

**MINUTES OF THE FRANCONIA TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

Moderator James Walker 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 himself and the Selectmen Jeffrey Blodgett, Eric Meth, and Jill Brewer, Town Administrator Holly Burbank, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Carol Wills.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator noted this year's Town Report is dedicated to four people who passed away in 2018, who gave their time and talent to the town. The Moderator also encouraged residents to attend the Lafayette and Profile School District meetings as the results of those meetings will also impact property taxes.

The Moderator explained that according to RSA 669, tonight's meeting is a legislative action and therefore only Franconia registered voters are allowed to participate and vote, and every voter should have a green card to vote with.

There was a motion by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker, to waive the reading of last year's minutes. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker, to approve last year's minutes as written. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker, to waive the reading of the warrant by the Moderator. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Selectman (3-year term)	Eric Meth	120
Write-ins:	Dawn Steele	7
	Karen Foss	1
	Mark Hesler	1
	Kenneth Knowlton	1
	James Walker	1
Treasurer (1-year term)	Tina Peabody	129
Write-ins:	Karen Foss	1
Trustee of the Trust Funds (3-year term)	Karen Foss	123
Write-ins:	Peter Gaudette	1
	Steve Plant	1
Water Commissioner (3-year term)	Dan Walker	70
	Kevin Johnson	67
Write-ins:	Keith Batchelder	1
Supervisor of the Checklist (6-year term)	James Forrest	126

Cemetery Trustee (3-year term)	Robert Collman	131
Library Trustee (1-year term)	Jade Monahan	112
	Charles Lovett	10
	Peter Ainsworth	1
	Joanne Carey	1
Library Trustee (3-year term)	William Mellekas	138
	Elizabeth Andrews	110
	Charles Lovett	3
	Joanne Carey	1

ARTICLE 2. Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Are you in favor of adopting the amended Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board? This article was approved last year, but due to a procedural defect, the amended 2018 Zoning Ordinance was not adopted. This year’s amended Zoning Ordinance includes revisions that have been made due to additional public input. (By ballot)

Article 2 Passed: Yes - 106 No - 31

ARTICLE 3. Town Line Item Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate one million eight hundred ninety-three thousand nine hundred sixty-five dollars (\$1,893,965.00) to defray town charges for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Executive	\$ 189,954.00
Town Clerk	\$ 37,550.00
Tax Collector	\$ 14,364.00
Revaluation of Property	\$ 20,922.00
Legal Expenses	\$ 12,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 269,031.00
Planning & Zoning	\$ 7,827.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 152,340.00
Cemeteries	\$ 17,629.00
Insurance	\$ 39,380.00
Police	\$ 260,749.00
Life Squad	\$ 84,950.00
Fire	\$ 94,600.00
Forest Fire	\$ 3,290.00
Building Inspection	\$ 4,000.00
Emergency Management	\$ 4,000.00
Other Communications (Dispatch Phones)	\$ 45,500.00
Highways	\$ 318,548.00
Street Lights	\$ 14,000.00
Health Officer	\$ 200.00
Welfare	\$ 8,140.00
Recreation Programs	\$ 136,541.00
(Franconia’s share \$49,889.00)	
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,000.00

Other Conservation	\$ 1,000.00
Long Term Debt/Tan Interest	\$ 156,450.00
Total.....(Franconia's share \$1,806,613.00)	\$1,893,965.00

The article was read, moved by Kim Cowles, second by Tim Burnell.

Karen Foss made a motion, second by David Starr, to reduce the operating budget by \$45,400.00 for a total budget of \$1,848,565.00.

Karen suggested the budget reduction should come from two line items: 1) Executive should be reduced by \$18,400.00 which is composed of two items-- \$11,400.00 from wages and \$7,000.00 from eliminating the outside contractor for the compensation study; and 2) Personnel Administration should be reduced by \$27,000.00 to eliminate participation in the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS).

Karen stated most salaries in the budget increased by a 2.5%, but the executive rose by 15.2%, which is an inequitable allocation. There was not enough objective criteria applied to the decision making especially in light of the fact that the Board of Selectmen was not unanimous in its decision.

