**MINUTES OF THE FRANCONIA TOWN MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018**

Moderator William Mead declared the polls closed at 7:00 p.m.  The Moderator then called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Moderator introduced the Selectmen Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, and Bernardette Costa, and Town Administrator Holly Burbank.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those residents who have passed away.

There was a motion and second to waive the reading of last year’s minutes. There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 1. Choose Town Officers**

**To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (By ballot)**

Selectman (3-year term) **Jeffrey Blodgett 195**

G. Peter Grote 85

Write-ins: Jeff Jesseman 2

Scott Knowlton 1

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3-year term) **Carol Wills 268**

Treasurer (1-year term) Write-ins: **Tina Peabody 42**

Carol Walker 6

Herbie Bartlett 1

Jody Flescher 1

Jim Forrest 1

Anne Foss 1

Karen Foss 1

Gwyn Grassett 1

Susan Moore 1

Sally Small 1

Dawn Steele 1

Carol Wills 1

Moderator (2-year term) Write-ins: **Jim Walker 73**

Bill Mead 17

Ned Densmore 2

Jim Forrest 2

Arthur Flescher 1

Rebecca Goodson 1

Mary Grote 1

Steve Heath 1

John Lachapelle 1

Jim Moore 1

Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)

Write-Ins: **Carol Walker 65**

Elizabeth Andross 3

Steve Plant 2

Barbara Langworthy 1

Charles Lovett 1

Naomi Manditch 1

Amy Mullins 1

Melinda Richmond 1

Jim Walker 1

Water Commissioner (2-year term) **Joan Hartford 229**

Write-Ins: Darrel Dietlein 6

Keith Batchelder 1

Chuck Herbert 1

Richard McLachlin 1

Water Commissioner (3-year term)

Write-Ins: **Darrel Dietlein 25**

Richard McLachlin 11

Chris Collman 1

Marcia Graham 1

Peter Grote 1

Steve Heath 1

Chuck Herbert 1

Scott Knowlton 1

Bill Mead 1

Alec Morris 1

Jon Peabody 1

Jim Walker 1

Robert Whitney 1

Library Trustee (3-year term) 2 vacancies **Sally L. Small 214**

**Gwyn Grassett 169**

Write-Ins: Charles Lovett 40

Cemetery Trustee (3-year term) **Mary Brubaker 247**

Cemetery Trustee (1-year term) **Robert “Chris” Collman 249**

**ARTICLE 2. Town Line Item Budget**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate one million eight hundred nine thousand five hundred seventy-seven dollars ($1,809,577.00) to defray town charges for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Executive $167,513.00

Town Clerk 39,032.00

Tax Collector 13,730.00

Revaluation of Property 20,922.00

Legal Expenses 12,000.00

Personnel Administration 257,232.00

Planning & Zoning 7,722.00

General Government Buildings 141,897.00

Cemeteries 16,576.00

Insurance 37,010.00

Police 258,960.00

     Life Squad 69,650.00

Fire 94,600.00

Forest Fire 3,290.00

Building Inspection 3,000.00

Emergency Management 4,000.00

Other Communications (Dispatch Phones) 45,500.00

(Franconia’s Share 45,000.00)

Highways 308,682.00

Street Lights 16,000.00

Health Officer 200.00

Welfare 6,068.00

Recreation Programs 127,810.00

(Franconia’s Share 52,206.00)

Patriotic Purposes 1,000.00

Other Culture & Recreation 421.00

Other Conservation 1,000.00

Long Term Debt/Tan Interest 155,762.00

**TOTAL….……….….. (Franconia’s Share 1,733,473.00)…………..…….$1,809,577.00**

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa and seconded by Eric Meth.  Lydia Cumbee stated that in the original budget there was $3,000.00 added to the website and internet line for professional website managing, but was removed during the budget process. She believes the website is important because it gives information about what is happening in town as well as forms and meeting minutes. Lydia thanked Kim Cowles for stepping up and designing the website we have now, but feels it is time to have a professionally designed website.

Lydia Cumbee made a motion to add $3,000.00 to the budget for the purpose of hiring a professional website company to design and manage the town website, seconded by Keith Batchelder.

Eric Meth stated the website is important especially in this day of social media and this has been discussed by the Select Board. At this point the Select Board has determined to look at this in the future but did not consider it for this budget cycle.

