

Town of Hopkinton, NH
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2019

The 2019 Town of Hopkinton Annual Meeting was opened at 9:00AM by Moderator Bruce Ellsworth.

The Moderator introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He announced that the meeting is being recorded. He reminded everyone that if you wish to vote, you must check in with the Supervisors and he pointed out where the emergency exits were located. He then asked for a moment of silence to recognize Hopkinton residents who have passed away during the past year.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Stephen Pecora and the National Anthem was sung by Kathy Donahoe.

The Moderator thanked those who helped to make this meeting possible. He introduced the Select Board: Jim O'Brien, Chair, Ken Traum, Vice Chair, Sara Persechino, Sabrina Dunlap, Steven Whitley, Town Administrator Neal Cass, Finance Director Deb Gallant, and Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ben Bynum. He mentioned that Ben will be taking the minutes of the meeting. He continued with the introductions of the Town Attorney Sharon Cuddy Somers, and the Supervisors of the Checklist: Virginia Haines, Jean Lightfoot, Candice Garvin, and assisted by Brenda Scorda.

He finished by thanking all those who arranged for and participated in the budget hearings, the informational hearings, the set-up for today's and Tuesday's voting day and those who developed all the data and statistics that are here before you today, and he also thanked Steve Lux for his assistance with the sound system.

Moderator Ellsworth stated there was a request made by a couple of people to make some announcements. Dick Horner thanked the Moderator and requested that the following be entered into the record of this Town Meeting.

"Richard "Dick" Gourley, was the owner/operator of Ken Ross Oil Company in the early 1960's. Dick belonged to many organizations in Hopkinton. Organizations he belonged to or held volunteer positions with are: the Kimball Pond Association; the Salvation Army; the Hopkinton Fire Department, the Hopkinton Ambulance Squad; the Hopkinton Fair Association; and the Town of Hopkinton Trustees of the Trust Fund. He also enjoyed working on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad as a conductor, entertaining the many passengers on board, as well as volunteering in many capacities in other organizations. Most notably, Dick donated over 8,500 hours to the Mr. Fixit Program, for which he received the Spirit of NH award in 2006 from Governor Lynch, which recognizes outstanding contributions in volunteerism. He also donated over 60 gallons of blood to the Red Cross over his lifetime. Dick was well known for his color of Rangoon red and his affinity for Lawrence Welk's music and the television variety show. He will be remembered for his quick sense of humor, his integrity, his kindness, his love of family and his willingness to help others. Dick had nicknames for everyone he knew and every place in NH. Most notable of these were: Hopkinton was Beverly Hills and Contoocook was River City. His quiet gentle way was of helping others and he will be missed by those who knew him. Those

who did not, will be unaware of what they missed in a real New England character. Thank you Dick Gourley.”

Library Trustee Emilie Burack presented an update on the status of the Library repairs following the fire that damaged the building on August 3, 2018. She explained that she is one of the Library Trustees and that they wanted to give everyone an update. Since August 3rd, when the Library was struck by lightning, she explained that she is reminded daily of all the great things in town like the Hopkinton Fire Department, which she thanked. She is thankful for the local libraries that opened their doors to all Hopkinton residents, the town department staff who offered to share their space with them; and also members of the community that supported them. She is happy to report that the town’s insurance company, Primex will be underwriting most of the expenses to bring the library back to what it was on the morning of August 3rd. This event gave them a chance to review all the aspects of the layout and service plan, when the building was empty. She explained that luckily, they were armed with lots of data, a long range plan, and surveys about what the library needed in the future. This allowed them to reimagine the space. Many of the improvements have been made possible by the outpouring of unsolicited donations. Energy efficiency has been improved throughout the building. The lighting has been improved. Quiet study and meeting spaces have been created. The technology and the furnishing have been upgraded. A mini library has continued to operate in the pool table room at the Slusser Center. Over 10,000 items have been circulated out of the small space.

Library Trustee Emilie Burack reminded everyone that their online services continue to be available. She publicly thanked their Library Director Donna Dunlap, saying that she has done so much to keep the library open through this rather large bump in the road. She also thanked Karen Dixon, Leigh Maynard, Laura MacKenzie, Barbara Diaz, and Nancy Raymond, who have managed to work in such a small space and have done a fabulous job. The expectation is to reopen in May, 2019.

Moderator Ellsworth reminded everyone that the Farmer’s Market is at the Town Hall on Saturdays and is open until 1:00 p.m. He continued that the Hopkinton Boy Scout Troop #77 has asked for a moment to speak and the Moderator admitted that he was rather proud to learn this morning that the comments will be made by Tom Ellsworth, his grandson.

Tom began by sharing that he is the senior patrol leader for Boy Scout Troop #77, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this August. He continued saying that the troop was created in the first decade of scouting in America on August 8th, 1919. He shared that John Spears was the first scout master of Troop #77, chartered by a group of citizens from Contoocook. Tom continued saying that hundreds of young men have been scouts and more than sixty have become Eagle Scouts and it wouldn’t have been possible without the leadership of the scout masters and the support of families and the Town of Hopkinton. The scouts and the historical society are gathering stories from scouts. He asked that if you were a scout or know a scout or have any information to please contact them. A reunion is planned for August, 2019.

Moderator Ellsworth introduced the Chairman of the Select Board Jim O’Brien, for a special presentation. He said he had the privilege to represent the Board for a few special recognitions.

He thanked the state representatives from Hopkinton: David Luneau, Mel Myler, Mary Jane Walner and Senator Dan Feltes. He expounded that they do a tremendous job representing our town, continuing that Hopkinton is well represented in the leadership positions in Concord, the Chairman of the Education Committee, Chairman of the House Finance Committee and the Senate Majority Leader. He explained that they are all open to Hopkinton residents. He asked that they stand and be recognized. He further explained that each year the Select Board recognizes town staff. Chairman O'Brien stated how wonderful the town staff are and this year they are recognizing Robin Buchanan for her ten year anniversary. She is the Administrative Assessing Assistant and the first person you see when you enter the Town Hall. He joked that Robin's favorite thing is taking notes, especially when they go late into the night. He asked that she be recognized for her years of service. He also wanted to recognize the tremendous library staff and the leadership of Donna Dunlap. They have made do and served our community extremely well. He shared a story about how the library is using the pool table room and how there are several members of the Slusser Center that like to play pool and that they will clear the table for them to play.

With the news a few weeks ago that the Town's long term Treasurer was stepping down, Chairman O'Brien wanted to recognize Bonnie Cressy and he asked her to come up to the podium. He shared the fact that she has been the Treasurer for the past nineteen (19) years.

With the resignation last year of Select Board member Bob Gerseny, the Board asked former Select Board Member Sara Persechino if she would rejoin the Board to complete Bob's term until March, 2019. He explained that it isn't an easy thing to do and she did it extremely well.

Moderator Ellsworth explained the procedures for the meeting and that he will not be constrained by Robert's Rules and he will keep the comments focused on the article on the table. He also explained that if you disagree with a procedure, please do so by calling out "point of order" at which time we will vote as to whether the Moderator's decision will stand. He continued by giving more detailed instructions on the procedure for sharing comments. He included the fact that you must be a registered voter to vote, but that you may speak and he asked that non-registered voters identify themselves and state a reason why they wish to speak and explained that the Select Board intends to move to restrict reconsideration of the article after each article. Requests for a written ballot, will be done on an individual warrant article, and it must be in writing by five (5) voters present and be made prior to the vote. He explained the procedure for a ballot vote. Ballot boxes are located at six locations. Your name tag will be checked when you vote. Different color ballots will be used for each vote. Please put your selected "yes" or "no" ballot in the box and put the other half in the waste basket.

Article 1, Election of Officers and Article 2, Zoning Amendments were voted on by written ballot last Tuesday. He read the results.

Article 1: Election of Officers

To choose all necessary Town Officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated: (*-Elected)

Select Board Members - Two for a 3 Year Term

*Ken Traum - 890

*Anna Wells - 918

Town Clerk/Tax Collector - One for a 3 Year Term

Carol Harless- 469

Chuck Gangel-460

Amy O'Brien -395

Moderator Ellsworth explained that there was a challenge to this race, since there was only a nine vote difference, so a recount will be held on Monday, March 18th at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. He also explained that it will be available to watch online for those who are completely bored with their lives.

The recount was held on Monday, March 18, 2019 for this race with the following results:

*Carol Harless 470

Chuck Gangel 462

Amy O'Brien 395

Budget Committee Member - Two for a 3 Year Term

*Janet Krzyzaniak - 941

*Mark Zankel - 885

Library Trustee - One for 3 Year Term

*Nancy Skarmeas – 1,087

Cemetery Trustee - One for 3 Year Term

*Judy Hampe - 1,083

Trustee of the Trust Funds - One for 3 Year Term

*Christine Barton – 1,053

The Moderator asked that all those that were just named and elected to a town position on Tuesday, March 12th should come forward at the end of this meeting to be sworn in.

Moderator Ellsworth continued saying that we are ready for the remaining articles on the warrant. He explained that he asked the Select Board to pre-assign the members who will move and second each article. He will announce who will make and second it, and he will invite the motioner to read the article and speak to it. He stated that at that point, there will be time to ask questions and comment, but please come up to the microphone to do that. He finished by asking if there were any objections to this process.

Article 3: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$ 7,282,386 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).
(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).

