

TOWN OF MOULTONBOROUGH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14TH, 2024 – MAY 16TH, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Paul Punturieri in the Moultonborough Public Safety Building on Tuesday, May 14th at 7 am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator then announced that absentee ballots would be processed at 9 am and declared the polls open for ballot voting. The polls closed at 7 pm and the meeting was recessed until Thursday, May 16th at 6 pm. Ballot voting results are as follows:

Votes Cast - 679

TWO (2) SELECTMEN FOR THREE (3) YEARS

Charles M. McGee 442

James Gray 457

ONE (1) MODERATOR FOR TWO (2) YEARS

Paul Punturieri 537

ONE (1) TREASURER FOR THREE (3) YEARS

Robert Bowdring 73

ONE (1) SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST FOR SIX (6) YEARS

Nancy McCue 576

ONE (1) TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS FOR THREE (3) YEARS

Paul Daisy 517

TWO (2) LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR THREE (3) YEARS

Sherry Wakefield 551

Peter Olsen 454

TWO (2) PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THREE (3) YEARS

Sandra M. Kelly 511

John Annaian 448

TWO (2) ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS MEMBERS FOR THREE (3) YEARS

David G. McDonough 488

Nicholas DeMeo 440

ARTICLE 2

Yes 326

No 201

ARTICLE 3

Yes 365

No 240

ARTICLE 4

Yes 374

No 235

ARTICLE 5

Yes 392

No 213

ARTICLE 6

Yes 433

No 176

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Moderator Paul Punturieri reconvened the meeting at 6:02 pm in the Moultonborough Academy Auditorium and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Seated on stage were Town Clerk Julia Marchand; Town Counsel Matt Serge; Select Board members Kevin Quinlan, Vice Chair Shari Colby, Chair Jon Tolman, Jean Beadle, and Karel Crawford; Town Administrator Charles Smith.

The Moderator began Moultonborough's 247th Annual Town Meeting by thanking the town's election officials and volunteers as well as the town and school employees who work hard to plan our elections and Town Meeting, noting the many hours and people involved both before and after each event. The Moderator then gave reminders and read his rules and procedures for the meeting. He shared the results of Tuesday's ballot voting then invited Select Board Chair Jon Tolman to the podium.

Chair Tolman presented Vice Chair Shari Colby with an engraved piece of granite in the shape of New Hampshire to thank her for her thoughtfulness and consideration over her three years serving on the Select Board. He then presented a second piece of granite to Jean Beadle, noting her nine years of service on the Select Board, and more than 15 years on the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC). He mentioned that her ability to explain accounting terms and finance principles throughout her terms has been appreciated. Ms. Beadle spoke, saying that it has been her honor to serve. She encouraged future generations to get involved and thanked the community for their support.

ARTICLE 7 – By Petition: Adopt SB2

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Moultonborough, NH of Carroll County, on the second Tuesday of May? (By Petition)

(Not Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Not Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 7 was read by the Moderator who clarified that none of the Select Board members or ABC members recommend this article. The article was then moved by Greg Samaha and seconded by Greg Widman.

George Mottram spoke in favor of the article noting that SB2 allows voters to access absentee ballots instead of having to attend a Town Meeting and that any discussion or amendments can still take place at the Deliberative Session which comes first. He mentioned a number of other towns, including Northwood, that have switched to SB2. Denise Hervieux spoke against the article stating that she knows people in Northwood who feel adopting SB2 was a mistake because their budget and capital items have a hard time passing. She described how the default budget process can be detrimental. Barbara Koehler spoke in favor of the article stating that voters can inform themselves on the articles instead of having to attend meetings. Joe Cormier moved to call the question and this was seconded by Don McGillicuddy. More than a 2/3

majority of voters raised their voter cards in favor of calling the question so the Moderator stated that he will allow the three people waiting at the microphone to speak, as well as the Select Board, then voting will begin.

Joe Cormier compared SB2 and Traditional Town Meetings, speaking in favor of the article. Kim Johnson spoke against the article stating that she doesn't feel voters will attend a Deliberative Session to participate in the discussion and amendments so they may be unprepared to vote on election day. Sandra Ringelstein spoke against the article. Select Board member Karel Crawford spoke against the article, stating that it is the norm for only a small number of voters to attend a Deliberative Session. She noted that Department Heads and the Select Board work hard on the budgets prior to placing them on the warrant and a small number of voters at Deliberative Session can make drastic changes that the majority of voters would not agree with. The Moderator explained the voting procedure and opened the polls at 6:30 pm for one hour.