Dawn Steele noted that $2,000.00 has already been put in the website maintenance line. She asked if we are adding $3,000.00 to that line or just an additional $1,000.00 to make the total line item equal $3,000.00. The Moderator stated the way the amendment was read it is to add an additional $3,000.00 to that line.

Holly stated Virtual Towns and Schools is the company she looked into. The initial setup cost is $4,500.00 and the annual maintenance fee is $1,500.00. The company will take the $4,500.00 and split it over three years to make it easier for towns to get the website up and running.  So the cost for the first three years would be $3,000.00 and thereafter the yearly cost would be $1,500.00. The current yearly cost for website maintenance is $2,000.00.

There being no further discussion, the amendment to Article 2 passed by majority voice vote.

The Moderator read Article 2, as amended: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate one million eight hundred twelve thousand five hundred seventy-seven dollars ($1,812.577.00) to defray town charges for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

There being no further discussion, Article 2 passed by majority voice vote.

Eric Meth made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 2, the vote on the line item budget, seconded by Jill Brewer. Ned Densmore questioned why you would want to restrict reconsideration especially since it’s never been done before. Eric Meth stated that it is a procedural point and it has been done before, specifically last year.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a show of hands: 45-Yes, 22- No.

**ARTICLE 3. Water Department Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-nine thousand six hundred fifty dollars ($269,650.00) for the operation of the Water Department. This amount to be funded by water rents and revenues with no amount from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, and seconded by Eric Meth.  Keith Batchelder inquired if any of the Water Commissioners were at the meeting because he would like to attend a Water Department meeting but can’t figure out where or when they are held. Jon Peabody stated that one of the Water Commissioners should be at the meeting to answer questions.

Jon Peabody also questioned why the Water Department budget is listed as a warrant article since it has never been listed for the last 80 years. When the Water Department was set up it gave the Commissioners the full authority and power to run the department, which they have been doing for 80 years.  Holly stated that the town auditors and the Department of Revenue Administration brought it to their attention that even though this is money that is not being raised by taxation, it should be brought to the voters and that is why it is listed.

There being no further discussion, Article 3 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4. Appropriate to CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred seven thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars ($207,818.00) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)   
  
Town Buildings Truck, $6,467.00; Town Buildings and Grounds Equipment, $7,110.00; Highway Trucks, $41,920.00; Highway Heavy Equipment, $15,568.00; Police Cruisers, $11,947.00; Life Squad Van, $20,000.00; Life Squad Equipment, $5,796.00; Fire Heavy Equipment, $43,131.00; Fire Fighting Equipment $11,429.00; Bridge Maintenance, $5,000.00; Legal $30,000.00; and Re-Assessment, $9,450.00.

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, and seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette stated there are a couple of items that need to be cleaned up on this article. The first item is the correct name of the fund in the second paragraph is “Fire Department Safety Equipment” and not Fire Fighting Equipment. The second item is in Article 5, they have listed the “Frost Place Maintenance” for $800.00. However that is not an expendable trust fund so it needs to be added to this article because it is a capital reserve fund.

Bernardette Costa made a motion to amend Article 4 as stated above, seconded by Keith Batchelder. There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

The Moderator read Article 4, as amended:  To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred eight thousand six hundred eighteen dollars ($208,618.00) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Buildings Truck, $6,467.00; Town Buildings and Grounds Equipment, $7,110.00; Highway Trucks, $41,920.00; Highway Heavy Equipment, $15,568.00; Police Cruisers, $11,947.00; Life Squad Van, $20,000.00; Life Squad Equipment, $5,796.00; Fire Heavy Equipment, $43,131.00; Fire Department Safety Equipment, $11,429.00; Bridge Maintenance, $5,000.00; Legal, $30,000.00; Reassessment, $9,450.00; and Frost Place Maintenance, $800.00.

There being no discussion, Article 4 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5. Appropriate to ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-seven thousand eight hundred twenty dollars ($127,820.00) to be added to the following Expendable Trust Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Highway Improvement, $75,000.00; Town Buildings Maintenance, $30,000.00; Sidewalk Improvement, $21,000.00; Heritage Museum, $1,020.00; and Frost Place Maintenance, $800.00.

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, and seconded by Jill Brewer.

Bernardette made a motion to remove the Frost Place Maintenance line of $800.00 from Article 5, leaving the amount to be raised at $127,020.00, seconded by Keith Batchelder.  There being no discussion the amendment to Article 5 passed unanimously.

