

TOWN OF CENTER HARBOR
TOWN MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023

The March fourteenth two thousand twenty-three Town Meeting was called to order at eight o'clock in the morning by Moderator Charles Hanson, who announced the polls to open to act upon Article 1.

At 1:00 P. M. the absentee ballots were accepted. The polls closed at 7:00 P.M. and the ballots were tallied.

Article 1-A. All town offices and school board members for the year ensuing were voted on with following results:

Selectman for 3 Years	
William Ricciardi	65 votes
Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years	
W Lee Woodworth	63 votes
Library Trustee for 3 years	
Corina Locke	63 votes
Cemetery Trustee for 1 year	
Charles Hanson	69 votes
Cemetery Trustee for 2 years	
Mae Williams	66 votes
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years	
Kelli-Ann Kemery	65 votes
Moderator of School Board for 1 year	
Write in Charles Hanson	5 votes
" " Pat Kelly	4 votes
School Board Member Sandwich	
Nancy O. Starmer	58 votes
School Board Member At-Large	
Siobhan E Balaz	52 votes
Write in Ann Xavier	2 votes

Article 1-B: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1-B, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Town Zoning Ordinance, to amend **Section 4 General Provisions, Sub Section 4:4:9 Fences** to read:

- a. *Fences located within the setback shall have the good/finished side of the fence facing the neighbor;*

b. *A Building/Construction Permit is required for the construction/installation of any fence.*

(Recommended by the Planning Board)

Yes 52

No 18

At 6:00 P.M., Wednesday March 15, 2023, the Town Meeting was reconvened in the Fire Station to act upon Articles 2 thru 19. Moderator Charles Hanson opened the meeting by saying it was good to have the spring like feel. He just got back from Keene where they got two feet of snow and he was mighty glad to get home. He went on to say that he is a firm believer in how fortunate we are to be able to have a Town Meeting and he feels it is the most effective form of democracy that we know. He asked all Veterans to stand to be recognized which led into the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced the Deputy Moderators, Peter Loudon and Alan Rilla, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Mary Richardson, Admin to the Select Board Robin Woodaman, Selectmen, Chairperson Richard Drenkhahn, William Ricciardi and Harry Viens, Supervisors of the Checklist , Rachel Small, Kelli-Ann Kemery and Jamie Jenkins, Ballot Clerks Diane Kimsey and Amy Hornkohl. Adding Ms. Hornkohl is also Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Department Heads, Police Chief Mark Chase, Fire Chief Tyler Driscoll and Parks and Rec Director Sandy Frost. He thanked all that braved the elements to vote on Tuesday after reading the results.

Article 2. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by Peter Loudon to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,057,891 for general municipal operations. \$9,695 to come from the Unreserved Fund balance and the balance to come from taxation. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (\$1,140,370 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). Richard Drenkhahn made a motion to amend by adding \$13,600.00 to hire a part time employee for the planning/zoning/receptionist office. This increases the general municipal operations appropriation to \$1,071,491. William Ricciardi seconded the motion. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 3. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by David Hughes to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$854,334 for public safety; \$22,285 to come from the Unreserved fund balance and the balance from taxation. (\$681,941 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). Greg Hime commented on a job well done by Police and Fire for all they have done being shorthanded. Craig Baker asked why such an increase in the Fire Department line. William Ricciardi stated there was a 53% increase from last year due to increased calls and equipment updates. Fire Chief Tyler Driscoll added there was an increase of 14% to 28% on everything. Chief Driscoll stated the department brought in over \$100,000 in donations and grants. He stated they did go over budget by \$8,000. There was an increase in 911

calls and the cost of doing business is steeper. He clarified that we have no full-time members; we are an on-call department and appreciate the few active members that are left to handle the call volume. The Article passed unanimously.

	2023 Proposal	2022 Appropriation
Police Department	\$443,899	\$383,774
Fire Department	\$304,578	\$198,191
Ambulance	\$76,154	\$71,680
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid	\$25,403	\$24,497
Emergency Management	\$3,250	\$2,749
Red Hill Fire Tower	\$1,050	\$1,050
Total Public Safety	\$854,334	\$681,941

