

**TOWN OF NEW GLOUCESTER
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 5, 2014**

The Town meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m., by the Town Clerk, Paul R. First.

The Clerk led the Town Meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

<i>Nomination of:</i>	<i>Gary Wood</i>
<i>Nomination by:</i>	<i>Beverly Cadigan</i>
<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>Joshua McHenry</i>
<i>No other nominations were made.</i>	
<i>Motion to close nominations:</i>	<i>James Fitch</i>
<i>Seconded by:</i>	<i>Stephen Hathorne</i>
<i>Those in favor of closing nominations:</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>Opposed:</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Nomination of Gary Wood carried.</i>	
<i>3 votes were cast for Gary Wood.</i>	
<i>Gary Wood was elected Moderator.</i>	

The clerk administered the Oath of Office to the Moderator.

The Moderator explained procedures of the Town Meeting.

OPERATIONS:

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$371,919 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 2		Selectmen	Budget Committee
101	Selectmen	\$ 16,200	\$ 16,200
102	Administration	\$ 275,569	\$ 275,569
105	Elections	\$ 4,550	\$ 4,550
106	Assessing	\$ 37,600	\$ 37,600
108	Legal	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
130	Unbudgeted Expenses	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
138	Fuel Overrun Allowance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
		\$ 371,919	\$ 371,919

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage as presented.

Motion: Steven Libby moved that Article 2 have passage at \$366,919.

Second: Daryl Whiting

Discussion: Steven Libby, Roger Levasseur, Paul First, Sean Chayer, Stephen Hathorne, Joshua McHenry and Jerry Witham commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 2 have passage at \$366,919.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,500 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 3		Selectmen	Budget Committee
103	General Assistance	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
131	Health Officer	\$ 500	\$ 500
132	Animal Control	\$ 12,350	\$ 12,350
135	Cemeteries	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
137	Interagency Requests	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,650
142	Water Treatment	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 56,500	\$ 56,500

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage as presented.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 3 have passage as presented.

Second: Pamela Slye

Discussion: Scott Doyle, Paul First, George Webb and Steven Libby commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 3 have passage as read.

Steven Libby moved and Jean Libby seconded a motion to allow non-resident staff permission to speak. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$365,757 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 4		Selectmen	Budget Committee
110	Emergency Medical Services	\$ 127,300	\$ 127,300
111	Fire Department	\$ 194,321	\$ 194,321
112	Emergency Management	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
114	Street Lights	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
115	Public Safety Dispatch	\$ 35,136	\$ 35,136
		\$ 365,757	\$ 365,757

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage as presented.

Motion: Stephen Hathorne moved that Article 4 have passage as presented.

Second: George Carman

Discussion: Roger Levasseur, Jim Fitch and Joshua McHenry commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 4 have passage as read.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$904,734 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 5		Selectmen	Budget Committee
116	Public Works	\$ 696,979	\$ 696,979
120	Solid Waste	\$ 202,755	\$ 207,755
		\$ 899,734	\$ 904,734

The Board of Selectmen recommends \$899,734.

Budget Committee recommends passage as presented.

Motion: Steven Libby moved that Article 5 have passage at \$899,734.

Second: Jim Fitch

Discussion: Steven Libby, Stephen Hathorne, Roger Levasseur, Paul First and Ted Shane commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 5 have passage at \$899,734.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$203,279 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 6		Selectmen	Budget Committee
104	Buildings & Grounds	\$ 55,300	\$ 55,300
113	Cable TV	\$ 12,550	\$ 12,550
123	Library	\$ 88,332	\$ 88,332
133	Parks & Recreation	\$ 42,097	\$ 42,097
136	Community Fair*	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000
		\$ 203,279	\$ 199,279

Budget Committee recommends \$199,279.

Board of Selectmen recommends passage as presented

**Selectmen: future years will not be funded unless admission is charged*

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 6 have passage at \$203,279.

Second: George Carman

Discussion: Stephen Hathorne, Joshua McHenry, Peter Bragdon, Steven Libby, Michael Bardier, Beverly Cadigan, Gary Sacco, Roger Levasseur, Paul First, Harvey Price and Sean Chayer commented on this article.

Motion: Joshua McHenry moved the question.