The Moderator read Article 5, as amended: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-seven thousand twenty dollars ($127,020.00) to be added to the following Expendable Trust Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Highway Improvement, $75,000.00; Town Buildings Maintenance, $30,000.00; Sidewalk Improvement, $21,000.00; and Heritage Museum, $1,020.00.

Jon Peabody questioned why the numbers in this and the previous article were not rounded up (i.e., $11,947 instead of $12,000). Karen Foss stated that she is on the CIP committee and these are all calculations, some of which are going out 20 years; but the committee will take note to round up in the future. There being no further discussion, Article 5 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6. Tractor Purchase**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-nine thousand dollars ($49,000.00) to purchase a new tractor and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of thirty-six thousand dollars ($36,000.00) from the Town Buildings and Grounds Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with the balance to come from trading in the 2010 John Deere Tractor ($13,000.00).  The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, and seconded by Eric Meth.  Bernardette stated they are looking into the possibility of purchasing a used tractor if possible so the full amount may not need to be spent. Jon Peabody raised a concern that we just voted to put $7,110.00 into this fund and after the tractor is purchased the fund will be depleted.

There being no further discussion, Article 6 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7. Add to Rink Surface Maintenance Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) to be added to the Rink Surface Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established with said funds to come from the Recreation Committee’s line item budget. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Eric Meth. There being no discussion, Article 7 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8. Add to Dow Field Maintenance Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) from the Recreation Committee’s line item budget to the Dow Field Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Eric Meth. There being no discussion, Article 8 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9. Add to Recreation Van Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) to be added to the Recreation Van Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose with said funds to come from the Recreation Committee’s line item budget. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. There being no discussion, Article 9 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10. Abbie Greenleaf Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-three thousand five hundred dollars ($83,500.00) for the purpose of operating the Abbie Greenleaf Library and to transfer this amount to the Library Trustees for their use as they see fit.  The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Richard Burwell, seconded by Bill Mellekas.  Mr. Burwell asked how much money is for maintenance and salaries and how much is for books.  Bill Mellekas stated that the numbers listed on page 52 of the town report for 2017 would be the same for 2018 since the director and other staff have not received a raise.

There being no further discussion, Article 10 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11. Library Accept Gifts of Personal Property**

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose?  Prior to the acceptance of a gift valued at over $5,000.00 the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Sally Small. Richard Burwell questioned why there is a limit on the amount of property that you can give the library. Bill Mellekas stated this is a law that has been in effect for years and they just did not realize it. This article and the next article are just doing what the government requires.

There being no further discussion, Article 11 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12. Library Trustees Authority to Accept and Expend Unanticipated Money**

Shall the Town accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-c providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Charles Lovett, seconded by Sally Small. There being no discussion, Article 12 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13. Tri-town Transfer Station**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of two hundred eighty-nine thousand two hundred nine dollars ($289,209.00) for the purpose of solid waste disposal, with $48,779.00 from the Town of Sugar Hill, $24,389.00 from the Town of Easton, $80,000.00 PAYT Fees, $20,000.00 Special Handling Fees, $15,000.00 in Recycled Material, and to raise $101,041.00 from taxation.  The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Eric Meth.  There being no discussion, Article 13 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14. Lafayette Recreation Fundraising Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-seven thousand one hundred ninety-eight dollars ($57,198.00) to be added to the Lafayette Recreation Expendable Trust Fund.   Funds will come from the unassigned fund balance (this amount is equivalent to the amount collected by fundraising during 2017). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Meaghan McCarthy. There being no discussion, Article 14 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 15. Northern Pass Defense Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars ($30,000.00) to be added to the Northern Pass Defense Fund as previously established. $22,910.00 to come from unassigned fund balance (this amount is equivalent to the amount collected by fundraising during 2017), and $7,090.00 to come from taxation. Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer.  There was a brief discussion regarding the status of the Northern Pass case. Eric stated there was a hearing in Concord on their Motion for Reconsideration and that motion needs to be ruled on and then it would be another year before the Superior Court.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16. Use of Bond Proceeds**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of seventy thousand two hundred thirty-four dollars ($70,234.00) plus any interest in unexpended bond proceeds from the Safety Services Building Project to prepay a portion of the loan incurred from said project. Selectmen recommend. (2/3rds vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette spoke to the article and stated there are a couple of options that we could spend the $70,000.00 on. One is a new just cause, but that would have to come up at the next town meeting, or put the money in the unassigned fund balance and lower taxes. The Selectmen decided it would be best to pay down on the loan.

