TOWN OF STRATHAM

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2017

The ballot clerks and election workers were sworn in at 7:50 am and 1:50 pm. Present were Moderator Dave Emanuel, Deputy Moderator Tracey McGrail, Assistant to the Moderator Vic Collinino, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau, Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector Deborah Bakie, Selectmen David Canada, Joseph Lovejoy, and Bruno Federico. Supervisors of the Checklist present were: Caren Gallagher, Natalie Perry, and Melanie McGrail. Ballot clerks for the day were Dianna and Roger Thompson, Susan Canada, Liz Chisholm, Susan Brett, Nancy Hunter, Andra Copeland, Vero Ludington, Diana Alsterberg, Eileen Bischoff, Joan Gough, and Connie Adams.

It was a quiet day with 725 votes cast at the Town Election, with 183 of those being absentee ballots. There were 8 new voters registered on Election Day, making the total number of voters on the Checklist 6392. There was an 11% turnout for this election.

Exeter Region Cooperative School District Ballot results for Stratham only are as follows: (*Denotes the Winner)
Cooperative School Board: For Exeter for three years, vote for one: David Slifka 527*. For East Kingston for three years, vote for one: Deborah Hobson 505*. For Stratham for three years, vote for one: Travis Thompson 597*. For Cooperative School District Moderator for one year, vote for one: Katherine B. Miller 560*. Cooperative School District Budget Committee: For Brentwood for three years, vote for one: (There was no candidate on this ballot, winner will be determined by the six Cooperative towns via write-in votes.) For Exeter for three years, vote for one: Roy Morrisette 540*. For Kensington for three years, vote for one: (There was no candidate on this ballot, winner will be determined by the six Cooperative towns via write-in votes.) For Newfields for two years, vote for one: (There was no candidate on this ballot, winner will be determined by the six Cooperative towns via write-in votes.)

Stratham only results:

***Article 1**: Bond for CMS additional/renovations
Yes: 398 No: 251

*This bond was defeated. It needed a 60% vote to pass, and when all the six towns were tallied, they had only received 52% in yes votes.

Article 2: ERCSD Operating Budget:
Yes: 500* No: 180

Article 3: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Exeter Region Cooperative School District (ERCSD) and the Exeter Area Administrators Association. (EAAA):
Yes: 467* No: 207

Article 4: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the ERCSD and the Exeter Educators Association. (EEA):
Yes: 447* No: 228

Article 5: Capital Reserve Fund for Synthetic Turf Replacement:
Yes: 428* No: 255

Stratham Memorial School District Ballot results as follows:
(*Denotes the Winner)
School Board Member for three years, vote for two: Nathan Stein 225. Jillian Carter 463*. Robert E. O'Sullivan 331*.
School Board Member for one year, vote for one: Robert Piotrowski 252. Eric Von Der Linden 340*. School District Treasurer for two years, vote for not more than one: Write-in candidate Patty Lovejoy 5*.

Annual Town of Stratham Ballot results as follows:
(* Denotes the Winner)
Article 1:
Selectman for three years, vote for one: Michael Houghton 611*.
Town Clerk/Tax Collector for three years, vote for one: Joyce L. Charbonneau 650*. Cemetery Trustee for three years, vote for one: Colin Laverty 632*. Library Trustee for three years, vote for one: Anna Greenlaw

282. Kate Kim 293*. Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, vote for one: Mikki Deschaine 610*.

Article 2 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendments to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend the Zoning Ordinance, Section II, Definitions, by adding 2.1.52, Premises and renumbering accordingly.

And in conjunction therewith, amend Section VII, Subsection 7.5 Exempt Signs, Subsection 7.5.j to further define and clarify the types of signs exempted from the regulations. ***The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*** Yes: 528* No: 113

Article 3 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendments to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend the Zoning Ordinance, Section III, Subsection 3.8 Gateway Commercial Business District (GCBD), by amending Subsection 3.8.6 Review and Permitting Process.

And in connection therewith, amend Section III, Subsection 3.8.8 Table 5 to further clarify the permitting requirements and procedures for developments in the GCBD. ***The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*** Yes: 485* No 170

Article 4 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendments to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To adopt the recent statutory changes to NH RSA 674:70 Accessory Dwelling Units by removing Section II, Definitions, 2.1.2, Accessory Apartment and replace with Section II, Definitions, 2.1.3, Accessory Dwelling Units and renumbering accordingly.

And in connection therewith amend Section II, Definitions, by adding 2.1.69, Transient Occupancy and renumbering accordingly.

And in connection therewith delete the current Section 5.4, Accessory Apartments and replace with Section 5.4 Accessory Dwelling Units. **The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.**
Yes: 493* No 158

Article 5 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend the Zoning Ordinance to remove Section V, Subsection 5.5, Outside Storage and replace with Section V, Subsection 5.5, Accessory Outside Storage to clarify the type of permitted storage. ***The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*** Yes: 497* No: 152

Article 6 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Section VIII, Subsection 8.9.a.iii Buffer Area by adding Section VIII, Subsection 8.9.a.iii.4 and renumbering accordingly to allow the Planning Board the ability to waive certain buffer requirements upon adoption of criteria by regulation for issuing such waivers. **The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.**
Yes: 391* No: 262

Article 7 – Are you in favor of adopting the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

To amend Section XIX, Subsection 19.4.2, Use Districts related to permitting of Telecommunications Facilities to be consistent with previously approved zoning districts. ***The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.*** Yes: 490* No: 156

The remaining Town of Stratham articles will be voted on March 17, 2017 at the Stratham Memorial School at 7:00 p.m.

