



2013 Thornton Town Meeting Minutes THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The inhabitants of the Town of Thornton in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in the town affairs met at the Thornton Municipal Building in said Thornton on Tuesday, the 12th of March 2013 at 8:00 AM of the clock to act upon the following subjects:

(The polls closed 7:00 PM. Absentee ballots were cast at 1:00 PM.)

The Results of that Election are recorded below:

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

Selectman	Three Year Term	John Paul-Hilliard
Cemetery Trustee	Three Year Term	Duncan Booth
Supervisor of the Checklist	Six Year Term	Mary Pelchat
Library Trustee	Three Year Term	Diane Gravel
Trustee of Trust Funds	Three Year Term	Tim Tyler
Trustee of Trust Funds	Two Year Term	Ralph Bradley
Trustee of Trust Funds	One Year Term	Tim Tyler ****
Planning Board Member	Three Year Term	Beverly MacIntosh
Planning Board Member	Three Year Term	Frank A. Freeman
Overseer of Public Welfare	One Year Term	Marianne Peabody
Treasurer	Two Year Term	Susan Dumont

**** Timothy Tyler elected to serve the Three Year Term of Trustee of Trust Funds.
The Board of Selectmen will need to appoint a Trustee of Trust Funds for the One Year Term

Article 2: Zoning Amendments

Amendment 1

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Thornton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Recreational Zone East – Extinguish the Recreational Zone East and any subsequent reference to it in later articles and designate the portion of land identified as Recreational Zone East as General Residence Zone.”

(The Recreational Zone East is identified as a tract of land on the north side of Upper Mad River Road east of Sugar Run Road and a portion of the land east of Burbank Hill Road between Upper Mad River Road and NH Rt 49 with a total acreage of approximately 386.8 acres. The Recreational Zone East currently includes the following parcels: Map 17 Lot 5-21, Map 17 Lot 5-21-1, Map 17 Lot 5-22, Map 17 Lot 6-1, Map 17 Lot 7-48, Map 17 Lot 8-1, Map 17 Lot 8-1-1 and Map 17 Lot 8-3.)

Yes 127 No 98

PASSED

Amendment 2

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Thornton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Article V Permitted Uses in Various Zones

A. Rural Residence Zone

8. Manufactured housing per RSA 674:31. Clustered development of manufactured housing is not permitted.”

(This would continue to allow manufactured housing in the Rural Residence Zone but prohibit clustered development of manufactured housing in the Rural Residence Zone.)

Yes 171 No 64

PASSED

The following articles were taken up during the business meeting beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday the 16th day of March 2013 at the Thornton Central School.

The results of that meeting are recorded below:

*Moderator Robert Gannett Opened Session at 10:00 AM
He then introduced others sitting in the front of the room: Selectman Brad Benton, Selectwoman Marianne Peabody, Selectman Alfred Burbank, Selectman Roy Sabourn, Selectman Steve Morton, Town Administrator Tammie Beaulieu, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Louis Klotz. To the side were seated the Supervisors of the Check List, Cynthia McAuley, Gloria Kimball, and Mary Pelchat*

*Resident Ralph Peron motioned that the Moderator do not read the Warrant in its entirety and rather to take up Individual Articles. Seconded by Jim Demeritt, and **PASSED** by voice vote.*

Moderator Gannett thanked the room and noted Articles would be taken up in order.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (\$596,000.00)** for an addition to the town hall and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of **one hundred forty-nine thousand dollars (\$149,000.00)** from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve, authorizing the withdrawal of **one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00)** from unassigned fund balance and raising **two hundred ninety-seven thousand (\$297,000.00)** from general taxation. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article (Majority vote required).

*Article 3 was read at 10:05 AM –
Selectman Burbank requested that Steve Medaglia present the history of the building addition. After Steve's presentation (Appendix 1 to these minutes) a Q&A session was opened.*

Quest: Will a larger emergency generator be required to support the 'Primary Shelter'?
Ans: Selectman Burbank - Possibly – if so Chief Moller may be able to get a grant.

Quest: What is duration of the schedule and will it impact services?
Ans: Jim Demeritt - Should not impact services. TC/TX area will be done on Fridays through Sundays.

Quest: Will there be a Clerk of Works?
Ans: Selectman Burbank - That is up to the Building Committee.

Quest: The Fire department is not addressed in the proposal?

Ans: Selectman Burbank – That will be addressed separately.