Article 7 was defeated by secret ballot vote as it did not meet

the required 3/5th majority. There were 266 votes.

YES - 73 NO – 193

After the voters in the room cast their ballots, discussion on the remaining articles continued while the polls remained open for voting on Article 7.

The Moderator proposed holding discussion on Article 8 until after the results of Article 7 have been announced since that may affect how individuals vote. There were no objections.

The Moderator asked if there was a motion to bundle Articles 35-45. The motion was made by Peter Whelley and seconded by Eric Bernow. It was then voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards. The Moderator stated that the total dollar amount of the 11 bundled articles would be \$138,535.

ARTICLE 35 – By Petition: Ossipee Concerned Citizens

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$54,000) to Ossipee Concerned Citizens for funding to help support the Meals on Wheels program for Moultonborough. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Betsy Staber spoke regarding Article 35, noting that she chairs the Moultonborough/Sandwich Senior Meals Site Council, but is only speaking as a concerned taxpayer today. She stated that the program has struggled with staffing issues this year which has caused the culture, service, and product to decline to the point where she feels a new funding option should be found. She noted that Moultonborough is the only town of the 16 communities using this program that has voluntarily raised its contribution every year for the past four years and that even if we only

contribute the same amount as last year (\$46,000), we would still be the largest contributor to the program. She then moved to amend the dollar amount for Article 35 to \$46,000. This was seconded by Patrick Moody.

Misty Ryder, the Executive Director of Ossipee Concerned Citizens, asked for permission to speak and it was granted. She explained why OCC is asking for the increased amount stating that right now they spend \$326,000 on Moultonborough meals and the requested amount will only cover \$1.90 per plate. Chair Tolman stated that he has heard from individuals who use the service and what Ms. Staber has stated appears to be true. The Moderator clarified the voting rules and a hand count of voter cards was taken.

The amendment was voted in the affirmative by a count of voter cards.

YES - 131 NO – 99

ARTICLE 35 (As amended) – By Petition: Ossipee Concerned Citizens

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000) to Ossipee Concerned Citizens for funding to help support the Meals on Wheels program for Moultonborough. (By Petition)

The Moderator stated that the amended combined amount of Articles 35-45 is \$130,535. Seeing no further discussion, he called for a vote on the 11 bundled articles.

ARTICLE 36 – By Petition: Lake Winnepesaukee Association

To see if the town will vote to allocate Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to support the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) activities. LWA is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the water quality and natural resources of Lake Winnepesaukee and has taken the lead in this effort since 2010. LWA has and continues to provide direct support in obtaining grants for Town projects that improve the water quality of Lake Winnepesaukee and water bodies in Moultonborough. The LWA are an important liaison between NH DES and the Town for water quality monitoring and local communication of cyanobacteria alerts issued by NH DES. LWA also provides on site evaluation and recommendations as requested that lead to improved storm water management practices by town residents through the LakeSmart/Keep Winni Blue program. (By Petition).

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 37 – By Petition: Tri-County Community Action Program

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Sixty-Six Dollars (\$11,066) for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc, service programs in Moultonborough: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Disaster Relief, Tamworth Dental Center. (By

Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 38 – By Petition: Lakes Region Food Pantry

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the Lakes Region Food Pantry to help in its mission of feeding families one bag at a time. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 39 – By Petition: Winnepesaukee Wellness Center

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to support the Winnepesaukee Wellness Center, a community service program providing a supervised exercise program for clients. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 4 Yes – 0 No – 1 Abstain)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 40 – By Petition: Granite VNA

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to support the operations of Granite VNA (Formerly Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice), a local agency that provides Visiting Nurse Services, Hospice Care, and Pediatric Care to residents of the Town of Moultonborough, NH. This past year residents of Moultonborough received 1,561 home visits from Granite VNA. Town funds are used chiefly to support hospice care, pediatric care to children at medical or social risk, wellness clinics, bereavement support groups and immunization services. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 41 – By Petition: Starting Point

To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$5,744) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 42 – By Petition: Sandwich Children’s Center

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to continue our tuition assistance for Moultonborough children attending Sandwich Children’s Center. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 43 – By Petition: Moultonborough Historical Society

