in saturated soil conditions. In order for an area to be deemed a wetland, all three (3) of the following must be present:

- Hydric Soils – Soils that are saturated or flooded during the growing season sufficient to produce anaerobic conditions in the upper soil layers.
- Hydrophytic Vegetation – Greater than 50% of the vegetation present is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
- Hydrology – Evidence exists that demonstrates the soils in the area are inundated with water either permanently or periodically throughout the growing season.”

The purpose of this amendment is to simplify the administration of the ordinance and to ensure that the wetland definition in the ordinance is consistent with the definition recognized by the NH Department of Environmental Services.

YES 377 NO 143

Article 07: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #6** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to change all references in the Zoning Ordinance to Wetland Conservation District to Wetlands and to remove the “WTC” column in the Table of Use?

The purpose of this amendment is to remove an inconsistency from the Table of Uses since there is no designated conservation district.

YES 383 NO 129

Article 08: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #7** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section III – Districts and Uses by adding a new section 3.7.6 - Accessory Dwelling Units, that would permit attached or detached units by the issuance of a building permit, subject to certain criteria; add a definition for Accessory Dwelling Units to Section I (renumbered Section II), and renumber the section accordingly, as follows?

“Accessory Dwelling Unit: A residential living unit that is within or attached to a single-family dwelling or that is in a separate structure on the property, and that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies.”

The purpose of this amendment is to comply with revised state-wide legislation and to expand options for housing choice.

YES 386 NO 129

Article 09: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #8** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section V by adding a new section 5.1.3 - Nonconforming Lots, to clarify the circumstances under which nonconforming vacant lots can be built on and/or enlarged, as follows? (See Amendment #4 for the new definition.)

“Non-Conforming Lots of Record (Grandfather Clause)

1. In any district, a vacant lot that was a lawful lot of record as of the effective date of this ordinance may be developed for the uses permitted in that district, even though the lot does not conform to the area or frontage requirements of this ordinance. The applicable district requirements for yard setbacks and state septic system requirements shall still apply.
2. Any non-conforming lot may be enlarged, even though the enlargement does not make the lot conforming.”

The purpose of this amendment is to allow existing, legal lots of record to be built on without zoning board approval; and to allow non-conforming lots to become more conforming.

YES 341 NO 165

Article 10: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #9** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to delete Section XI – Excavation in its entirety.

The purpose of this amendment is to place the authority for Excavation with the Planning Board as a regulation (administered by the Planning Board) and not an ordinance (requires ZBA approval for any change). This offers more flexibility in administering the regulation and streamlines the process for an applicant.

YES 357 NO 146

Article 11: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #10** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section XII – Wetlands Conservation District by adding a new paragraph to 12.5.3, as follows?

12.5.3 Special Provisions:

A.1. No structure or impervious surface may be constructed or enlarged closer than twenty-five (25) feet laterally to any Very Poorly Drained or Poorly Drained Soils.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide additional protection to wetlands by requiring a setback for structures and impervious surfaces. This does not affect the ability to cross a wetlands with a driveway, subject to all applicable permits.

YES 330 NO 179

Article 12: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #11** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Tuftonboro Zoning Ordinance to amend Section XVII – Board of Adjustment by increasing the number of alternates from three to five alternates, as allowed by state law?

The purpose of this amendment is to be consistent with state law.

YES 413 NO 90

March 13, 2024 – Tuftonboro Central School

Moderator Steve Brinser called the second portion of the 2024 Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 13 at the gymnasium at Tuftonboro Central School.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by two local young men, Brendan MacPhee and Logan Gil, who were participants in the National Pass, Punt & Kick Competition under the guidance of Parks and Rec Director, Dennis Zilembo.

Moderator Brinser read a short prayer for Town Meeting.

The Moderator asked that all those who have served or are currently serving our country to stand to be recognized.

The voting card each registered voter received when they checked in at the meeting was explained. Non-registered voters were identified by a show of hands.

Thanks were given to Kyle Williams for his assistance and expertise with the sound equipment. Dave Cash and the janitorial crew at TCS were also recognized for assistance with set up for the town meeting.

Rules for the meeting were reviewed by the moderator, guidelines provided by the NH Municipal Association. Rules can be found in the town report.

