

**Town of New Hampton**  
**First Session of 2007 Annual Town Meeting**  
**February 7, 2007**  
**Minutes**

The First Session of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Ken Kettenring at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Selectman Doug Salmon. Mr. Kettenring introduced Selectmen Doug Salmon, Thomas Smith, and Paul Tierney, Police Chief “Chip” Sawyer, Fire Chief Dave Clement, Public Works Director Jimmy Boucher, and Town Administrator Barbara Lucas.

The **2007 DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD** was presented to Nancy and John Conkling, a couple who have been integral members of our community for many years. Nancy has served on the town’s Conservation Commission for 18 years. She is also a member of the New Hampton Garden Club and very active in the NH Audubon Society. She is known as a “volunteer extraordinaire” for her efforts in bulb planting on Route 104 (she’s not afraid to get her hands dirty), her committee work defining areas in town with exceptional environmental, recreational and scenic value, and her hours of work to string and replace the “holiday” lights on the Town Common tree year after year at her own expense, to name only a few. She has great respect for the community that is New Hampton, its beauty, its flora and fauna, and its people. She is also known for never missing a spot of trash on the road side -- as she travels with a large garbage bag and will stop for a discarded beer can, coffee cup or piece of paper. She is therefore a frequent visitor to the recycling bins at the Transfer Station. Her actions evidence that she truly cares. Her husband John joined the faculty the New Hampton School in 1958 and taught there for nine years. He was a local realtor and appraiser. He was the chairman of the Planning Board and the Master Plan Committee in the 1970’s and also worked diligently to develop a zoning ordinance that was acceptable to the voters. He has served on the New Hampton Planning Board for a total of fourteen years and currently remains a vital member. Both Nancy and John worked incredibly hard to prepare the Music Fests held at the Kelley-Drake Conservation Area and organized a benefit auction with Charlie Reynolds. They both worked on the 2002 Master Plan Update Committee. They are active members in the Community Church and are known for their great love of the community and its members. They have cared for elderly residents such as Leon Tucker and Clarence Hackett. They have many friends in the community and are well respected.

In the early years they lived with Mrs. Pearl Hubbard (Barbara Chase’s

mother) here in the village at Music House on Main Street. Then in 1961 they purchased the Merrill Farm on Blake Hill Road where they raised their three boys. Tonight their boys and several grandchildren are here for the presentation.

Mr. Kettenring presented a **Letter of Recognition** on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thanking Marilyn J. Clark for her contributions to the town of New Hampton as the town's Health Officer and Deputy Welfare Officer. Her commitment, dedication and the immeasurable hours serving the townspeople are commendable. She has been known for her sincere caring and empathy for those in need of a helping hand. She has performed her duties in an organized and professional manner and has always treated people with respect and dignity. She also served as a Supervisor of the Checklist for twelve years. Dedicated public servants such as Marilyn Clark are extremely valuable assets in every community. The Town recognizes her service and appreciates her dedication.

Mr. Kettenring identified his goals as Moderator: first, to ensure that the meeting is conducted in a comfortable environment with all sides fairly aired and secondly, to see that everyone gets home at a reasonable hour. A maximum of ten minutes will be spent on discussion of an article, comments to be short and to the point without repetition.. All debate should be through the Moderator. In addition, the Moderator expects that all will show respect for each other's opinions. Any non-New Hampton voter may speak only after approval by New Hampton voters. Everyone has an opportunity to speak once; then there will be a second round if necessary. Persons talking for more that seven minutes will be eligible for the 2007 PWB Award ("pompous windbag"). Only New Hampton registered voters can vote. A Secret Ballot can be taken if five voters make a written request before the vote, or if seven voters request a close ballot after the vote is declared.

Reconsideration cannot be made unless a motion is presented immediately after closure. Finally, the Moderator can make up rules and decisions, but can be overruled by 50% of voters, unless a matter of law is involved. Mr. Tierney moved that Barbara Lucas and Jimmy Boucher, who are not New Hampton residents, but are Town Department Heads, be allowed to participate as needed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salmon. The motion passed, unanimously.

