

## **2015 Thornton Town Meeting Minutes THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Thornton in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in the town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Thornton Municipal Building in said Thornton on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 at 8:00 AM of the clock to act upon the following subjects: The polls not to close earlier than 7:00 PM. Absentee ballots to be cast at 1:00 PM.

**Article 1: To choose all necessary officers for the terms stated:**

The following elected positions are available for the March 10, 2015 Town Elections:

<b>Selectman</b>	Three Year Term	Marianne Peabody
<b>Selectman</b>	Three Year Term	James Demeritt
<b>Cemetery Trustee</b>	Three Year Term	Phyllis Holbrook
<b>Town Treasurer</b>	Three Year Term	Susan Dumont
<b>Supervisor of the Checklist</b>	Six Year Term	Cynthia McAuley
<b>Library Trustee</b>	Three Year Term	Anita Ross
<b>Trustee of Trust Funds</b>	Three Year Term	Ralph Bradley
<b>Trustee of Trust Funds</b>	Two Year Term	Warren E. Bahr
<b>Planning Board Member</b>	Three Year Term	Steven Babin
<b>Planning Board Member</b>	Three Year Term	Vacant
<b>Planning Board Member</b>	Two Year Term	Bart Dutto
<b>Overseer of Public Welfare</b>	One Year Term	Marianne Peabody
<b>Town Moderator</b>	One Year Term	John McKinnon



**Article 2: Zoning Amendment**

**Zoning Amendment # 1:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the existing Town of Thornton Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Thornton Planning Board, which provides for the addition of a new section under ARTICLE VI: DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, A. Conventional Development?

4. Dwellings per Lot: No more than one building used and intended for human habitation shall be erected, placed or converted to use as such on a single parcel in any Zoning District.

*Recommended by the Planning Board.*

**Yes**  
120

**No**  
110

**Article 3:** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 466:30-a which make it unlawful for any dog to run at large, except when accompanied by the owner or custodian, and when used for hunting, herding, supervised competition and exhibition or training for such?

**Yes**  
137

**No**  
92



**The following articles will be taken up during the business meeting beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday the 14th day of March 2015 at the Thornton Central School.**

Moderator John McKinnon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He introduced the following individuals at the front table.

Tim Tyler - Town Clerk

Tammie Beaulieu - Town Administrator

John Paul-Hilliard – Selectman

Roy Sabourn - Selectman

Steve Morton - Selectman

Brad Benton - Selectman

Marianne Peabody - Selectman

He requested permission for non-residents to speak which was approved by voice vote.

He requested waiving of the reading of the warrant in its entirety, which was approved by voice vote.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the existing Landfill Closure Monitoring Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:16-a. "Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the town's general fund." The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required)

Moved: By Voter

Seconded: By Voter

Minimal discussion with clarification took place.

The amendment passed by voice vote.



**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the existing Emergency Road Repair Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:16-a. "Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the town's general fund." The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required)

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

Howard Clement questioned why these funds couldn't be put in another Capital Reserve Account. Selectman Roy Sabourn clarified this was an effort to cut back on the number of Capital Reserve Accounts pertaining to roads. There are currently three accounts. This request matched the direction set by the Capital Improvement Plan as established by the CIP Committee.

Sally Davis questioned the budget line items with road repairs and would closing this account infringe on the Highway Department. The budgeted accounts for the Highway Department, in the operational budget, were reviewed by Town Administrator Tammie Beaulieu. She indicated that passage of this Article would not handicap the Road Agent concerning funds needed for the Highway Department.

The Article passed by voice vote after a brief discussion and clarification.

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of upgrading the town tax maps to be named the Property Tax Map CRF and to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)**, to be placed into the fund and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required)

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

Selectman Roy Sabourn stated current tax maps are of poor quality. This plan will cost \$140,000 to be completed but would allow residents to access information on-line.

Ann Marie Foote shared the present way the Town of Campton is addressing this issue.

James Demeritt reviewed the present Capital Improvements Program based on a 10 Year Plan of major expenditures for each department.

After further clarification of the Capital Reserve Accounts the article passed by Voice Vote.



**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) to be added to the existing Assessing Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

No discussion took place.

Article passed by Voice Vote

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Paving Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

No discussion took place

Article passed by Voice Vote.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Fire Truck/Rescue Vehicle/Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

William Deleo asked for clarification of use of these funds. Selectman Roy Sabourn reviewed the equipment needs for the fire department. He referred people to page 29 of the Town Report.

The article passed by Voice Vote.



**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty- nine thousand dollars (\$59,000)** to be added to the existing Police Cruiser and Cruiser Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

No discussion took place

Article passed by Voice Vote.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)** to be added to the existing Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: Voter: By Voter  
Seconded: By Voter

No Discussion took place.

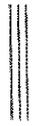
Motion passed by Voice Vote

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty- four thousand dollars (\$24,000)** to be added to the existing Highway Vehicle, Equipment and Major Maintenance Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Moved: Voter  
Seconded: Voter

No discussion took place.

Motion passed by Voice Vote



**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** to be added to the existing Transfer Station Major Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required)

Moved: Voter  
Seconded: Voter

No discussion took place.

Motion passed by Voice Vote

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two million six hundred thirty-nine thousand one hundred thirty two dollars (\$2,639,132.00)** to support town operations for the 2015-year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles. (Majority vote required)

Moved: Voter  
Seconded: Voter

Howard Clement suggested the Board consider consultant services to help clarify the capital reserve and audit process.

Tammie Beaulieu, Town Administrator clarified the town budgeting and audit process.

After no further discussion the Article passed by Voice Vote.

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



John Paul-Hilliard recognized re-elected Selectman Marianne Peabody and newly elected Selectman James Demeritt. He also presented outgoing Selectboard Chairman Steve Morton with a plaque and tribute to Steve's exceptional dedication to the Town of Thornton in his role as Selectman over the past three years.

Sally Davis informed the public she was no longer a member of the Capital Improvements Committee even though she was listed as a member in the Town Report.

Chris Warn expressed concern about the limits of discussion on the operational budget. He expressed an interest in being able to address specific individual areas in the budget instead of the entire budget.

Selectboard member Steve Morton responded that the budget process had taken place over a three month period with public meetings held with department heads and backup documentation presented. Roy Sabourn demonstrated the budget book which was on the table in front of him with the documentation of all budget requests.

Tim Tyler, Town Clerk, stated the lack of candidates for available town positions. There were several uncontested races and several positions with no declared candidates.

On a Voice Vote the meeting adjourned at 11.14 AM.

Given under my hand and seal this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.

Timothy J. Tyler  
Town Clerk  
Town of Thornton NH