Attorney Laura Spector-Morgan of Mitchell Municipal Group was introduced as the town legal counsel. She would be available for any legal questions that might arise during the meeting.

Barbara Maidhof of the Tuftonboro Association reminded everyone that the Annual Road Clean Up is on Saturday, April 20, starting at 8:00a.m. Trash bags and reflective vests will be available at the town offices. Volunteers are asked to sign up for specific roads to clean on the sheet at the town offices. You may use your own bags or ones provided by the town. At the end of the day, please bring your trash bags to the Transfer Station. If you are unable to do that, leave them at the parking lot at the Town offices.

School Board Chair Jack Widmer reviewed the results for the Governor Wentworth Regional School District. Mary Schillereff was elected for the At-Large position, over Wesley Smallidge. Elizabeth Sheckler, who ran uncontested, was elected for New Durham. Guy Pike was elected over Jack Widmer for the Tuftonboro position. All GWRSD Warrant Articles passed.

Moderator Brinser recognized School Board Chair Jack Widmer who served as the Tuftonboro Representative on the Board of Education since 1993. He served for 16 years as chair of the Finance Committee and was the Human Resources Team Leader, which included negotiating contracts with three unions. The town thanks him for his 30 years of service.

The Moderator also recognized Police Chief Andy Shagoury, who retired in February, for his 25 years of service to the Town of Tuftonboro.

The results of the Town Election were announced and the Elected Officers were introduced. He also reported that all Zoning amendments proposed by the Planning Board passed.

Moderator Brinser recognized Guy Pike for his service as Selectmen for three years.

The meeting then proceeded with the remaining articles of the Town Warrant.

Article 13: Fire Engine Truck 4 Replacement – 7-year Lease/Purchase - \$1,406,595.54

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement, with an escape clause, in the amount of \$1,406,596 payable over a term of 7 years for a fire engine, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,942 for the first year payment with \$49,942 from the Fire Engine Capital reserve and the remaining \$151,000 to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 0-5)

The Moderator advised that he had received a written request by five registered voters for a Secret Ballot vote for Article 13.

Selectman Bob Murray moved the article and Max Ledoux seconded.

Fire Chief Adam Thompson and Captain Chris Morgan spoke about the request for a new Fire Engine. This is a replacement engine that would be on a twenty-year cycle. The current engine is at nineteen years.

Chris Sawyer, Vice Chair Budget Committee, wanted to provide feedback from Chair Rob Roriston who was not available to attend the meeting. The budget committee reviews from a fiscal standpoint. They looked at the cost of this fire engine and felt that the statistics indicated that our town is not just providing fire services. The Budget Committee felt that we should look at what the Town needs are before committing to a fire truck. The goal had been to have Capital Reserve funds available to be used rather than a loan. Their recommendation was to complete a study to review what we need prior to committing to a new fire engine and to add funds to a Capital Reserve Fund, as recommended in Article 14.

Captain Chris Morgan advised that most recommendations are to replace fire trucks in 15 years. The town has historically replaced trucks in 20 years to ensure that they are still in good working order. The fire truck does not just go to fires. It goes to all fire rescue emergencies – car accidents, carbon monoxide emergencies, etc. It is the Fire Department’s “Tool Box.” The replacement fire truck will ensure that fire engines are available within a five-mile range to all home owners in Tuftonboro. This affects the Protection Class which insurance companies use to determine rates. Historically, they have used a Lease/Purchase plan. They are in full support of using Capital Reserve Funds for purchases, but there are not enough funds yet for this purchase.

Penny Hug asked if the town has looked at grants to help with the purchase of this vehicle. Chief Thompson advised that they are looking for grants and will continue to look.

Andy Shagoury asked how much money was in the Capital Reserve fund for the Fire Truck purchase. Trustee of the Trust Funds, Peter Sluski, confirmed that the current balance is \$50,943. This is designated for a fire truck purchase.

Ann Hackl asked what the interest rate would be. Adam Thompson stated that the last agreement they saw was an estimated rate of 5.77%.

Jill Cromwell, Chair of Capital Improvement Program, worked with the Fire Department to fund a plan for different Capital Reserve funds. Their recommendation was to put \$450,000 in a reserve fund for Heavy Apparatus. She does not understand the need for a study and urges passage of this article.