Mr. Kettenring presented the Warrant Articles as follows:

**1.) Vote by official ballot on the election of Town Officers:**

- 1 Selectman for 3 years
- 1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 3 years
- 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years
- 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year
- 1 Sarah Dow MacGregor Scholarship Fund for 3 years

Mr. Kettenring explained that this article will be on the ballot of March 13, 2007, and no discussion is necessary.

**2.) Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendments to the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:**

The article was moved by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Ken Mertz. Mr. Tierney explained that the purpose of this article was to remove conflicts created when extensive changes were made to the Zoning Ordinance last year.

Amendment #1: To amend the sign ordinance to no longer require permits for temporary signs. 4 times per year are allowed, but not more than 8 weeks total.

Amendment #2: To amend the regulations of the General Residential, Agricultural and Rural District (GRA) so that new Junk Yards will no longer be permitted by special exception in that District. Pat Torsey asked if the area covered is the entire town Mr. Tierney indicated the areas covered on a large Zoning map. Tony Romano wanted clarification of the area on Route 104 from the Post Office to Meredith line. Jonathan Moore asked for a definition of commercial business, and Mr. Tierney referred him to the RSAs for a complete definition, because the section is very long.

Amendment #3: To amend the section on excavation of natural materials, which presently allows such excavations by special exception in all zoning districts, so that excavations will be allowed by special exception only in the Business Industrial District, with specific criteria that must be met to receive a special exception, such as: the excavation will not cause a diminution in area property value or unreasonably change the character of the neighborhood, will not unreasonably accelerate the deterioration of highways or create safety hazards in the use, will not create any nuisance or create health or safety hazards, and will comply with other applicable special exception criteria in the New Hampton Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Tierney explained that this is for the Business District only and does not include excavation with construction.

Amendment #4: To adopt regulations for a Village District, previously known as the Village Precinct District, that define permitted uses, special exception uses, building setbacks, lot size and frontage requirements, signage, parking and other general provisions. This village area consists of primarily private residences, public buildings and a private boarding school and its facilities for housing the students and faculty in the area of Main Street/Route 132S. Mr. Tierney introduced Fred Smith to give background information on this amendment. Mr. Smith explained that the village precinct is a small, separate government unit. He

identified the area on the Zoning map. The precinct was formed in the 1880s as a fire district, and now includes water, sewer, and electric services. In 1983 the Precinct adopted the Zoning Ordinance for limitations on lot size, frontage, signs, and other usual things. Two issues exist, the first being that there is little activity for the Village Precinct Planning Board because the land in the Precinct is mostly developed. The Precinct wants to cede responsibility to the New Hampton Town Planning Board. Second, this change must be authorized by the NH legislature. This includes planning, not zoning. Lot size is different, because of water and sewer service to the lots. The New Hampton Planning Board has met with the Village Planning Board to discuss the transition in adoption regulations. Fred Avery asked where the electricity was purchased. Mr. Kettenring stated that the source of the Precinct's electricity doesn't have anything to do with the planning. Mr. Avery considered it relevant because the town will be taking it over. Pat King wanted to know how this would affect taxpayers, especially concerning problems with water and septic. Mr. Tierney said that the discussion is only about planning and zoning. Ms. King asked about the future, and Mr. Tierney said the issue would need to come before town meeting. Mr. Smith repeated that the amendment has nothing to do with water, septic, or electricity. Paul Sarto asked if this was being done so village owners can subdivide property. Mr. Smith reminded all about the two reasons he has stated in the beginning, one being that little land is available for subdivision. The motion passed, unanimously.