Karen recommended the Select Board resurrect the Wages and Benefits Committee from three years ago, which was composed of qualified citizens, which would not only save money but would achieve more of a consensus for this decision. In addition, New Hampshire Municipal Association and Local Government Center will prepare custom wage and benefits reports and their information is free.

Karen also stated the cost for enrolling employees into NHRS this year will cost \$27,000.00 for seven months. Next year the cost will increase to \$58,300.00. New Hampshire's plan is among the country's five worst retirement plans for its unfunded liabilities (58%). There are many complicated variables that go into the annual required contributions and the town's contributions will increase every year. Karen stated that if the town ever wanted to get out of the plan after a few years of ever-increasing contributions, we would need to come up with the unfunded liability for all retired vested employees.

Jill Brewer stated that the Board worked very hard to take into account what is fair and right for taxpayers and employees and this budget is the result of that. She stated that the town currently has three employees that are on NHRS and the Board felt it only fair to allow the rest of the town employees to be enrolled in NHRS. Jill noted it is important to recognize that benefits for town employees are seen as optional; however, as one resident commented, town employees are our most important infrastructure and the Board believes these benefits are past due.

Jill agreed the increase in the executive salaries is significant and the Board discussed and considered it at length. The Board felt the Administrative Secretary position deserved a merit-based pay increase due to increased responsibility. Also, the Town Administrator position was a newly created position two years ago and over the past two years we have seen projects and accomplishments that have been initiated and managed by this position as well as the passion and dedication that has been demonstrated and felt the increase was justified. The majority of the Board agreed the increase in the salary included in the new two-year contract for the Town Administrator position more accurately fits the duties performed and is competitive with

surrounding towns salaries of similar positions and increases the chance of longevity of this position. Jill also stated that it is important to point out that over the past two years the Town Administrator position has overseen other employees that have higher salaries than that of the Town Administrator. It is interesting that these positions are held by male employees but have never been given the scrutiny that these two salary increases are being given.

Jill stated in terms of the Classification and Compensation Study, the Board agreed that a professional and objective study is warranted and justified. The Board is very appreciative of the input of residents on the committee mentioned; however, the Board felt the study should be done by an outside group that would not be directly affected by any changes to their pay or through taxation. Jill stated the Board received many quotes and the company they chose is well respected and has gone to over 25 towns and worked with municipalities to do a job audit, job descriptions, and an external market survey and wage structure analysis just to see if we are paying our employees competitively within the labor market.

After a lengthy discussion, the Moderator read the amended Article 3 and called it to a vote. The Moderator stated he received a request signed by five people to vote on this article by secret ballot.

Amendment to Article 3 passed (by ballot): Yes - 71 No - 28

The Moderator called Article 3, as amended, to a vote (by ballot).

Article 3, as amended, passed (by ballot): Yes - 49 No - 48

Article 4. Abbie Greenleaf Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-four thousand five hundred dollars (\$84,500.00) 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 Russ Cumbee, second by David Starr. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 5. Tri-Town Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred forty-two dollars (\$325,642.00) for the purpose of solid waste disposal, to be funded as follows: \$56,460.00 from the Town of Sugar Hill; \$28,230.00 from the Town of Easton; \$85,000.00 PAYT fees; \$20,000.00 from special handling fees; \$19,000.00 in recycled material; with \$116,952.00 from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bob Montagno, second by David Starr. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 4 and Article 5 made by Tim Burnell, second by David Starr. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 6. Water Department Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred ninety-two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$292,750.00) 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 David Starkey, second by Anne Foss.

Jon Peabody questioned why this article is being voted on and what impact it has. Holly stated the DRA has told the Board that it needs to be a warrant article. Jon also suggested that the information in the Town Report should be more specific as to who operates the Water Department, how much they are paid, and what projects have been done throughout the year. Joan Hartford, one of the Water Commissioners, stated that all that information is available for review at the Water Department office.

There being no further discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 6 made by Meaghan McPhaul, second by David Starr. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 7. Appropriate to CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred ten thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$210,550.00) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Buildings Truck, \$6,600.00; Town Buildings and Grounds Equipment, \$6,100.00; Highway Trucks, \$42,800.00; Highway Heavy Equipment, \$15,700.00; Police Cruisers, \$12,200.00; Life Squad Van, \$20,400.00; Life Squad Equipment, \$5,900.00; Frost Place Maintenance, \$800.00; Fire Heavy Equipment, \$43,900.00; Fire Fighting Equipment, \$11,700.00; Bridge Maintenance, \$5,000.00; Legal \$30,000.00; and Reassessment, \$9,450.00.

