

Town of Stratham  
Town Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2009

The ballot clerks were sworn in at 7:55 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Present were Moderator David Emanuel, Assistant Moderator Jerry Howard, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Catherine Kenny, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine. The Supervisors of the Check List present were: Susan Hunter, Carol Gulla, and Caren Gallagher. The ballot clerks for the day were: Diana and Roger Thompson, Vicky Avery, Ann Marie Peck, Shirley Lakin, Bea Newman, Barbara Whyte, Pat Sapienza, Karen Cushing, Nancy Hunter and Liz Chisholm.

**The Exeter Region Cooperative School District results for Stratham voters only are as follows:**

Cooperative School Board for Exeter for three years, vote for one: Roy E. Morrissette 438, Townley W. Chisholm 505\*; for Newfields for three years, vote for one: Michael D. Grant 687\*; For Stratham for three years, vote for one: Patricia T. Lovejoy 794\*. Cooperative School District Moderator, for one year, vote for one: Charles F. Tucker 767\*. Cooperative School District Budget Committee for East Kingston for three years, vote for one: David Pendell Jr. 653\*, for Exeter for three years, vote for one: Carl G. Robertson 711\*, for Stratham for three years, vote for one: Susan D. Canada 864\*.

Article 1:

Cooperative Budget: Yes 690\* No 125

Article 2:

Salaries and Benefits: Yes 551\* No 376

Article 3:

Approval for the School Board to call a special meeting if Article 2 is defeated:  
Yes 708\* No 218

Article 4:

Special Education Trust Fund Surplus: Yes 662, No 265

**Annual Town and School District ballot results as follows:**

It was a steady day with 1051 votes cast for the town election, with 47 of those being absentee ballots.

The Stratham vote is as follows: (Denotes the Winner \*)

Article 1:

Selectman for three years, vote for one: Bruno Federico 850\*; Town Clerk/Tax Collector for two years, vote for one: Joyce L. Charbonneau 840\*, Brenda M. Mason 185; Trustees of the Trust Fund for three years, vote for one: Murray D. Segal 811\*; Library Trustee for three years, vote for two: Victor M. Collinino 647\*, Adrienne (Dree) Sherry 656\*; Cemetery Committee for three years, vote for one: Kenneth Lanzillo 128\* (write-in vote); Stratham School District School Board Member for three years, vote for two: Claire Ellis 169\*, Travis Thompson 162\* (write-in votes); School District Treasurer for one year, vote for one: John Hazekamp 463\*, Luke Breton 342; School District Clerk for three years, vote for one: Mikki Deschaine 85\* (write-in vote).

Article 2:

To amend section 5.4 Accessory Apartments and Section 2.1.2 Definitions to allow greater flexibility in development of an accessory apartment: Yes 777\*, No 200.

Article 3:

To amend the Stratham Zoning Ordinance to add a new Section 3.4.14 Special Commercial and Section 3.6 Table of Uses (SC) to add a new zoning district which will allow Hotel/Conference facilities along with commercial, entertainment, professional

office and limited residential uses south of the Route 101 Intersection along Portsmouth Ave: Yes 709\*, No 273.

Article 4:

To amend Section 2.1.6 Agriculture, Farm, Farming to more comply with NH RSA 21:34-a Farm, Agriculture, Farming. The Planning Board has found that the current definition has not been conducive to the establishment of new farms or farming activities within Stratham: Yes 895\*, No 61.

Article 5:

To add a new Section 5.12 Small Wind Energy Systems which will provide for the regulation of small wind energy systems within the Town of Stratham. The proposed ordinance will allow the Building Inspector to grant permits for these systems if they meet the conditions of the ordinance: Yes 870\*, No 103.