**3.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling one million eight hundred sixty-two thousand eighty dollars and twenty-two cents (\$1,862,080.22)? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be one million eight hundred and thirty-eight thousand eight hundred forty-one dollars and twenty-two cents (\$1,838,841.22), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action by the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney showed a series of slides regarding the Town's operating budget, including tax rates from 1997 to 2006, revenues, and New Hampton Tax base from 2003 to 2007. A comparison of tax rates for 1997 and 2006 shows an increase of 27.8%. The budget is in line with consumer price index. There is a significant increase in health insurance costs, especially in employee and employer costs. Mr. Salmon read the proposed budget amounts for each department. Chief Sawyer for the Police Department indicated that a vacancy had

occurred, but he chose not to fill the part-time position. John Swirduk questioned the amount spent to join regional associations. Mr. Tierney identified several as Tappley-Thompson Community Center, Newfound Area Nursing, Lakes Region Planning, and CAP, explaining that the taxpayers receive services because of the Town's membership. For the Fire Department, Chief Clement indicated that an increase in the pay scale would bring New Hampton in line with other towns in the area. The Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management are in need of better equipment. Mr. Boucher of the Highway Department discussed the Solid Waste Management department. Mr. Tierney showed a chart with improvements in solid waste and recycling, indicating an improvement in management. Residents need to recycle and separate trash. Natazche Avery asked where the money goes. Mr. Tierney explained that it goes to general revenue, thus reducing the amount from taxation. Robert Joseph supports recycling, and said he sees much cardboard being thrown in to the big dumpster. Everyone should cooperate in the recycling effort. Nancy Conkling is concerned that commercial haulers and vacationers should be encouraged to recycle. Mr. Tierney said that the Select Board is aware of the situation. Jim Casadona asked about separating plastic. Mr. Boucher said there is not enough room for holding the various types. Mr. Tierney introduced Rodney Bascom, the newly-appointed health officer. During 2006, 19 dogs were taken to the shelter at Laconia: the cost is based on past experience, including vet fees, food, etc for 7 days. The cost of the new shelter facility in Laconia was discussed. Fran Wendelboe said that most of project was built with federal funds. Dog Registration fees are sent to the state. Dogs can be spayed or neutered to reduce costs. Mr. Tierney stated that the town could not afford to provide animal care locally. The Welfare Department is important because the Town is the safety net before state and federal money kicks in. Culture and Recreation provides flags, holiday parties and other civic events. Debt service appropriation hasn't been touched for 8 or 9 years. It would be used if property money coming in is too low to pay bills. The amount must be included in the budget in advance in order to be utilized. At this time the tax rate is estimated. In 2006 the estimate was \$4.67/1000, and \$4.13/1000 was the actual rate. In 2007 a \$1.00 increase is estimated, being a 6.5% increase. Mr. Romano commended the Selectmen for keeping the budget costs down. Fred Avery moved to amend the proposed budget for 2007, reducing taxes to be in line with the 2006 expended budget of \$1,650,000, being a reduction of \$200,000. The amendment was seconded by Eric Avery. Mr. Tierney urged voters to vote against the amendment, stating that the selectmen worked hard to reduce the budget to the bare amount. Mr. Joseph said that to regress on taxes goes against the efforts of the selectmen and town employees, and that cuts in services will result. Ms. Avery stated that the amendment would apply for everything, not just employees' salaries. Paul Fisher asked Fred Avery where the cuts should be made. Fred Avery replied that it was the Selectmen's job to make the cuts. Mr. Tierney said it was disingenuous to ask for cuts. Ralph Kirshner pointed out that the increases in property taxes are attributable to the school's budget, not the town's. It is a sensible to predict what to spend and not to spend all. It is easier to appropriate and not spend, than to