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Karen Foss.

After a brief discussion, Article 7 passed by majority vote.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 7 made by Michael Eddy, second by Peter Grote. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 8. Appropriate to ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$127,000.00) 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, \$1,000.00.

The article was read, moved by David Starkey, second by Bob Whitney. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 8 made by David Starr, second by Meaghan McPhaul. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 9. 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 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 Cindy Burnell, second by Dan Walker. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 9 made by Russ Cumbee, second by Meaghan McPhaul. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 10. Add to Recreation Van 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 Recreation Van Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose with said funds to come from the Recreation Committee line item budget. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Cindy Burnell, second by Dan Walker. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 11. Add to Rink Surface Maintenance Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum 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 line item budget. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bob Montagno, second by Michael Eddy. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 12. 2018 Fundraising & Donations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred one thousand seven hundred eighty-two dollars (101,782.00) to be added to the following Expendable Trust Funds previously established. Funds will come from the unassigned fund balance. (This amount is equivalent to the amount collected by fundraising and donations during 2018). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Library Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, \$25,000.00; Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, \$820.00; Lafayette Recreation Expendable Trust Fund, \$75,512.00; and Northern Pass Defense Expendable Trust Fund, \$450.00.

The article was read, moved by Meaghan McPhaul, second by Russ Cumbee. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 13. Purchase Highway Department Truck

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) for the purchase of a one-ton truck for the Highway Department, and to authorize the withdrawal of forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000.00) from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose and three thousand (\$3,000.00) to come from trading in the 2011 Ford F-150 pickup truck. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Russ Cumbee, second by Dawn Steele.

Jill Brewer stated that after presenting the numbers at the budget hearing, Director Leslie received a much lower quote.

Jill Brewer made a motion, second by Marsha Luce, to amend Article 13 as follows: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate forty-two thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$42,120.00) for the purchase of a one-ton truck for the Highway Department, and to authorize the withdrawal of thirty-six thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$36,120.00) from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose and six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) to come from trading in the 2011 Ford F-150 pickup truck.

There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

Article 13, as amended, was read. There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 14. Appropriate Funds to install Handicap Lift

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) for the purpose of installing a handicap lift at Town Hall. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Russ Cumbee.

There was a brief discussion regarding the condition of the existing handicapped ramp (does not meet ADA specifications, is in disrepair, and is unsafe) and the location of the proposed handicapped lift (parking lot side of the building).

There being no further discussion, the article passed by majority vote.

Article 15. Demolish Building at 192 Main Street

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$42,500.00) for the purpose of demolishing the building at 192 Main Street. Selectmen recommend this article.

The article was read, moved by Bob Whitney, second by Meaghan McPhaul.

Russ Cumbee questioned if the original bid was \$23,000.00 and then \$20,000.00 was added to cover any asbestos removal. Holly stated she is not sure of the amount because she did not bring that folder to the meeting. Eric Meth stated it is unknown what will come out of the building and the town needed to minimize their exposure.

Russ Cumbee made a motion to table Article 15 for further study, second by David Starr. The Moderator stated the motion needs a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to pass.

Tim Burnell inquired if there was no asbestos found would the quote revert back to the original amount and Jill Brewer stated it would. Marsha Luce expressed concern that the cost of any asbestos removal could exceed the contingency amount which would increase the overall cost of demolition.

Bob Montagno stated the building is an eyesore and is unsafe. There are a number of projects going on to bring more tourists into town and that building detracts from the appearance of the town. Also, at the present time this is a distressed property and if the town were to try and sell it, we would not get top dollar.

There being no further discussion, the motion to table Article 15 failed: Yes - 35 No - 51

Jill Brewer stated the Select Board feels this property has great potential for the town and the building should be demolished and then get public input as to whether we sell it at that point or pursue different options for its use.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 passed: Yes - 50 No - 32

Motion by Tim Burnell to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10 through 15, second by Dan Walker. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 16. Cemetery Maintenance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) for the purpose of repairs to the roads and gates within the cemetery, and to authorize withdrawal of these funds from the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker.