Town Moderator Dave Emanuel declared the meeting come to order at 7:05 pm. Four members of the Stratham Cub Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Emanuel then called for a moment of silence for all those serving in the Armed Forces, and for those who could not be there tonight.

Mr. Emanuel then went on to introduce himself and everyone on the stage: The Board of Selectmen, (B.O.S.): Bruno Federico, Joseph Lovejoy, outgoing Selectman David Canada, and incoming Selectman Michael Houghton. Town Administrator Paul Deschaine, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau and Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector Deborah Bakie were also introduced. Supervisors of the Checklist Melanie McGrail, Caren Gallagher, and Natalie Perry were also present. Moderator Emanuel's assistants included Bruce Scamman, Travis Thompson, and Nate Merrill. Mr. Emanuel then had Patty Lovejoy read the dedication of the Town Report. This year's dedication was to the members of the 300th Anniversary Committee. Mr. Emanuel then read the results of the ballot voting on Thursday, March 16, 2017. He announced there were no requests for recounts. Mr. Emanuel then explained the Rules of Procedure for Town Meeting.

The Following articles were discussed and voted on:

Article 8: All Veterans' Property Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, "All Veterans' Property Tax Credit?" If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served no less than ninety (90) days on active service in the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 for Veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict, or under RSA 72:35 for Veterans with a service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit granted will be in the amount of $500, which is the same amount previously authorized as the credit under RSA 72:28. If adopted, any qualified person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the Selectmen by April 15 of the tax year. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Joseph Lovejoy moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Selectman Joseph Lovejoy spoke to the motion. Selectman Lovejoy explained that the State Legislature passed a bill for municipalities to adopt an amendment on the current Veteran's credit to extend this

credit to all Veterans that have served 90 days of active service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. asked for clarification on whether this credit will expand to veterans who were not actually involved in a war. Selectman Lovejoy confirmed that yes, this credit would expand to all veterans who served 90 days of active service, whether it was during peace time or war. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 8 passed.

Article 9: 2017 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate Six Million Four Hundred and Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One Dollars and no cents ($6,430,681.00) to defray general town charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Board of Selectman recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman David Canada moved to accept this article as read. Selectman Federico seconded the motion. Selectman Canada spoke to the motion. Selectman Canada stated before he began to discuss the budget, with this being his last day as a Selectman, he wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to help govern the Town, and also to thank the residents for their trust, confidence and support over the past ten years. He stated that it has been a great pleasure and honor to serve the Town and its residents. He further stated that it is an episode in his life that will always be a reference point for everything to come. Selectman Canada then went on to the discussion for the Operating Budget. He first thanked the Budget Committee for their help with the budget. Mr. Canada went on to explain that for every $100,000.00 approved tonight, it will add 8.0 cents to the tax rate which would add approximately $28.00 to the average residential tax bill. Selectman Canada went over the significant increases in the operating budget. He explained that the proposed operating budget for 2017 is 6.4 million, which is up $263,000.00 from 2016 or 4.3%. He further explained that about 30% of the increase is due to

payroll. This is due to a 1.3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase, as well as merit raises and an increase in support staff where they felt it was appropriate and needed. Selectman Canada explained that the most significant increase comes from Solid Waste. He explained that our three year contract ended, and the new contract resulted in a very large increase due to the increase in cost of recycling pick-up. The cost of the contract is $713,000.00, which is up about $175,000.00. This is an increase of 30%. He explained that this line item accounts for 2/3 of the entire operating budget for 2017. Selectman Canada also went over some of the decreases in the operating budget for 2017. He stated that this included elections, and explained that there is only one election in 2017, versus the four elections we had in 2016. He also stated that the cost of maintaining our buildings is down this year, as well as the Office of Emergency Management due to fewer drills this year. On the revenue side, Selectman Canada noted that Vehicle registrations are up about $113,000.00. Mr. Canada concluded that if all articles passed tonight, the Town's portion for the 2017 tax rate will drop 1.8%. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Nancy Hunter, Brown Ave. asked what portion the Town employees pay for the health insurance offered by the Town. Selectman Canada responded that the employees pay 20%. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Mr. Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 9 passed.