**The remaining Town of Stratham warrant articles will be voted on Friday, March 13, 2009 at the Stratham Memorial School at 7:30 p.m.**

Town Moderator David Emanuel declared the meeting to come to order at 7:40 p.m. Lucy Cushman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. We observed a moment of silence for all of those serving in the Armed Forces. Assistant Moderator Jerry Howard read the dedication of the Town Report to Jim Scamman and Shirley Daley. David Emanuel read the results of the ballot voting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. There were no recounts requested. David Emanuel then explained the rules of procedure for Town Meeting. The following articles were discussed and voted on:

Article 6: Budget

To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray general town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations for the same.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

Selectman David Canada moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,916,773.00 to defray general town charges for the ensuing year. Tim Copeland seconded the motion. David Canada went through the budget and explained the items. Overall the budget is 3/10 of 1% higher than last year's budget. David Emanuel asked if there were any questions from the house, and Bob Mitchell from Portsmouth Ave. had a question on paper bag recycling. He suggested taking a straw poll from the residents at some time in the future about recycling. Nancy Hunter from Brown Ave. had a question about the 2.8 million on uncollected taxes. Paul Deschaine stated that because tax bills went out late this year, that is the reason it is showing a larger amount uncollected at the end of year than usual. The second half of 2008 taxes were due 12/29/2008, and the usual due date is 12/1. David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and article 6 passed.

Article 7: CIP

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Three Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$703,000.00) to implement the Capital Improvements Program for 2009 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 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.

Selectman Bruno Federico moved to accept the article as read. Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Bruno Federico explained the article line by line, and asked if there were any questions from the house. Jeff Wilson from Willowbrook Ave. asked about the million-dollar community center that is coming up in the future. Bruno explained that it is in the Recreation CIP for the long term, (over the next five years.) Kevin Henry from Chisholm Farm Dr. asked about appropriation planning for the electricity problems from the December ice storm and the communication issues that arose from that. Bruno explained that the EOC Department and Services came together with a plan to address the issues that came up and how to improve on them. David Canada stated that there are improvements to be made by the State, the Town, and Unitil and everyone is working on

how to better serve the community when a situation like this arises again. Communication was a big issue, and they are looking at that as well. Ted Bedford from Peninsula Dr. had a question regarding Debt Service, Operating versus the Capital Budget. Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator, explained that the principal applies to the Capital Budget, and the interest applies to the Operating Budget. Scott Cornell from Heron Way asked about the CIP for the current year (2009) versus the Planning Board document for 2010-2014. Peter Thurston from Alderwood Dr. asked what the bottom line for the tax rate would be if all the CIP passes, and David Canada explained it would raise the tax rate approximately .64 per \$1000.00. Having no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and article 7 passed.

#### Article 8: Library Expansion

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$325,000.00) for the purpose of renovating the Stratham Municipal Center to allow for the phase 1 of 2 expansions of the Wiggin Memorial Library. This is a special warrant article, which will be non-lapsing until this purpose is accomplished 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.

Selectman David Canada moved to accept the article as read. Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Martin Wool presented a petition for a paper ballot. David Canada spoke for the article. He stated the Library needs this space and has been in their current space since 1989, and the population in Stratham has doubled since then. David Canada yielded to Lesley Kimball, a non-resident and our current Librarian. Lesley presented several key points in favor of the article, and welcomed questions from the house.

William Jameson from 7 Chase Lane asked what the Portsmouth Library charges and what does the Stratham Library charge for non-residents. Lesley responded that the charge for non-residents in Portsmouth is between \$75.00-\$85.00, and Stratham charges \$45.00 for non-residents. There is no charge for residents in either Portsmouth or Stratham as that is taken out via their taxes they pay. Several residents spoke in favor of supporting the library. Gail Giarusso from Laurel Lane, Bob Mitchell from Portsmouth Ave., Mark McCleary from Crestview Terr., Sherman Pridham from High St., and Kathleen Hillary from Whitaker Dr., all spoke in favor of supporting the article. Susan Canada, Bunker Hill Ave. spoke for the "Friends of the Library", and explained there would be fundraising over the next two years and they hope to raise \$60,000.00 for the "extras" that they would like to purchase for the library. Bill Hawkins from Barker Rd. asked where does the data come from about being more expensive if we waited rather than doing it now. David Canada responded that his comment addressed being cheaper to renovate rather than build. Marty Wool from Winnicutt Rd. asked why not just use the empty space "as is" for now, and try doing the renovations in a year or two. John Zucco from Hickory Pond Rd. asked the question what does a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Library" mean.