Article 4. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Jeff Hubbell to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$412,712 for the maintenance of Town Highways and Bridges, including sidewalks and dead tree removal to be offset with an estimated amount of \$40,432 from State Highway Block Aid and, in the event the grant is not fully funded, the balance will be raised through taxation. (\$380,898 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). Karen Ponton asked what is the difference between Article 4 and Article 8 when it comes to Bridge Maintenance. Mr. Viens explained that the Bridge Maintenance is a new line item which we received a specific grant for which we are creating the fund going forward. Karen Ponton asked if this means we won't be using money out of the \$40,432 for bridges. Mr. Viens stated not necessarily if the \$19,493 in Article 8 isn't adequate we may have to dip into it. Gwen Bronson wanted to compliment the Highway Department for the magnificent job of keeping our roads safe. Gail Lacasse asked about sidewalk maintenance in particular up 25B to Kelsea Ave. Harry Viens stated the repairs to sidewalks are only for Town owned sidewalks. The sidewalk in question is owned by the State. Gayle asked if there was room for discussion. Mr. Viens stated that the Selectmen would be open to hear from residents their concerns in a Selectmans' meeting. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 5. Special Warrant Article. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by David Hughes to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$186,500 to be placed in the following existing Capital Reserve Funds. (\$157,500 appropriated in 2022). The Selectmen recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote. (Majority vote required). The Article passed unanimously.

Capital Reserve Funds	2023 Proposal	2022 Appropriation
FD Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$14,000	\$5,000
FD Engine or Rescue Vehicle	\$100,000	\$75,000
Safety Building	\$10,000	\$10,000
PD Cruiser	\$27,500	\$27,500
PW Truck or Equipment	\$15,000	\$15,000

Computer Equipment	\$5,000	\$5,000
Revaluation of Property	\$15,000	\$20,000
Total Capital Reserve Funds	\$186,500	\$157,500

Article 6. Special Warrant Article. Annette Nichols motioned to have this Article voted on after Article 10 as she has several questions related to this Article with the outcome on Article 10. Moderator Hanson took a hand count of those that approved of moving Article 6 until after Article 10 . Motion carried.

Expendable Trust Funds	2023 Proposal	2022 Appropriation
Buildings Repairs & Maintenance	\$40,000	\$85,000
Energy Conservation & Improvements	\$1	\$1
Town Roads Repairs & Maintenance	\$334,069	\$300,000
Town Vehicle Repairs	\$11,053	\$15,633
Town Beautification	\$2,000	\$2,000
Town Properties Stewardship	\$1	\$800
Town Winter Maintenance	\$1	\$10,000
Town Heating Assistance	\$0	\$323
Town Boat Ramp/Drainage	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Expendable Trust Funds	\$437,125	\$413,757

Article 7. Special Warrant Article. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Greg Hime to see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, to be known as the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of providing funds to perform maintenance and repairs at the Town cemetery properties, and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,500 to be placed in said Fund. The Selectmen recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote (Majority vote required). Karen Ponton asked if these funds are separate from the Center Harbor Memorial Park Trust Fund. Harry Viens stated this fund is being created to maintain repairs to all cemeteries of the Town. Moderator Hanson added this fund is a fund in general for all cemeteries of the Town of Center Harbor whereas the Trust Funds are subject to the approval of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. This new fund is subject to the designation by the Board of Selectman. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 8. Special Warrant Article. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by Jeannie DeGrace to see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Bridge Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of providing funds to perform maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Town owned bridges, and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,493 to be placed in said Fund; \$19,493 will come from the unreserved fund balance, \$0 from taxation. The Selectmen

recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote. (Majority vote required). Richard Drenkhahn wanted to point out that we received this money from the State of NH and currently do not have a bridge to fix. Craig Showers asked how many bridges does the town own. Mr. Drenkhahn answered that would be one, High Haith Bridge. Moderator Hanson said that High Haith Bridge was repaired in 2010. He said that some people think that the bridge on Hawkins Pond Road is owned by the town but it is owned by the State. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 9. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by Jeff Hubbell to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$247,311 for the disposition of Solid Waste. (\$221,889 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). The Article passed by majority vote. The Article won by majority vote.

Article 10. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Craig Baker to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,701 for the operation of the James E. Nichols Memorial Library. (\$81,550 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). Annette Nichols introduced herself as the former chair of the Library Trustees from 2019-2021. She stated there has been a generous donation this last year from Nancy Kelly's estate of \$212,000. This donation was received in May of 2022 and there has been no indication on how this money will be used in the minutes of the library trustees, pointing out there have been repairs to the library that have been paid by the town and not the library funds. She asked why they are asking for money in Article 6 when they have not used the funds or shown in their minutes how they plan to use the funds. Ann Xavier, the current chair of the Library Trustees answered per **202-A:4 Maintenance**. – Any city or town having a public library shall annually raise and appropriate a sum of money sufficient to provide and maintain adequate public library service therein or to supplement funds otherwise provided. She stated they are exploring how to invest the money. Ms. Nichols stated when she was the chair Ms. Kelly was still living when she expressed to the executor of her estate that it was her wish not to burden the Town with expenditures to the repairs of the library. Stephany Marchut Lavallee commented as a library trustee she had seen the letter granting the donation and it did not read that way. She is one of the trustees researching on the best way to invest the money. Karen Ponton stated she as treasurer for the Library Trustees met with the attorney of the estate and the executor for Nancy Kelly and there was no stipulation on how to use the gift. Shannon Whalen a former library trustee, was interested in knowing how the money is going to be used when there is no mention in the minutes. She is finding the library isn't as user friendly, not open during scheduled hours and there is a loss of circulation. David Hughes spoke in favor of this article; a gift of this nature is good for the future of the library by investing and helping to keep the price of things down. Circulation has changed as libraries aren't as popular as they used to be. Andy Cartier spoke in favor of the article stating the library isn't a burden to the town but a service to this community and taxpayers. Dave Johnson motioned to move the Article. The motion passed. The vote was taken on the Article which passed by majority vote.