Article 10 –Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and no cents ($1,483,800.00) to implement the Capital Improvements Program for 2017 as presented in the Town Report and approved by the Planning Board. This is a special warrant article which will be non-lapsing until the specific items are completed or obtained but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from this appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI). The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read. Selectman David Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. Selectman Federico went over the new items in the 2017 CIP. Under "General Government",

these items include $50,000.00 for the Heritage Preservation Fund, $5800.00 for Municipal Center Landscape and Lighting Improvements, $15,000.00 for Municipal Center Restroom Improvements, and $15,000.00 for Vehicle Replacement for the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. Under "Protection of Persons/Property, the new item is the Traffic Control Program for $20,000.00. Under Public Works and Highways, the new items in the CIP are the Highway Department Parking Lot Repaving, the Dump Trailer for $11,500.00, and the Maple Lane Cemetery Repaving for $7,000.00. Selectman Federico stated these are all the new CIP items, and total appropriations for all items asked for the CIP is $1,483,800.00. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Nancy Hunter, Brown Ave. asked why we had a $20,000.00 request in the CIP for the Water/Sewer Infrastructure Study when we haven't asked the businesses along the Gateway/108 route whether they even wanted or needed water, or even if they are willing to pay for water. Nancy commented that in the last ten years we have spent over $600,000.0 in studies for water. She also commented that some of the items in the CIP should be in the operating budget. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. seconded her comments. He also felt that certain items in the CIP did not belong there. He specifically cited the parking lot repaving, and the request for the dump trailer. He felt they should be in the operating budget. Marty also commented that the Revaluation expense and the Master Plan Update Reserve should be presented as warrant articles. Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator, responded that the policy is if any item that costs $5000.00 and over and has a life span of over three years, it is considered a Capital Item, and belongs in the Capital Improvements Program. Selectman Canada also responded that the CIP retains the money at the end of the year, versus the operating budget, which does not. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines Dr. asked if he could ask a procedural question. His question was can the CIP be amended by a certain amount. Mr. Emanuel responded that an amendment is possible, and it will change the bottom line of the CIP. Mr. Deschaine also responded that if the will of the body is known, then the Board would respect that. Nancy Hunter then proposed an amendment to take out $20,000.00 from the CIP with the intention of not using the remaining funds in the CIP for the Water/Sewer Infrastructure Study.

Marty Wool seconded the amendment. Mr. Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor regarding the proposed amendment. Mike Dane, Stratham Hgts. Rd. commented that perhaps there should be a discussion by the Town Body on the whole initiative for Gateway and the proposed water/sewer project. Selectman Lovejoy responded that they formed a committee after last year's Town Meeting to look at the entire Gateway Water/Sewer project. He stated that the committee started in February of 2017 and the committee is going to need this money to do their job for the various studies this project will entail. Selectman Lovejoy stated that he hoped you would vote against this amendment and allow the committee the means to do their job. Dave St. Armand, Crestview Terrace asked what the study involves and who is on the committee. Selectman Federico responded that the committee is working on the plans for exploring a potential site for Wastewater Management, permits involved for a new water system, geo-physical analysis, and an analysis for technical support for the route 108 corridor study. Selectman Federico commented that without this money, we are tying the committee's hands and they will not be able to provide an end result on whether the Gateway envisioned project is worth doing or not. He concluded with that "we need to study, and to do studies, we need money, and this is a $20,000.00 project study". Selectman Canada also commented that as the committee progresses in their talks, they will be coming up with the specific needs for this study. He also explained that almost half a million dollars was turned back in from the General Fund that was not spent in 2016. He stated that "you can always count on the B.O.S. to return any money back to the Town that was not used". He also stated that "if we do not approve this money for the study for the committee to use, then we are setting them up for defeat". He further stated that "this money is not earmarked for a specific study, it is earmarked for the committee's needs as they see fit". He also stated that "this committee is charged with coming back to the 2018 Town Meeting with a report on whether public water/sewer is a viable option in Stratham". Selectman Canada concluded with that they may come back and say it is not a viable option, but their recommendations should be based on study, not speculation. Rebecca Mitchell, Portsmouth Ave. commented that she is at Market Basket several times a week, and the

Management there as well as the Head Office would really like to see water come to Stratham so they can expand and bring the services and products to their store that other towns around us have. Mike Dane, Stratham Hgts. Rd. commented that he was personally In favor of having public water in Stratham, but feels that we need more transparency and visibility from the Town to its residents. Mike also added that he is against this amendment. He stated that we should give the Town the money it needs to ensure good planning. Veronique Ludington, Marybank Dr. asked what are the qualifications for the members on the Committee that are doing the study and who are the members. Selectman Lovejoy responded with the names of the members, they are: Norton Newborn, who is the Chair, and had opposed the Water and Sewer article last year, Melissa Currier, who also had expressed opposition last year, Nathan Merrill and Lucy Cushman, who were in favor of the article last year, Roger Groux, owner of Honda Barn, who was also in favor of the article, Maria Stowell, a registered engineer, who had no position either way on the article, and Selectman Lovejoy also stated he is on the Committee as a Selectman's representative. Selectman Canada also added that all of the committee meetings are open to the public, and the agendas, and the date and times of the meetings are posted. He encouraged the Stratham residents to come to these meetings, and to participate in these meetings. David St. Armand, Crestview Terr., stated that the cost of water is going to continue to increase, and these increases are directly being placed on the Waste Treatment Plant in Exeter. He also stated that these are due to EPA regulations from a Federal level, and these costs will spill over to us as taxpayers. He concluded with that "businesses need water, and if we want to keep businesses in Town, we need to give them water". Nancy Barnes, Fifield Lane, asked if there was still over $400,000.00 left over from the previous studies, why aren't we using that for the $20,000.00 we are requesting now. Town Administrator Paul Deschaine explained that if the Committee decides we should have a Water/Sewer system in Stratham, then that $400,000.00 plus will be going towards all the permitting that will be required to see if it is viable to have the system. He also explained that it is $160,000.00 just to get a water system in place, and we also may have to design a sewer system. He also stated that engineering work does not come cheap. Roger Wilkinson,