Second: Cheryl Fortier

Vote: It was voted that Article 6 have passage at \$203,279.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$164,431 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 7		Selectmen	Budget Committee
107	Code Enforcement	\$ 61,031	\$ 61,031
122	Planning	\$ 101,700	\$ 101,700
124	Environmental Resources	\$ 200	\$ 200
126	Water Resources	\$ 300	\$ 300
129	Sabbathday Lake Testing	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
		\$ 164,431	\$ 164,431

Budget Committee & Board of Selectmen recommends passage as presented.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 7 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: Roger Levasseur, Debby Parks Larrivee and Gary Sacco commented on this article.

Motion: Roger Levasseur moved that Article 7 be reduced to \$87,731.

Second: Harold Bartlett

Discussion: Roger Levasseur, Joshua McHenry, Pamela Slye, Paul First and Steven Libby commented on the amendment.

Vote: The vote on the amendment failed

Vote: It was voted that Article 7 have passage as read.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$786,700 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for the following:

Article 8		Selectmen	Budget Committee
109	Insurance	\$ 317,700	\$ 314,700
125	Social Security/Retirement	\$ 102,000	\$ 102,000
139	Debit Service	\$ 367,000	\$ 367,000
		\$ 786,700	\$ 783,700

The Budget Committee recommends \$783,700

Board of Selectmen recommends passage as presented.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 8 have passage at \$786,700.

Second: George Carman

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 8 have passage at \$786,700.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$237,000 from taxation for the ensuing year for the following:

144	TIF District	\$225,000	(Estimated; determined when tax rate calculated.)
145	Tax Abatements	<u>12,000</u>	
	TOTAL	<u>\$237,000</u>	

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage as presented.

*Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 9 have passage as presented.
 Second: Stephen Hathorne
 Discussion: Roger Levasseur and Paul First commented on this article.
 Vote: It was voted that Article 9 have passage as read.*

Article 10. Approval of additional funding for FY14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$88,000 from the undesignated fund balance to fund the following operations for the remainder of FY14.

Article 10		
116	Public Works Department	\$ 70,000
101	Selectmen	\$ 5,000
130	Unbudgeted	\$ 8,000
108	Legal	\$ 2,500
138	Fuel Over-run Allowance	\$ 2,500
Total		\$ 88,000

(Due to an extremely hard and costly winter, the FY14 Public Works budget will be completely depleted the week of the annual town meeting. Increases in accounts 101, 130, 108, and 138 are due to an unanticipated mid-term audit, Town Manager search, recall ordinance reviews, and winter heating and diesel fuel over-runs)

*Motion: Stephen Hathorne moved that Article 10 have passage as presented.
 Second: George Carman
 Discussion: None.
 Vote: It was voted that Article 10 have passage as read.*

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$70,000 from Capital Reserve Account (388 - \$235,449) for the ensuing year for the following: Rescue I Replacement

Account 128

Rescue I Replacement \$70,000 CR

TOTAL \$70,000

The proposed \$70,000 appropriated from capital reserve would be combined with the unexpended balance of the \$90,000 appropriated from capital reserve at the 2013 Town Meeting for the purchase of the Rescue I replacement (\$70,508).

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

*Motion: Stephen Hathorne moved that Article 11 have passage as presented.
Second: George Carman
Discussion: Wanda Brissette, Steven Libby, Paul First, Joshua McHenry, Gary Sacco and Pamela Slye commented on this article.
Motion: Stephen Hathorne moved the question.
Second: George Carman
Vote: It was voted that Article 11 have passage as read.*

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$213,600 from taxation and other sources for the ensuing year for **Municipal Paving Projects:**

Paving **TOTAL \$213,600**

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

*Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 12 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 12 have passage as read.*

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$75,000 from taxation and other sources for the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Account (389 - \$159,836) for the ensuing year.

Account 127

Highway Equipment Reserve Account	\$75,000
TOTAL	<u>\$75,000</u>

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 13 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 13 have passage as read.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to accept and spend the following categories of State revenue funds during the ensuing year:

1. Municipal Revenue Sharing
2. MDOT URIP
3. MDOT MPI
4. Tree Growth Reimbursement
5. General Assistance Reimbursement
6. Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
7. Snowmobile Registration Funds
8. Public Library State Aid
9. Emergency Management Assistance/Homeland Security Grants
10. Other State Aid (*pass-through funds and property tax relief*)
11. State and Federal Grants or Other Funds (*not included in items 1 – 9 above.*)

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

Motion: Stephen Hathorne moved that Articles 27 & 28 be taken out of order.
Second: Scott Doyle
Discussion: Pamela Slye, Scott Doyle and Lenora Conger commented on this motion.
Vote: It was voted by 2/3 vote that Articles 27 & 28 be taken out of order.