Jeff Newcomb noted that a fire in his neighborhood completely destroyed a home. If his house is on fire, he doesn't care what it costs, he wants the fire department to have what they need and encouraged everyone to vote yes on this.

Max Ledoux pointed out that in 2023 a Fire Engine Capital Reserve Fund of \$50,000 was established for the purchase of equipping new Fire Apparatus and then called the vote. Moderator Brinser advised that those at the microphone would still be allowed to speak

Dennis Clarke asked what would happen to the old fire truck. Chris Morgan advised it would be sold back, but we don't know what the final value would be. They estimate \$150,000-300,000, but they do not have a firm number.

Chris Morgan pointed out that last year's vote was not specific for this engine, the idea was to start a Capital Reserve Fund to build the fund to replace an Engine at a later period of time.

Moderator Brinser re-read the article. Voters were asked to complete their Yes/No ballot and place in one of the Ballot Boxes provided. The Ballot Clerks collected and counted the ballots while the Town Meeting discussion continued to Article 15.

Article 15: Mirror Lake Watershed Management Plan

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the unassigned fund balance for the purpose of guaranteeing a loan for stormwater remediation of Mirror Lake. No amount is to be raised from taxation. To further authorize the Selectmen to offset a portion of said appropriations by applying for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) it being understood that repayment of the loan funds may include up to 100% principal forgiveness in the amount up to \$100,000.

(Requires a 3/5 ballot vote)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-0)

Guy Pike moved the article and Dave Dauphinais seconded. Conservation Chair Steve Scaphiccio explained that the town has to apply for the loan and as long as the work gets done, the loan will be forgiven. Mirror Lake Protection Association has completed all recommendations for the past ten years to reassess and update the strategy to protect the watershed. The conservation commission will serve as tech liaison to be sure the project is completed.

Max Ledoux questioned whether this is a loan and asked if there was a Public Hearing for this article. Legal Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, advised that a special meeting is only required for loans or bonds over \$100,000.

The money coming from the undesignated fund is to be used to guarantee the loan which will be forgiven after the work is completed.

The Moderator reread the article. Since this article requires a 3/5 approval, the vote needed to be conducted by secret ballot. Voters were asked to complete their Yes/No ballot and place in one of the Ballot Boxes provided. The Ballot Clerks collected and counted the ballots while the Town Meeting discussion continued.

Results for Article 13: Fire Engine Truck 4 Replacement were announced by the Moderator.

Yes 125 No 87 PASSED

With the passage of Article 13, Article 14 will be passed over and discussion tabled.

Article 14: Heavy Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

~~If Article 13 does not pass, to see if the Town will vote to establish a Heavy Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purchasing and equipping the Fire Department with Heavy Apparatus and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund~~

~~(Majority vote required)~~

~~(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-0)~~

Article 16: Police Vehicle Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed into the previous established Police Vehicle Expendable Fund. This amount will come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectmen Chip Albee moved the article, Bob Murray seconded. Peter Sluski, Trustee of the Trust Funds, reported that the current balance in the Police Vehicle Expendable Trust is \$27,749. Last year, the town spent approximately \$40,000 on a new cruiser.

Jill Cromwell, Chair of the Capital Improvement Committee, advised that they recommend this and are trying to build the Capital Reserve Funds to pay for the required replacement of police vehicles that are currently on an eight-year cycle.

The moderator reread the article and called for the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Results for Article 15: Mirror Lake Watershed Management Plan were announced by the Moderator.

Yes 165 No 45 3/5 approval required PASSED

Article 17: Major Road Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) for the preparation and paving of major Town through roads. This amount will come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectmen Bob Murray moved the article, Paul Thornton seconded. The major through road to be completed will be the second half of Tuftonboro Neck Road.

Article was reread by the Moderator who called for the vote and the article **PASSED**.