Peter Grote stated that we are paying 2.84% on that $70,000.00 which will be a savings of just under $2,000.00 a year. There is roughly 17 years left on the loan, which is a savings of approximately $32,000.00 in interest costs alone.  Add to that the $70,000.00 in principal and it is a reduction of $100,000.00 in debt.

There being no further discussion, Article 16 passed unanimously by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 17. Purchase of Turnout Gear – Fire Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand three hundred dollars ($13,300.00) for the purpose of purchasing turnout gear for the Fire Department. Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Eric Meth.  Russ Cumbee asked why this equipment was not coming out of the capital reserve fund. Rick Gaudette, Fire Chief, stated the equipment they have is 10 years old and they need 16 sets of equipment. They are trying to save the town money by purchasing eight sets this year and eight sets next year.

Jon Peabody stated there is $92,000.00 in the Fire Safety Fund and asked why the money is not coming out of there. Rick stated that the capital reserve fund was set up ten years ago and the safety equipment has a life of ten years. Some of the equipment is still passing the tests but at some point they will have to be replaced and that money will be needed then.

Russ Cumbee made a motion to take the $13,300.00 from the First Safety Capital Reserve Fund rather than through taxation. The Moderator stated that you cannot do that because it is changing the substance of the article. It is a procedural matter.

There being no further discussion, Article 17 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 18. Purchase of Turnout Gear – Life Squad**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars ($12,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing turnout gear for the Life Squad. Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Jon Peabody questioned why we are putting money into the Life Squad capital reserve fund if we are not going to buy turnout gear with it. Paul Schmucker stated the fund does not include the turnout gear, but he is not opposed to including that but it would have to wait until next year.

There being no further discussion, Article 18 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 19. Heritage Museum Roof Replacement & Structural Work**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars ($30,000.00) for the purpose of replacing the metal roof and structural work at the Heritage Museum.  Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Bernardette Costa.  Phil Krill, Treasurer of the Heritage Museum stated when they submitted this warrant article they estimated $15,000.00 for the roof, $5,000.00 for contingencies, and $10,000.00 for any unforeseen structural issues. They have since received two estimates, one for $11,200.00 and one for $13,500.00, so adding in money for contingencies he does not see the project costing more than $15,000.00 to $17,000.00. There was no significant structural damage noted at the time of the inspection.

There being no further discussion, Article 19 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 20. Above the Notch Humane Society**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of five hundred dollars ($500.00) for the support of Above the Notch Humane Society. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Meaghan McCarthy. John Lachapelle stated he was directing his remarks not only to this article but all articles through number 36. He was concerned that voters were being asked to make a decision on a donation request for agencies we have no information on. We do not know if they are certified by the State of New Hampshire as a non-profit and whether or not they are approved by the IRS as a 501(c)3. He feels that information would be helpful especially since the amount being requested in these articles totals $32,000.00.

Dawn Steele stated that she has served on the Board of Above the Notch and they are a certified 501(c)3. Bob Montagno stated that when he was a Selectman these organizations were required to submit a written request explaining all that information. Jill confirmed that is the case and all organizations have submitted written requests.

There being no further discussion, Article 20 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 21. Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand dollars ($1000.00) for the support of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Russell Cumbee. Eric stated in addition to the written request they submitted the non-profit status paperwork. Jeff Woodward stated they have over 100 volunteers and three full-time employees and they service 1,200 people with all sorts of disabilities and take them out to participate in all types of sports.

There being no further discussion, Article 21 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 22. American Red Cross**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of five hundred eighteen dollars ($518.00) for the support of the American Red Cross. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Sally Small. There being no discussion, Article 22 passed by voice vote

**ARTICLE 23. Ammonoosuc Community Services, Inc.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars ($3,500.00) for the support of Ammonoosuc Community Services, Inc. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Sally Small. There being no further discussion, Article 23 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 24. Boys & Girls Club of the North Country**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars ($2500.00) for the support of Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer. Russ Cumbee made a motion to reduce the amount of this article by $1,000.00 to $1,500.00, seconded by Lydia Cumbee. Jeff Woodward stated the Boys and Girls Club bought two vans and are running a van from Lafayette School to Littleton and there are several children going to the Boys and Girls Club every day after school so their parents can continue to work. It was also noted that transportation is provided for students to attend the program during vacation weeks.