MOTION MADE BY: **Ken Traum**
SECONDED BY: **Jim O'Brien**

Ken Traum explained they would be starting with the powerpoint presentation shown on the screen. He continued with his remarks and thanked everyone who came out to decide how to spend or not spend all of our tax dollars and that he appreciated everyone showing up despite the earthquake (minor) last night. He thanked his fellow Select Board members and all the committees involved in the budgeting process. He also thanked all the wonderful town employees and Department Heads. He explained that he would start with a presentation on Articles 3, 4 and 5, which effects the budget.

He shared how the budget process began over the summer with the Select Board deciding to hold any increases to less than 4%. He shared that this was consistent with what the Budget Committee was okay with and this goal was shared with the Department Heads before they prepared their budgets. The Department Heads presented their budgets to the Select Board and also presented capital expenditures to the Capital Improvement Committee (CIP). There was fruitful discussion and in the end with great difficulty, the Select Board ended up cutting \$79,000 from the Department Head's requests and \$300,000 from the CIP committee's request. The Select Board plans to use \$135,000 from the fund balance to offset taxes, which he explained was \$195,000 less than what was available last year. The budget was then presented to the Budget Committee and was unanimously approved by them. He then presented the Budget explaining that it resulted in a 3.95% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes, which is an increase of \$0.30 in the town portion of the tax rate. The operating revenue and expenses show an increase of \$145,530. The capital reserve and trust funds are down \$118,000. He shared that the fund balance was down \$195,000.

He then explained that he would now go into more detail. He said that on the revenue side, they are expecting an increase in the non-property revenue to be \$13,442 for a total of \$3,211,492. Mr. Traum explained that the biggest reason was a \$20,000 decrease on interest and penalties, which he thought was a good thing, because less people are having trouble paying their taxes. He said that motor vehicle revenues are expected to increase by \$20,000 and ambulance charges are expected to go up by \$20,000, because of more efficient billing of insurers. Select Board Member Traum shared that the proposed budget is \$158,972 or 2.23%. He expounded upon the details in those numbers explaining that there was a \$31,291 savings in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office around the move out of the Bates building and the elimination of a part time position. The Board has proposed a 3% merit wage pool increase, which equals \$70,652. He continued that they are expecting a 4% increase in health insurance expense; an increase of \$28,429 with no change in coverage.

Mr. Traum shared that the Board has recognized for a while that not enough has been spent on the roads. They continue to propose a 5% annual increase in paving and shimming totaling \$16,000 in this budget. The debt payments will decrease by \$17,556, mostly because of the

Ransmeier Open Space bond maturing in 2019. He then spoke about the warrant articles for the capital reserve funds (\$502,00) and the expendable trust fund (\$45,000) accounts and their impact on the budget of a total of \$547,000, which is \$118,000 less than last year. He explained that the biggest impacts are an additional \$45,000 for the fire department vehicle replacement, resulting in the town having to put away \$150,000 as they look to replace Engine 2, at a possible cost of \$600,000 and an additional \$20,000 towards a DPW vehicle replacement, resulting in \$245,000 in reserves for 2019, for the replacement of a truck, van and mower. The budget proposes a \$25,000 reduction in reserves for police vehicles, which will leave it with \$33,000 in reserve. He continued that there is a reduction of \$75,000 in Town Hall renovations, leaving \$111,000 to begin the renovation process and he wanted to clarify that those improvements need to happen whether or not the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office remains at the Town Hall. The Board proposes a \$50,000 reduction in the reserve for a new ambulance, which leaves a contribution of \$25,000 this year, with an anticipated purchase year of 2024. They are also proposing a \$50,000 reduction in reserves for sewer equipment and sludge removal, leaving a reserve of \$61,000. He explained that the next big anticipated expense would be for sludge removal in 2023 or later. The Board added \$23,000 to the town facilities maintenance trust for repaving at the police department driveway. There are no warrant articles this year pertaining to economic development. He gave an update on the \$30,000 economic development warrant article from last year, relating to the two tax increment finance districts and the land swap with the State of New Hampshire. He added the swap is still in process. He expounded upon the use of the unreserved fund balance that he had mentioned earlier, explaining that it was a big hurdle this year, not having the \$330,000 which was available for use last year to offset taxes. It declined by \$195,235 this year. He summarized by saying the 2019 tax impact is an increase of \$180,659 or 3.95% or \$0.30 on the tax rate.

Moderator Ellsworth opened the article up for discussion.

Sue Strickford spoke that she wanted to amend the budget in the amount of \$31,291. Her proposed article read "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,313,677 for general maintenance operations."

She explained that this is the amount of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Deputy salary, that was removed from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's budget. She continued that each year the Department Heads must present and explain their budgets. She said that for some reason the Tax Collector had overlooked presenting this in the budget. Under RSA 42:45c, combining of the office requires that we shall appoint a deputy. Not if I feel like it, but it is the law. She feels that once the deputy is appointed the deputy should be trained and be able to serve if the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is not there for a multitude of reasons. She shared an example of wanting a marriage license and your fiancé flew in from Florida and the Town Clerk wasn't available. Who would sign the license, since she explained there is only a certain period of time for that license being valid. She continued by asking what if you wanted a birth certificate for your child so they could play baseball. Those require a certified copy. What if someone is deceased and you need a certified copy of a death certificate when the Town Clerk is not around. She can't imagine why we would operate without a deputy to sign them. She continued to explain that Asst. TC/TC Ben Bynum could do these, but couldn't sign them, since he is not a resident of

town and the deputy must be a resident and is chosen by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector with approval from the Select Board and removed by the same process. She feels strongly that if the law says “shall” then the town should do it.

The Moderator asked if there is anyone else who would like to speak to the amendment. Mr. Traum spoke saying that the Select Board tried to balance all the needs of the town and once the office moved to the Town Hall, the Board realized that it was running smoothly and didn’t feel that a deputy has to be a part time employee and that a deputy could be a volunteer that would come in as needed. The issue about moving the office had come up over the years and he explained that it didn’t seem to make sense to him. After the move, he looked at what was happening and looked at the budget and he believed there were a number of reasons to move. He has come to the conclusion that it isn’t necessary to add the dollars back in. He advised that the amount would be advisory and the Select Board could apply it to something else.

The Moderator explained that they will be voting on the amendment. Point of Order was yelled from the audience pertaining to a second to the amendment. The Moderator said that there was a second.

Christine Hoyt spoke saying she was confused, because Sue said it was the law; could someone clarify.

Select Board Chair O’Brien said he could clarify and explained that Sue was correct. The question he explained was whether it would be a part time paid position. He expounded that the statute doesn’t require it to be a paid position. It could be a volunteer or a stipended position.

Janet Krzyzaniak shared that she can’t believe that if this Board or this group put in the money for a specific job that the Board would spend it on something else, especially if it was approved by a big number.

Ken Traum explained that the Board might not, but that they have that option. Janet Krzyzaniak explained that she understood what Ken said. She was incredulous that an elected Select Board member would ignore the will of the people. Judy Dibble came up to the microphone and had a question. She wondered if the assistant could be the deputy. Mr. O’Brien stated they could be if they were a resident of Hopkinton, but currently that full time employee is not a resident.

George Langwasser spoke to the amendment. He believed it was okay to have volunteers, but that the person who would be the deputy would have to be qualified to be able to use the computer system and meet the qualifications through the state, so not just anyone could do the job. He doesn’t believe in the argument that a volunteer could do it.

The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The voice vote was too close to call, so the Moderator called for a show of hands to be counted.

Yes 112 No 130 The amendment failed.

Ben Jorgensen came to the microphone and explained that he wanted to add some transparency to the budget process explaining that he is a member of the Hopkinton Rescue Squad. He

explained that unlike the fire and ambulance services, they don't have their own line item in the budget, because they are a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1965 to provide services to Hopkinton and the surrounding towns. He continued that they are a volunteer organization. An \$8,500 dollar stipend from the town is combined with fund raising and donations to provide rescue services like extrication, and search and rescue 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He explained that they have worked on car accidents, a bridge collapse, an airplane crash and in 1989, the squad was given a commendation by the Governor for a mass casualty event at the Hopkinton State Fair. He thanked the citizens for their support and looked forward to another 50 years of service to the town.

Arnold Coda referenced the tax change, as it was seen on the screen and he asked if it included Articles 4 and 5, if they pass. Ken Traum responded yes. Mr. Coda then asked what it would be if the articles don't pass. Town Administrator Neal Cass responded that it would be \$366,342 less, which would be a \$0.59 drop in the tax rate.

Ken Traum then explained that with the warrant articles, we are including \$547,000. He continued that if none of the warrant articles passed, it would be a tax rate reduction of \$0.88 per thousand. He finished by saying if they don't pass, we will be passing the costs onto the future. Mr. Traum finished by saying the Board is trying to stay ahead of expenses. Mr. Coda thanked Mr. Traum for his explanation.

Lorenca Rosal explained that she wasn't sure if she should be speaking, but she was wondering about the Q & A document regarding the Bates building. She said her job is in PR and she appreciates the difficulty of writing them, but it is unclear on several points. She wanted to know more since there were several issues that would cost money in the document that were unclear and she wanted to know if they are included in the budget. Ken Traum shared that there is \$111,000 in capital reserves for town hall renovations that would cover some of that. Mrs. Rosal wanted to know if we are going to discuss the money again, when we get to these articles and are the numbers going to change. Mr. Traum responded no, they are not going to change.