Benjamin Rd. stated that he has serious doubts about the whole Gateway Project. He stated that all the retail businesses he is familiar with are fighting with internet sales. He also stated that Stratham does not need more stores. He also questioned the concept of needing public water to offer affordable housing in Stratham, and wondered what the definition of affordable housing is. Brent Scott, Fifield Lane, asked if the study is going to include what the reduction would be in regards to the residential real estate taxes. Selectman Lovejoy stated he couldn't say how long the Commercial Development would take in order to see a reduction in property taxes. Town Administrator Deschaine also explained that this study is not a single study, but that it could be multiple studies answering multiple questions. Peter Wiggin, Bunker Hill Ave. asked how much money has been spent to seek out potential investors or developers to come in and develop that area in terms of marketing that corridor of the private industry in Stratham so they could come in and build the water and sewer. He also asked if this has not been done to date, can we use some of the $400,000.00 to do that. Paul Deschaine responded that "no money has been spent because you can't market what you don't have". He further explained that until the Town makes the commitment to have water and sewer, then it is just a promise. He further explained that if the Town is not willing to invest, then private investors are not going to invest. Nancy Hunter, Brown Ave. stated we don't have a list of businesses that want to come to Stratham, and we don't have a list of businesses that have said they need the water, and are willing to pay for it. She further stated that we are continuing to spend money every year on these studies, and it has to stop. She reminded everyone that last year, the residents voted on the water/sewer question, and she stated it was very clear by the vote that we don't want to pay for the water. Nancy then called the question. Moderator Emanuel then read the amendment to reduce the amount in Article 10 by $20,000.00 and to also insert the text "not be used for the water/infrastructure project" after the words "Planning Board". The amendment did not pass; results were 58 yes, and 67 no. Seeing no further questions from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question for Article 10, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 10 passed.

Article 11: Conservation of Barker's Farm

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Four Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents ($400,000.00) to contribute towards the conservation of +/- 83 acres of the Barker Farm, so called, located at 216 Portsmouth Avenue (Tax Map18, Lot 37, & Map 21, Lot 80) of which Twenty Five Thousand and no cents ($25,000.00) will be taken from the Land Conservation Fund and the remainder shall be from general taxation. This warrant article is further contingent upon the Southeast Land Trust of NH executing a binding purchase and sales agreement with the legal owners of the stated properties, and obtaining sufficient remaining funds by any legal means to complete the terms of said agreement. This is a special warrant article which will be non-lapsing until the specific purpose is completed or obtained but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from this appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI). The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Lovejoy moved to accept the Article as read. Selectman Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Lovejoy spoke to the motion and also asked if he could yield the floor after his comments to Allison Knab, the Chairperson of the Conservation Commission. Selectman Lovejoy explained that the proposed conservation easement encompasses slightly over 83 acres, and is situated at 216 Portsmouth Ave. Selectman Lovejoy explained that the easement purchase is $1,785,400.00. He explained, of that amount, Southeast Land Trust expects to secure $500,000.00 from Federal Funding, and $210,400.00 in State Funding. Selectman Lovejoy wanted to make note, and also to stress, that the Barker Family is prepared to forego $675,000.00 of the value of this transaction in order to help secure the easement. He further stated that the Town of Stratham is being asked to provide up to $400,000.00: $25,000.00 which would come from the Land Conservation Fund, and $375,000.00 which would come from general taxation. He also noted that the Town Funding will only occur upon the remaining funds necessary to close the transaction being secured by the Land Trust. He stated that "Our money will be the last money in". He then yielded the floor to Allison Knab, Tidewater Farm, and Chairperson of the Conservation

Commission. Allison stated that the Conservation Commission is very excited about this proposal in conserving the Barker Farm. She explained that the parcel is adjacent to the Town Forest, Crockett Farms Subdivision, the Short property, the Gifford property, and school land and other Town parcels and open space. Allison stated that "by putting this property in conservation, we guarantee recreational use for years to come for future generations, greatly increasing the size of one of the best features of our Town". She further stated that "The property also represents a clear means to continue to value our agricultural heritage supporting the small family farms that will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year". Allison stated that the Barker property was purchased in 1917 by Willard Barker. The Barker Farm Stand brings the community together by providing live music, pizza, fresh fruit and vegetables, home baked goods, flowers and pumpkins. It is a place where neighbors run into each other. Allison also noted that the Barker Family has been extremely generous in offering to conserve this land. She also stated that the purchase price is $675,000.00 less than the appraisal value, leaving 1.1 million needed to conserve the land. Allison explained that the Town is being asked to contribute $400,000.00 towards this price. She stated that this is a unique opportunity for the Town to conserve a piece of property valuable from both a recreational/agricultural standpoint for a small fraction of the total expense. She concluded with stating that the Conservation Commission strongly supports conserving this land, and hopes we will too. Moderator Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Pat Elwell, Strawberry Lane, stated that the Conservation Commission has wanted to be able to do this easement for a very long time, and that we have a unique opportunity to do so because of the generosity of the Barkers. Pat stated that the Barker family has been part of the core of the Stratham Conservation movement in Stratham. She also stated that it is a way of honoring the memory of Gordon Barker, who was instrumental in getting Stratham Hill Park conserved when he was a Selectman. She stated that Gordon was a member of the Conservation Commission, and had worked on many projects to educate voters on the importance of conservation. She stated that Gordon was also instrumental about educating the voters on the five million dollar bond, which eventually funded more than 7.5

million dollars in Land Conservation projects over the last fifteen years. Pat also thanked all the voters, past and present, that have supported the many projects that the Conservation Commission brought forth over the years, which include the five million dollar bond, and the Land Use Change Tax funding. Pat further stated that we, the voters, have seen the value in keeping open space and conserving undeveloped land. She concluded again, with a thank you for our support, and expressed the hope that we will be supportive of this project as well. Roger Wilkinson, Benjamin Rd. asked what percentage of Stratham land is currently in conservation. Selectman Lovejoy responded approximately 33% of the land in Stratham is currently in conservation. Rebecca Mitchell, Portsmouth Ave. speaking on the behalf of the Heritage Commission, stated that the Heritage Commission at its March meeting voted unanimously in support of this article and hopes we do too. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines, also spoke in support of this article. He also stated that after a meeting recently that was with members from the State-Wide Heritage and Land Use Organizations, a member told him that they use Stratham as the example on how to do this sort of thing. He stated comments from them were very positive. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. asked if the easement is the complete Barker Farm, or is the front parcel being kept out of this easement. Selectman Lovejoy explained that the portion being retained by the Barker family is their homestead, outbuildings, and their farm stand. The rest of the property is part of the easement. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 11 passed.

Article 12 – Funding for the 350th Anniversary Celebration

To see if the Town will vote to establish a 350th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a to help defray the future costs associated with celebrating the Town's 350th Anniversary of the granting of its charter, and to further raise and appropriate Three Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and Fifty Cents ($3503.50) to be placed in this newly created Fund with this amount to come from unreserved fund balance, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote.

Selectman Canada moved to accept the Article as read. Selectman Federico seconded the motion. Selectman Canada spoke to the motion. Selectman Canada stated that the 300th Committee worked hard at raising funds for the various events they sponsored. He stated that there were some funds left over at the end of the anniversary year. Selectman Canada explained that the Committee wished to leave a legacy for their successor group, the 350th Anniversary Committee, with some of the remaining funds. The 300th Committee had received such a legacy from the 250th Committee. Selectman Canada explained the process that in order to do this we have to return the funds back into the general fund, and then re-appropriate the money into a non-lapsing trust fund. He further explained that the amount, $3503.50 is "350" twice. He stated that the Selectmen urge you to make this connection from our time to the future. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. commented that the 350th Anniversary Committee should raise their own money, and does not support this Article. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 12 passed.

Article 13 – Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars and no cents ($25,000.00) to be deposited into the "Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund" as created by the March 16, 2012 Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Federico moved to accept the Article as read. Selectman Lovejoy seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. Selectman Federico explained that this fund is for unforeseen situations where repairs or future repairs may be needed for a building or septic system or some such similar need. Moderator Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Cheryl Eveleigh, Long Hill Rd. asked what the current balance is in the fund, and also asked is there a master plan for maintenance improvement over the next five or ten years. Selectman Canada explained that the way the CIP works is that the money in there is retained for five years, and then it expires. He further explained that they try and keep $125,000.00 in this

fund at all times for unforeseen circumstances such as a septic system failing or a building collapsing. He also stated that this fund is for Town buildings only. Selectman Federico also added that the current balance is $99,000.00. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 13 passed.

Article 14 – EMS Fund Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Nine Thousand Dollars and no cents ($89,000.00) for the following purposes:

2017 EMS/EMT First Responder Training	$9,000.00
2017 ALS Services Contract	$10,000.00
2017 Purchase of 2 Replacement Zoll Monitor/Defibrillators	$70,000.00

and to further authorize the withdrawal of Eighty nine Thousand Dollars and no cents ($89,000.00) from the Stratham Fire Department EMS Special Revenue Fund created for these purposes during the March 17, 2000 Annual Town Meeting and as amended during the March 11, 2005 Town Meeting. No additional funds from general taxation are to be used. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Lovejoy moved to accept the Article as read. Selectman Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Lovejoy spoke to the motion. Selectman Lovejoy explained the first two items must be voted on annually in order to authorize payments from funds collected by billing of ambulance services. The third item, he explained, is for the replacement of the Monitor/Defibrillators, and that this is equipment that is carried on our ambulances. He further explained that the current equipment was purchased in 2009, and at that time it was refurbished, and was already eight years old. Selectman Lovejoy stated that the current equipment is at the end of its life cycle, is functionally obsolete, and is no longer being produced. He further stated that most responders in the Seacoast Network are now being trained on the newer equipment. Selectman Lovejoy explained that the new equipment is State of the Art, and is at the front end of its life cycle. He also stated that the new units are much lighter and more mobile than the older units. He concluded that with all of these

expenditures, if approved, will be paid through the Fire Department's EMS Special Revenue Fund. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 14 passed.

Article 15 – Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and no cents ($10,000.00) to be deposited into the "Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund" as created by the March 16, 2007 Town Meeting to meet the currently unfunded obligations of the Town. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Federico moved to accept the Article as read. Selectman Lovejoy seconded the motion. Selectman Federico spoke to the motion. He explained this fund is used to pay employees who may be retiring or leaving the employment of the Town. He stated that we have to have the funds available for an employees unused vacation/sick time, and other retirement associated costs that the employee is owed. Selectman Federico also explained that by putting money into the expendable trust fund for accrued benefits, we are ensuring that we are able to meet our obligations if our employees that are eligible to retire did so at the same time. Moderator Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Seeing no questions or comments, Moderator Emanuel then read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 15 passed.

Article 16 – Authorizing the Long Term Lease of a Portion of the Police Station Roof

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease to Revision Energy portions of the roof of the Stratham Police Station at 76 Portsmouth Avenue for the purpose of installing solar panel arrays with a term not to exceed twenty (20) years. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article by unanimous vote. Selectman Lovejoy moved to accept the article as read. Selectman Canada seconded the motion. Selectman Lovejoy spoke to the motion and also asked if he could yield the floor after his comments to Michael Welty of the Stratham Energy Commission, (SEC). Selectman Lovejoy stated that this Article, unlike all the

other articles, will not cost the taxpayers anything, and also stated that we could be in the position to save money. He then turned over the floor to Michael Welty, Chair of the Stratham Energy Commission. Michael Welty, Walter's Way stated that the major financial benefit for this endeavor is that Unitil will credit Stratham for whatever excess power we produce over what is used at the meter it is connected to. Michael also gave a brief history of the quest for bringing Solar Energy to Stratham. He stated it began in 2009 with Caroline Robinson. He stated she came before this group, and said she had a dream to bring Solar Energy to Stratham. He also stated that from then, until now, a number of options for Solar Energy were considered, and rejected, for various reasons. Some of the reasons he gave were the age of the buildings being considered, the Public Utilities Commission rejecting a project for the Firehouse, and the timing being off when a grant was being considered. In January of 2017, he stated that the pursuit of bringing Solar Energy was back on the table, and the SEC did an analysis of the Town Hall, the Firehouse, and the Police Station. Michael further stated that after reviewing all the input and data, the SEC felt it was in the Town's best interest to place the Solar Panels on the roof of the Police Station. He stated that the lease is for a twenty year Power Purchase Agreement, (PPA) with no upfront costs to the taxpayers of Stratham. He also explained that the PPA would allow us to purchase the electricity produced by the Solar Panels at an initial cost of 8.5 cents which is less than the current Unitil costs and well below the ten year average of 14.5 cents. Michael also explained that this provides a positive cash flow from day one; estimated at $8900 .00 for the first year, $50,000.00 for 20 years, and $192,000.00 for 40 years. Michael also stated that this system has an initial purchase value of $89,793.00 and under the PPA, Stratham would have the option after year 6 to purchase the system for approximately $26,000.00. Michael concluded with that it is the recommendation of the SEC, the BOS, and Chief Scippa that we move forward with this Warrant Article. Moderator Emanuel then asked for questions or comments from the floor. Ceyda Yalcinkaya, Bittersweet Lane, stated that while she was happy to see these kind of projects coming to Stratham, she is concerned that if there was a fire, could this kind of system be shut off. Michael Welty responded to her concern and stated that the technology does allow the panels to be shut down. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor,

Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 16 passed.

Article 17 – Citizen Petition Concerning the POW/MIA Flag

By petition of Peter Wiggin and more than twenty five (25) other registered voters of the Town of Stratham, NH, to see if the Town will vote to fly the POW/MIA flag continuously with, and directly below, the flag of the United States, for a total of two (2) flags, to be flown on the existing single Jewell Sisters' Memorial Flagpole within the Veterans' Memorial at Stratham Hill Park, as per the original intent of the Veterans' Memorial design. Barry Watkins, Shirley Lane, moved to accept the article as read. Debra Altschiller, Apple Way, seconded the motion. Peter Wiggin, Bunker Hill Ave. spoke to the motion. Peter started off with giving his sincere thanks to all those who supported this petition. He explained that on 3/21/16, he went before the BOS, and asked permission to fly the POW/MIA flag at the Veterans' Garden and was told they needed to discuss it, and they would get back to him. Peter further stated that the BOS presented it to the Heritage Commission and the Heritage Commission made the recommendation not to fly the flag in that manner at the Veterans' Garden. He also stated that the BOS went with their recommendation, and therefore, he was denied permission to place the flag at the Garden. Peter further stated that he went back to the BOS on 12/19/16 with additional information, and was again denied. Peter stated at that time he decided he would let the Citizens of Stratham make the decision, and started to pursue the Citizen's Petition. Peter stated that in January of 2017, when he was already well into the petition process, the BOS issued a press release in support of flying the flag conditionally. He stated that conditionally was depending on finding a spot for the installation of the second flag that would need to be placed elsewhere within the park. Peter further explained, that as of today, (3/17/17), there is still no POW/MIA flag flying at the Veterans' Memorial Garden. Peter stated that in protest of what was felt was a lack of respect in this issue, a former Marine who has been a Stratham resident for 37 years had his Veteran's brick removed from the Garden. Peter stated that this former Marine felt he could not be included in the Memorial Garden if the twenty-nine men he fought with in Vietnam were not represented by the POW/MIA flag. Peter explained that these