Lesley responded internet access and the different formats, like audio books on cassettes, cds, and mp3 players are all hallmarks of a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Library", and they already offer these services, but they would like the building to better house these services. Howard Rubin from Strawberry Lane asked the tax impact on this article, David Canada responded it would add .30 to the tax rate this year, and .30 next year as well, for phase II of the expansion. Kevin Henry from Chisholm Farm Dr. asked what is the total impact on the tax rate for all the articles if they pass? David Canada stated that articles 8 through 18 will add .48 to your tax rate. Kevin also asked what is the impact if the state shortfalls, will it affect our tax rate on a local level. David Canada responded there is a state education tax but it works out that we get more back than we pay out.

Jordan Ambargis from Humes Ct. asked what is the total tax impact for all the articles, David Canada stated that article 7 "the CIP article" would be .64, and articles 8 through 18 would add an additional .48 if they pass. Jordan also asked that if we do Stage I this year, is it mandated that we have to do Stage II next year. David Canada responded that the answer is no, we would not have to do Stage II, although they certainly hope it will also pass next year. Having no further questions from the house, David Emanuel moved the vote on Article 8, and based on a petition from five registered voters in Stratham, there was a paper ballot vote on Article 8. Final count on Article 8 are 221 Yes, and 123 No. Article 8 passed.

#### Article 9: Tower Lease Ratification

To see if the Town will ratify the long term lease agreement between the Town and TRM Towers, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated August 25, 2008 for the construction and operations of a communications tower on Town property located at 10 Bunker Hill Avenue (Tax Map 9, Lot 10.) TRM Towers, LLC and the Board of Selectmen have agreed to a lease of approximately Thirty Two Hundred (3,200) square feet of the parking lot of the Stratham Municipal Center for an initial term of Five (5) years with Five (5) additional periods of Five (5) years each for a possible total term of Thirty (30) years and includes easements reasonably required to implement the proposed use such as easements to provide access and utilities to the site. The lease includes other terms the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

Bruno Federico moved to accept the article as read. David Canada seconded the motion. Bruno spoke on the motion emphasizing this article is concerning only the terms of the lease, explaining that Planning Board approvals and State/Federal approvals must still be obtained. Bruno then asked if there were any questions. Steve Robison from Autumn Lane, Jeremy Ricks from Doe Run Lane, and Lucy Cushman from Winnicutt Rd spoke against it, giving reasons of appearance, size, and the fear of it being an eyesore. Andrew Vanderslice from Union Rd. asked if we are committed to TRM Towers if we pass this article, and have we entertained other offers. Paul Deschaine explained that other competitors have dropped out of putting a cell tower in Stratham. TRM Towers still wanted to pursue a tower here in Stratham and they are within the range of the other cell tower companies, price-wise. Carla Breton of Evergreen Way asked about security since the tower would be placed in the Municipal parking lot, close to a playground. Paul Deschaine explained that the playground would be moved, and there would be improvements to the parking lot, and secure gate/fence around the tower. Bob Mitchell from Portsmouth Ave. spoke in support of it, reason being that we need better cell phone reception here in Stratham. He stated that there is not a place in town that half the people here at town meeting would like. Having no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, and the vote was taken in the negative, and Article 9 failed.