Moderator Hanson returned to Article 6 from above. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by Peter Loudon to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$437,125 to be placed in the following existing Expendable Trust Funds; \$35,122 to come from the unreserved fund balance and \$402,003 from taxation. (\$413,757 appropriated in 2022). The Selectmen recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote. (Majority vote required). Bernie Volz motioned to amend the Energy Conservation & Improvements from \$1.00 to \$50,000 and

seconded by Stephany Marchut Lavallee. The reason for the increase is the Energy Committee is looking at solar arrays for the municipal building. This money would be set aside for the project if it is approved. Jeff Hubbell thinks we are putting the cart before the horse. He stated he is not opposed to looking at the project but thinks we need more input from the taxpayers. Mr. Drenkhahn explained the Board of Selectman are in agreement stating that they chose not to put the \$50,000 in before having public hearings to see if the taxpayers of the Town want to spend the money. Jan Hooper asked if anyone has looked into matching grants. Mr. Drenkhahn explained the Energy Committee already has \$61,000 in the account if there is a need for matching grants. Ms. Nichols who serves on the Energy Committee voiced her agreement with Jeff Hubbell and the Selectmen to have more public hearings first. The motion did not pass.

Maureen Criasia asked if the Selectboard could give a sense of the scope of the Boat Ramp Drainage Expandable Trust Fund Project as to what has been accomplished and is there going to be a public hearing on the scope of the project. Mr. Ricciardi explained the fund was created originally for storm drainage and boat ramp repair. The repair on the boat ramp has been repaired under budget. As far as the drainage we were too late to apply for grants. There were two quotes for the storm water drainage. Mr. Ricciardi, Ms. Frost and Mr. Haines attended a seminar on applying for grants last year after the fact. They will be looking at applying this year. Karen Ponton asked what is the anticipated cost for the project. Mr. Ricciardi stated the estimate we got was upward of 300,000 for the drainage. Engineering alone was estimated to be \$50,000.

Ms. Nichols was questioning the \$55,000 spent on building repairs and the future work for the library. Mr. Ricciardi stated it was used for the library, the schoolhouse windows and the bandstand. The future work is for drainage for the library, the schoolhouse needs some mold remediation and the floor. Ms. Nichols suggested reducing funds in the Buildings & Repairs line. Mr. Drenkhahn stated the amount is already much less than last year and we need to have enough money for unforeseen major repairs. Mr. Hughes clarified we are voting on the Expandable Trust Fund not the operating budget. Ms. Xavier discussed the due diligence they are doing to get estimates on the drainage for the library. Roland Garland discussed the condition of the schoolhouse and motioned to amend the Buildings, Repairs and Maintenance to increase by \$45,000. There was no second. Motion failed. Ms. Ponton questioned if the boat launch fees could be used toward the drainage project. Mr. Ricciardi stated that the Parks & Recreation Revolving Fund has specific areas the money can be used. Ms. Ponton questioned if there will be a public hearing on the Boat Ramp/ Drainage this coming year. Mr. Ricciardi stated when we have more information to present, such as costs and direction, there would be a public hearing. The Article passed by majority vote.

Article 11. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by Ginny Fisher to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$112,018 for recreational activities. (\$106,835 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). The Article passed by majority vote.

	2023 Proposal	2022 Appropriation
Parks & Recreation	\$62,343	\$58,410
Patriotic Purposes	\$32,000	\$31,250

Town Band concerts	\$17,675	\$17,175
Total Recreational	\$112,018	\$106,835

Article 12. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by Craig Baker to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Centre Harbor Historical Society. (\$1,000 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). Annette Nichols brought up again the donation the Historical Society received. Mr. Ricciardi said the donation to the Library, Schoolhouse and Church has come up a couple of times throughout the meeting. The money was not given to the Town. We don't have any say over the money and how it is spent. The Historical Society is a separate entity and rents the space from the Town. We take care of the building because we own the building. Mr. Garland has been trying to stay active. Covid hasn't helped. He also stated that when it comes time to do repairs to the building the Society would like to help. Jeff Hubbell moved, seconded by Gwen Bronson to reduce the amount from \$1,000 to \$1.00. The amendment failed. The original motion was passed by majority vote.