men were listed as BNR's, - "Bodies Never Recovered". Peter concluded with that he will defer to the residents of Stratham to support this Warrant Article as presented, because he felt that there seemed to be a clear show of non-support on the part of the BOS. Pat Abrami, Tall Pines Dr. spoke in support of this Article, and gave a brief history of the POW/MIA flag. Barry Watkins, Shirley Lane, spoke in support of the Article, and questioned the BOS on why it had to reach this point in the process for the flag to be flown at the Veterans' Memorial Garden. He stated that he was a Veteran and had done two tours in Vietnam where he lost many friends, and also had a friend who was a POW. He stated that he was embarrassed to see that there still was not a flag flying at the Memorial Garden. Jerold Maslowski, Portsmouth Ave., spoke in support of the Article, and also stated that he is a former Veteran who lost many comrades in Vietnam. He stated he chose to have his brick removed out of respect to the soldiers that did not come home. He further stated that he could not understand that the reason the BOS gave him back in 2011 was that there was no room for an additional flag. He stated it should never be a question of "no room", and the POW/MIA flag should be flown in order to honor our Veterans, and the soldiers that did not make it home. Frank Lasorsa, Brown Ave. also spoke in support of the Article. He first thanked all the Veterans for their service. He also stated that he was amazed that we actually had to get to this point that we have to vote on this issue. He stated he was a Pease Greeter, and he drives by Stratham Hill Park twice a day, and can't believe that the flag is still not flying at the Memorial Garden. Frank also asked the Selectmen that if this Article passes, could the flag be installed Tuesday morning. Selectman Lovejoy answered in the affirmative. Jamie Marsh, Scamman Rd., spoke in support of this Article. He first thanked all the Veterans, and also thanked Peter Wiggin for all his efforts on this issue. He also wanted to point out that the Heritage Commission is an advisory board only committee, but the BOS are the rule making body, and he stated that "the only reason the flag is not flying is because the BOS did not want it to fly". Edgar Saltus, Country Farm Rd. spoke in support of this Article. He stated he is a former Veteran, and he further stated that "we need to fly this flag, and we need to honor our Veterans." Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd. spoke in support of this Article. He stated as President of "The Friends of Stratham Hill Park", he wanted to let everyone know that a unanimous vote was made to donate the flag pole to the Veterans' Garden so the POW/MIA flag

can fly. Seeing no further questions or comments from the floor, Moderator Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 17 passed.

Article 18 – Other Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Selectman Canada thanked all the members of the Boards/Commissions/Committees for their service over the past year. He stated there are always openings on the various Boards, and if is anyone is interested, please let the BOS know. Moderator Emanuel asked that newly elected officials see Town Clerk Joyce Charbonneau to be sworn in after the close of the meeting. Selectman Lovejoy asked for the opportunity to thank David Canada for his service to the Town over the last ten years and also for the welcoming way that Selectman Canada treated him during his first year on the Board. Selectman Lovejoy also stated that Selectman Canada served on the Budget Advisory Committee, was a Selectman for ten years, and was the Chair on the Select Board for seven of those years. Selectman Lovejoy also shared the accomplishments that occurred in Stratham during Selectman's Canada's service on the Select Board. These included a new Fire station, a substantial renovation of the Municipal Center and Library, construction of athletic facilities at Stevens Field, a Conservation Easement at Scamman Farm, putting together the Stratham 300th Anniversary Committee and seeing the successful conclusion of their work , the Heritage Preservation Fund being established, the Town Center Revitalization Committee and Energy Commission being formed, the acquisition of the Bartlett-Cushman property, the award of a substantial Transportation Enhancement Grant to improve the Town Center, securing a preservation easement on the Lane Homestead, and the hiring of top notch employees that included Recreation Director Seth Hickey, Police Chief John Scippa, Public Works Administrator Colin Laverty, Town Planner Tavis Austin, and CEO and Building Inspector Mark Morong. Selectman Lovejoy concluded with the statement that Selectman Canada can take great pride in that he made a very significant difference during his terms on the Select Board, and left things better than how he found them. Selectman Canada thanked everyone and stated what he was most proud of was the people that the BOS hired during his tenure. Selectman Federico also thanked