Carol Walker made a motion, second by Marsha Luce, to amend Article 16 to add the following wording after Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund, "subject to the review and certification of the origin of the funds by the Trustees of the Trust Funds."

Carol Walker stated there is some debate about how this fund was categorized. We want to go through the history of the cemetery maintenance fund and make sure that it was established correctly as a trust fund and would then be able to be expended properly.

There being no further discussion, the amendment was called to a vote. Amendment to Article 16 passed unanimously.

Article 16, as amended, was called to a vote. There being no discussion, Article 16, as amended passed unanimously.

Article 17. Cemetery Trustees as Agents to Expend

To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Bob Whitney, second by Jayne O'Connor

Karen Foss made a motion to amend Article 17, second by Tim Burnell, to add the following language: "subject to the review and certification of the origin of the funds by the Trustees of the Trust Funds."

There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Article 17, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 18. Discontinue Cemetery Restoration Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Cemetery Restoration Expendable Trust Fund with said funds plus accumulated interest to be placed in the town's General Fund. This article is contingent on the passage of Article 20. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker.

Tim Burnell made a motion to amend Article 18, second by Bob Whitney, to change Article 20 to Article 19. There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

Article 18, as amended, was called to a vote. There being no discussion, Article 18, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 19. Appropriate Funds to Cemetery Maintenance Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate one hundred forty-three dollars (\$143.00) to be placed in the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance (this represents the funds from the discontinuation of the Cemetery Restoration Expendable Trust Fund). This article is contingent on the passage of Article 19. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

Tim Burnell made a motion to amend Article 19, second by Dan Walker, to change Article 18 to Article 19. There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

Article 19, as amended, was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

Article 20. Capital Purchases for Transfer Station

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$80,150.00) for the purpose of purchasing one 40-yard open container (\$6,200.00), one 20-foot enclosed container (\$3,950.00), and truck scales (\$70,000.00) and to authorize the withdrawal of these funds from the Transfer Station Recycling Special Revenue Fund. Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Dan Walker.

Tim Blake spoke to the article. At the present time, when a customer comes in to dump their construction debris or bulky items, we guesstimate the cost by volume; however, we ship materials out by weight. If we had these scales, the customer would come in with their debris and get weighed on the scales. They would then dump their materials and would get weighed again and then pay the difference in the weight. It would balance out the costs so that residents are not paying more than they should and the town is covered for the cost of shipping out those materials. Prices could also be adjusted at the scales to reflect changes in shipping costs. Tim noted there is no way to identify if a customer is a resident of the tri-town area; however, there are contractors that use the transfer station to dump their materials when Bethlehem or Littleton are closed.

It was noted that the funds for these purchases would come from a special reserve fund which has approximately \$130,000.00 in it.

Thad Presby raised concerns about the length of time it will take to recoup the costs of these scales. He feels it will take a lot of moving of material and the general residents are not dumping those items. He believes it puts an undue burden on the crew to check people in, check them out, take the payment and make sure it gets to where it is supposed to be. He feels it we are doing this as a service and the bulk of it is from non-residents, we should not purchase the scales. Jon Peabody stated that if the Town is losing money on shipping costs of construction debris, we should stop accepting it.

Bob Montagno made a motion to table Article 20, second by David Starkey. There being no discussion, the motion was called to a vote. Motion to Amend failed: Yes - 40 No - 28

There being no further discussion, the article was called to a vote.
Article 20 failed: Yes - 33 No - 37

Article 21. Discontinue Transfer Station Recycling Special Revenue Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Transfer Station Recycling Special Revenue Fund with 58% of said funds, plus accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be placed in the Town's General Fund, 28% returned to the Town of Sugar Hill, and 14% returned to the Town of Easton. This article is contingent upon the passage of Article 23. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney

Motion to amend Article 21 by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney, to correct the article to say Article 22 (not article 23). There being no discussion, the amendment passed unanimously.