Article 13. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Greg Hime to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for Direct Welfare. (\$10,000 appropriated in 2022). (Majority vote required). The Article passed unanimously.

Article 14. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by David Hughes to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,148 for the support of the following health and welfare agencies (\$45,398 appropriated in 2021) (Majority vote required). The Article passed unanimously.

Agency	2023 Request	2022 Appropriation
Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Assoc.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Winnepesaukee Wellness Center	\$6,500	\$6,000
Community Action Program	\$8,800	\$8,800
Inter-Lakes Day Care Center	\$4,848	\$4,848
New Beginnings	\$1,050	\$1,050
American Red Cross	\$1,000	\$1,000
Lakes Region Mental Health Ctr.	\$1,750	\$1,500
CASA	\$1,000	\$1,000
Interlakes Community Caregivers	\$1,200	\$1,200
Total Health/Welfare Agencies	\$46,148	\$45,398

Article 15. Special Warrant Article. Petitioned warrant article. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by Dave Johnson to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the purpose of supporting services provided to children in Center Harbor experiencing alleged abuse. In FY 2021, four (4) children in Center Harbor completed a forensic interview and received family support services from the Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center in Laconia, a program of the Granite State Children's Alliance that serves all communities in Belknap County. Trauma-informed behavioral health services with a licensed clinician are also

available and provided on-location. These combined services are valued at \$1,984 per child – and are provided at no cost to families. On average in the U.S., without the availability of a Child Advocacy Center, the cost to communities is \$3,949 per child, before the addition of behavioral health services. Child Advocacy Center services reduce trauma for child victims by allowing them to only tell their story once in a supportive, comfortable, trauma-informed and child-friendly environment. They support children and their families in early stages of healing and save the community money. The Selectmen recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote. (Majority vote required) The Article passed unanimously.

Article 16. Special Warrant Article. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Steve Condojani to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in the existing Heritage Fund. (\$5,000 appropriated in 2022). The Selectmen recommend this warrant article by a 3-0 vote. (Majority vote required). The Article passed by majority vote.

Article 17. It was moved by Richard Drenkhahn and seconded by Jeff Hubbell to see if the Town will readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500. (Majority vote required). Mr. Hime stated as a veteran he certainly appreciates the recognition and use of this credit but our Town is in need of funds and would like his credit to go towards the needs of the town. The Article passed by majority vote.

Article 18. It was moved by William Ricciardi and seconded by Peter Loudon to see if the Town will readopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Center Harbor under RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required). The Article passed by majority vote.

Article 19. It was moved by Harry Viens and seconded by Kim Baker to see if the Town will vote to allow a discount of two (2) percent on property taxes paid within twenty-two (22) days of issue of tax bills by the Tax Collector. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 20. To transact such other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting, including to choose agents or committees in relation to any article of the Warrant and hear reports of any heretofore chosen. Chair of the Heritage Commission Ginny Fisher mentioned the Heritage Commission needs more members if anyone is interested to let her know. Ms. Sullivan promoted Earth Day/Week Roadside Cleanup the week of April 16-22. Information is on the town website. Mr. Volz wanted to close the loop on the solar project stating, "the public has comments or opinions the Energy Committee meets the 3rd Monday of the month in the Carey Mead Room at 7:00PM. Also, both the Energy Committee and ZBA Committee need new members if anyone is interested." Moderator Hanson emphasized it is a good way to get involved in your community by volunteering on a committee. Karen Ponton asked if there could be an update on the Harbor Landing Development on Bean Road. Mr. Viens stated the Planning Board in Moultonborough approved 42 units with several conditions. At this point we are waiting to see how the Army Corp of Engineers and DES are going to move forward with the laundry list of concerns that the Selectmen sent. They discounted all the safety concerns we

have with not only foot traffic but road traffic. Steve Caney asked if the solar project is something taxpayers could draw off. Mr. Volz answered the solar for the municipal building would be just for the building. There could be other projects that could cover this down the road. Robert Nichols had a real concern about the ballot question on the changes to the Zoning Ordinance **Section 4 General Provisions, Sub Section 4:4:9 Fences** After extensive discussion by Mr. Nichols he moved in the future that there is an explanation on the ballot to show the change to the ordinance and an explanation of that change. Motion failed. Mr. Hime stated the Town voted to remove it; we as citizens looked at it, discussed it and voted to remove it. Gwen Bronson asked for a definition with a garden fence. Peter Gurney agreed with Mr. Nichols in the future with ballot questions such as this to show an explanation on the ballot.

Eric Strapp motioned to adjourn; Dave Johnson seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richardson
Town Clerk