#### Article 10: Stevens Park Ball Field

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$75000.00) for the purpose of constructing various improvements to Stevens Park to include a new Babe Ruth Baseball Field and accessory improvements as the first phase of a two phased proposal. This is a special warrant article, which will be non-lapsing until this purpose is accomplished but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from the appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

Tim Copeland moved to accept the article as read. Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Tim spoke on the article and explained the impact on the article and what it will cost Stratham taxpayers. The cost on this article has to show the maximum amount without any fundraising, but in fact, there is going to be multiple fundraisers to offset the cost. If this field is not approved, there is no other field where the kids are going to be able to play. The vocational field, which they use now, will no longer be available after 2010. Tim yielded the floor to Brad Russ who has coached Baseball for the last ten years, and been on the Baseball Board for the last four years and is the current chair on the board. He spoke in favor of the article and stated that this is one of the largest recreational programs in the community, and that if this field is not approved, there will be no Babe Ruth Program. There is no other field or open space available in Stratham or the surrounding communities that they could rent. They have fifty thousand dollars appropriated from last year, they are requesting seventy five thousand dollars for this year (year II), and they will need between thirty five to sixty five thousand dollars next year (year III) depending on the amount of fundraising they are able to do. They need to start this year, as it takes two years to grow the grass, bring in fill, and add drainage. The effect on the mill rate for this year will be .07 per \$1000.00. The field will have a very positive impact on the kids, and whatever you can do to keep kids busy and from having too much down time is a positive thing. Brad then opened up the floor to questions. Bob Mitchell from Portsmouth Ave. asked about the layout for the field at Stevens Park. Tim Copeland explained it is past the soccer field, and as it stands now, it is just open land, and not developed at all. They will also add an access emergency road to the soccer field

and the baseball field. Nancy Hunter from Brown Ave. asked how many kids play Babe Ruth (13-18 year olds) and are there any other fields available in surrounding towns. Brad stated about 75 kids played regular season, but tournaments and indoor baseball add to these numbers. Brad also stated other fields are not available to them in other towns. Nancy Hunter stated she is not in support of this article. She suggested waiting on this article and not letting it pass for this year. Robert Trussell from Butterfield Lane spoke in support of the field. He is also a baseball coach. He stated it is not "just a baseball field, it is our kids' future, it is for our society, and it is for our town". He stated it helps keep kids off the street, and every single town in NH has a Babe Ruth field. Pat Elwell from Strawberry Lane questioned about rental income for the field. Tim Copeland stated yes, it is possible to rent out the field; one possibility was UNH players renting it. It would bring in some revenue, but not a lot. Jim Dubela from Portsmouth Ave. spoke in support of the field. He stated that it is extremely important for this age group to have productive activities. As a member of the Baseball Board, at every meeting it is discussed on how they can raise money for this field. Melissa Poirier from Apple Way asked about the total money needed for this field. What is the estimate for this field? Tim Copeland stated that the overall price for the field if there was no fundraising would be \$180,000.00, but in actual figures, that is not what it is going to cost. Gail Giarusso from Laurel Lane asked how much fundraising was done from the Recreation Department. Tara Barker, Stratham's Recreation Director responded that no fundraising was done from the Rec. Dept. Janice Wayne from Depot Rd asked how many kids will participate, Brad then explained 75 kids in the regular program, but the other programs will add 150-200 more. Carol Gulla from Stratham Hgts. Rd. asked if girls are able to participate in Babe Ruth, and Brad responded at this age (13-18) they participate in the Softball Program. Marty Wool from Winnicutt Rd. asked about when we would no longer be able to use the Vocational field, he had heard it would be 2013. Also, he asked if we need a wetlands permit for the proposed field. He also moved the question. Tim Copeland responded to Marty's questions. He clarified that he spoke to the CEO of the corporation that is buying the Vocational School, (recently renamed Great Bay Community College) and we would no longer have the use of the field after 2010. A vote was taken on moving the question, and the vote was in the affirmative to end the debate. David Emanuel then read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 10 passed.

#### Article 11: Revaluation

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$45,000.00) for the purpose of conducting a statistical update of the valuations of the property assessments within the Town. This is a special warrant article, which will be non-lapsing until this purpose is accomplished 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.

Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read. David Copeland seconded the motion. Bruno spoke for the article and asked for questions from the house. Lucy Cushman from Winnicutt Rd. asked why the full time assessor could not do this statistical data. Bruno Federico explained that the requirements that are placed upon the town for collection and reporting of data have grown tremendously since the hiring of the assessor and that the requirements are such that she cannot do it alone. Sherman Pridham from High St. asked how the statistical analysis will be done in the future and Bruno Federico explained that the sales in the last two years have to be physically viewed by the assessor, and this must be done every five years. Having no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative and Article 11 passed.