There being no discussion, Article 21, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 22. Money in General Fund to Transfer Station Equipment

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand eight hundred sixty dollars (\$36,860.00) to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This represents the funds from the discontinuation of the Transfer Station Recycling Special Revenue Funds. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is contingent upon the passage of Article 22. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

Motion by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney, to amend Article 22 to say Article 21 (not article 22). There being no discussion, the amendment passes unanimously.

There being no discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 22, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 23. Adopt RSA 41:11-a Authority to Rent/Lease Property

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, to rent or lease municipal properties for up to 5 years during periods not needed for public use without further vote or ratification of the town. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Holly spoke to the article explaining that according to RSA 41:11-a, by default a town is able to lease any property that they own for up to one year. This article gives the Board of Selectmen the ability to lease any property they own for up to five years before they have to bring it back to a town vote.

Dawn Steele and Paul Foss both stated they felt the Board of Selectmen needed to bring these issues to the voters on a yearly basis rather than making it every five years.

There being no further discussion, the article was called to vote. Article 23 failed by majority vote.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 16 through Article 23 by Tim Burnell, second Marsha Luce. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 24. Adopt RSA 41:14-a Acquisition/Sale of Property

To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a to allow the Selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Jill Brewer spoke to the article stating this will allow the Board of Selectmen to accept offers of donations of land and easements which we are unable to do presently (ie. the Profile Trail that is going to be built between Franconia and Bethlehem, the Art Walk, etc.). It has to be presented to the Planing Board and the Conservation Commission for their recommendation and then two public hearings must be held to get input from residents. The town attorney said if we want to acquire easements, this article has to be adopted by the town.

There was concern raised that even though the Planning Board and Conservation Commission are involved in this process, residents are still unable to vote on the matter. The final decision is made by the Board of Selectmen. It was noted that these easements could have been brought before the town as warrant articles so that residents could debate it, consider it, and decide on it.

There being no further discussion, the article was called to a vote.

Article 24 failed: Yes - 22 No - 39

Article 25. Road Acceptance - Trail Side Road

To see if the Town will vote to accept Trailside Road as a Class V town road. The deed to this road would not be accepted until all required work to bring it back to town specifications have been completed at the cost of the road's residents.

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, seconded by Heidi Ballentine. Janet Levenson, President of the Trailside at Franconia Notch Homeowners Association, spoke to the article. She stated Trailside Road is located off Old County Road. You take the first right off on Franconia Mountains Road and you come to a fire cistern. It is at that fire cistern that Trailside Road begins.

It is about a half mile long. The town does maintain up to and around the cistern at the present time.

Trailside Road consists of 15 lots with 14 property owners, and as of this past summer we have now seen 15 lots developed. At this point, since these residents are generating a good bit of revenue for the town, we are requesting the town take over the plowing and maintenance of our half mile section of road.

Scott Leslie, Franconia Road Agent, stated he is not against taking over more roads; however, there are a lot of roads in town that can potentially be taken over by the town and it is going to require more people working in the highway department and more equipment. This road is a half mile long, but that is a mile of plowing, in and out, and maintaining it with gravel. This road and the one on the other side (Balancing Rock Road), it is another half hour for our trucks to do these two roads.

Jon Peabody questioned why the roads were not brought up to town specifications prior to being presented in the warrant article. Jill Brewer stated it would not be fair to ask the association to pay for upgrades if the town did not vote to take over the road.

Peter Grote stated taking over a road sets a precedent and it will require maintenance and a complete infrastructure addition to accommodate it. He suggested tabling this article until we have a better understanding of what the long-term ramifications are. Janet Levenson stated the association was required by the town to get an "as built" survey to give all the specifications of the road, the condition of the road, and what was required for the road. This has been well studied and all that information is available and has been passed on to the Planning Board.

Paul Foss stated he believes this request is legitimate and if all the conditions have been met, including the Planning Board's original conditions, then they should be eligible to have their roads accepted by the Town.

There being no further discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 25 passed by majority vote.

Article 26. Road Acceptance - Balancing Rock Road

To see if the Town will vote to accept Balancing Rock Road as a Class V town road. The deed to this road would not be accepted until all required work to bring it back to town specifications have been completed at the cost of the road's residents.

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Steve Plant spoke to the article. He stated there are 10 lots on Balancing Rock Road, eight are developed and six are owned by full-time residents. We generate about \$70,000.00 in taxes per year.

Scott Leslie stated this road needs a bit more work and they have to fix the hammerhead at the end of the trucks can turn around. The road is not in bad shape-- neither of them are. He stated he is not against taking over these roads, but if we get five or six more down the road it is going to be an issue to take care of them.

There being no further discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 26 passed by majority vote.

Article 27. Adopt RSA 674:40-a Authority Streets

Shall the Town delegate to the Board of Selectmen the authority to accept dedicated streets pursuant to RSA 674:40-a. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Holly spoke to the article stating when the request to take over the two roads this year came to the Board of Selectmen their research revealed there really is no town policy on this. This article will allow a road that has already been approved by the Planning Board to be accepted by the Board of Selectmen without having to come to town meeting. This RSA does require there to be a public hearing to give residents the opportunity to be heard on the matter.

Paul Foss stated he feels that the vote for roads being taken over by the town be brought to town meeting to allow for discussion and decision. Marsha Luce stated residents are being asked to give up their right to vote.

After a brief discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 27 failed: Yes - 21 No - 30

Motion by Jill Brewer, second by Heidi Ballentine, to restrict reconsideration of Article 24 through Article 27. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 28. Establish Welfare Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Welfare Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of providing general assistance and to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 to be put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further to name the Selectmen as Agents to Expend from said fund. Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Marsha Luce, second by Bob Whitney. Holly spoke to the article stating the town overspent the welfare line (which is the only line item we are allowed to overspend) by almost \$14,500.00 this year because we had some pretty tough cases. We are trying to establish a welfare fund so if this happens again there is a fund to pull from so we are not overspending the bottom line of our budget.

After a brief discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 28 passed by unanimously.

Article 29. Renewable Energy

Shall the Town express its support for the State of New Hampshire to commit to generating 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, and inform the Governor and the State Legislature of this intention. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Jill Brewer spoke to the article stating this originally came as a petitioned article and the Board of Selectmen decided to support it and put it in as a warrant article. It is just expressing support and not committing to any financial obligation.

Walter Palmer stated the State of Massachusetts adopted a similar renewable energy requirement and the governor then decided that renewable energy meant buying energy from Hydro-Quebec in Canada. Is there any language that clarifies or refines what we consider renewable energy because it backfired in Massachusetts.

After a brief discussion, Walter Palmer made a Motion to Amend Article 29 to add the following language, "...generating 100% of its energy from local or in-state renewable sources...", second by Peter Grote.

There being no discussion, the amendment passed by majority vote.

There being no further discussion, the article was called to a vote. Article 29 passed by majority vote.

Article 30. Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) for the support of the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Kevin Johnson spoke to the article explaining the efforts of the Chamber to bring tourism and visitors to the community and to staff the information booth which provided information to over 2,000 visitors in 2018.

There being no further discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 31. Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 32. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 33. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 34. 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 (\$2,500.00) for the support of the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 35. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 36. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 37. Center for New Beginnings

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of the Center for New Beginnings. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 38. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 39. 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 the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 40. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 41. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 42. 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 the Support Center at Burch House. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 43. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 44. 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 Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney.

There being no discussion, the article passed unanimously.

Article 45. Combine Non-Profit Funding Requests

To see if the Town will vote to combine the annual non-profit requests into one warrant article. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The article was read, moved by Tim Burnell, second by Bob Whitney. Jill spoke to the article explaining this would just combine the last 14 warrant articles into one warrant article. Any new requests would be a separate warrant article for the first year, and once approved at town meeting, would be added to the other requests.

Motion to Amend Article 45 made by Susan Moore, second by Tim Burnell, to add the following language at the end of the article, "...with any new request presented by separate warrant article."

There being no discussion, the amendment passed by majority vote.

After a brief discussion, Article 45, as amended, was called to a vote.
Article 45, as amended, failed: Yes - 13 No - 25

Article 46. To Hear Reports

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

The Moderator stated those reports can be found in the town report.

Article 47. Transact any other business

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

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Tim Burnell, second by Peter Grote.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Wills
Franconia Town Clerk