There being no further discussion, the amendment to Article 24 failed by a show of hands.

The moderator read Article 24 again. The article passed by voice vote

**ARTICLE 25. Bridge House Shelter & Veterans Advocacy**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) for the support of Bridge House Shelter & Veterans Advocacy. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Bernardette Costa. Jill spoke to the article explaining the services they provide. There being no discussion, Article 25 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 26. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of five hundred dollars ($500.00) for the support of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer. Eric spoke to the article stating these are volunteers who represent children in Littleton District Court. Kevin Johnson stated that he is a CASA and these volunteers represent and give a voice to a child in court proceedings. There being no further discussion, Article 26 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 27. Center for New Beginnings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand dollars ($1000.00) for the support of Center for New Beginnings. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Sally Small. Bernardette spoke to the article explaining the services provided by this organization and acknowledging they have the proper paperwork. There being no discussion, Article 27 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 28. Franconia Children’s Center**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) for the support of Franconia Children's Center.  (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Eric Meth. Jill stated they have provided the proper paperwork and they provide full-time services for seven residents and part-time services for 28 residents. There being no further discussion, Article 28 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 29. Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of nine thousand dollars ($9000.00) for the support of Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Sally Small. Kevin Johnson stated he sits on the Franconia Notch Chamber of Commerce and they have had a difficult year. However, they have revamped and launched a new website and have had close to 21,000 visits to the website. There being no further discussion, Article 29 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 30. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) for the support of Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Sally Small. Bernardette spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 30 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 31. North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of three thousand two hundred dollars ($3,200.00) for the support of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 31 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 32. Northern Human Services – White Mountain Health**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars ($1,292.00) for the support of Northern Human Services - White Mountain Health. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer. Eric Meth spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 32 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 33. Support Center at Burch House**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of five hundred twenty dollars ($520.00) for the support of Support Center at Burch House. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Eric Meth. Jill spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 33 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 34. Tri-County Community Action Program (CAP)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of two thousand seven hundred dollars ($2,700.00) for the support of Tri-County Community Action Program (CAP). (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 34 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 35. Tri-County Transit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) for the support of Tri-County Transit. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no further discussion, Article 35 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 36. Tyler Blain Homeless Shelter**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of three hundred dollars ($300.00) for the support of Tyler Blain Homeless Shelter. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa, seconded by Jill Brewer. Bernardette spoke to the article outlining the services provided. There being no discussion, Article 36 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 37. Adoption of NH RSA 79-E**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of RSA 79-E to allow the Board of Selectmen to accept for consideration requests for community revitalization tax relief incentives. Tax relief may be granted for a "qualifying structure" as defined by RSA 79-E:2, II and only to the extent allowed under RSA 79-E. Selectmen recommend this article.

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer. Eric stated this is a relatively new state statute which our Planning Board has fully endorsed and the Select Board feels is appropriate to adopt as an ordinance. It does not lock the town into anything, but it would allow the town to grant some tax relief to a new business that wants to come in and rehabilitate an old building in Franconia.

There being no further discussion, Article 37 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 38. To Hear Reports**

To hear the reports of agents, auditors, and committees, or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relative thereto.

The article was read, moved by Eric Meth, seconded by Jill Brewer. There were no reports presented.

**ARTICLE 39. Transact Any Other Business**

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

The article was read, moved by Jill Brewer, seconded by Sally Small. Jayne O’Connor requested that the Select Board consider that if the town approves giving donations to the organizations listed in Articles 20 through 36 three years in a row that they be put in the line item budget because we just spent over an hour going through these individually. Bernardette stated that there was a previous vote about listing these organizations separately so in order to change that a petitioned warrant article would need to be filed and voted on next year.

Bill Mead thanked Bernardette Costa for her service on the Select Board as she is giving up her seat this year. Bernardette was given a round of applause.

Bill Mead stated this is his last meeting and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. Bill was given a round of applause.

Bill Mead stated the results of changes to the Zoning Ordinance that was voted on by ballot: Passed: Yes – 212 No – 56

There being no further business to transact, there was a motion by Bill Mellekas to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Walter Palmer. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Wills