Article 18: Neighborhood Road Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) for the preparation and paving of Tuftonboro Neighborhood Roads. This amount will come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectmen Bob Murray moved the article, Jack Widmer seconded. The roads scheduled for paving work are Shirley Way and Chandler Road. Jeff Newcomb from Shirley Way strongly encouraged getting this done so that we can keep moving on to those other neighborhood roads that need attention.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called for the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 19: Canaan Road Drainage

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Twelve Dollars (\$839,412.00) for the engineering, design, and replacement of the undersized culvert that constricts the Melvin River, and drainage improvements on Canaan Valley Road. An awarded grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will cover 90% or \$755,470.80 of the total project cost, the remaining 10% or \$83,941.20 will be raised from taxes.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectman Pike moved the article, Jack Widmer seconded. Guy explained that this is for a major drainage problem in Canaan Valley. Tim Galvin asked to clarify the amount being appropriated. The selectman indicated that is correct, but the grant will cover 90% of the total project. Once the article is approved, we can move forward.

The Moderator reread the Article and called the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 20: Solar Array

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) for the design and construction of a Solar Array on Town Owned land at the Transfer Station. This Array would be an approximately 100,000-watt facility the power from which would be either net metered or sold back to New Hampshire Electric Coop and would offset/replace power expenditures for Town owned facilities. This warrant article would be funded by the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. The 30% Federal Tax benefit will be applied for upon completion of the installation and be expected to be paid back to the Town in 2025.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 3-3)

Selectman Albee moved the article, with Selectman Murray seconding. Dennis Clarke asked what type of payment we would get back from the NH Electric Coop. Selectman Albee anticipated a return of \$16,000-22,000 annually. Chris Sawyer indicated that the Budget Committee also questioned what the return would be each year and that they believed the project would be paid for in ten years. Questions were raised about lifespan of solar panels, safety of birds, and cost to insure. Those who have installed solar panels encouraged voters to support this for the anticipated return on investment.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called for the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 21: Fire Station Generator

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$15,760.00) for the purpose of purchasing and installing a stationary generator at the Mirror Lake Fire Station. This amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectman Guy Pike moved the article and Bob Murray seconded. No discussion.

The moderator reread the article and called the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 22: Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be added to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund. This amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-1)

Selectman Pike moved the article, with Paul Thornton seconding. Trustee of the Trust Funds Peter Sluski advised that the current balance in the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund is \$50,944, with nothing spent in the last year. Selectmen Pike advised that adding to this fund would bring the balance to over \$100,000 for any equipment needs that the Transfer Station would have. Having the fund allows us to purchase equipment, without the expense of borrowing.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called for the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 23: Land Acquisition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$65,350.00) to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the Great Meadow Conservation Easement property. This sum to come from taxation. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to apply for, obtain and accept any applicable Federal, State, Private Donations or other aid which may be available for said project.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-1)

Selectman Pike moved the article. Selectman Murray seconded. The land is adjacent to the Transfer Station and the Great Meadow. The owner of the land offered the approximately 15-acre parcel for purchase. Conservation Commission Chair Steve Scapicchio explained that the land is comprised of

60% wetlands, undisturbed. There is a lot of wildlife in the area and it also has one of the largest aquifers in the state. Max Ledoux inquired how the price was determined. Steve Scapicchio advised that an appraisal company did appraise the land and came in at an estimated higher value than the proposal.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called the vote. The vote by hand appeared close so the moderator had ballot counters count the raised hands for and against. After tabulating, the article **PASSED (YES 101 NO 74)**

Article 24: Highway Facilities Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to establish a Highway Facilities Capital Reserve Fund with the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. This sum to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-1)

Selectman Chip Albee moved the article, and Elizabeth Ahearn seconded. Chris Sawyer spoke to the need as the Budget Committee toured the Town Shed on Sodom Road and found that the vehicles can barely fit in the current space. Selectman Albee indicated that the building requires some maintenance and upgrades. The initial numbers were high, so the Selectman proposed establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to build the fund to pay for the needed upgrades.

The Moderator reread the article and called for a vote. The article **PASSED.**

Article 25: Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to put in the contingency fund established for unanticipated expenses that may arise. This warrant article would be funded by the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at year end will lapse into the general fund.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectman Bob Murray moved the article and Selectman Guy Pike seconded. This money comes from the Unassigned Fund Balance. The town usually requests a smaller amount of \$5,000, but have increased the request this year in case of severe weather events as we have had to deal with this year. If the money does not get spent, it will remain in the Unassigned Fund. Andy Shagoury questioned if we have enough money in this fund to commit to this article based on previous commitments voted on this evening. Selectman Albee stated that we still have enough in the fund for state requirements.