under-appropriate and need the money. Ms. Wendelboe asked about a yearly recap of surpluses. Mr. Tierney replied that such figures were not brought to the Deliberative Session and that, generally, any surplus was used to reduce the tax rate. The State often suggests how surpluses are applied. Ms. King feels that budget can be brought down, because taxpayers are supporting employees. Mr. Moore said the “real octopus” is the school’s budget: everyone needs to get involved. Mr. Swirduk observed that having seniors and empty nesters support the schools isn’t fair. Mr. Kettenring said this is a statewide issue, not a town issue. Robert Barry said the amendment would make the budget \$64,000 less than in the past 2 years and that we should not saddle the selectmen with cutting the budget to the quick. Mr. Romano said that happy employees will produce more, and the voters need to have faith in the selectmen to cut if possible. Mr. Tom Smith informed all that department head requests had been over 8%, services and items have been cut, pay raises were cut, that the selectmen have trimmed the budget as far as they can. Mr. Joseph said 6.5% is a small amount, inflation is larger. He moved question, seconded by many. The motion passed, unanimously. Mr. Kettenring read the proposed amendment. In the ensuing vote, the amendment failed. The motion on the operating budget passed.

**4.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for expenses related to the preliminary/conceptual design work and cost estimates for the construction of a Public Safety Building for Fire, Emergency Services and Police on the 97 acres +/- of town property located off Fire House Lane, Tax Map U-2, Lot 3, to include professional services for a site assessment for the placement of the building and improvements, and authorize the withdrawal of \$35,000 from the Town Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund, with no amount to be raised from taxation? This article will allow the Town to prepare the plans and present cost estimates of the building that will be recommended at the 2008 town meeting. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2008. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.**

Motion made by Mr. Tom Smith and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Smith explained the need for construction of a new Public Safety Building for the Town. The Fire Station was built in the 1960’s at a time when the Department had about 30 calls per year. An inspection in 1998 revealed weather-related damage to the building, lack of storage space, and no room for future growth. In 2005 the Department had about 600 calls. The Selectmen recognize the need for a new building. Mr. Romano asked about results of past studies and questioned why \$35,000 was being spent on another study, not on the buildings. Mr. Smith explained that the past study was a master plan on the property. The \$35,000 will be focused on buildings, determining specific needs, preliminary

schematic designs, site requirements, and total projected cost. This building will be for fire, emergency services, and police. Mr. Romano asked if the land, especially the waterfront area, could be subdivided to get revenue for the building. John Conkling asked what the money in the capital fund, approximately \$475,000, was earmarked for. Ms. King remembered that options were explored in the past and said that the project will be 6 million dollars with no other options. She thinks that a little town like New Hampton doesn't need a state of the art facility and that many residents will have to move out of New Hampton because of high property taxes. Mr. Smith stated that it is a good for the town to protect large parcels of land. Mr. Moore asked about results of previous facilities committee reports, mentioning that voters had been against the issue in the past and asking why the question is coming up again Is there a desperate need? Many people are struggling to pay taxes now. Mr. Tierney answered that

the committee last year recommended to replace the fire station with a public safety building. The need will not go away. A dollar amount for the project has not been set, and the request is for \$35,000 for a projected cost for next year. Ms. Wendelboe urged a presentation to the voters with an actual proposal, and urged the town not to spend \$35,000 for an unrealistic proposal. Voters want to know what is to be built before spending the money. Mr. Kirshner spoke to the suggestion of subdividing the property and pointed out that open space is more economic to town. He also mentioned that increased traffic on Routes 104 and I-93 means that the demand on the police and emergency services will continue to rise along with increased costs that the town can't control. Mr. Smith said that the results of the study under Article 4 will give suggestions for meeting the town's needs. It is unreasonable to ask a volunteer committee or the selectmen to make recommendations. Barbara Chase stated firmly that the firemen are wonderful, the fire station building is inadequate, and the fire chiefs try every year to improve facilities. Nancy Conkling said that money shouldn't be wasted to fix the existing fire station and asked if any state aid is available. Ms. Avery wants a productive plan with other alternatives before voting to spend money. Mr. Tierney responded that selectmen interviewed contractors, but they wanted a plan before proceeding. Ms. Avery suggested asking other towns for their plans. Mr. Tierney said that a prior committee did comparisons of buildings in various towns and found that many did not meet New Hampton's specific needs. The selectmen are looking for suitable suggestions; they pay taxes here also. Mr. Joseph said that investigation is important to meet federal and state requirements, to determine where New Hampton stands, and that \$35,000 is reasonable. Ed Cote said that common sense is not being considered in planning any new buildings. The location is wrong because vehicles have to cross Route 104 and go uphill, and the site has much ledge. Mr. Conkling said that a large building needs a professional architect to do the plan and that the 97 acre parcel is mostly sandy. Mr. Romano pointed out that Meredith has 2 fire stations, and New Hampton needs a central location for one station. Also, the town needs more taxable land, so we should sell the waterfront property. Ms. Wendelboe stressed getting affordable buildings for fire and police.