Jim Demeritt – there is \$125k in CIP for this purpose.

Quest: Will general maintenance costs increase?

Ans: Selectman Burbank – This is not currently reflected in the budget and we will need to adjust as necessary.

Quest: Is the current back-up enough to support heat, etc. & if no grant how will we fund the new generator?

Ans: Selectman Burbank – the current generator will support critical EOC areas.

Several questions regarding potential cost overruns, etc. were then asked and addressed by the Selectman.

At 10:50 AM Jim Demeritt motioned to move the question, 2nd from floor and passed by unanimous voice vote.

*Moderator Gannett then read Article 3 which was motioned and seconded then **Article 3** was **PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.*

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00)** for the Phase I addition to the Thornton Police Department and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of **one hundred forty-nine thousand dollars (\$149,000.00)** from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve, and raising **one hundred one thousand dollars (\$101,000.00)** from general taxation. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article (Majority vote required).

As Moderator Gannett read Article 4 Selectman Burbank motioned to table indefinitely. The Moderator recited the motion to table indefinitely Article 4. This motion was moved and seconded from the floor.

*A vote taken to **Table Article 4 Indefinitely - Passed** by unanimous voice vote.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred forty-nine thousand dollars (\$249,000)** to be added to the existing Road Paving, Construction and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

As Moderator Gannett read Article 5 Selectman Burbank motioned to table indefinitely. The Moderator recited the motion to table indefinitely Article 5. This motion was moved and seconded from the floor.

*A vote taken to **Table Article 5 Indefinitely - Passed** by unanimous voice vote.*

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two million four hundred twenty-three thousand six hundred seventy-four dollars (\$2,423,674.00)** to support town operations for the 2013-year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles. (Majority vote required)

As Moderator Gannett read Article 6 Selectman Burbank noted that on Page 90 the top two line items under Planning & Zoning were duplicated – this does not impact the totals and simply represented an editing/typing error – the math is correct.

*The Moderator then read Article 6 which was moved and seconded from the floor. In the vote **Article 6 Passed** by unanimous voice vote.*

Article 7: Are you in favor of the “Right to Sustainable Energy Future and Community Self-Government Ordinance: A Rights Based Ordinance to Protect the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Residents and Ecosystems of Thornton, New Hampshire by Establishing a Bill of Rights for Thornton Residents; By Recognizing the Right to a Sustainable Energy Future, and By Prohibiting the Siting of New Energy Projects That Violate the People’s Right to A Sustainable Energy Future”? (*Petition Article*)

*At 10:57 AM Moderator Gannett read Article 7.
Alexis Eynon then requested to speak on behalf of this petitioned article.*

A robust and emotional series of questions, answers, and statements then ensued. Conversation drifted from just the Article presented to discussion of the Northern Pass and how to stop it. All were polite and in many instances simply agreed to disagree.

Selectman Morton made an emotional plea that if you have not read this Petition please do not vote, likewise if you have read but do not fully understand please do not vote. If you do understand please vote not to pass this ordinance.

The Board was questioned regarding its plans to stop the Northern Pass if this ordinance is not adopted. Selectman Burbank noted that last year the Town voted to direct the Selectman to oppose the Northern Pass. He was asked if there are any legal tools to assist the Board to which he replied No.

Resident David Sakura suggested that a number of sites might be classified as National Historic Monuments along the route and suggested the Board look into this potential.

At 11:25 there was a motion from the floor to move the question which resulted in an unclear voice vote followed by an Aye 47 and Nay 30 show of hands which was not the required 2/3 vote – so the Moderator continued discussion.

The supporting petitioners once again made their plea and explained how the petition could assist in opposing the Northern Pass.

Selectman Sabourn noted the current budget already reflects ~\$75k in legal fees, and that the Town is facing three law suites at present and may have another coming. We want to avoid others.

At 11:45 a motion was made and passed to move the question and the petitioners as 5 registered voters requested a secret ballot. Moderator Gannett explained the process and voting began @ 11:50 AM with ballots counted at 11:57 AM.

Article 7 Failed (21 Yes -- 57 No)

At 12:00 noon The Moderator asked if there was any other business.

Tim Tyler took the podium and requested we give:

- Kudos to the Building Committee*
- Kudos to the Beautification Committee*
- Kudos to Jim Demeritt for his wide breadth of contributions to the Town*

A Motion was then made and seconded to Adjourn the meeting.