Moderator reread the article and called for the vote. The article **PASSED.**

Article 26: Environmental Study of 19 Mile Brook

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the continued environmental monitoring of 19 Mile Brook. This amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 5-1)

Selectman Albee moved the article and Selectman Murray seconded. In the past, the Town of Wolfeboro has paid for the monitoring of 19 Mile Brook. The Town should continue to monitor the brook to ensure that there is no issue from leakage. Trustee of the Trust Funds Peter Sluski asked if the money in the Expendable Trust Fund for the 19 Mile Brook of \$23,800 would be used for this. Selectman Albee explained that this is a separate expenditure for the testing, it will not go in the trust fund. Steve Scapicchio from the Conservation Commission explained that this detailed testing will allow us to know if there are problems that need to be addressed by the Town of Wolfeboro.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 27: Central Park Upgrades

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to establish a Central Park Capital Reserve Fund which will be used for the upgrades to the Central Park property with the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. This sum to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectman Bob Murray moved the article, with Jack Widmer seconding. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been working on a design to come up with options to see what could be done and what the town would approve. Eileen Gil, Chair of Parks and Recreation, stated that the 2023 Master Plan, completed by the Planning Board from surveys of town residents, indicated that 60% people wanted Recreational Activities in the town. The Central Park is located next to the Fire House where there are hiking trails. The Commission was initially looking at a Bike Trail and collected \$16,374 in private donations and grants. Based on feedback, they changed the focus to a multi-generational project. A public meeting was held in December and the commission met with the CIP. A formal design proposal, paid for from the previous donations, was completed. The Capital Reserve Fund will be to pay for the next step which would be an Engineering Study. Once that is done, the commission will need to come back to the town to see if there is interest in pursuing further.

The moderator reread the article and called for the vote. The vote by hand appeared close so the moderator had ballot counters count the raised hands for and against. After tabulating, the article **PASSED (YES 88 NO 82)**

Max Ledoux made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all the articles discussed so far this evening. Jack Widmer seconded. The Moderator called for a vote and the motion **PASSED**.

Article 28: Milfoil Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to add to the existing Milfoil Eradication Expendable Trust Fund (Public). This amount to come from taxation.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Selectman Guy Pike moved the article, with a second offered by Paul Thornton. This trust fund is used to try to eradicate Milfoil, an invasive weed, in the lakes. Trustee of the Trust Funds Peter Sluski advised that there is currently \$30,581 in the public fund, which this money would be added to, and \$7,582 in the private fund from private donations, for a total of \$38,164.

Bill Marcussen, Chair of the Milfoil Control Committee, advised that last year \$26,525 was spent. The projected expense for this year is \$32,000. The committee asked for additional funds to ensure that we have money in the fund. The actual amount spent each year depends on the condition of the lake.

Moderator Brinser reread the article and called the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 29: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Four Million Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars and Ninety-One cents (\$4,939,548.91) for general Town Operations to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommended Five Million One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$5,115,838.91). This article does not include any special or individual warrant articles.

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee 6-0)

Chris Sawyer moved the article for the Town Budget as approved by the Budget Committee of \$4,939,548.91. Elizabeth Ahearn seconded. The town counsel confirmed that we are voting on the Budget Committee recommendation, unless an amendment is made to change the amount to the Selectmen's recommendation. Max Ledoux called for the vote.

The moderator reread the article and called the vote. The article **PASSED**.

Article 30: Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Dennis Clarke proposed that in the future there was more information about the cost for taxpayers for each article so that voters are aware of what they are voting for and how it will affect their individual taxes. He also requested that there is more information and notices about meetings that the public can attend so they are better informed.

Eric Roseen asked about the status of the Police Station. Selectman Murray indicated that the bids received in 2023 for the station were approximately \$300,000-400,000 over what we have in reserves. They are looking at different options and will try again locally.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:55 PM.

There were 216 voters in attendance, along with other observers.

I hereby attest to the minutes' authenticity and accuracy.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Coulter
Tuftonboro Town Clerk
3/27/2024