Michael Drake, a past fire chief, said the facility was inadequate 10 years ago. There is still no room for vehicles and equipment, especially when handling more calls. Pam Schofield moved the question, seconded by many. The motion carried, unanimously.

**5.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-five thousand seven hundred dollars (\$65,700) and to authorize the withdrawal of \$49,915 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established in 1997 and close this fund, with the balance of \$15,785 to be raised from taxation, for the first year of a 2-year assessment revaluation and computerization of assessment records (2 year total cost \$131,400), which includes the measuring, listing, and interior inspection of properties, as well as data entry into a computerized assessing system by a new assessing firm? In 2008, before these new assessed values are implemented, there will be comprehensive field reviews, taxpayer hearings and a sales analysis to establish fair market value of the real estate for tax assessment purposes. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2008. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney said the last town revaluation was done in 1991. Ms. Wendelboe asked about the view tax. Mr. Tierney replied that the town does not have a "view tax". Real property is valued based on the market value. If a view enhances the value, it is factored into market value. Ms. Torsey said her property has a scenic view but it is -30 degrees in the winter. Mr. Romano said that conservation land enhances the value, or it can be boring. Mr. Conkling said that assessing property values is difficult and often it is a judgment call. The question was moved and the motion was passed, unanimously.

**6.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) for the construction, any costs related to construction and easements, engineering and other costs related to securing State and Federal permits, for the replacement of the Central Street Bridge? Of that amount, 80% (\$1,800,000) shall be reimbursed to the Town as Bridge Aid from the State of NH. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of the balance of \$305,000 from the Central Street Bridge Capital Reserve Fund established in 2000 for that purpose and close this fund, with the balance of \$145,000 to be raised from taxation. This portion of the project has a total estimated cost of \$4,500,000 with 50% of that amount being funded by the Town of Bristol. This article is contingent upon the appropriation at the 2007 town meeting of the necessary funds by the Town of Bristol to pay its 50% share of the costs of the bridge project, and this article shall be null and void if Bristol does not raise and appropriate the necessary funds. This will be a non-lapsing**

**appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2009. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and second by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney suggested consideration of Article 7 at the same time. It was read by Mr. Kettenring, moved by Mr. Tierney, and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney showed slides with a chart of figures and consequences of voting results by New Hampton and Bristol. Marie Ross asked what was spent in the past on planning/design. Mr. Romano asked if the bridge is safe for another year. Mr. Boucher said that all bridges are inspected on an annual basis. Ms. Lucas said that emergency repairs were made on the bridge in 2003. After those repairs, the state said that the bridge was adequate for another 3 years. The question was moved and the motion was passed, unanimously.