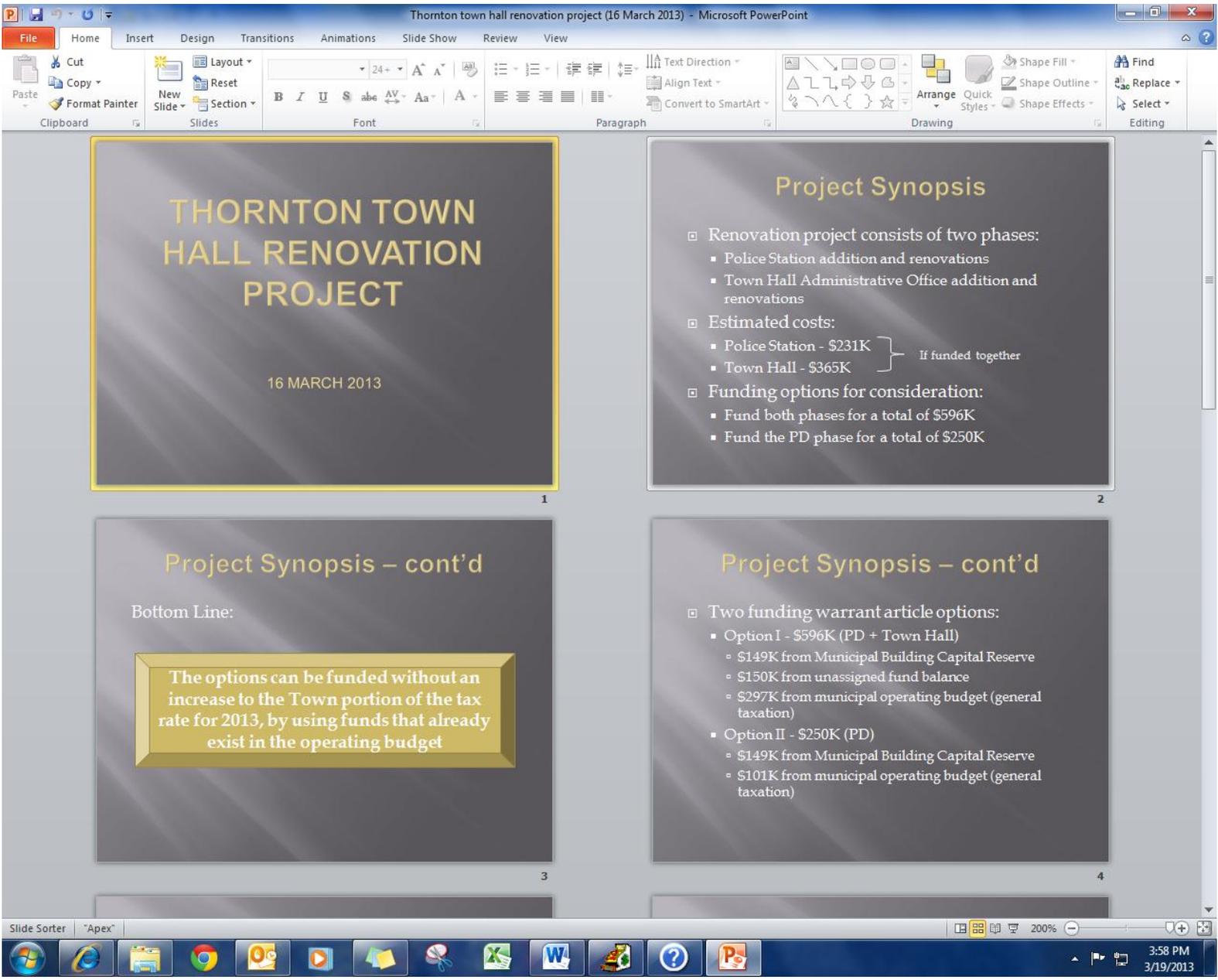
Passed by unanimous voice vote --- Ending the meeting at 12:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis Klotz

Louis Klotz, Town Clerk / Tax Collector

Appendix 1
Town Hall Renovation Project



THORNTON TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

16 MARCH 2013

Project Synopsis

- Renovation project consists of two phases:
 - Police Station addition and renovations
 - Town Hall Administrative Office addition and renovations
- Estimated costs:
 - Police Station - \$231K
 - Town Hall - \$365K

} If funded together
- Funding options for consideration:
 - Fund both phases for a total of \$596K
 - Fund the PD phase for a total of \$250K