The Moderator asked if he could interpret the question as, are the numbers on the Q & A included in the budget. Select Board Member Sara Persechino explained that they were included in the operating budget. Mrs. Rosal continued with her questions about the costs associated with the parking, the record storage and the renovations, since there aren't any numbers on the sheet or any legal fees associated with the Bates building. Ms. Persechino responded no.

Ken Traum clarified that the \$111,000 is already available to start to address the issues at the Town Hall, as are the legal fees.

As there was no further discussion, Moderator Bruce Ellsworth called for a vote on the budget as written.

Article 3 was voted on and passed unanimously.

Article 4: Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 502,000 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

New & Replacement Equip. & Vehicles for Public Works & Highway Dept.	\$ 245,000
Replacement & Equipping of Ambulance	25,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions	150,000
Transfer Station Equipment & Facilities	25,000
Recreation Facilities	15,000
Dam Maintenance and Construction	10,000
Revaluation of Property	32,000
TOTAL	\$ 502,000

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).

MOTION MADE BY: Ken Traum

SECONDED BY: Sabrina Dunlap

Select Board member Ken Traum spoke to the article explaining that he wouldn't speak much, because it was all on the powerpoint presentation.

Ian Tewksbury asked that the Board consider adding the tax impact of the articles in the information for each article. Mr. Traum answered by saying that the rule of thumb is one penny of impact on the tax rate is between six and seven thousand dollars.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Ellsworth called for a vote.

Article 4 was voted on and passed.

Article 5: Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 to be added to previously established Town Facilities General Trust Fund.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).

MOTION MADE BY: Ken Traum

SECONDED BY: Jim O'Brien

Janet Krzyzaniak asked the Board to explain what this amount is for. Ken Traum explained that this is for paving the driveway/parking lot at the police department.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Ellsworth asked for a vote.

Article 5 was voted on and passed.

Article 6: Authorization to Sell the Bates Building

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the Bates Building (former

Bates Library) at 846 Main Street, identified on the Town Tax Maps at Map 101, Lot 085-000, with sufficient land; further, that the Select Board shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town and as determined by the Probate Court.

After reading the article the Moderator explained that he had a petition signed by five (5) people for a paper ballot. He explained that he also had a motion to consider taking Article 7 before Article 6. He then read Article 7. Christine Hoyt seconded the motion.

Dick Lord spoke to the motion saying that it is obvious that we wouldn't want to sell the building if we are going to use it. Select Board member Sara Persechino shared that the Board chose this order because Article 6 is binding to the town and Article 7 is not.

Moderator Ellsworth asked for any further questions and then read the motion **"To move Article 7 before Article 6"**. Moderator Ellsworth explained the motion again and asked for a vote.

Christine Hoyt asked if it was appropriate to ask for a ballot vote and the Moderator explained that he did not have a petition by five (5) voters to do that. The voice vote was too close to call, so a count of hands was requested by the Moderator.

Yes 177 No 103 Motion passed.

Article 7: Petition Article on Location of Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

To see if the Town will vote to support restoring the physical location of the Hopkinton Town Clerk and Tax Collector's office to its previous location in the Bates Building at 846 Main Street in Contoocook Village.

By Petition

(The Select Board DOES NOT recommend this article (5-0)).

MOTION MADE BY: **Christine Hoyt**

SECONDED BY: **Janet Krzyzaniak**

Vote: No 172 Yes 156 Article failed.

. Jane Schoch said she called the Attorney General's Office to see about finding the legal answer as to whether the Town Clerk/Tax Collector determines where his/her office is located. The person she spoke to said if she could find the answer, it may be available from the Tax Collector's Office, because they were all notified or called that the decision had been decided. In her opinion, the Tax Collector still has a choice of where they want their office. She continued that in the Concord Monitor last night, the article stated that the Chair of the Select Board (Jim O'Brien) would take town meeting decisions under advisement and that the Board has the choice. Select Board member Persechino explained that the town's legal counsel stated the Select Board are the arbiters of the use of the town owned buildings. She read what town counsel had given the Board. "RSA 41:11-a clearly states that the Select Board manages all real property owned by the town and regulates it's use. Implicit in this statute is that the Select Board regulate

use by determining which town property will host the town hall. As a result, the legislative body of voters at town meeting cannot mandate that the Select Board operate the town hall or town clerk's office at any one place. Further, the petitioned warrant article only says supports restoring the town clerk's office." She explained that the body can give them a suggestion, but the Town Clerk cannot decide to operate in a building that the Select Board have control of, without their consent. Jane Schoch stated that seemed confusing to her and asked if the Tax Collector had the right to choose the location of their office. Ms. Persechino responded that the statute would trump that law with regard to the use of the buildings. Cheryl Morse shared that the former location was great for her. She continued by saying she was a former Select Board and School Board member, and she worries about liability. She worries about the liability of having as few as one town official in that building. She explained that it also hasn't been secured like many other town's have done. It would mean securing two separate buildings. She said Hopkinton is inconvenient for her, but twice a year she is okay with being inconvenienced. Bill Chapin Sr. said that for the past 80 years, he has lived part of the year on Maple Street. He shared that his mother was born in the Davis building in town in 1905 and explained she was perhaps the largest donor to the Bates building. He explained that Jesse Gould and his mother were life long friends and were very pleased that he could give back to the town by donating money that he had made over the last 65 years to the Bates building. He said that his mother and Jesse were very pleased with the building and he would like to see the building not be sold. Ben Cochrane read some reasons that he and some other people came up with for keeping the Town Clerk at the Bates building. First, it is completely set up for it, including a vault and that the vault is very important to protect our town records. It has easy access for the elderly and is in good condition and has safety systems for the protection of employees and the public. They think that moving everyone together in one building puts more people in harms way, if there was an attack. They also believe that the proximity to the banks cannot be ignored and there is plenty of parking at the Bates building. He continued by explaining that it splits the traffic between the buildings to help with congestion. He explained that it is nice to be able to see how busy the Bates Building is without having to go inside. He worries that expanding the loop for parking at the Hopkinton Town Hall would have a negative effect on the residential driveway that is shared. The green bags that are required for garbage are sold at the Town Clerk's office, which is convenient for Contoocook residents and selling the property would require subdividing the land. He pointed out that probate court is involved and more renovations will be needed to the Town Hall. He is worried that the renovations will detract from the beauty of the building. He asked how much sense does it make to go to the trouble and expense when there is already an office. He thinks the Bates building will have less maintenance issues than the Town Hall and the monetary benefit from the sale does not warrant the legal and physical efforts. He continued that the monies being split between the library and Town Hall to accommodate the Town Clerk's office, would not result in a reduction in the current very high tax rate. He believes the promise of "one stop shopping" isn't a very compelling reason to get rid of a perfectly good building that was donated for the benefit of the town. Mr. Cochrane continued by asking what would happen if the town hall burned and was a total loss? He said that at least the town would have a building to conduct business in. Mr. Cochrane said it is time to look at this with common sense. He said we were told this was a temporary move due to personnel issues, so the personnel issue needs to be fixed and not the property. He feels that there are unanswered questions, as to why legal counsel told the Select Board to move the town clerk to town hall and questions about the authority to do so.

This doesn't allow the citizens to make an informed decision. He continued that keeping the Town Clerk at the Bates building would honor the word of the Select Board when they said it would return in March. He stated that it is hard to believe that none of the board members voted against this when they promised the Town Clerk would return to the Bates building in March. He asked that they heed the yankee wisdom "Don't put all your eggs in the same basket and if it ain't broke don't fix it" and asked that the meeting vote "no" on Article 6.

The Moderator reminded everyone that we are voting on Article 7. Board member Persechino responded that no one on the Select Board promised to move the Town Clerk back. She explained that the Board did decide after an investigation, to temporarily move the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office and that after seeing how the office worked, during the budget process, the Board decided to recommend keeping the office at the Town Hall. She shared the Board's opposition to Article 7. She also pointed out that when the recommendation was made, the current Town Clerk/Tax Collector did not oppose it and that all three candidates said they could make it work in either location. Referencing a handout, she said there were several factors used to make this decision. She explained that the first one was operational efficiencies with the necessary collaboration between employees in the Tax/Clerk, Finance and Assessing Depts. She said the Board has estimated a cost savings for 2019 at \$33,751, and they expect additional savings in future years, by eliminating duplicate equipment, as well as heating and maintenance costs. She also pointed out the convenience of all the town business in one location. She explained that an extended survey showed that 2-3 people per day were showing up at the Town Hall that needed to go to the Bates building. Some were just at the wrong building, but some needed services from the different departments. The Board also worried about the safety and security of the employees and that there were times when there was only one employee at the Bates building. She pointed out that there are always other staff members at the Town Hall and that if the Town Clerk's Office moves back, they won't be able to sell the Bates building. She finished up by saying that the number one concern the Board hears from citizens, is to reduce the budget and the tax burden, which they are finding increasingly harder to do and they believe this is one of those things they can do and that it is better for town services. Steve Adams spoke saying that we have already discussed the \$31,000 for the Deputy Town Clerk position and that everyone feels that could be handled by a volunteer in either location. He stated the savings according to the handout is \$2,460 so the savings are not very large. Ms. Persechino said that if the office was moved back to the Bates building the \$31,000 would need to be added back into the budget to make sure no one ended up working alone and the Board feels it isn't as necessary at the Town Hall because of the other staff members present. Mr. Adams followed up by asking about the fact that the Board feels a volunteer is adequate and the assistant is already there, so why does the location make a difference? Ms. Persechino responded that it would work in the current location, because other staff members are there. She used the example of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector going on vacation leaving the Assistant alone in the Bates building, which might lead the Board to the conclusion that the town would need a part time deputy position instead of a volunteer who would be available to sign things. Steve Adams pointed out that if the volunteer isn't qualified, it doesn't matter how many other people are in the building. Sara Persechino responded that it makes a difference for safety and liability purposes.