#### Article 12: Gateway Studies

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$20,000.00) for the purpose of assisting the Planning Board in developing a "Form Based Code" for the current General Commercial District to become known as the "Gateway Commercial District" to include conducting studies in support of this effort. This is a special warrant article, which will be non-lapsing until this purpose is accomplished 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.

Bruno Federico moved to accept this article as read, and Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Bruno spoke to the motion along with John Boisvert from Winnicutt Rd of the Public Works Commission. David Emanuel then asked for questions from the floor. Murray Segal from Depot Rd. asked why do we need a consultant, and Bruno answered that we need a consultant to do water studies. This consultant is for a specific expertise that the Planning Board and the Public Works Commission do not have. Bob Hillary from Whittaker Dr. asked about the building codes. He wanted to know if the twenty thousand dollars was for the study or to write the code. David Canada explained it was not to write the code, but to do the water and sewer studies so we know what we need. Having no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative and Article 12 passed.

#### Article 13: Cruiser Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three (3) year lease/purchasing agreement amounting to \$87,251.00 for the purpose of leasing (3) new police cruisers for the Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Seventeen Dollars and no cents (\$33,017.00) of which Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Dollars and no cents (\$27,117.00) is for the first year's payment for that agreement and Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$5900.00) is for equipping these new cruisers. This lease/purchase agreement contains a fiscal funding clause. 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.

Tim Copeland moved to accept this article as read, and David Canada seconded the motion. Tim spoke for the article, and there being no questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 13 passed.

#### Article 14: Fire Department Revolving Fund

To see if the town will vote to create a Fire Department Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of public safety and services. All revenues received for the benefit of the Stratham Fire Department will be deposited into the Fund, and the money in the Fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the Fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Fire Department Revolving Fund Committee and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend from the Fund. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the Fund was created.

The Revolving Fund Committee will consist of five (5) residents nominated by members of the Fire Department and appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms. The initial Committee members shall be appointed to the following terms in order to stagger the expiration of terms for members of the Committee: 2 members for 3 years, 2 members for 2 years, and one member for 1 year.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

David Canada moved to accept the article, and Tim Copeland seconded the motion.

David spoke to the motion and offered the following amendment to the first paragraph;

To see if the town will vote to create a Fire Department Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of public safety service programs. All revenues received for the benefit of the Stratham Fire Department public safety service programs, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, will be deposited into the Fund, and the money in the Fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The underlined words are what is being asked to be amended from the original Article as written. Bob Hillary from Whitaker Dr., and Marty Wool from Winnicutt Rd., asked for clarification on what the amendment actually meant. David Emanuel read the question regarding the amendment, a vote was taken, and the amendment was passed in the affirmative. Questions were then invited from the floor regarding the actual Article, and Bob Hillary from Whitaker Dr., Mr. Tremblay from Stratham, Sherman Pridham from High St., Bob Mitchell from Portsmouth Ave., Marty Wool from Winnicutt Rd., June Sawyer from High St., and John Sapienza from Raeder Dr. asked for clarification on what the term "revolving versus trust fund" means and also how will the money be accounted for. Alison Pike explained that

the Recreation Commission has a revolving account as well, and the money is overseen by the Recreation Commission as well as by the Recreation Director and the Selectmen. Kevin Peck from High St. who is the Town Treasurer, explained about the revolving account for the Recreation Department. He explained that every month the money that comes in from the different recreation/sports programs is reconciled through the Treasurer and the Bookkeeper. Every fund has a reconciliation process and the Treasurer and the Bookkeeper keep separate books and must reconcile with each other. Pat Abrami from Tall Pines clarified for the residents why the selectmen need to set up a revolving fund or trust fund. Cheryl Ewart from Smith Farm Rd. moved the question. Stephen Robison from Autumn Lane asked for clarification on what are we being asked to vote for. He does not feel the selectmen are ready to present this article. Bruno Federico answered that a revolving fund can only be set up at Town Meeting once a year. If the Attorney General feels that the revolving fund is the way to go rather than a trust fund, the selectmen will have that option. David Emanuel stated the question has been moved, and seconded, asked all those in favor of ending the debate on Article 14 and the vote was taken in the affirmative to end the debate. David Emanuel then read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 14 passed.