Selectman Canada and stated that they had started out together and he also felt that they had accomplished quite a bit in the last ten years. He then presented Selectman Canada with a clock with the Stratham logo. Selectman Canada thanked everyone again, and said he would proudly hang it in his office. Other business: Pat Elwell, Conservation Committee, stated that they would be selling compost bins and rain barrels, and if anyone wished to purchase them, they could find the application on the Stratham website. Marty Wool, Winnicutt Rd., stated he had just a couple of comments to make regarding the Town Report. He asked if there could be a listing in the front of the Town Report next year of all the various funds that have been set up over the years, and showing how much money is in them. He also stated some of the funds should be in the General Fund, or eliminated, such as the D.A.R.E. program. He stated we have not had a DA.R.E. program for several years. Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator, stated that the D.A.R.E. Fund came from donated funds for the specific purpose of operating D.A.R.E., and he explained that we would have to go to Probate Court to have those funds repurposed. He explained that Chief Scippa is currently working on this. Lester Cuff, Stratham Heights Rd., stated that there will be an upcoming event on Thursday, April 6, at the Municipal Center. He explained that the Stratham Conservation Commission asked him to do a talk on Solar Energy. He further stated that a lot of information would be presented on this topic, and everyone is welcome. He also gave a synopsis on what would be covered. Moderator Emanuel informed everyone that there were 144 registered voters at the Town Meeting tonight. He adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Charbonneau

Joyce Charbonneau,
Stratham Town Clerk

TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

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TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR 603-772-4741

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION/ASSESSING 603-772-7391

CODE ENFORCEMENT/BUILDING INSPECTION/PLANNING 603-772-7391

FAX (ALL OFFICES) 603-775-0517

RATIFICATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratham had the 2017 Town Meeting voting session scheduled for March 14, 2017 from 8 AM to 8 PM at the Stratham Municipal Center located at 10 Bunker Hill Avenue in accordance with the provisions of RSA 40:13, and;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2017 at 8:02 AM the New Hampshire Bureau of Homeland Security and Emergency Management provided a bulletin from the National Weather Service (NWS.) The NWS issued a winter storm warning for all of New Hampshire warning of "Major Winter Storm." The prediction of the NWS was for 12-18 inches of snow with 1-4 inches per hour possible. Blizzard conditions were possible with gusts of wind from 30-40 mph. Governor Chris Sununu warned citizens not to travel on the roadways unless it was absolutely necessary. State offices and liquor stores were closed in anticipation of the winter storm, and;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2017 at approximately 5:00 PM Town Moderator David Emanuel determined the forecasted weather presented an un-necessary risk to the safety of voters who would need to travel to the polls to vote. In making this decision to postpone voting day, the Moderator received information from the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), Town Administrator Paul R. Deschaine, and Exeter Cooperative School District Moderator Katherine Miller as to the advisability and the authority of the Moderator to postpone the voting day pursuant to RSA 40:4, and;

> ***40:4 Duties.*** *–*
>
> *I. The moderator shall preside in the town meetings, regulate the business thereof, decide questions of order, and make a public declaration of every vote passed, and may prescribe rules of proceeding; but such rules may be altered by the town.*
>
> *II. In the event a weather emergency occurs on or before the date of a deliberative session or voting day of a meeting in a town, which the moderator reasonably believes may cause the roads to be hazardous or unsafe, the moderator may, up to 2 hours prior to the scheduled session, postpone and reschedule the deliberative session or voting day of the meeting to another reasonable date, place, and time certain. The date originally scheduled shall continue to be deemed the deliberative session or voting day of the meeting for purposes of satisfying statutory meeting date requirements; provided, that in towns or districts that have adopted RSA 40:13, the postponement shall not delay the deliberative session more than 72 hours. The moderator shall employ whatever means are available to inform citizens of the postponement and the rescheduled deliberative session or voting day.*

WHEREAS, the Moderator postponed the voting day session from March 14, 2017 to March 16, 2017. The voting times and the location remained the same. The notice of this decision was physically posted at the polling place and on the town website on March 13, 2017 at 5:36 PM. The notice was also posted on the sign boards of the Stratham Municipal Center. The notice was also communicated to individual households in Stratham via the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety Emergency Notification System (a/k/a Reverse 911.) The information was provided to the WMUR television station for posting with its scrolling notices. The information was also communicated through the use of social media via various accounts to which the Town had access, and;

WHEREAS, the Moderator acted within his authority. Further, he acted in the best interest of the voters by postponing the voting day session of Town Meeting in the interest of public safety. The safety of the citizens of this Town is of the foremost concern to its officials. The decision to postpone ensured the safety of citizens and allowed for the processes of democracy to occur without unduly infringing upon the right to vote, and;

WHEREAS, the advice provided by the NHMA and others was in accordance with the law. The interpretation of the law in this case was in the finest traditions of the legal profession. The NHMA has demonstrated its role of providing training, assistance, guidance, and advocacy on behalf of local government in this state with the high degree of professionalism that we have come to expect.

NOW THEREFORE, after a properly noticed public hearing on this date and in accordance with the provisions of HB 329, 2017 Chapter Law 20, which was passed into law on April 21, 2017, we do hereby ratify the 2017 Town Meeting and all actions taken by the legislative body by vote of the people on March 16th, 2017.

The resolution was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on June 5, 2017.

Witness our hands for the Town of Stratham

Bruno Federico, Chair

Joseph Lovejoy, Vice Chair

Michael Houghton, Selectman