Moderator Ellsworth asked the staff who were going to help with the written ballot to please come forward while the discussion continued to pick up the ballots and prepare for the vote. Paul Hebert explained that he moved to town recently and isn't nostalgic about the Bates building, but he had done some rough calculations including the \$33,000 in savings, selling the building and the tax revenue once it is sold. He figures over 15 years, it would save about \$750,000 and wondered if the nostalgia was worth

that much. He said that it isn't a Frank Lloyd Wright building, so he can't figure out why there would be much opposition to the efficiency of having the office at the Town Hall. Eric Leadbeater felt that after Bill Chapin mentioned his Godmother, he was compelled to say something. He said it isn't nostalgic. He shared that this town spends a lot of money, and is running out of space and the town has a building, it might need it soon. He wouldn't want to get rid of a good building that would cost more to replace than the savings that were just mentioned, when we don't know what we would need to accommodate in the future. He pointed out that there is no rush to sell the building. Beth Taylor added she believes it was a mistake to move the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and money was wasted on renovations at the Town Hall. She continued that the office worked really well at the Bates building and she referenced Eric's comment that there could be other uses for that building. She believes that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector should be moved back, because it worked.

Chuck Dibble stated he is curious about some of the statements made by Select Board member Persechino. He mentioned an article in the Concord Monitor, which mentioned the candidates forum and Chuck Gangel; the seven year incumbent, who is facing two challengers, told the audience that the decision was made by the Select Board, as a cost cutting measure. The Select Board responded that wasn't true and Ms. Persechino commented to the Concord Monitor "Chuck's response was untrue." He continued that the Select Board has stated repeatedly that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's move to the Town Hall was not a cost saving measure, but the results of an investigation after receiving citizens complaints. He then asked if the Board's position had changed? Ms. Persechino responded that it had not. She expounded that the decision made in the fall, was made on a temporary basis, after complaints were filed and an investigation was conducted and she continued that it was unfortunate, but they could not share more of the details for reputation reasons. She said she realizes that it has led to a lot of confusion and consternation in town, but it was done on a temporary basis in the fall. She explained that since then, the Board decided to propose in the budget to keep the office at the Town Hall, because the Board thinks it is working well and it will save the town money. She continued that the two decisions were separate decisions.

Chuck Dibble repeated that the Board had said on multiple occasions that it was not a cost cutting measure. Ms. Persechino explained that it was not the decision made in the fall, but the separate decision about keeping it there now, is about cost savings and other concerns like liability. Emilia Fuechner explained that she had a couple of comments and questions. Her first question was whether there is a way to allocate money for security cameras, and a security system in the Bates building, to help when there is only one employee there. She wondered if she could make an amendment since there was a \$31,000 budget cut. She wondered how she would do that and the Moderator responded that the Board could answer the question of security. Ms. Persechino shared that she would not be on the Board after today, but that if the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office moved back to the Bates building, the Board would look into that. Ms. Fuechner added, as a new homeowner and a life long resident, she likes the Bates building. Its historical and convenient for everything she is supposed to do. She believes that it is important to keep at least one governmental building in Contoocook and it is very important to her.

Stephen Eckberg had a question about the non-binding nature of Article 7 and asked them to clarify whether it is because of the nature of the article or the language in the article. Board member Persechino responded that it was neither, it was because of the statutes. Mr. Eckberg

asked if it was because it was a petition article. Ms. Persechino replied it wasn't, it was because the laws don't give the legislative body the power to decide where the office is located.

Lorenca Rosal wanted to share, as someone who wrote NH history books, that the Town of Hopkinton is a historic district and she is having trouble understanding how the town will add parking and everything else and preserve the history of the town. She pointed out that no one else has mentioned the school district. She mentioned that she walks kids to school everyday and she worries about the traffic. She thinks it is an appalling idea to increase traffic on Main Street and wants to see the office moved back to the Bates building. David Feller began by thanking the Select Board and the Budget Committee for looking at our taxes and trying to spend the money wisely. He said he came to the meeting wondering how anyone could oppose the efficiency of having everything in one building, but after hearing everyone's comments, he has changed his mind a little. He said what he has heard in favor of the Bates building is: parking, post office and safety. Continuing, he said that in the thirty four years he has been paying taxes, when he has gone to the Bates building, the most cars he has ever seen is three maybe four. When he has attended numerous meetings at the Town Hall, he said he has had to walk up to thirty-five yards. He wasn't sure what the question of access to the post office is, since he gets his mail delivered to his house and he didn't understand why the Tax Collector couldn't do the same thing. He said that the safety of someone working alone is a big concern of his. He has worked in the manufacturing sector for a long time and it is illegal there. He sees the legal issues of being sued by a Town Clerk/Tax Collector versus the surviving family of an employee who dies while they are working alone is miniscule and he hates to tie the Select Board's hands, as to what they should do and after all the comments he has heard, he recommends voting down this article, but delay the sale of the building for a year and see how it goes, and next year see if anything new comes up. Sue Strickford, former Town Clerk/Tax Collector, stated that she had worked in various places and asked how the Board came to decide where to put the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. She remembered several collectors that worked out of their homes and she worked out of Dodge Insurance, Johnson and Porter, and the Grange Hall. When she started, she worked out of her own home, then the Grange and then the Bates building, when it became available. She explained that it was completely redone including safety, the counter is leadlined in case someone tried to shoot at you, the building has a big safe and a vault to store records, including books going back to the 1800's that are hand written. She was told they would go to the Town Hall and she thinks if they were put on the top floor, that they will end up on the bottom floor, due to their weight. She expounded that there are panic buttons and she knows this because she set one off by mistake and the police were there in two minutes. She asked if the Bates building is safer than the Town Hall, where if you lean on the front door you can walk in and it could burn down any minute when the Bates building is made of brick. She can't understand why suddenly there was a mandate to put town offices in specific places.

Ron Noyes thanked the Board for putting this idea forward, because he sees it as a real savings and not just reducing an increase and he thinks we need a lot more of it. He has spoken to people who have told him that if the taxes keep going up, they won't be able to stay in town and some have been in town for longer than his five years. He said he lives across the street from the Bates building and it is nothing like Gillette Stadium, with very few cars throughout the day and he believes the traffic is manageable. Judy Dibble stated that David Feller had a very interesting

point postponing this sale. She pointed out that she thinks the Board has done their job and worked hard on this. She doesn't think all the costs have been presented and that several things have been mentioned in general terms. With half the money going to the library, which she thinks is good and half going to the town, she wonders about the major renovations to the Town Hall, since the public doesn't know what that concept is. She explained that they own a business building in Contoocook Village and pay property taxes of about \$7,000 per year, so she believes that selling the Bates building will only add about \$7,000 per year to the tax base, against a total budget of \$7,000,000; she isn't sure that it makes much of a difference. She would like more information before a decision is made. Cheryl Morse said that she would like to call the question.

Moderator Bruce Ellsworth reminded everyone that this is a ballot vote and he read the Article in question and clarified a yes and a no vote.

The Moderator asked if anyone else needed to vote and asked everyone who had voted, to take their seats and the meeting resumed.

Article 6: Authorization to Sell the Bates Building

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the Bates Building (Former Bates Library) at 846 Main Street, identified on the Town Tax Maps at Map 101, Lot 085-000, with sufficient land; further, that the Select Board shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town and as determined by the Probate Court.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

MOTION MADE BY: **Sara Persechino**
SECONDED BY: **Sabrina Dunlap**

The Moderator read Article 6 and then rhetorically asked if the question of Article 6 hinged solely on the vote for Article 7. He stated that it does not, since Article 7, which is being counted, is whether Town Meeting supports restoring the physical location of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office back to the Bates building. He would like to begin the discussion in the interest of saving time and said he will read the results of the vote as soon as he has them. He explained at that point, we can decide if the vote is determinate of Article 6.

Board member Sara Persechino spoke to the article. She recognized the fact that there has already been a discussion about how the decision was made to move the office and what the decision is now. She re-iterated that this is a separate decision that the Select Board recommended keeping the Town Clerk/Tax Collector at the Town Hall and sell the Bates building. She explained that it was a quick decision at first, but this has not been a quick decision and the Board has appreciated the input from everyone. She feels that the question of the part time position has been belabored enough. She wanted everyone to know that the Select Board has plans to address the parking and handicap accessibility at the Town Hall.