To see if the town of Moultonborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$4,700) to support the work of the Moultonborough Historical Society in the maintenance, upkeep, and preservation of the Moultonborough History Museum; the educational and cultural programs the Society offers; and in the stewardship of the Town owned “Middle Neck Schoolhouse” and “Old Moultonborough Townhouse.” (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 4 Yes – 0 No – 1 Abstain)

ARTICLE 44 – By Petition: Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc., which provides support services to the residents of Moultonborough. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

ARTICLE 45 – By Petition: Interlakes Day Care Center

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Twenty-Five Dollars (\$2,025) to maintain and continue the system of services of the Inter-Lakes Day Care Center. (By Petition)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Bundled Articles 35 (*as amended*) - 45 were voted in the affirmative
by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 9 – Town Operating Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, subject to all changes made at this meeting, the sum of Ten Million Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Thirteen Dollars (\$10,685,013) to pay the expenses of General Government, Public Safety, Public Works (including Highways, Cemeteries, Buildings and Grounds, and Transfer Station), Human Services, Culture and Recreation, and Land Use Services.

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 9 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 9 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 10 – Town Library Operating Budget

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$689,823) to pay the expense of operating the Public Library.

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 10 was read by the Moderator then moved by John Buckley and seconded by Vice Chair Colby. Mr. Buckley spoke in support of the article and explained the increases.

Article 10 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 11 – Road Improvements

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,743,000) for road improvements as part of the town's program of Road Improvements. The sum amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) to come from unassigned fund balance and the balance of One Million Four Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand (\$1,493,000) to come from general taxation.

REHABILITATE/RECONSTRUCT	\$1,343,000
PAVEMENT PRESERVATION	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$1,743,000

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 4 Yes – 1 No)

Article 11 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford. Fred Van Magness of the Capital Improvements Program Committee (CIPC) stated that his committee only recommended \$1,400,000 and he does not feel it is prudent to spend the \$1,743,000 that is being asked for at this time, citing his reasons. He suggested that someone amend the dollar amount down, but that he would not do that because of his involvement with the CIPC recommendation. Chair Tolman responded to Mr. Van Magness citing surplus revenue from last year, the total amount in the unassigned fund balance, and how the Select Board and Department Heads came to their numbers. He also noted that there is catch-up that needs to be done on the roads. Mr. Van Magness spoke again, then, seeing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 11 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 12 – Replace Fire Engine 4

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,017,500) for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Engine that will replace Engine Four. The sum amount of Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$467,500) to come from unassigned fund balance and the balance of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$550,000) to come from general taxation. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 12 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 12 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 13 – Public Works Equipment

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Dump Truck. It is anticipated that the sum amount of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$157,000) to come from Highway Block Grant and the balance to come from general taxation. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 13 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford.

Article 13 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 14 – Backhoe with Attachments

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Backhoe with attachments that will replace the 2010 John Deere 310 SG Backhoe. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 14 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Chair Tolman.

Article 14 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 15 – Skid Steer with Attachments

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Skid Steer with attachments that will replace a 20-year-old 2004 Case 60XT Skid Steer. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 15 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Select Board Member Beadle.

Joe Cormier thanked the person(s) responsible for enumerating the line items in the warrant so taxpayers don't have to try to figure out the amounts themselves. Seeing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 15 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 16 – Replace 2016 Ford Interceptor

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Police Cruiser to replace a 2016 Ford Interceptor SUV (Car 161). (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 16 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 16 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 17 – Replace Fire Chief Vehicle

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Chief's Emergency Response Vehicle to replace a 2017 Ford Explorer. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 17 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford.

Article 17 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 18 – Transfer Station Compactor

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Transfer Station compactor to replace the current one approximately 25-30 years old. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 18 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chari Colby and seconded by Select Board Member Beadle.

Article 18 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 19 – Municipal Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) to be added to the Municipal Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The sum amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to come from unassigned fund balance. The balance of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to come from general taxation. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 19 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford. Mr. Van Magness mentioned that this is a Capital Reserve item and that there is already \$614,000 in that account. He asked the Select Board to explain why they are adding more to this fund. Chair Tolman responded by highlighting a number of projects to be paid with these funds at a future date (such as a roof over the hockey rink, a columbarium and cremation garden at the Middleneck Cemetery, construction of lean-to bays to cover

equipment that is currently exposed to the elements, and expansion of maintenance bays also to protect equipment).

Paul Daisy spoke regarding Capital Reserve Funds, stating that he is in favor of setting money aside in anticipation of major expenses so the town is not caught off-guard by having to pay for a significant number of capital projects all at once as the School District had to this year.

Article 19 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 20 – Fire Fighting Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) to be added to the Fire Fighting Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 20 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Select Board Member Beadle.

Article 20 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 21 – Milfoil Control Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the Milfoil Control Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 21 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Chair Tolman.

Article 21 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 22 – Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 22 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 22 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 23 – Establish New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Moultonborough Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing, outfitting, repairing and maintenance of our police cruisers and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommendations Required. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 23 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Chair Tolman.

Article 23 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 24 – Appraisal Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$49,500) to be placed in the Appraisal Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 24 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford.

Article 24 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 25 – Library Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be placed in the Library Building Repairs and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required).

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 25 was read by the Moderator then moved by John Buckley and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford.

Article 25 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 26 – Historical Building Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Historical Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.
(Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 26 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Chair Tolman.

Article 26 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 27 – Town Wide Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) to be placed in the Town Wide Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 27 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 27 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 28 – Municipal Sewer Expansion Study

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of conducting a municipal sewer expansion study. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 28 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 28 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 29 – Veteran's Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Moultonborough modify the Veteran's Tax Credit from its current tax credit of \$500 per year to \$750 per year, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a III, RSA 72:28, II, and RSA 72:28-b II. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 3 Yes – 0 No – 2 Abstain)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 4 Yes – 0 No – 1 Abstain)

Article 29 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 29 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 30 – Modify Elderly Exemption

Shall the town modify the amount of the exemption from the assessed value applicable for the elderly under the provisions of RSA 72:39-b as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$100,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$150,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$200,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000, or if married, a combined net income of less than \$55,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the allowable portion of the person's primary residence, as described in RSA 72:39-a (I). (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 30 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Vice Chair Colby.

Article 30 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 31 – Modify Disabled Exemption

Shall the town modify an exemption for the disabled under the provisions of RSA 72:37-b as follows: the exemption from assessed value for qualified taxpayers shall be \$100,000. To qualify, the person: must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act, or otherwise as provided in RSA 72:37-b (1-b); must be a resident of the State for at least five (5) years; must occupy the property as his/her principal place of abode; must own the property (as defined in RSA 72:27 (VI)) individually or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years; had in the calendar year preceding April 1 a net income from all sources, of not more than \$40,000 if single and \$55,000 if married; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000, excluding the value of the person's residence as described in RSA 72:37-b (III) (b). (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 31 was read by the Moderator then moved by Vice Chair Colby and seconded by Select Board Member Beadle.

Article 31 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

ARTICLE 32 – Adopt Provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b) – Conservation

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for the contributions to ‘qualified organizations’ for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?
(Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 32 was read by the Moderator then moved by Select Board Member Beadle and seconded by Select Board Member Crawford.

Article 32 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

At this time, the Moderator announced that the polls for Article 7 would close in two minutes.

ARTICLE 33 – By Petition: 100% LUCT to Conservation Commission

To see if the Town will vote to allocate 100% (in total) of the collected land use change tax (LUCT) revenue to the Moultonborough Conservation Commission, pursuant with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 70-A:25 II. (By Petition)

(Not Recommended by Selectmen – 5 Yes – 0 No)

(Not Recommended by Advisory Budget Committee – 5 Yes – 0 No)

Article 33 was read by the Moderator then moved by Sandra Kelly and seconded by Keith Nelson. Ms. Kelly spoke (as the Planning Board liaison to the Moultonborough Conservation Commission) in favor of the article. She elaborated on the LUCT and how the funds would be used explaining that this tax currently goes to the Conservation Commission but is capped at \$20,000 annually.

At 7:30 pm, the Moderator announced that the polls were now closed for Article 7 and Assistant Moderators began tallying the results. Discussion continued on Article 33 as they counted.

John Buckley spoke in favor of the article, disclosing that he is on the Board of Directors for the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and providing more information about the LUCT. Chair Tolman stated that he doesn’t believe anyone on the Select Board or ABC is against conservation, but that their reasons for voting against the article are because they don’t feel the Conservation Commission has been prevented to-date from acquiring a conservation purchase because of

funds. He feels that the \$20,000 cap appears to be sufficient and if any special projects came up over that amount that the Commission could work with the Select Board and voters at that point to discuss a way to cover the excess balance. Joe Cormier asked for clarification on the land use tax. Chair Tolman clarified that this article is regarding a tax that is applied to land taken out of "current use" (which has a lower tax rate because it is undeveloped land) and developed. Keith Nelson commented that there has been a lot of discussion tonight on Capital Reserve Funds and that this would essentially create a Capital Reserve Fund to preserve the conservation land that is in current use or expend these funds for conservation use. Seeing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 33 was voted in the affirmative by a count of voter cards.

YES - 137 NO – 70

At this time, the results of Article 7 were announced.

ARTICLE 34 – By Petition: Establish Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day

To see if the Town of Moultonborough will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to establish Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day, a federal holiday, and New Hampshire state holiday, (RSA 288:1) observed on the third Monday in January, as an added paid annual Moultonborough Town employee observed holiday beginning with the 2025 Town holiday schedule. (By Petition)

Article 34 was read by the Moderator. Chair Tolman moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 7 which was seconded by Peter Whelley. This motion was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

Article 34 was then moved by Sandra Ringelstein and seconded by Joanne Wilhelm. Max Ringelstein, a petitioner, spoke in favor of the article giving his reasons and highlighting the progress of the initiative which he started about a year ago with his grandfather and other Moultonborough Academy students. Todd Ringelstein also spoke in favor of the article, noting that Moultonborough is one of the only towns in New Hampshire to not formally recognize Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Day. Sandra Ringelstein and Charlotte Johnson also spoke in favor of the article.

Article 34 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

The Moderator then commented that Max Ringelstein and Charlotte Johnson both recently turned 18 and this is their first Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 8 – By Petition: Change Town Meeting to March

To see if the Town of Moultonborough will vote to change the date of Town Meeting to the second Tuesday in March effective in March of 2025. (Note that this meeting date change does not change the Town's July to June fiscal year). (By Petition)

Article 8 was read by the Moderator who noted that this change would not affect the town's July to June fiscal year. The Moderator stated that he would like to take this vote by secret ballot after the discussion has ended. The article was then moved by Kay Peranelli and seconded by Patrick Hart. Chair Tolman called a point of order and moved to override the Moderator to address Article 8 by a hand count of voter cards rather than secret ballot. This motion was seconded by Ashley Pouliot and voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

Ms. Peranelli, who is on the ABC, but is speaking only as an individual on this issue, spoke in favor of the article and gave her reasons, including a better turnout for the Annual School District meeting when it is combined with Town Meeting, the ease of attending both meetings on the same day rather than two separate days, and how having an approved budget in March will allow a better lead time for road and construction work bids so projects can start as soon as the weather permits. She also noted that although the article is legally written to say the "second Tuesday in March," the town would still be able to hold Town Meeting in conjunction with the School District on Saturday. The Moderator stated that ballot voting would be on the second Tuesday in March and the Select Board and School Board would determine when they would like their respective meetings to be held.

Chair Tolman spoke in favor of the article, stating that he looked at voter engagement in Town Meetings going back to 2009 and Moultonborough actually had a decrease in voter turnout since changing to May (he cited numbers). He also mentioned a cost savings when only one meeting has to be set up and prepared for instead of two. Barbara Koehler spoke against the article, encouraging voters to consider the weather in March. She feels more voters will be able to attend in May. Joe Cormier asked for clarification on how the budget cycle would be affected and Chair Tolman confirmed that the fiscal year would not change. Mary Phillips, who also serves on the ABC, stated that the last time this issue came up she voted against changing back to March, but her stance has changed now that she has seen the Town and School meetings split and she now feels that having both meetings in March will allow voters to get a complete picture of the budget. Jill Alexander spoke against the article, stating that snowbirds can't attend a March meeting. Wendy Cross asked why the Annual School District Meeting can't be in May. The Moderator stated that school districts need to fund their teacher contracts well before May and Town Counsel confirmed this. Seeing no further discussion, the Moderator called the question.

Blake Callais asked the Moderator to reiterate the question. Mr. Punturieri restated the intent of the article then clarified that voting yes on this article would be a vote to move Town Meeting back to March and voting no on this article would be a vote to keep Town Meeting in May.

Article 8 was voted in the affirmative by a count of voter cards.

YES - 137 NO - 76

At this time, the Moderator reminded voters of the September State Primary and the November General election.

ARTICLE 46 – Transact any other business.

To transact any other business that may legally come before said Meeting.

Article 46 was read by the Moderator then moved by Chair Tolman and seconded by Select Board Member Beadle.

Article 46 was voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sue Berry, seconded by Christina Buy, then voted in the affirmative by a show of voter cards. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Marchand".

Julia Marchand, Moultonborough Town Clerk