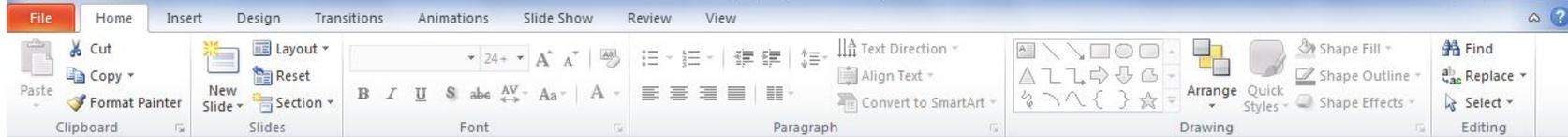
Project Synopsis – cont'd

Bottom Line:

The options can be funded without an increase to the Town portion of the tax rate for 2013, by using funds that already exist in the operating budget

Project Synopsis – cont'd

- Two funding warrant article options:
 - Option I - \$596K (PD + Town Hall)
 - \$149K from Municipal Building Capital Reserve
 - \$150K from unassigned fund balance
 - \$297K from municipal operating budget (general taxation)
 - Option II - \$250K (PD)
 - \$149K from Municipal Building Capital Reserve
 - \$101K from municipal operating budget (general taxation)



Chronology of Events

- April 2011 – Building Needs Committee Formed
- May 2011 to February 2012
 - BNC addresses issues with well and water supply; potable water feed now connected to well at highway garage
 - BNC examines real facility needs for both the administrative areas and PD areas to improve operational efficiency
- December 2011 – Local Government Center Publishes findings/ deficiencies of PD with focus on high liability areas
- March 2012 – Board of Selectmen present concept ideas for the renovation/ expansion project at Town Meeting. Town approves the expenditure of funds for architectural services to develop both a design and cost estimate for the project.

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Chronology of Events – cont'd

- April to June 2012 – Renovation/ expansion needs refined. Development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Architectural Services
- July 2012 – RFP released
- September 2012 – Nine bids received and evaluated. Alba Architects (North Woodstock) selected.
- September 2012 to Present – Design plans and rough order of magnitude cost estimates developed

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Considerations During the Evaluation of Requirements

- Reduce the liability to the Town due to current PD area configuration
- Design that will improve efficiency of operations
- Maximize the utility of existing space through redesign
- Learn from the mistakes made in past building/ renovation efforts
 - Increase usable storage space
 - Create a design that will allow for any future expansion requirements
 - Best value, not necessarily lowest cost
- Relocation of primary shelter to the Town Hall keeps it near the EOC, potentially reduces the staffing requirement, and is more cost effective to set up for just a few people. The school would become a backup if required.
- Additional parking can be accommodated by using the Town property abutting the north side land with an entrance via the highway department entrance road.

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Renovation/Expansion Requirements

- Police Department
 - Separate lobby & booking room
 - Relocation and remake of cell lock-up area to improve monitoring with security cameras and provide better safety for non-PD personnel when booking prisoners
 - Ability to maintain confidentiality of juvenile offenders in custody
 - Security and safety upgrades for admin assistant area; design will better restrict public access to areas of the PD
 - Interview room with video camera monitoring for security
 - Separate main entrance to PD from booking area
 - EOC overflow / Training Room/ Conference Area
 - Increased evidence/ storage space

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- ### Renovation/Expansion Requirements – cont'd
- Town Administrative Area
 - Smaller conference area addition
 - Secondary meeting area for smaller Town Boards
 - Helps resolve current scheduling conflicts
 - Serve as an Emergency Operations Center
 - Improved workflow in Tax Collector/Town Clerk area. Double service window
 - Separate office to conduct Town welfare business
 - Increased Storage Space; archival storage needs addressed relative to RSA requirements and safety of employees
 - Additional Bathrooms & Renovation of Existing Toilet area for handicapped access; Shower area in new bathrooms

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- ### Renovation/Expansion Requirements – cont'd
- Placement of Assessor's Kiosk and Tax Maps into new area will relieve hallway congestion
 - Assessor/Planning Board/Board of Selectmen assistance area will have a separate window
 - Larger Meeting Room
 - Dual Use:
 - Minimize "standing room only" attendances (capacity - 177)
 - Serve as the primary emergency shelter
 - Allow for additional voting booths - brings Town in compliance with RSAs
 - Combination of the larger meeting room and reconfigured hallway will allow for improved traffic flow of voters during peak periods

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