#### Article 15: CO Monitor

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$4000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a Pulse CO-Oximeter for the use of the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department, and to further authorize the withdrawal of Four Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$4000.00) 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. This is a special warrant article, which will be non-lapsing until this purpose is accomplished but shall in no case be later than five (5) years from this appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI). No additional funds from general taxation are to be used.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

Tim Copeland moved to accept the article as read, and Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Tim spoke for the motion. Bob Hillary from Whitaker Dr. explained the benefits of a CO Monitor, clarifying that it does not just measure the smoke inhalation, but will also determine if a person has been exposed to carbon monoxide. Being no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 15 passed.

#### Article 16: - Accrued Benefits Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$20,000.00) 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. 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.

Bruno Federico moved to accept the article as read, and Tim Copeland seconded the motion. Bruno spoke for the motion. There were no questions from the floor, and David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 16 passed.

#### Article 17: TASC

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$2300.00) for support of Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens (TASC), a non-profit agency whose mission is to mobilize and coordinate a network of volunteer drivers to provide transportation to senior citizens and other adults whose health prevents them from driving. 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 (5) years from this appropriation per NH RSA 32:7 (VI).

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

David Canada moved to accept the article as read, and Bruno Federico seconded the motion. David spoke for the motion. Carol Gulla spoke for the motion as well, as she heads up TASC. Kevin Henry from Chisholm Farm Dr. asked about other towns that fund for TASC and what the amount of funding is from other towns. Carol responded that this is the first year that TASC is asking for funding from Stratham. TASC currently

has \$22,400.00 in funding from the other municipalities. Exeter implemented \$2.50 additional charge for motor vehicle registrations, and this amount goes towards the funding for TASC. There being no further questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 17 passed.

#### Article 18: Womenade

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$2000.00) for support of Womenade of Greater Squamscott, a non-profit agency whose mission is to provide financial assistance to local families in need. 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.

Tim Copeland moved to accept the article as read. Bruno Federico seconded the motion. Tim spoke for the motion. There being no questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the affirmative, and Article 18 passed.

#### Article 19: Recommendations Article

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 32:5, V-a to require that all votes on recommendations on budget items or warrant articles by the governing body shall be recorded votes, and that the numerical tally of such votes shall be printed in the Town Warrant next to the affected warrant article.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

David Canada moved to accept the article as read. Tim Copeland seconded the motion. David spoke to the motion, and asked for its defeat, the reason being that a new law passed by the legislature that clarifies the selectmen's authority to recommend or not on non-special articles when they so please. There being no questions from the house, David Emanuel read the question, the vote was taken in the negative, and Article 19 was defeated.

#### Article 20: Other Business

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

David Canada, Chair, thanked all the members of the Boards/Commissions/Committees for their innumerable contributions throughout the year. He also announced that if anyone was interested in serving on any of the Boards/Commissions/Committees to please apply by letter or application to the Board of Selectmen by Monday, March 30, 2009. David also made the announcement that the Conservation Committee will be holding an annual clean-up day on the morning of Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The pick up will start at 9 a.m. and will end around noon followed by a free barbecue at the Park for everyone who participates. He also announced the formation of the Stratham Pocket Gardeners. This is a new group of volunteers who will care for and maintain the current public gardens in town. Anyone interested in joining can send an email to [stratham-pocket-gardeners@comcast.net](mailto:stratham-pocket-gardeners@comcast.net). Thanks to Melanie McGrail for volunteering to coordinate this effort. David also asked that any newly elected town officials are to come forward and see the Town Clerk, Joyce Charbonneau to be sworn in.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Charbonneau  
Town Clerk