This plan was started before the Town Clerk's Office was moved and it will still be considered. She shared that there is \$111,000 in reserve funds for Town Hall improvements. She also explained that money from the sale of the Bates building could be used at the Board's discretion, and with the authority of probate court. The current proposal is that 50% goes to the library, since the building was originally a library and the other 50%, would go towards Town Hall improvements. She said the parking has been working. She recognized that some people have had to walk further. She explained that the neighbors have also been accommodating. The other question she said she wanted to touch on, was whether the Board could sell the Bates building. She explained that the land and funds were originally donated to the Town to be used for the Library and in 1999, the Town received permission to use the building for other purposes. She continued that the Board is working to make sure that the wishes of the donor are followed and the town can move forward. The Board has been in contact with the charitable trust division of the NH Attorney General's Office and they have agreed to support the selling of the building, with half the proceeds going to the Library and the other half to be used for renovations at the Town Hall. She expounded that probate court approval would be needed after a vote in the affirmative. She explained that the lot that the Bates building is on includes the bandstand and a municipal parking lot; so a subdivision would be required. She continued by saying this will not happen overnight and if the Board is given permission to sell the building; there will be many steps involved and that will take time. She wanted to address the concerns about the town archives, which are currently in the vault in the basement of the Bates building. She said that it may not be the best way to store records, because of moisture and there is space at the Town Hall with some renovations, which is something the Board is discussing. Ms. Persechino explained that the Board is putting together a town records archive committee, which will have representation from the Clerk's Office and other departments, as well as people with expertise in record storage, to create a plan to store these records for the future. She explained that the Supervisors of the Checklist still meet in the Bates building and the Board has been talking with them about how to create a space for them at the Town Hall and they have assured them that they will have space with some very simple changes, which will allow them to be able to do that. She said that the offices have been working fine since the move of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office to the Town Hall. She continued that some minor renovations are planned, like removing some walls in the Planning Department to create a small meeting room and a space for private meetings when needed for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and that the Supervisors of the Checklist could also use this space. She explained that if additional space was needed in the future, the upstairs could be renovated into a large meeting room. She recognized that at the meeting today, people have said it was nice that the town had so many buildings, but the Board has found that maintenance has not been done to all the buildings to keep them up, like the Kimball Cabins and the Horseshoe Tavern. She believes that if we are moving more of the offices into the Town Hall, the Board will have more ability to properly maintain the Town Hall. She shared that she has not been upstairs in the Town Hall, but she has heard there used to be basketball games and plays held, and in the future, she thinks it would be good to renovate it. Ms. Persechino reiterated the steps involved in selling the building: the town would have to approve the sale; it would have to go through probate court; make sure that the Supervisor's of the Checklist and the archives are ready for the move; and then the Board would have to sell the building, find a realtor and then a buyer, so it won't be a quick process. She restated that the property would have to be subdivided to

protect the gazebo and the depot property. She stated that the Board always hears that taxpayers need relief and this would produce a savings and get the building back on the tax rolls.

Moderator Ellsworth announced the results of Article 7. First he re-read the article. He explained that the count had been done twice. Yes 163 No 162. (Official vote on page 18) Moderator Ellsworth hesitantly shared that the Fire Explorers were selling pizza for \$1.00 per slice and asked that not everyone leave at once.

He re-read the beginning of Article 6.

Carol Hooper wanted to affirm that since Article 7 was non-binding, we still need to discuss Article 6 and the Moderator responded yes. She shared that she felt that there were too many unknowns. She would rather wait a year. Her first issue was if the building got sold, it would be sold without restrictions and it could be demolished and anything could be built there within zoning limits. Her next issue was the fact that somebody donated the building and the land and why would people donate in the future and also, it feels like a moral issue to her. Her last point was that it is nice to have mixed uses in a village, because it brings people in and it is important to keep that. Board member Sara Persechino gave a response that the probate court is the final arbiters of the sale and in 1999, they gave permission to change the use from a Library to the Town Clerk's Office. She thinks that the donors would be very happy with the library that the town has today. Lorenca Rosal mentioned that it was brought up before about why the town is moving forward with the sale when there hasn't been a lot of detail that would be helpful and she wondered if there was a slide that showed the cost of the parking and the record storage. She wanted to know what the plan was for moving the records and what is the line item cost. She wanted to know what the line item cost was for the simple modifications. As someone who just repaired her roof, she can't understand how \$111,000 that has been put aside, would cover all of this, even if the town decided to go ahead. She asked why the town should vote for this without a line item analysis? Ms. Persechino responded that they do have a cost for the parking project, which has been in the planning since before the move and that total is \$169,000. She explained that they don't have the other totals, because they are waiting for approval, before they even go through that process. Ms. Rosal responded that the article does not read that way. She said we don't have the details. Chairman O'Brien explained that the warrant was written this way because they need express permission to sell the building and they wouldn't need a warrant to explore selling the building. He continued that they could "unpack" the budget, but they do have a plan for the parking and the sale of the building will help them to accomplish that. He said that they do have some quotes pertaining to the other renovations in the building, but he didn't have them with him. He thinks that record storage could be accomplished within the budget and an increase would not be needed. Ms. Rosal asked if they were just supposed to trust them after the Board was saying different numbers. Chair O'Brien explained that the \$111,000 is in the capital reserve fund for the parking, but the total cost of the parking is \$175,000. Ms. Rosal stated that she would make the argument that we shouldn't vote to sell until we have all the details. Jane Schoch said there have been wonderful speakers for and against and she would like to thank the Select Board because they are frugal with their budget and work very hard at keeping costs down. She considered the moral issue has already been mentioned and she feels the Bates building was a great gift to the

town and it should be honored. She feels that we have broken the trust once and it was for good reason but doing it to sell it? She thinks its horrific to dishonor the intent of the gift and she doesn't think we should do that. She said her parents always said a dollar wise and a penny foolish and she doesn't believe there are much savings for the town to sell it. She said the Selectmen had said the original move was for personnel reasons, but the office would return in March. She asked the Select Board to think about that some more.

Moderator Ellsworth interjected that he had to revisit Article 7 and he re-read the article and he explained that the ballots have been recounted five (5) times and the final count is: 156 Yes 172 No Article 7 Failed.

Select Board member Ken Traum made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 7 and seconded by Chairman Jim O'Brien.

Point of Order was yelled from the audience and the point was made that the motion was on Article 6. Moderator Ellsworth said that he was just announcing the vote for Article 7 and that he had earlier explained that he had begun the discussion of Article 6 while the votes were being counted. He expounded that the recount of Article 7 took place and an error was found and they recounted it five times and came up with a new vote total. He continued that the fact he announced an incorrect number doesn't mean that it was correct. Someone from the audience said that he had announced the result of the vote and that it had been counted twice. Moderator Ellsworth concurred.

A discussion ensued, about why the numbers were wrong initially. Several people in the crowd yelled re-vote. Moderator Ellsworth said that there was the opportunity to correct this by having a recount so he asked for a vote to recount. No conclusion was made about the recount vote. Moderator Ellsworth stopped to explain that he wanted everyone to feel comfortable with the outcome at the end of the day. He said that he heard the vote to recount as no and that would mean that the numbers he just read would stand.

Moderator Ellsworth had a brief chat with the town's legal counsel. He then spoke to the audience explaining that the meeting had voted and the final vote stands. He then explained in detail what the vote would mean if the meeting voted to not allow reconsideration of the article. He further explained that a stack of no votes were found in the stack of yes votes. He asked if there was a motion to restrict reconsideration. The motion was made and seconded, from the crowd with no names.

Ballot Counter Tammy Clay came to the microphone and explained what had happened during the counting of the ballots.

Moderator Ellsworth then called for a vote on the motion to restrict reconsideration. The voice vote was inconclusive, so he called for a count of hands.

Yes 173 No 123

The motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 7 passed.

The final vote on Article 7: Yes 156 No 172 Motion failed.

Moderator Ellsworth reopened the discussion on Article 6.

Digit Taylor stated that the Select Board can see that the town is very closely split on the question of the Bates building. She complimented the Select Board and the Moderator on their calmness in the face of a chaotic discussion. She feels that the decision to sell the Bates building is too hasty and there are too many unanswered questions. She shared that sometimes moral and legal are not the same thing in regards to the gift to the town of the Bates building and she thinks the town should think a lot more carefully about the building. She continued, saying that if the meeting moves forward with the sale of the building she would like to propose an amendment to prevent the building from being torn down or dramatically changed on the outside. To require the Select Board to place a deed restriction on the Bates Building to retain its current exterior appearance and prevent any future owners from tearing it down. Seconded by Jane Schoch.

Digit Taylor said she supported this amendment and would like to offer an amendment if this one fails. Her amendment would be to “To explore the sale of the Bates building and strike the word to sell the Bates building”. Moderator Ellsworth explained that there will be an opportunity for the amendment, after this one. Moderator Ellsworth explained that Article 6 is amended. **“To authorize the Select Board to sell the Bates building and its land, but to require the Select Board to place a deed restriction if sold to retain its current exterior appearance and prevent any future owners from tearing it down”.**

Chairman O’Brien stated that he isn’t opposed or supporting the amendment, but wanted to think it through. He is worried about the language. He explained that he understood the intent is to be restrictive so that the building retains its character. He was wondering what happens if something happens to the Bates building and it becomes unusable, could the owner not remove it? Would signage on the outside of the building be considered a change to the exterior? He said this would be a question for Ms. Taylor, since he wasn’t familiar with façade easements. He questioned what it would mean for a future business without the town having to defend that easement in court. He asked Digit Taylor for clarification. Moderator Ellsworth explained that she could give more of an explanation, but the amendment would not change. She began by asking if Chair O’Brien was familiar with conservation easements. She said that preservation easements, like conservation easements, have a lot of flexibility in their creation. She continued that with the easement it could for example say, if the building was destroyed by a tornado that would not be the fault of the owner. She would like to trust the Select Board to come up with a reasonable approach to the possibilities. She thinks the issues raised by Chairman O’Brien are appropriate and good for the people at the meeting who are not familiar with preservation easements. They are very flexible and can be created in a way to follow the intent and appropriate flexibility. Chair O’Brien thanked her and mentioned that the Board looks for expertise in drafting things. Arnold Coda supported the points of the Chairman and thinks that the town could try to “lock up a deed” to the ninth word and the tenth word would ruin everything. He had an example that he said wouldn’t be covered like putting a second floor on. He doesn’t favor this amendment because he doesn’t think a deed could be written in a way that would do everything the group wants it to do.