Motion: Roger Levasseur moved that Article 28 be discussed before Article 27.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: Roger Levasseur, Cindy Brakey, Joshua McHenry and Steven Libby commend on this motion.

Motion: Cheryl Fortier asked to move the question.
Second: Phil Vampatella
Vote: The vote on the motion failed.

Article 27. Shall an ordinance entitled ‘Ordinance for the Recall of Elected Officials, Town of New Gloucester’ be enacted?

(Article submitted by petition. Please see narrative section.)

Kathleen Potter gave a brief overview of Article 27.

Jean Couturier gave a brief overview of Article 28.

Discussion: Wanda Brissette, Paul First, Dianna Dowd and Kathleen Potter commented on these Articles.

Motion: Stephen Hathorne asked for a paper ballot vote on Articles 27 & 28.

Second: Kathleen Potter

Vote: It was voted that Articles 27 & 28 be voted by paper ballot.

Discussion: Pamela Slye, Kathleen Potter, Frank Chambers, Laura Sturgis, Joshua McHenry, Lenora Conger, Michael Brakey, Jim Fitch, Roger Levasseur George Carman, Scott Doyle, Frank Staton, Steven Libby, Beverly Cadigan, Peter Bragdon, Paul First and Michael May commented on Articles 27 & 28.

Motion: Rosa Van Wie asked to move the question.

Second: George Carman

Motion: Roger Levasseur moved that Article 27 have passage as presented.

Second: George Carman

Discussion: None.

Vote: Paper Ballot Vote - 135 in favor, 59 opposed. The article passed.

Article 28. Shall an ordinance entitled ‘Recall Committee Ordinance for the Recall of Elected Officials, Town of New Gloucester, Maine’ be enacted?

(Article submitted by Town Recall Ordinance Committee. Please see narrative section.)

Discussion: Discussion on Article 28 is included with Article 27

Motion: Roger Levasseur moved that Article 28 have passage as presented.

Second: Noah Fralich

Discussion: None.

Vote: Paper Ballot Vote - 47 in favor, 131 opposed. The article failed.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to accept and spend the following categories of State revenue funds during the ensuing year:

12. Municipal Revenue Sharing
13. MDOT URIP
14. MDOT MPI
15. Tree Growth Reimbursement
16. General Assistance Reimbursement
17. Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
18. Snowmobile Registration Funds
19. Public Library State Aid
20. Emergency Management Assistance/Homeland Security Grants
21. Other State Aid (*pass-through funds and property tax relief*)
22. State and Federal Grants or Other Funds (*not included in items 1 – 9 above.*)

Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 14 have passage as presented.

Second: Cliff Andrews

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 14 have passage as read.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to apply the following anticipated Revenues to reduce the tax commitment: Revenue amounts shown are estimates.

Revenue	
Building Inspection & Fees	\$ 21,000
Transfer Station Permits	\$ 3,500
Boat Excise Tax	\$ 6,500
Auto Excise Tax	\$ 840,000
Town Fees	\$ 16,500
Recreation Program Fees	\$ 20,150
Fines & Reimbursements	\$ 500
Clerk Fees	\$ 4,500
Rent Income	\$ 1
Copy/Fax Fees	\$ 1,500
Cable Franchise Fees	\$ 22,000
Library Revenue	\$ 1,500
Investment Income	\$ 7,500
Animal Control	\$ 1,000
Transfer Station Recycling	\$ 40,000
Real Estate Tax Interest	\$ 25,000
EMS Transport	\$ 105,000
Capital Reserve Funds (Ambulance)	\$ 70,000
Undesignated Fund	\$ 100,000
TIF (Fire Station Annual Debt)	\$ 140,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund	\$ 121,000
Total	\$ 1,547,151

Board of Selectmen recommend passage.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 15 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 15 have passage as read.

Article 16. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT REVENUE IN EXCESS OF AMOUNT BUDGETED: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to accept revenue in excess of amounts budgeted on behalf of the town.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 16 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 16 have passage as read.

Article 17. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GRANTS: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept, on behalf of the Town, state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations for municipal purposes, including when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contract and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds and matching funds required for the authorized purposes.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 17 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 17 have passage as read.

Article 18. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS OF MONEY OR PERSONAL PROPERTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept gifts of money or personal property to the Town and to appropriate and expend such money for such public purposes as the Board deems to be in the interest of the Town.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 18 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 18 have passage as read.