**7.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to be placed in the Central Street Bridge Capital Reserve Fund? This article shall become null and void if Article #6 (above) is approved and the Town of Bristol appropriates the necessary funds to pay their 50%. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.**

See narrative under Article 6 above. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**8.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand fifty dollars (\$13,050) for completion of the engineering and design work and other costs related to securing State and Federal permits for the replacement of the Central Street Bridge. Of that amount, 80% (\$10,440) shall be reimbursed to the Town as Bridge Aid from the State of NH. Further, to authorize the transfer of the Town's 20% portion (\$2,610) from the General Fund balance as of December 31, 2006, with no amount to be raised from taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Smith. Mr. Tierney explained that this was a "housekeeping" detail. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**9.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-one thousand two hundred and three dollars (\$31,203) to purchase and equip a new Police cruiser? This consists of (\$23,650) for cruiser and extended warranty and (\$7,553) for equipment. The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the**

**operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion was made by Chief Sawyer and seconded by Mr. Tierney. Chief Sawyer showed a slide of the new DARE car, which was privately purchased by Police Association funds. The next slide was a 2007 Ford Crown Victoria to replace 2003 Dodge Intrepid. Mr. Joseph asked about a GPS system. The vehicle doesn't have one. Mr. Romano said that Chevrolet has a better warranty. Chief Sawyer replied that Chevrolet doesn't have a front wheel drive cruiser. The question was moved and the motion was passed, unanimously. Mr. Tierney disclosed that the trade-in for the present car is only \$1,000, so the town will keep the Dodge as a "Town Vehicle" to be used by town employees instead of the current practice of reimbursing town employees for the use of personal vehicles on town business. The question was moved and the motion was passed, unanimously.

**10.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand and nine hundred dollars (\$10,900) to purchase an angle broom attachment for the Highway Department? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Romano asked about using a contractor, and Mr. Boucher said that was not cost-effective. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**11.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-one thousand two hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$61,239) to purchase a new fully equipped (6-wheel) 1-ton dump truck with plow and sander for the Highway Department? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Boucher described the old truck as a "history channel item." It needs much work to pass inspection. Mr. Romano asked if it was part of the capital replacement plan. Mr. Smith said it should have been replaced 3 years ago. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**12.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) to purchase a new air compressor system and breathing apparatus and equipment for the Fire Department as allowed by a grant for the Fire Department, to be reimbursed to the town by a State and/or Federal Grant, with no**

**amount to be raised from taxation? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Chief Clement and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Chief Clement explained that a warrant article is needed to apply for a grant. Currently the equipment is serviced in Bristol. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**13.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-two thousand five hundred and thirty-five dollars (\$52,535) for wages and benefits for two full-time EMT/Firefighters beginning as of July 1, 2007? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Chief Clement and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Chief Clement spoke about important concerns about having full-time EMT/Firefighters on duty at the station during the day. Mr. Romano asked if this was needed in New Hampton now. Ms. Ross questioned if the funding after December 2007 would become part of budget. Mr. Drake asked about limiting the EMT position. Mr. Clement replied that a paramedic may be hired, depending on who is available. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**14.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the purchase of storage gear racks for the Fire Department? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Chief Clement and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Chief Clement described the need for the racks in light of the cramped quarters in the Fire Station. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**15.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Vehicle Repair Expendable Trust Fund, created by Town vote in 1997 under RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of making major emergency repairs to town vehicles? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney explained that the fund was established to cover major repairs of vehicles as needed. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**16.) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the upgrading of electrical wiring, replacement of lights and other related costs for the annual lighting of the tree on the Main Street Common for the holiday season and authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any gifts and expend any donations that may be received for this purpose? The amount of the appropriation in this article is not included in the operating budget under Article 3.**

Motion made by Mr. Tierney and seconded by Mr. Salmon. Mr. Tierney said that the "Holiday tree" was lit once this season and was not very pretty. Repairs to the strings of lights need to be done properly. Mr. Romano asked if contributions from residents for the work needed on the tree would be tax deductible. Mr. Tierney said that, generally, donations are tax-deductible. The motion was passed, unanimously.

**17.) To see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of New Hampton.**

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the town of New Hampton encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions. BY PETITION.

No discussion.

**18.) To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM with an announcement of School District Deliberative session on Friday at 6:30 PM at the Newfound Regional High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina M. Pollock, Town Clerk