Moderator Ellsworth re-read the amendment.

Celeste Hemingson spoke up and wanted to speak to the amendment. She thinks the amendment to preserve the appearance of the building only solves one of many problems that are dividing the Town Meeting. She doesn't think it should be approved because it will complicate things. She continued that the article to sell the building is nothing more than an authorization and is not a mandate to sell it. Her opinion was that if the building was sold with deed restrictions, the town would not receive as much money for it and it would remove the advantage of selling it. She shared that she doesn't have a strong opinion on selling the building or not, but if Town Meeting decides to sell the building, it should be as sellable as possible.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Ellsworth called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment was voted on and failed.

Cheryl Morse commented that this was a very informed legislative body and they are hungry for answers. She proposed an amendment that **strikes the words to sell and include the words to explore the sale of the Bates building**. Seconded by Celeste Hemingson.

She expounded that it may not be necessary to give the Board the authority to explore it, but her concern is probate court. She said that just because probate court allows the change of use, it does not mean they will approve the sale. She would like the Board to have the authority to get the answers to the questions that were brought up today answered for the next meeting. She said her husband always says they don't make more land and certainly not in that location. It is a big sacrifice if we give it up. She recognized that it unintentionally happened quickly and brought forward some issues from security and safety. She doesn't believe we have enough information to move forward with the sale. Ken Traum clarified that a sub committee of the Board met with the Attorney General's Office to discuss how the proceeds would be distributed. 50% to the Library Trustees and 50% to the Town for Town Hall renovations and if anything was left, it would go to the Library. He said the next step would be going to probate court and the Attorney General's Office would go with the Board and the Board has been assured that as long as both sides agree to the terms, probate court shouldn't be an issue. Tom Congoran shared that he was on the Select Board about ten years ago and several of the Board members were interested in selling the Bates building back then. He said the market wasn't as good then and the Board never moved forward. He stated he is in favor of selling the building because he thinks more business would be better for the Village and consolidating the town offices in one building would also be better. He supported the amendment because he thinks there is a lot of unanswered questions. He said that there was a blythe comment that someone could go to the (town hall) upstairs and fix it. He said they had looked at that ten years ago and it was a million dollars to get started. There is an elevator requirement, reinforcement issues, and wiring problems. He said it would be like gutting a house and starting over. He thinks that it really hasn't been thought through regarding the options. He is asking that the Board explore all the options and then tell us what it would cost and then decide. Board member Sara Persechino wanted to correct herself that if she seemed blythe about the building renovation, she acknowledged that it would be a significant renovation and the Board has estimates that are expensive. She also clarified that changing the article to explore the sale doesn't give the Board

any more authority and it would not give them express authority to go to probate court to see if they could sell it. She said that if they wanted the Board to explore more options, the meeting could just vote down the article as it was written. She expounded that the townspeople would have to vote down the amendment if they want the Board to have authority to sell the building. Board member Steven Whitley clarified that the Board doesn't have a plan to utilize the upstairs of the Town Hall.

Moderator Ellsworth wanted a clearer explanation if the words of the amendment were appropriate and what effect it would have on the Board's ability to act. Chairman O'Brien said that this wording would not prompt the Board to go to probate court. He said if they had permission to sell the building, they would go to probate court to explore how it could be done and whether the plan they have with the Attorney General's Office could move forward. He said if the decision of the town is unclear about selling the building, the Board will not move forward. He added that he understands that the Board doesn't want to "explore it" but pointed out that the Board has already gone to the probate court. He wanted to know who is arbiter of this and who the Board has spoken to. Chairman O'Brien said that they have been to the Charitable Trust Division, who oversees these things, to see if they moved forward would the Attorney General's Office think it was an appropriate remedy for the sale proceeds. He said they make sure that the donor's intent is followed. He continued that they have gotten an agreement that the proposal makes sense, the next step would be to go to the probate court, who makes the final decision. Jane Schoch explained that she is still confused. She said that we have broken this trust once and this will be doing it again and she doesn't feel that the intent of the original donor is being met. She continued that the profit from the sale whether we like it or not, the original decision by the donors the money should go to the Library and not the Town Hall. David Jensen commented that it seems to him that the Board could approach the court and ask what they would think. He said he had approached Dick Hampe, a retired probate judge and he said that was perfectly appropriate. George Langwasser congratulated the Board for their hard work. He said it seems like there are many unanswered questions. What about the archives? If the town says to the Board, take a deep breath and take your time and then come back to Town Meeting, it would best serve the community. He pointed out that the town is split. He suggested it wouldn't cost very much to keep the building for one more year. He added that it wouldn't bankrupt the town. He pointed out that once the decision to sell is made, it is gone and it will never come back.

Select Board member Sabrina Dunlap wanted it to be clear that with the current language, a sale would not be allowed and the Board would have to come back to Town Meeting next year. She explained that the Board would take their time and then the Board might have to "sit on their hands" for six months to get the authority to sell. She wanted it to be clear that it gives the Board the authority to sell and they wouldn't do it immediately and they would be very thoughtful in the process. Clark Kidder asked what was the hurry. He said it took three years to decide on the fire station and now they have a good building. He added what were they going to do about the legacy of the people that have gone before us. He continued that everytime you go sit down in a town building, you are sitting with hundreds of people that have made decisions.

Moderator Ellsworth called for a vote on the amendment. A voice vote was inconclusive, so a count of hands was requested by the Moderator.

Yes 155 No 111 The amendment passed.

Jane Schoch made a motion to add at the end of the Article: **“That any profit realized at the sale of the Library be given to the Library in honor of the original donors”**. Seconded by Dick Schoch.

The Moderator asked for a written copy of her amendment and read the amendment to the meeting. **“And profit derived from the sale of the Bates building be given to the Library in honor of the gift from the original donors”**.

Chairman O’Brien spoke to the motion, saying that he appreciated the sentiment behind the amendment and it was something the Board thought a lot about. If the article has been adjusted to have the Board explore how they want to move or want to present to the town, he suggested that the Board shouldn’t have further restrictions on the exploration. He said it would bind the conversations with the Attorney General’s Office and with the probate court in the future. He suggested not supporting the amendment, to leave the options open, rather than limiting them. Tom Congoran cautioned Town Meeting on supporting this amendment, because the word profit gets defined by who you are and which side you are on. He said that one word will cause lots of headaches if it gets adjudicated. He spoke against the amendment.

Seeing no further discussion, the Moderator re-read the amendment.

The amendment failed on a voice vote.

Discussion on Article 6 continued.

Paul Hebert said he knows he is in the right place because “we have lost about 60 votes since the last time we did this.” He isn’t sure where this stands now, since it is now at an exploration phase.

Chair O’Brien said if this article moves forward as amended, then the Board would not have the authority in his view, to go probate court and sell the building. He continued that if the Board decides it is still the right move, (to sell the building) they would come back to Town Meeting next year. He said that they may not have a lot of questions answered, since they wouldn’t have gone to probate court, so the presentation would be similar. Paul Hebert spoke again saying in the interest of combining and simplifying with the town and the Bates building being one piece of it. He hopes that we will be talking about this again. He expressed his trust in the Board and thanked them for their due diligence in looking out for the best long interests of the town. He is a little bit against preserving a building for the sake of preserving a building. Ms. Rosal wanted to get further clarification from the Chairman regarding the information from the former judge, that you could approach probate court. She suggested that the Board could still come back next year with a line item financial analysis of all the things being considered, all the things that are “squishy” in the Q & A handout. She asked the Board if they could come back next year with a lot more facts than they had this year. Mr. O’Brien responded that they could come back with additional spreadsheets with the numbers that they would go over. He explained his point was that without going to probate court a year from now they still

won't know if the court will allow the sale. He recognized that the Board could have a conversation with a probate judge, but he said it would just be guidance and not an actual ruling. He said the Board plans a year from now to have additional line items and it will show that the costs for what they have looked at is fairly negligible for the archives. He thinks the proposal would be very similar to what they proposed this year. Ms. Rosal shared that she was just trying to figure out how she would vote. She said if she voted yes to explore than she would expect the Board to return with a financial analysis for parking, for record storage, for the security system, etc. She said she wanted to see the options for selling and not selling the Bates building. She would want to know if they had spoken with the historical preservation group in Hopkinton. She would want to know if the Board had spoken with the neighbors on Main Street who might think their property values will go down if a parking lot gets built. She would expect explanations about all the issues raised today. Judy Dibble suggested that the Board speak to Dick Hampe, because he is a retired Judge and would have some insight. Rick McMillan wanted to comment with the understanding that this is a town of multiple villages and that he lives in a 229 year old house and that he is all about historic properties; that he finds it interesting that there is a group of people all for the Bates Building and he understands why. For him having grown up in Hopkinton Village; for him the Town Hall was hacked up when the police department was in there and that building is very close to his heart and it's the type of building the town also wants to draw people into the historic Hopkinton Village. He asked that everyone keep that in their heart.