Article 19. ACCEPTANCE OF *CONDITIONAL* GIFTS OF MONEY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept conditional gifts of money to the Town and to appropriate and expend the funds for the legal purposes for which the gift was made and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the donor and to accept conditional gifts of personal property to the Town and to use the property in the legal manner specified by the donor.

Motion: Jean Couturier moved that Article 19 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 19 have passage as read.

Article 20. RETURNING UNEXPENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS TO CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to return unexpended capital improvement funds to their corresponding capital reserve accounts.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 20 have passage as presented.
Second: Stephen Hathorne
Discussion: None.
Vote: It was voted that Article 20 have passage as read.

Article 21. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEREST RATE FOR LATE TAX PAYMENTS: To see if the Town will vote to fix a date and terms when taxes shall become due and payable, and set an interest rate of 7.00 percent per annum. The 7% interest rate is authorized under Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505.4, as of January 1, 2008.

Recommendation: that the second Friday of October and April, Friday, **October 10, 2014** and Friday, **April 10, 2015** be established as the dates taxes are due and payable, and that interest at the rate of seven percent (7%) per annum will be charged after such dates.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 21 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 21 have passage as read.

Article 22. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEREST RATE FOR ABATED TAXES: To see if the town will vote to set the interest rate at three percent (3%) per annum to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A.

Motion: Laura Sturgis moved that Article 22 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 22 have passage as read.

Article 23. ACCEPTANCE OF TAX PREPAYMENTS: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 23 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 23 have passage as read.

Article 24. DISPOSITION OF FORECLOSED PROPERTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the following foreclosed properties in such manner and on such terms as the Board of Selectmen finds to be in the best interests of the Town.

MAP	LOT	LOCATION	LAND/BUILDINGS
16	11-1	275 Lewiston Road	Mobile Only
6	33-A1	476 Snow Hill Road	Mobile Only
2	22D	328B Sabbathday Road	Land & Mobile
6	41A	19 Outlet Road	Land & Buildings
4	43	Penney Road	Land Only
7	34B	46 Estes Road	Land & Buildings
10	43A	1120 Lewiston Road	Land & Buildings
3	48B	79 Morse Road	Land & Buildings
3	43A	Morse Road	Land & Buildings
3	34-1	40 Tyler Avenue	Land & Buildings
21	22	379 Sabbathday Road	Land & Buildings
2	15A	174A Sabbathday Road	Land & Buildings
11	30	Off Cobbs Bridge	Land Only

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 24 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: Peter Bragdon, Paul First and Barbara Seaver commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 24 have passage as read.

Article 25. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS TOWN PROPERTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and dispose of surplus town-owned personal property on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen finds to be in the best interests of the Town and to deposit proceeds from such sales in the corresponding capital reserve accounts or Undesignated Fund.

Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 25 have passage as presented.

Second: Stephen Hathorne

Discussion: None.

Vote: It was voted that Article 25 have passage as read.

Article 26. USE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM TIME WARNER CABLE PER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN FOR "PEG Access equipment and facilities": To see if the Town will vote to approve the expenditure of \$14,857 from the Time Warner Franchise Agreement Grant to purchase PEG Access equipment. Account # 203 – Cable Grant \$35,137.

The Cable TV Committee plans to take the next step in updating the station's technology with 21st century equipment. The first phase was completed this past year with the installation of the Leightronix Ultra NEXUS unit. Still, much of the present telecasting equipment dates back to 1998, when the station began operating. Over the years there have been small purchases to supplement, maintain and repair the existing equipment. The following purchase will update our station technology, improve the quality of our programming and station efficiency.

The Committee requests an Article for the sum of \$14,857 to purchase PEG Access equipment. Please see the warrant article narratives section for the full equipment listing. These dedicated funds cannot be used for purposes other than PEG Access equipment and facilities.

Article 26	
Master Control	\$ 2,816
Camera Control	\$ 732
Meeting Room	\$ 600
Remote Production	\$ 9,709
Contingency & Shipping	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 14,857

(Please see the warrant article narratives section for a full description)

*Motion: Jim Fitch moved that Article 26 have passage as presented.
 Second: Stephen Hathorne
 Discussion: None.
 Vote: It was voted that Article 26 have passage as read.*

Steven Libby moved and Jim Fitch seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Paul R. First
 Paul R. First, Town Clerk