

# ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1995  
TALBOT GYMNASIUM, EXETER AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Town Moderator Charles Tucker called the 1995 Adjourned Town Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.. He introduced the people seated at the table, namely the Board of Selectmen present (Paul Scafidi, George St. Amour, Robert "Bucky" Rowe), Town Treasurer Donald Brabant, Town Manager George Olson, and Town Clerk Linda Hartson. Moderator Tucker read a note from Selectman Paul Binette apologizing for his absence from today's meeting because of a previously scheduled commitment, and thanking residents for re-electing him to the Selectman's position. Mr. Tucker also apologized for newly-elected Selectperson Wendy Stanley Jones' absence from today's meeting, as Ms. Stanley Jones is out of town attending to a sick relative. Moderator Tucker reminded residents to check in with the Checklist Supervisors and pick up a voting card if they planned to participate in today's voting. He explained the "ground rules" of the meeting, explaining the discussion of articles, amendments to articles and allowing all residents who wanted to speak to an article a chance to do so. Moderator Tucker reminded residents that Articles #1 - 23 had been voted on by machine at the Town Elections on Tuesday, March 14, 1995 (with the exception of Article 6, which had been tabled because of a printing error).

**ARTICLE 24: To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.**

Selectman St. Amour made a motion for the following slate of officers to be nominated to fill the positions available for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded; no further nominations from the floor; no further discussion; Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote on the presented Slate of Officers; voice vote taken and Moderator Tucker declared that presented slate of officers passed.

Measurer of Wood and Bark:	Octave Carboneau
Weigher:	George Wool
Fence Viewer:	Peter Dow
Budget Recommendations Committee:	Salvatore Morgani
	James Griswold
	Douglas Forrest
	George Gram
	John Sinclair
	Brian Fieldsend
	Donald Schultz
	John Payson
	Ann Titus
	Samuel Daniell
	Dwane Staples
	Ronald Roy
	Jeffrey Warnock
	Neil Fitch
	Alan Williams
	Ann Burke

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,287,966 which represents the operating budget. Such sum does not include special articles to be addressed. (Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.)

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 25 as presented. Moderator Tucker recognized Salvatore Morgani, Chairman of the 1994-95 Budget Recommendations Committee, who endorsed the sum of \$10,287,966 as the operating budget for the 1995-96 calendar year.

Mr. Alan Williams of the Exeter Area Taxpayers' Association read a statement from the Association endorsing the recommended budget amount.

Resident Arthur Baillargeon spoke about a concern regarding money not being appropriated in the budget for the repair of sidewalks along Lincoln Street. He asked Town Manager Olson to address the issue so an amendment could be made to the Article. Town Manager Olson said that Public Works Director had proposed \$10,000 to reconstruct sidewalks, but was unsure if the particular area referred to (the sidewalk in question being located from the Exeter Mart to the Main Street School) is included in this proposed amount. Mr. Olson did say that Exeter is anticipating Federal funding for the construction of sidewalks, particularly the area along Kingston Road where the Brickyard Pond is located. It is hoped that 80% funding for sidewalks will be awarded to Exeter for sidewalks in 1996. Mr. Baillargeon made a motion that \$10,000 be added to the proposed budget for the purpose of reconstructing the sidewalk from the Exeter Mart to Main Street School. The motion was seconded. Moderator Tucker reminded everyone that "the Town Meeting has the power to establish the budget, but does not have the power to compel the Selectmen to spend money on a particular project when it amends the whole budget. The Selectmen still have the discretion to follow the suggestions of residents or not: if they don't they will probably answer for it at the polls when they are up for re-election." No further discussion on the amendment; Moderator Tucker read Article 25, as amended - with a total of \$10,297,966 - and called for a voice vote on the amendment. The voice vote was confusing; Moderator Tucker called for a card vote - the nays had it: amendment failed.

Moderator Tucker asked if there was any further discussion on Article 25 as presented. Resident Herbert Moyer made a motion to amend the budget by \$11,000 (for a total of \$10,298,966) "for the purpose of raising Selectmen's salary to \$4,000/year, with the Chairman having an additional \$1,000...for an annual total of \$5,000." The motion was seconded. Mr. Moyer explained that he had done a comparison study, using the most recent NHMA study, of Exeter's Selectmen's salaries with those salaries of comparable sized towns, and shared that information with those voters present. Mr. Moyer believes fair compensation for public officials should be allowed. He pointed out that the Selectmen spend a considerable amount of time on Town business, i.e. 15 or more hours a week, and the salary has not been increased in 15 years. (1965 - \$800; 1966 - \$1,000; 1967-68 - \$1,500; 1980 - \$2,000). Mr. Moyer calculated that our Selectmen make approximately \$3.85 per hour. He is not addressing this issue for who is in the position, but for the position itself. He asked that the residents please consider this increase.

Moderator Tucker again reminded residents that an increase in the budget is not necessarily spent on a specific item, but the expenditure is at the discretion of the Selectmen. Resident Arthur Baillargeon spoke against this increase. No further discussion on the amendment. Moderator Tucker asked for a card vote on the amendment - YES = 60 votes; NO = 65 votes; Moderator Tucker declared that the amendment had failed.

No further discussion on the budget amount as originally presented (\$10,287,966). Moderator Tucker asked for a voice vote on Article 25. Moderator Tucker declared that the Ayes have it and Article 25 passed as originally presented.

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, gifts, legacies and devices made to the Town in trust for any public purpose as permitted by RSA 31:19.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 26. No discussion on this Article. Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. He declared the AYES have it, and Article 26 passed.

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$731 to be added to the previously established Town Retirement Sick Leave Fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend such monies from said funds as are required by the Town to meet its obligations to retiring employees. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation).

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 27. Town Manager George Olson spoke to this Article explaining the reason for the request of \$731 is to compensate any perspective retiring Town employee for 52½ days of sick leave, and urged support of this Article. No further discussion; Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. The Ayes have it. Moderator Tucker declared Article 27 passed.

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,691 to pay the second of five annual installments owed on the Town's ladder truck. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept this Article. Selectman Paul Scafidi spoke to this Article. He explained that this amount is really the FIRST payment of the lease, as last year's payment was really the down-payment on the ladder truck. Moderator Tucker suggested an amendment be made to change the word **second** to **first**; amendment so made and seconded; Moderator Tucker called for voice vote on amendment; so passed.

Resident Alan Williams asked if \$73,691 is already in budget amount or an additional amount to the budget. Response that it is an additional amount. No further discussion. Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote on Article 28. The Ayes have it, Moderator Tucker declared Article 28 passed.

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the monetary provisions of the collective bargaining agreement executed on November 14, 1994 between the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc., SEIU, Local 1984 and the Town of Exeter, said agreement having no monetary impact on the Town budget for calendar years 1995 and 1996.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 29. Town Manager George Olson spoke to this article, explaining that the Courts have declared that all collective bargaining agreements be discussed at Town Meetings, as it deals with monies affecting the Town budget. Today's vote is in compliance with Court requirements, and this agreement requires no additional budget increases. No further discussion on this Article. Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. The Ayes have it, Moderator Tucker declared Article 29 passed.

**ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of undertaking an engineering study associated with the long term maintenance and repair of the Swasey Parkway sea wall. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation).**

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 30. Trustee Douglas Dicey announced good news about the Parkway before asking voters to fund an engineering study of the crumbling sea wall. Mr. Dicey said a \$10,000 grant had been received which will subsidize the study. He then made a motion to amend the Article by a reduction of \$10,000, thus requesting \$15,000. The motion was seconded. No further discussion on the amendment; Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. The Ayes have it; the amendment passed. Mr. Dicey then explained that the Trustees had met with the Army Corp. of Engineers last year, and with the Town Manager, to look at the deteriorating sea wall. It was decided that an engineering study needed to be done. There is no concrete estimate on what the repairs will cost. Resident Jim Knight asked if the Trustees of Swasey Parkway would be back next year requesting funding for the repairs of this sea wall. Mr. Dicey said "yes". If this work is not done, the sea wall will erode back to the road and the Swasey Parkway will have to be closed off to traffic. A question was asked where this sea wall is located. Response - end nearest Newfields Road. Question asked if principal of Trust Fund could pay for this study. Response that in 1929 the Trust Fund was set up and the interest only can be used for maintenance and upkeep; cannot touch principal of fund at all. Mr. Dicey said the Army Corp. of Engineers did give some suggestions but recommended Exeter hire professionals as ACE is involved with roads only. Resident Stephen Schultz asked if study is going out to bid. Response - yes! Question asked what Mr. Noyes of Public Works thinks. Mr. Noyes is in agreement that this will be money well spent. Discussion continued regarding hiring a professional engineer to do study and work. Mr. Dicey also explained that once the recommendations have been received by the Trustees, a grant might be applied for and thus the money requested from the Town Meeting next year would be reduced if the grant request is accepted.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote on Article 30 as amended. The Ayes have it, and Moderator Tucker declared Article 30 passed.

**ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept Minuteman and Liberty Lanes as public streets, subject to the Grantors complying with all conditions stipulated by said Board at their February 6th, 1995 meeting.**

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 31. Selectman Paul Scafidi spoke to this article, and explained that the residents of the condominium section of the Marshall Farms subdivision have complied with all Town regulations for the Town take-over of these roads. Resident Herb Moyer asked if the Public Works Department budget reflects the cost of taking care of these roads. i.e. plowing, sanding, upkeep. Mr. Noyes, Public Works Director, said his budget did include such costs for these roads.

There being no further discussion on this Article, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The Ayes have it, and the Moderator declared Article 31 had passed.

**ARTICLE 32: On petition of Robert S. Hawkins and others, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,265 for the Exeter Public Library for funding for the "Reach to Read Family Literacy Program" for 1995. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation.)**

A motion was made and seconded to accept this Article. Russ Moreau, Trustee of the Library, spoke to this Article. He explained that this money is no duplication of funding, but will be used to continue funding additional story hours, a summer reading program for children, a teen reading program, an adult summer reading program. The Library has received over \$1,000 from both corporate and public donations.

Salvatore Morgani said that he agrees these programs are very worthwhile, but he is concerned that the townspeople have to pay for these programs when perhaps these same programs could be offered through the schools. He feels residents are paying for these programs twice - once through the School and once through the Town. Mr. Moreau responded that these programs are primarily for children who are not of age to go to school, as well as adults who need assistance in learning to read. Resident Herb Moyer asked if Linda Henderson, a School Board member, would speak to the laws governing any such reading program. Ms. Henderson said there is no statutory obligation to teach adults beyond a certain age. She also said the School does have an Adult Education Program that teaches reading. Resident Susan Sugatt said that pre-school dollars are for special needs children only, and the rest of the pre-schoolers in this Town are served by the Library program. There being no further discussion on this article, Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. That vote being unclear, a card vote was taken. YES = 110; NO = 44. Moderator Tucker declared that Article 32 had passed.

**ARTICLE 33: On petition of Thaddeus E. Klemarczyk and others, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the support of Coastal Employment Associates, Inc. Coastal Employment specializes in finding people with disabilities employment. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this appropriation.)**

A motion was made and seconded to accept this Article. Mr. Klemarczyk explained that this is the first time that Coastal Employment Associates had approached the Town of Exeter for funding, as social service agencies go through the Budget Recommendations Committee process, and he felt it best to explain this agencies services. The agency finds work for mentally retarded and physically disabled people in Rockingham and Strafford counties. The agency recently started helping one Exeter resident. A Coastal Employment employee, who is a non-resident, wished to address the voters. The Moderator asked for a voice vote from those people assembled if Ms. Sue Lyons could address Town Meeting. The Ayes have it and Moderator Tucker invited Ms. Lyons to the microphone. Ms. Lyons gave a brief overview of the program. She said the State will not give the agency any more money this year, but the agency will nonetheless be expected to serve a greater number of people.

Town Budget Committee member Don Schultz had prepared a letter which was read

by Salvatore Morgani. Mr. Schultz said he studied Coastal's request and found that "it does not appear that the agency is in any emergency situation, nor will any Exeter resident be denied." He recognizes that this Agency provides a worthwhile service, but recommends the Town not vote to fund this Agency this year. There being no further discussion on this article, Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. This vote being unclear, he called for a card vote. YES = 76, NO = 77. Moderator Tucker declared that Article 33 had failed.

**ARTICLE 34: On petition of Paul G. Scafidi and others, to see if the Town will vote to restrict all recreational use of the public water supply known as "Water Works Pond" with the exception of fishing from the shore of the Pond where not excluded by other ordinance(s).**

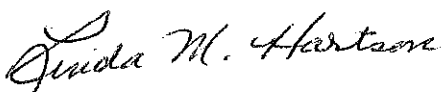
A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 34. Paul Scafidi spoke to this Article. Mr. Scafidi reminded residents that Water Works Pond is a big part of our drinking supply. The Board of Selectmen had recently voted to allow fishing back on the Water Works Pond, including non-motorized boats. Mr. Scafidi explained a little of "back history" regarding this issue. Mr. Scafidi thinks "we should try to keep (the town's drinking water supply) as pure as possible." Mr. Scafidi related some humorous details regarding fisherman. Mr. "Bucky" Rowe addressed the fact that the Exeter River is also used for drinking water and boats, swimming, and fishing is allowed there. Therefore, Mr. Rowe is concerned with these inconsistencies. He pointed out that the Town of Exeter does have an effective water treatment facility which purifies water before it is pumped to customers. Resident David Lilienthal asked how many fishing enthusiasts the measure would affect. After much more discussion - both humorous and serious- Conservation Commission Chairman Jodi Pellerin said "I think that if we want to show that we really care about our environment, we ought to do everything we can to protect it." There being no further discussion on the matter, Moderator Tucker called for a voice vote. That being unclear, a card vote was taken - YES = 86. NO = 63. Moderator Tucker declared the article had passed, and boats are banned on Water Works Pond.

**ARTICLE 35: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.**

There being no further business to come before this Town Meeting, Moderator Tucker entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn this meeting. The Ayes have it, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

[NOTE: It was estimated that 214 people were in attendance at this meeting. It was estimated that 1500 people were in attendance at the School District meeting the previous Saturday.]

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Hartson, Exeter Town Clerk