Moderator Ellsworth responded to a callout from the crowd to move the question by saying he will take one more question.

Arnold Coda wanted to know if the vote today will bind future boards. He asked the Moderator for an answer. Moderator Ellsworth explained the future voters can vote as they please, so he doesn't think it does. Mr. Coda questioned, it doesn't? Moderator Ellsworth explained that a future meeting could vote differently. Mr. Coda explained that the school and the town have said for years that a vote to do or not do something does not bind a future Board to follow that course of action voted by the legislative body. He continued to query what would happen if several members of the Board were to change; can the Board decide not to follow what the Town Meeting voted for? The Moderator explained that the votes today give the Board instructions on how they should run the town and that will stand and will be binding on all Board members until something else comes before Town Meeting that might change the direction they should go in. Chairman O'Brien answered that if the motion moves forward as amended and gives the Board the authority to explore, the Board could look at that and bring something back to Town Meeting if they choose to. If the meeting voted to sell the Bates building the Board could move forward in exploring that and not move forward with a sale. He continued that permission to sell is not a mandate to sell it; just the authority to move forward with the process. He expounded that the motion as it stands, doesn't mandate the Board to do something.

Tom Congoran stated he hopes that Chair O'Brien didn't mean what he just said. He said the reality is that the meeting is asking the Board to take the word "explore" and bring back numbers next year. He continued that it wasn't intended to allow the Board to maybe explore

it and maybe come back with numbers next year. He said the intent is to tell the Board to come back with numbers. Chair O'Brien thanked Mr. Congoran and said he was answering what he thought Mr. Coda was asking about a mandate to explore. He said the Board was going to explore, but he didn't hear a mandate in Mr. Coda's question for a certain action to bring back to Town Meeting next year. He explained that they could explore it and decide there is no reason to sell it; which would mean there would be no warrant article next year to sell it. He expounded that in Mr. Coda's question, that he was trying to answer what was the mandate built into the question.

Moderator Ellsworth read the article as amended and called for a vote.

The Article Passed as amended on a voice vote.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Arnold Coda.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Article 8: Authorization to Enter Agreement for Solar Array at Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement whereby Hopkinton Solar, LLC will lease land owned by the Town at the Transfer Station, 491 East Penacook Road. Further, the lease period shall not exceed a period of forty-one (41) years from the date upon which the solar farm is commissioned and authorized to generate electricity under local and state regulations. The lease shall include various easements to facilitate operation of the solar farm. The purpose of the lease is to enable Hopkinton Solar, LLC to construct and operate a solar farm on land owned by the Town of Hopkinton at the Transfer Station.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

MOTION BY: Steven Whitley

SECONDED BY: Jim O'Brien

Board member Steven Whitley explained that he wanted to give a little background on this article. He stated this is an opportunity for the Town to earn income from leasing land at the Transfer Station that does not have many other good uses, it is a capped landfill. He expounded that this article would allow the town to enter into a lease to allow a solar array to be installed over that cap. He continued that Granite Apollo is the company behind Hopkinton Solar, LLC. He explained they approached the Town in the summer of 2018 with a proposal. He said the Board decided to continue that discussion and not go out to bid. He expounded that there are only a small number of companies that do this and when the Board reached out to them, to see if they wanted to submit a counter proposal; the responses were that they weren't interested or were not able too. The Board members reached out to other solar companies and talked with other towns about their experiences with solar companies and we didn't get positive feedback about some of the companies. He shared that Granite Apollo has facilities throughout the state. He further stated the Board feels comfortable with the decision to work with Granite Apollo and they have confidence Granite Apollo can safely build, operate and

maintain this array. He said a subcommittee was formed to talk to Granite Apollo and to negotiate. He explained that the subcommittee was himself, Ken Traum, Neal Cass, and the Town of Webster Select Board Chair Mike Borack, along with involving Town Counsel. He clarified that he is not Town Counsel for the Town. He feels there has been a good amount of due diligence done, the negotiations are still in process and the terms have not been finalized. He expounded that the proposal is for a 17 megawatt solar array. Mr. Whitley explained that "Google" told him one megawatt could power between 100 and 800 homes, so this would generate power for about 6,800 homes. He explained that the solar array would cover approximately 100 acres. He pointed out to the map that was projected onto a screen for the audience to see. He said the annual projected leasing income would be about \$100,000/year and will increase. This would be split 75% Hopkinton and 25% with the Town of Webster, because they are joint owners and the agreement defines these terms. He said this split would be consistent with the Transfer Station Use Agreement. He shared that the Board expected Granite Apollo would enter into a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Agreement with the town, to cover property taxes, which would be an additional \$100,000. One hundred percent of this income will go to Hopkinton. There is a three-year option clause that will enable Granite Apollo to do a feasibility study, at which time, if they decided to move forward they would enter the lease phase with a maximum of 41 years. The lease and payments would begin when the lease phase begins. Granite Apollo intends to sell power from the solar array into the market. There is a possibility that Town residents will be able to purchase power at a discounted rate. The Board has included language in the proposal, that would insure that if there would be interference with the landfill cap or the operations of the Transfer Station. The Planning Board would make sure the project would be compliant with Town regulations. The Town of Webster is considering a similar warrant article, because both towns must approve the project, in order for it to move forward. Mr. Whitley explained that the Board had to bring this to Town Meeting because the lease was for more than one year. There is very little risk and potentially alot to gain. He mentioned that this is a project that would promote clean energy. Arnold Coda wanted to verify that Webster is indeed a co-owner of the Transfer Station. Board member Mr. Whitley answered yes, they are. Dick Schoch wanted to know what the out of pocket expenses were going to be. Mr. Whitley explained the cost of any legal review and possibly for the engineering review. Chairman O'Brien interjected that there may be some enforcement costs, and monitoring, to be sure it lives up to the agreement it has with the town. Mr. Schoch wanted clarification that the town would not own the facility. Mr. Whitley explained that the town will be leasing the land to Granite Apollo. Mr. Schoch followed up by asking if it would cost the town anything, if something broke. Mr. Whitley responded that Granite Apollo will be entirely responsible for all operations and maintenance of the facility. Ron Klemarczyk stated that he strongly supports this, as we try to move to alternative energy. He stated that many landfills generate methane that can be used to generate electricity and he wanted to know if this is being considered. Mr. Whitley responded no, that has not been explored, but it is something that could be looked at. Craig Dunning wanted to verify that Granite Apollo was leasing the land for about \$100,000 a year. Mr. Whitley answered yes. Mr. Dunning wanted to clarify the statement that the town might potentially get \$100,000 a year in (PILOT) Payment In Lieu of Taxes. Mr. Whitley responded yes and that it is loosely based on what property taxes might be. Mr. Dunning wanted to be sure that there would be removal language in the contract. Mr. Whitley explained that Granite Apollo will be entirely

responsible for decommissioning and for the removal when the project ends. Howard Helrich wanted to know if there is a payment due during the three-year option. Mr. Whitley answered yes and it will be lower than the yearly lease payments. If the Select Board signs the contract and receives that payment, it would mean that Granite Apollo would have exclusive rights to develop a solar array at that sight within that three year period. Mr. Helrich asked if the Board knows how much that would be. Mr. Whitley responded that they do, but he can't share the info, since the contract isn't signed yet. Rich Houston wanted to know if buildings will be constructed to house the batteries, where will the power lines from this go and will the current lines be upgraded or new ones built. Mr. Whitley responded the grid tie will be handled by ISO New England, when the solar company lets them know about the solar array and he asked them how it should be tied into the market. Mr. Whitley explained that Granite Apollo will be responsible for all those costs. He referenced a red dotted line on a map on the screen, showing the current utility corridor and he thought it would most likely connect to the existing lines. He added that the question about sharing hasn't come up yet. Bruce Metzger wanted to know what provisions there are for re-negotiating the lease payments over time. Mr. Whitley explained the current proposal includes an initial lease amount and then steps for increases, but any other re-negotiations would require mutual input with Granite Apollo. Brad Myrick wondered if the array will go on the cleared land or will more land need to be cleared. Mr. Whitley explained that is not yet clear, but he thinks their goal would be to not have to clear any more. He expounded that it would have to go before the Planning Board and be very specific and the Planning Board would review all the details. Moderator Ellsworth interjected to mention that on voting day, the Town had voted in favor of several zoning amendments, some of which pertained to this project, and they had all passed. Ed Nystrom suggested that the plan not proceed until the possibility of methane collection has been explored. He was worried that once the solar array is in place, it might be impossible to implement methane collection. Bob Matteo wanted to know if Granite Apollo has already discussed this project with providers like Eversource, about tying into the grid and verifying that Granite Apollo's payments to the Town are not tied to revenues from the project. Mr. Whitley explained that he didn't know what negotiations Granite Apollo has, but they will be having discussions and correct payments will not be tied to revenues. David Salzberg stated he looked at the Secretary of State's business website and shared that Granite Apollo was formed thirteen months ago and their website indicates they have no operations to date. He asked if it is wise for us to enter into a forty-one-year lease with them without asking anybody else for a proposal. Mr. Whitley explained that Granite Apollo took over Ranger Solar and some of the staff from Ranger Solar work at Granite Apollo. Chris Stuart, representing Granite Apollo, addressed the audience and explained that he is the co-founder and Vice-President of Operations of Granite Apollo and has worked in solar development since 2014 and has extensive experience working with Ranger Solar.

At this time, the PTA announced that they had exhausted their childcare resources and everyone needed to pick up their children.

Rick McMillan wanted to know if the entire area is considered a Brown Field, (possible contamination) which would allow Granite Apollo to apply for grants. Mr. Whitley answered he didn't know. Mr. McMillan believes that Granite Apollo will get about 30% of their installation costs covered by Federal Grants. He also wanted to know if the negotiated tax rate with Granite Apollo would go up at the same rate his taxes go up. Mr. Whitley responded it

would have to be part of the agreement. Mr. McMillan asked if the Board had heard of a company called Nexant. Mr. Whitley answered no. Mr. McMillan explained that it is a huge company that does this and has been doing it for many years. He expounded that he spoke with his friend that works for them and asked what Granite Apollo would do with the wholesale power and his friend commented that the sale of the power isn't as big as the grant money. He recommended that before you agree to a contract, to set aside a given amount of electricity that the Town would have access to at a wholesale rate and not just settle for the lease payments. He continued saying that he has been in solar for thirty years and it has changed alot and a forty-one year lease is a very long time period and he can't even envision what solar will look like in 40+ years. He also spoke with a friend who has three hydro plants, one being in Contoocook and both his friends suggested that he bring this information to the Board. Mr. McMillan thinks it is important that we plan for the future. He suggested to negotiate a power purchase before you sign off on any agreement. Jamie Schoch asked what would happen if this project is abandoned within the 41 years; would the Town be stuck with it. Mr. Whitley explained the contract would address this. Chris Stuart from Granite Apollo spoke up sharing that they do have a decommissioning bond and if he disappeared tomorrow, it would be covered. He explained that the bond is put in place at the time of the signing of the contract.

Moderator Ellsworth read the article.

Article 8 Passed on a voice vote.

Article 9: Authorization to Sell Lots at Intersection of Routes 202/9 and Maple Street

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell all or a portion of the lots owned by, or soon to be owned by the Town, located at the intersection of Routes 202/9 and Maple Street, identified on the Town Tax Maps at Map 211, Lots 007-000, 008-000, 009-000, and 009-001; further, that the Select Board shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

MOTION TO BE MADE BY: **Steven Whitley**
SECONDED BY: **Jim O'Brien**

Mr. Whitley explained this article gives the Board authority to sell some of this land. Last year, several warrant articles pertaining to this issue were passed. He recognized the members of the Economic Development Committee and thanked them for all their work. Byron Carr, Jim Fredyma, Eric Newman, Steve Lux, Tom Congoran, and for part of the year Leanne Vance and Bob Gerseny. He said that at last year's Town Meeting, two Tax Incentive Financing TIF Districts were created. This one, called Hart's Landing is at Exit 6 off I-89. It also gave permission for a swapping of land parcels between the Town and the State. He said the swap has not yet occurred, but once the swap has been finalized, the Board would like to be able to turn around and sell the parcels to a third party. Mr. Whitley gave an overview of where the process is with the State. He elaborated that the swap is not final yet. He shared that the Town has had appraisals done and the numbers look good; and have done a title research, and all the information is with the State Division of Forest and Lands. He understands that once it

goes through Forest and Lands, it goes to the Governor and the Executive Council for approval. He explained that he had no way of knowing when this might happen. He said the Board is here today, so that when the swap is completed, the Board can negotiate in earnest with potential buyers. He explained without the authorization now, the sales would be delayed, and possibly fall through, because the sale would have to be brought before Town Meeting next year. Mr. Whitley referenced the map on the screen pointing out parcels 7, 8, 9 and 9.1. The Town has received an MTAG grant that enables us to look into planning and specifically at possible diversified housing in the Town and specifically at this Hart's Landing area and in the town in general. He continued that the money comes from the State, but it is administered through a 501c3 called Plan New Hampshire. It pays for consultants, for gathering public input about the issue, and for making needed zoning changes and changes to the TIF District. He explained that the Economic Development Committee is setting up a steering committee with town residents and reaching out to town residents to get input about future housing in the town. He asked that if anyone wants to be on the committee or wants to give input, to please do so. Mr. Whitley explained that this information will be useful for other purposes townwide, including updating the Master Plan. He shared that the Board may be asking the Town to approve some regulation changes in this area and other possible areas of Town in the future.

Ron Klemarczyk disclosed that he is on the Town Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee and also is a consultant forester for the Town of Hopkinton and the Hart family are his clients. He shared that he supported this last year, but he hasn't had any indication that the Hart family is willing to go along with the TIF District. He said that the whole presentation last year, at Town Meeting, was based on including Lot 3, which is private property. Referring to the map on the screen, he pointed out how access could be difficult to some of the lots in question and not including Lot 3, as presented last year, may not be a good idea. Mr. Whitley responded that there has been consultation with the Hart family in the past, but not recently, because they wanted to get ownership of the lots first. He stated the Board will reach out to Mrs. Hart at some point. He expounded that at one time the Hart's were willing to listen to what the Town was proposing. He added that regarding the access issues and the characteristics of the lots, that is something that a potential buyer would have to deal with. The Town may ultimately decide not to sell all of the lots, but they would like the authority to sell all four of them, so that they would have the flexibility to sell the lots when the planning process is further along. Mr. Klemarczyk expressed concern that the Hart family should be involved in the process and perhaps the process should wait until there is a more affirmative answer from the land owners. Mr. Whitley responded that he understood his concern, but this proposal is about the parcels next to Mrs. Hart and he doesn't want the Boards' hands tied if a developer was interested. Ed Nistrom, felt that last year, the warrant article was sold as a possible reduction in the tax rate. He expounded that it included a possibility of developing a 150 unit residential area. He wanted to know if that was still on the table. Mr. Whitley clarified that was one possibility, but not a concrete proposal. He continued that he didn't know if that would happen. Mr. Nistrom stated he did not feel that any development in that area will reduce taxes, it will put upward pressure on services and increase the urban sprawl. He added he does not want to see the forest destroyed when on the other side of town, conservation easements are being granted to the Town. He believes it will increase taxes, unless a large factory goes there. He continued that it will reduce forest land and increase pollution and if it is residential, it will

increase traffic and pressure on the schools and increase pressure to develop that area. He doesn't want it to turn into an area like the one around Foxboro Stadium. Mr. Whitley responded that these are valid concerns and any possible development will need to comply with existing town plans and regulations. He explained the Planning and Zoning Boards will put restrictions on possible development and these concerns are best addressed by these Boards. Mr. Nistrom responded that Article 9 is too broad and gives the Board too much latitude and he asked the voters to reject Article 9, and asked that the Board come back with a more specific plan. He believes the primary reason people vote for these proposals is to help with taxes and he doesn't think this will help and that it will only increase the population and congestion of the Town. Mr. Whitley addressed the issue of controlling tax rates and clarified that whomever develops the land, it will not be the magic bullet for the tax rate. He continued that it involves both controlling spending and increasing sources of income and development projects are a potential source of tax revenue. He explained that the town does not have super high value lake front property to help reduce the tax rate and the town is primarily residential. The Economic Development Committee is trying to identify areas where industry could come into Town to slow the increase in taxes. Mr. Nistrom interjected that this will not help the tax rate, it will only raise the population and all the problems that come with it.

Byron Carr stated he understood that Lots 7 and 8 are more conducive to commercial development and that commercial development could generate more taxes and he supports the Article.

Article 9 Passed on a voice vote.

Article 10: Authorization to Expend from Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000 for the purpose of offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually, with said funds to come from the Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.

MOTION BY: **Sabrina Dunlap**
SECONDED BY: **Ken Traum**

Board member Sabrina Dunlap explained that this is the annual article to spend the money raised by the sale of the bags. It allows the use of the money to offset the expense of the Transfer Station. No discussion ensued.

Article 10 passed on a voice vote.

Article 11: Authorization to Expend from Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$910 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Center with said funds to come from the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.
(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).

MOTION BY: **Jim O'Brien**
SECONDED BY: **Sabrina Dunlap**

There was no discussion.

Article 11 Passed on a voice vote.

Article 12: Other Legal Business

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

Arnold Coda suggested that in the future, at Town Meeting, voters have colored paddles, which could be used to avoid confusion during voting.

Moderator Bruce Ellsworth announced the statistics from the Town Meeting as follows:
364 voters or 7.4% of the Town's 4,914 registered voters attended today's meeting.

There being no further business, Moderator Ellsworth declared the meeting adjourned at 2:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Bynum
Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Town of Hopkinton, NH
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2019

offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Center with said funds to come from the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.

(Majority vote required).

(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).

(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).

MOTION BY: **Jim O'Brien**

SECONDED BY: **Sabrina Dunlap**

There was no discussion.

Article 11 Passed on a voice vote.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Bynum', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Benjamin Bynum
Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector