

## RESULTS OF THE JACKSON TOWN MEETING MARCH 15, 2018

Polls were opened at 8:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM on March 13, 2018 by Moderator Willis Kelley to vote on Article One.

The town meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelley on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:00PM. Moderator Kelley then led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of God Bless America. Robert Thompson led the group in a moment of prayer and reflection.

### Article 01: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To choose the necessary officers for the ensuing year.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Elected Candidate - # of votes</b>
Town Moderator	Willis Kelley - 240
Selectmen for 3 yrs.	Robert Thompson – 146
Trustees of the Trust Funds for 3 yrs.	Helene Matesky - 243
Trustees of Cemeteries for 3 yrs.	Lee Phillips - 248
Library Trustee for 3 yrs.	Darlene Ference - 228
Library Trustee for 3 yrs.	Denise Sachse (W-I) – 67
Supervisor of the Checklist	Jeanette Heidmann - 239
Supervisor of the Checklist	Vacant
School Moderator for 1 yr.	Sacha Tracey (W-I) – 61
Member of the School Board for 3 yrs.	Jessica DellaValla – 231
Member of the School Board for 3 yrs.	Kate Fournier – 228
School Treasurer for 1 yr.	Christine Thompson – 236
School Clerk for 1 yr.	Gino Funicella (W-I) – 16

Moderator Kelley, I want to clarify something that has not been able to do for the last few years that we can do. When we get to the Operating Budget of the Town there are quite a few line items that consist of that item, we will be voting on the entire budget. I will be going thru that by line item to ask if there are any questions, at that time I can now accept if someone wants to make a motion on an amendment to the line item, I can accept a motion and if its seconded and passed. That amount up or down amended will be taken from the bottom line and voted on at that at the end. However, that is really only a recommendation and the selectmen still have the authority to take any line item amount that was verbally agreed to and add it to where they see fit to run the town. Moderator Kelley, I ask for a very orderly meeting, everybody being polite, no going back and forth. Direct all your questions and comments to the moderator, I will try to give everyone an opportunity to speak. Anyone with a question must speak up and state your name so the clerk can hear it and record your name for the minutes. With that Moderator Kelley would like to entertain a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant as we will be reading each article as we pick them up. Motion is moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

### Article 02: OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended Operating Budget of the Town in the amount of \$2,095,899 not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately (see 2018 Budget). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Office of the Selectmen:** No Comments

**Office of the Town Clerk:** No Comments

**Financial Administration:** Sarah Clemons, is this the salaries and benefits of the Town Office? Selectmen Thompson directs everyone to page 14. Sarah would like to say the Jackson Municipal Workers are being treated very well and fairly. As an example if we take the position of Town Administrator and the salary of \$52,831 and Statutory Benefits of \$10,054 added together is \$62,884. We give 14 paid holidays and PTO for the 1-3 years of 25 days, and for 4-7 years a total of 30 days.

**Assessing:** No Comments

**Legal:** Penny Miller why the big difference between the actuals vs the budget. Are we expecting anything involving legal. Moderator Kelley, we have put \$60,000 in for years in anticipation. Jerry Dougherty III, I would like the selectmen to comment on the financial issues not the Moderator. James Porath, she asked if there are any ongoing legal suits against the town. Selectmen Thompson states there is currently no ongoing suits.

**Planning Board:** No Comments

**Zoning Board:** No Comments

**General Government Parks & Buildings:** Jeanette Heidmann, the Town Hall Expenses show as zero for 2018 where is that being covered? Selectmen Thompson responds.

**Cemeteries:** No Comments

**Insurance:** Sarah Clemons, is this our health insurance or does it include the insurance on our building? John Allen says if you turn to page 14 it has a breakdown for health insurance and property liability. Sarah Clemons, I think we have an extravagant negotiated insurance reimbursement. We pay two individuals \$17,108.50 to not take our health insurance. Because they can prove they have health insurance from another source. Please explain why the Town of Conway gives a flat rate of \$1,250 and the Town of Bartlett gets a flat rate of \$1,800 to their personnel who do not take town insurance. Selectmen Bennett states it is a negotiated figure for the people who opt out of our health insurance come forth in January with proof of insurance. They proved to us that they have insurance and what that insurance costs. Our negotiation is to pay them their share of that money that would be incurred by the town if they chose to take the town policy. An example: Two employees, the family plan would be \$56,000, our negotiated reimbursement that they pay their insurance premium with. The reimbursement of \$34,000 saves the town \$22,000. We feel it is a valid negotiation and good fiscal responsibility. Sarah Clemons, I have checked with other towns, the State of New Hampshire, Concord, Moultonborough, and other places and the State of New Hampshire doesn't give a reimbursement to their employees. Dick Bennett, it's not apples to apples there's a different benefit package in Conway this is our benefit package. Conway has a number of benefits they give to their employees and if they pay out a stipend that's their way of negotiating. Jerry Dougherty III, does the town have a stated policy for the buyback of benefit or is it an individual negotiation. Selectmen Bennett, confirms it is in our policy. Jerry Dougherty III, so it's a stated policy amount. Selectmen Bennet, no it's not because we don't know what the amount is going to be until they come in with their insurance and what their share of it will be. So we don't know

what that is, we can try to budget for it or estimate it. Jerry Dougherty III, typically towns have a policy whereby they have a stated amount that they will buy back the policy. It's not a dollar for dollar or 50%. It sounds to me your negotiating what the amount would be. Selectmen Thompson, well yes when we did a study we found that there were negotiated amounts in towns. If someone comes to our town and hired by our town and they have an another market insurance plan and their getting together with their spouse and their trying to figure out what makes sense. Should we try to go on the towns insurance policy or should we stick with the one we have. Our negotiated reimbursement program allows us to have them verify their out of pocket expenses and at that point negotiate a reimbursement program with them so they would not come onto our health insurance policies and stick with their spouse's policy. We found one town had a policy in place where they replaced 55% of the cost to the employee, so if that employee was on a family plan and that would cost the same amount as our cost would end up with \$16,500. Rather than try to hire this program out and come up with a set formula, some of our negotiations are below some of the other amounts. There are towns Dublin, Sunapee and New Boston are all at \$5,000, Weirs is at \$5,500, Winnisquam is at \$5,000, Goffstown is at \$6,492 not to say we wouldn't come up with a policy at some point in time. Every negotiation we get into directly saves the town money. So we do not have a set amount at this time. Jerry Dougherty III, the idea that employees take one of the spouse's insurances rather than the other is not unusual it is typical. For example, the school board, SAU 9 has a policy where they will buy back the benefits and its quite a bit less than what your discussing. I think a stated policy would be better than a negotiation. Penny Miller, as a benefit are they getting a 1099 or a W2? Are we paying FICA, Social Security and Pension on this benefit or are they getting a 1099? Selectmen Thompson, no again, it's a reimbursement, they come in and verify their out of pocket expenses for their health insurance plan and their reimbursed the amount they can verify. Every year they come, they verify their insurance policy and verify their out of pocket expenses. Penny Miller, so we should be giving them a 1099. Julie Atwell states it's on the W2. Penny Miller, so if it's on the W2 then we are paying FICA, Social Security and Pension on it. That's quite a big raise, I wish my company would do that.

James Porath, if we're adding that onto wages, is that also calculated into Pension Benefits when they go to retire? Selectmen Thompson, we do not pay Social Security or Retirement on that, it's a reimbursement only. It's not a wage, it's an insurance out of pocket expense reimbursement it doesn't qualify for social security or pension. Scott Badger, it's not common practice either the amount or the methodology in the public sector or the private sector. I have a business and we don't offer any compensation to someone who chooses not to take our insurance. Nancy Davis, this is an annual event, it's not a onetime buy out that happens every year. Selectmen Thompson, the cost of an insurance policy for a family plan here in town is anywhere from \$28,000 to \$30,000 a year. Nancy Davis asks, so is that's a zero deductible. I've never heard of an insurance policy for a family costing \$30,000. Jeanette Heidmann, so the people that do take the policy do not receive an out of pocket reimbursement. Is that correct? Selectman Thompson, that is correct. Jeanette Heidmann, that feels like a discriminatory practice. Then why don't we pay the people that have insurance who elect not to take insurance the \$2200 or \$2800 if they are an individual or family policy.

Jeanette Heidmann I would like to make a motion if I may. Moderator Kelley will come back to Jeanette Heidmann, there are a couple of people who haven't spoken. Gino Funicella having been a former selectman we never had this, when did this come about? What did you negotiate with? How many people are getting this benefit? You don't have to name names. Selectmen Thompson, typically you would want a job in a municipality primarily for the

insurance benefit. But that doesn't include everybody. We really are not allowed to talk about numbers because it would be a violation of HIPPA privacy rights. Tom Pizor, I think the Selectmen have worked hard to put together a budget I understand from prior management experience myself, it's very difficult to handle payroll, tax issues and the incoming of Obama Care. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to bring in a Professional Insurance Expert, Payroll Expert to have a separate town meeting to discuss the details.

Moderator Kelley believes we have heard enough comments that the selectmen have a message that they need to discuss this. Moderator Kelley says this thing will take all night and he is not going to take that. Priscilla Protasowicki states this is my first time here so I would like to at least ... Moderator Kelley interrupts Priscilla Protasowicki saying you will wait till I address you please I was talking. Thank you. Now I will recognize you. Priscilla Protasowicki, I had my hand up first but you kept ignoring me. The gentlemen Selectmen Thompson said the average is \$30,000 for insurance I would like proof of that in writing. Selectmen Thompson, that is not a problem. Jeanette Heidmann, with the understanding that the allowance for these 2 individuals let's assume \$34,000 I would like to move that we reduce this line item leaving only \$6,000 so that would be a reduction of \$28,000 for this line item with the recommendation that it come out of the health insurance fund.

Moved and Seconded: Any discussion on the moved and seconded.

Peter Benson you don't have to go far from the report from last year to know references last year's Town Report page 90, this is not the price is right, this is people's lives, their livelihoods, we don't throw numbers around to reduce the budget without any consideration, the budget is not up this year I don't think we overpay our employees, I don't think we underpay our employees. I think we treat them fairly and they are our biggest asset and I think we need to continue to treat them that way. Jerry Dougherty III, a clarification on the vote a yes vote would mean her amendment carries. Moderator Kelley, states all those in favor would be voting in favor for the amendment to be approved. A no vote would be for defeating the amendment. Selectmen Thompson, if the budget is reduced by the amount in the motion is somebody going to increase that line item by \$56,000 if the people decide to come on our policy instead? In theory that could happen and we would need to find that money. Frank Baker, am I correct believing when the town reimburses an employee for his insurance expense away from the town, the town then saves its premium amount on the policy with the town. Selectmen Thompson, we are protected from him taking an insurance policy from our town. Sarah Clemons, I have done some research on insurance and in valley and in our school systems is less than \$20,000 for a family plan. It's time we negotiate as this gentleman said, prior to that we should get someone in here and get some investigating into our policies. Moderator Kelley, we have that. Jerry Dougherty III, a clarification on what Bob Thompson said, Bob said the town would be unprotected and the town would have to have \$56,000 if this motion carries the employees that negotiated that position with you would renegotiate in this year? Selectmen Thompson, they can cancel their insurance policy and then elect to take the towns family policy turn. Jerry Dougherty III, within this coming year? Selectmen Thompson, yes. Jerry Dougherty III, then the negotiation was meaningless. Moderator Kelley, we have an amendment to reduce the insurance line by \$28,000 and it's been seconded. Regardless with what happens with this the selectmen will have to do by statute to honor contracts and anything else. We can take an amendment it's an advisory amendment. Selectmen Thompson, according to our Town Counsel the negotiation may still be a binding contract.

**Vote on Dollar Amendment: Defeated**

**Building Inspector:** No comment

**Police Department:** Penny Miller, what is the difference between the police wages and the highway wages they are just about same \$193,000 yet the difference in the FICA and MEDICARE expenses is huge. Do we not have to pay some expenses for the police? The police are \$3,892 and the same amount of wages on the highway we pay \$14,836. Selectmen Thompson, the police have two part-time officers probably have a much lower FICA expense. Chief Perley, police wages fall under a state retirement known as Group 2. Group 2 participants do not pay Social Security additionally there's some Social Security exemptions for other members of our agency. That is why you see the reduction in Social Security, FICA and retirement. We have a substantially reduced retirement costs compared to 2016 because of the makeup of the employees. Sarah Duffy for a couple of police lines like supplies, utilities, etc. there have been some overages for this year. Is that a one time? Chief Perley, we spend by the bottom line and budget by the line. Dick Badger, I would like to comment on the job Mr.(Chief) Perley has performed since taking the position as Chief.

**Ambulance:** No Comments

**Fire Department:** No Comments

**Emergency Management:** No Comments

**Highway Administration:** No Comments

**Highway:** No Comments

**Street Lighting:** No Comments

**Solid Waste Disposal:** No Comments

**Animal Control:** No Comments

**Public Welfare:** No Comments

**Library:** No Comments

**Recreation & Parks:** No Comments

**Debt Service:** No Comments

**Tans Interest:** No Comments

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

### **Article 03: APPROPRIATIONS TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$268,500 dollars to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established:

- 1) Fire Department Truck Capital Reserve Fund \* \$80,000  
(0003 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$184,216.84)
- 2) Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund \* \$65,000  
(0064 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$33,450.27)
- 3) Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund \* \$50,000  
(0048 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$123,926.05)
- 4) Bartlett / Jackson Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund \* \$20,000

(0070) - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$45,568.51  
5) Heavy Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund \* \$30,000  
(0068 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$121,502.82)  
5) Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund \* \$15,500  
(0027 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$15,589.43)  
6) Revaluation of Town Property Capital Reserve Fund \* \$8,000  
(0004 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$37,113.96)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

**Article 04: APPROPRIATIONS TO EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$116,000 dollars to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds previously established:

1) Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \* \$50,000  
(0028 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$113,178.60)  
2) State Aid Reconstruction Expendable Fund \* \$30,000  
(0058 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$9,214.60)  
3) Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund \* \$25,000  
(0034 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$83,828.20)  
4) Dry Hydrant Expendable Trust Fund \* \$5,000  
(0049 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$19,564.71)  
5) Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund \* \$3,000  
(0051 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$35.16)  
5) Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund \* \$3,000  
(0046 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/17 \$1,135.43)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

**DISCUSSION:**

Jeanette Heidmann, I have a general question, can someone please explain the difference between Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds. Moderator Kelley, that Capital Reserve Funds requires when they expend a vote at the town meeting. Expendable Trust Fund your authorizing the selectmen to expend without that vote. Jerry Dougherty III, I don't quite understand it could you please repeat it? Moderator Kelley, the difference between a Capital Reserve Fund and an Expendable Trust Fund, Capital Reserve Fund requires the voter approval to expend unless its worded with an added clause and to authorize the selectmen to expend it. And all our Capital Reserve Funds I confirmed are written to expend. Jerry Dougherty III, the selectmen understand my position on this. My problem is with that wording having the selectmen be the decider once we raise the funds for truck, fire truck or whatever. The people don't get to vote on it anymore, in fact the selectmen don't even decide once they raise the money they spend it. Taking us out of the loop, there is a way to fix it and I've discussed it with the selectmen before but I just wanted to clarify it. Selectmen Thompson, confirms that other option is a bonding and does not feel that it makes sense at this time. Moderator Kelley, clarifies that to change the way we do the Capital Reserve Fund would require a warrant article on the warrant and voted on by you. The warrant would require a written ballot with a 2/3 majority to pass.

**VOTE =** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

## **Message received from the Town Attorney Peter Malia – Regarding Article 4**

*All – I just want to clarify the answer to a question that was asked last night. Someone asked about the difference between a Town of Jackson Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) and a Town of Jackson Expendable Trust Fund (ETF).*

*There is no difference between these two types of funds under NH law today as far as how the money can be spent. “The Basic Law of Budgeting” on p. 29 says “If a town...meeting has properly voted to name agents to expend a capital reserve fund or a town-funded trust fund, money that has already been appropriated to one of these funds may be spent without further appropriation.”*

*Julie confirmed for me this morning that the Selectmen have been named as agents on all Town of Jackson CRFs and on all Town of Jackson ETFs. Therefore, the Selectmen can spend money from these funds for the purposes for which these funds were created without further Town Meeting approval.*

*The only difference between these funds is that the statutes which allow them are slightly different as far as the legal purposes for which they can be created.*

*The statute governing Expendable Trust Funds, RSA 31:19-a, is broader than the statute governing Capital Reserve Funds, RSA 35:1 (and also 35:1-a and 1-b).*

*The Expendable Trust Funds statute, RSA 31:19-a, allows a trust fund to be created “for the maintenance and operation of the town; and any other public purpose that is not foreign to the town's institution or incompatible with the objects of its organization.”*

*However, the Capital Reserve Funds statute, RSA 35:1, specifies this type of fund for these purposes:*

*I. The construction, reconstruction or acquisition of a specific capital improvement, or the acquisition of a specific item or specific items of equipment; or*

*II. The construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of a type of capital improvement or the acquisition of a type of equipment; or*

*III. A reappraisal by appraisers of the department of revenue administration or such other appraisers, appraisal firms or corporations approved by the commissioner of revenue administration, of the real estate in such town for tax assessment purposes; or*

*III-a. The acquisition of land; or*

*IV. The acquisition of a tax map of said town; or*

*V. Extraordinary legal fees and expenses related to present or foreseeable litigation involving the town or its officers and employees; or*

*VI. Municipal and regional transportation improvement projects including engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction costs of transportation facilities, and for operating and capital costs for public transportation.*

*The DRA document link below also discusses these two types of funds on pages 27-30.*

<https://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/municipal/documents/suggested-warrant-articles.pdf>

## **Article 05: VALLEY CROSS ROAD BRIDGE**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$186,920 for the purpose of completing the design phase of the Valley Cross Road Bridge Project. The sum of \$149,536 (80%) shall be refunded by the State Aid Bridge Program and further to withdraw \$37,384 from the Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Jerry Dougherty III, the town will be raising \$186,920 by taxes is that correct? And at some point it will be reimbursed the amount less \$37,384 by the state. Selectmen Thompson, it is 80% of that. Jerry Dougherty III, and that 80% will go into the unencumbered capital reserve fund.... Selectmen Thompson, I'm sorry? Jerry Dougherty III, repeats when the State cuts you the check for the 80% will that money then go into the unencumbered capital reserve fund? Selectmen Thompson, the 80% reimbursement with confirmation from Julie Atwell will offset the expense. Jerry Dougherty III, so you would not by taxes be raising \$186,000. Selectmen Thompson and Moderator Kelley, both confirm by saying NO we would not be raising through taxes. Jerry Dougherty III, I just wanted clarification that we would not be raising thru taxes. Anne Kantact, this is for the design phase only. Selectmen Thompson, that is correct. Anne Kantact, repeats One hundred eighty-six thousand just for the design? Selectmen Thompson, that is correct the total cost of the bridge is expected to be around a million dollars. So that would add a cost of \$200,000 to the town.

Bob Burton, can I make a motion that when the money reimbursement from the State if that could go into a fund to fund the actual construction of the bridge at that time. When the reimbursement comes in from the State if that could go into a fund to fund the actual construction of the bridge at the time of that. Attorney Malia, we cannot create a fund tonight but you could potentially make a motion to direct the money into the Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund because its already in existence. Do we have a potential time frame for completion or start of that job? Selectmen Thompson, when we chose the engineering firm the timeline had been planning on presenting a plan to the town at a public forum here in this room in November 2017. That was their sense when the State going to approve that contract by September. That still hasn't happened yet, everything's been backed up. Our hope is that the Town certifies the contract early this spring. Had they done it in November then we would have been set up to begin work July 1, 2018. It may go beyond June 30 2019 which is the fiscal year that it's to be spent in.

Jeanette Heidmann, what is the States record on providing those reimbursement funds? And if we appropriate this money tonight and the design can't even go forward what happens to that money if the engineering firm is not approved by the State? Selectmen Thompson, the contract hasn't been certified yet it's down at the State and they thought it would be certified by October but they are undermanned and just haven't gotten to it. Jeanette Heidmann, so it will be within the fiscal year? Selectmen Thompson, replies yes. Beth Funicella, is this a new design and if so what kind of design would it be? Selectmen Thompson, it will not be any wider. Julie Atwell, clarifies the money when it comes back in, go to Page 19 "Refunds & Reimbursements" is where it will be categorized when it comes in.

**VOTE = Verbal Approval (unanimous)**

### **Article 06: TRANSFER STATION - PHASE 3**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the purpose of phase three of the Transfer Station upgrade and further to withdraw \$85,000 from the Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund. Article is contingent upon Bartlett also approving the upgrade. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Larry Garland, what does Phase 3 would entail. Selectmen Allen, is putting in the new addition to the backside of the compactor and where the cardboard is being housed. All would be streamlined where the cardboard would be on the backside of the recycling area. No longer on the front of that building. Larry Garland, so it wouldn't affect how we are using the transfer station. Jeanette Heidmann, I've heard comments from several people including myself when actually using the recycle containers it is extremely difficult with that beautiful ledge there. If there's some way they can make cut outs so you could reach the containers and all the rain from the roof isn't dropping on your head? Selectmen Allen, I have heard that comment before and I have noticed it himself. It isn't a finished grade yet, but it will make a big difference. Tish Hanlon states there is often a wind tunnel when putting your trash in. Many older people are having difficulty lifting up barrels and then pushing trash in. Can there be some improvements in that area? Selectmen Allen, we will certainly try to make it better. Gino Funicella, are we planning to have scales put in to measure the waste as its being sent to Berlin? When they measure a truck load, they give an estimate 2 ton, 3 tons. When Berlin gets it they weigh it, they have been billing based on statistics, \$1,500 more every month. Because the weights are mismanaged in our town. So when they get there the real weight shows as 5 ton or 8 tons. Yet at our station they are only paying 2 tons. Ginger Bailey, plastic is really a problem trying to figure out which bin to put it in. If there's an attendant there they are always wonderful about answering questions and directing, you. The flyer is great and it is an improvement from not knowing at all. Maybe more specific. Betsy Harding, we may reach more people my making it clear on Enews. Jeanette Heidmann, would it be possible to put the three different plastics next to each other? Bobby Meserve, what about paving and striping some parking spaces up there. Selectmen Allen, it's all a part of the final stage and clarifies this is the final stage.

**VOTE = Verbal Approval (unanimous)**

### **Article 07: SOCIAL SERVICES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,426 to support the following:

- 1) Children Unlimited - \$4,000
- 2) Tri-County Community Action - \$3,000
- 3) Jackson Chamber of Commerce - Fireworks - \$3,000
- 4) The Gibson Center - \$2,500
- 5) White Mountain Community Health - \$1,434
- 6) Starting Point - \$1,276
- 7) Conway Area Humane Society - \$1,000
- 8) Jackson Chamber of Commerce - Beautification Project - \$1,000
- 9) Northern Human Services - \$716
- 10) Eastern Slope Regional Airport - \$500

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Greg Frizzell, President of Starting Point, I would like to say thank you for supporting this article it goes towards supporting your community and domestic violence.

Dick Badger, who is Northern Human Services, Selectmen Thompson, Northern Human Services is the behavioral health agency that serves the region. Northern Coos and Northern Carroll County, for mental health services. It used to be Carroll County Mental Health.

Tom Pizor, why are we paying \$500 to an airport in Fryeburg? Peter Benson, I've never had a good explanation as to the direct benefit to this town. Brad Boehringer, I work for Lifeflight Maine when a helicopter can't get into the hospital it actually lands at the Fryeburg Airport to transfer sick or critically injured patient out of the region. Jerry Dougherty III, do we have a representative to the board? *Selectmen Allen, raises his hand.* Jerry Dougherty III, it is my understanding that Fryeburg Airport is also the refueling station for the military in emergency situations and it's where the Town buys fuel for our generators. So the Town uses the airport on a regular basis. Anne Kantact, Brad how often does it happen you can't land at the hospital but you can land at Fryeburg? I've worked at the hospital for 38 years and I have never seen us transfer a patient to the airport in Fryeburg. Brad Boehringer, it doesn't happen often but he landed this fall for a patient out of the valley. The airport minimum for instrument flight rules are a lot lower than they are for an uncontrolled landing zone like the hospital or Pinkham Notch. We can get into the airport with a minimum of 500 feet of elevation and less than a mile of visibility. We couldn't land at the hospital or scene of an accident at Pinkham or Crawford Notch so that gives us more opportunity to get into the valley. Mike Sachse, I was the town representative to the airport for a number of years. I am an instructor over at Sanford and I used to instruct at Fryeburg and I would like to let everyone know that it's part of an infrastructure that you don't need all the time but when you do need it like forest fires, civil air patrol and other things. There are many different uses for an airport you can't just build one out of thin air. Jay Henry, whether its EMS or forest fire I feel for \$500 it's a very valuable resource for the fire department. I mean we are spending \$3,000 for fireworks.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval

## **Article 08: PLAN NH - MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,550 to hire a consultant to review the Town's current regulations and help the Town address the wants and needs of the community regarding housing choices. Most of these funds (see below) are to be provided by a grant from the NH Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG) Program, which is for NH communities that want to explore increased housing opportunities in their towns. Of this amount, \$13,913 will come from the MTAG grant; the balance of \$3,638 from general taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0).

## **DISCUSSION:**

Scott Badger of the Planning Board, we are seeing the community of Jackson impacted by the lack of available housing. You're having fewer young adults, young families therefore fewer children in town. It's difficult and sometimes impossible for town employees like police officers, firefighters, road crews, administrators, teachers to find a place to live in this community they serve. And we have never had good housing options for those who would like to live out their lives here. We have applied and was approved for this grant. We would reach out to the

community and find out what the neighborhood wants type of housing it needs. Identify the needs that goal requires and then explore ways we might address those needs. The grant is a great opportunity for the town to address this issue and I would like to make a motion to amend the article because we have managed to raise all of that \$3,638 thru private donations. Priscilla Protasowicki, I have encountered people coming into our town who are in need of affordable housing. The biggest concern is you can put affordable housing anywhere but the electricity costs in winter is what drives up the rent and affordability. Jerry Dougherty III, what is the definition of an affordable home? Scott Badger, you can define affordable by certain income levels but even before affordable we are talking about available. As far as rentals, there really isn't any available rentals. Sarah Clemmons, what does the State feel is affordable. Jerry Dougherty III, according to the NH Low Income Housing Coalition they look at the entire state and their headline is "Out of Reach" The minimal wage in New Hampshire is \$7.25 in order to afford a one-bedroom house which would include all utilities and taxes are in this amount. Making a minimal wage for a one-bedroom apartment you would need to work 94 hours with a market rate of \$800 per month. And for a three-bedroom home its about \$1300 a month. Again this is all utilities and taxes in. The problem may not be the price of the home but the income in New Hampshire, \$7.25 per hour is ridiculous. To afford a one-bedroom house and work a forty-hour week you'd have to make \$15 per hour. Betsy Harding, Jerry's right in many ways the wages in New Hampshire are too low, they are the federal minimum and six other New England states have gone up but we have not. We can't do anything about those wages in Jackson, what is in our control is to hire a planning consultant who has worked with many towns in New Hampshire and who has great understanding to what has worked and what might work here. Working with an affordable definition is not going to help. Affordable for a family of four you can purchase a home for \$211,000 many people could not afford this in this area if they move to Jackson. By getting community input and discussion going that we would be able to make a difference. Pricilla Protasowicki, the housing we need it, it's just the electricity portion of it. We need to go after NHEC they have a board there and work at rallying them to lower the cost of electricity. Dick Badger, what we need to find out is the scope of the problem and what needs to be done to get a solution for what might work with the price of housing. That's the purpose of this line item. Scott Badger, I would like to make an amendment to the Article to change the last two words from general taxation to private donation. Jerry Dougherty III, Jackson has an advantage for lower cost housing, we have one of the lowest tax rates in the State. Moderator Kelley says the amendment is to strike general taxation to private donation.

**Vote on Word Changes to the amendment:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

**Vote on Article as Amended:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

### **Article 09: GENERATORS**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of purchasing a generator for the Town (Fire Department and Town Office - one in 2018 and one in 2019). \$5,000 will be refunded by a state grant and \$5,000 will come from general taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Jeanette Heidmann, for clarification are we raising \$10,000 this year and \$10,000 next year? Moderator Kelley, yes we are. Selectmen Bennett, we raise \$10,000 and \$5,000 is reimbursed

this year. We decided to get the Town Office first because that is where the Police Department is. The fire department and highway department have generators that work.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

#### **Article 10: MELLOON GROUND WATER MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Meloon Ground Water Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of biannual water testing and to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-0.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Sarah Kimball, is this a new program or is this a continuing program already in place? Selectmen Bennett, it is a continuing program that has gone over to bi-annual so we are going to raise half the money this year and half the money next year. So we won't be assessing every other year.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

#### **Article 11: EXEMPTION OF SOLAR ENERGY - PETITIONED**

To see if the town of Jackson will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar energy equipment under these statutes. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-1-0.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Gino Funicella, what is the effect of the overall budgeting process? Selectmen Bennett, it doesn't take any money away it just doesn't assess the value of the solar installation. Bob Burton, would this follow the person who buys the property with solar installed on it. Where the value of that property increases by say \$40,000, does the new owner get this abatement or does it end with the person who made that investment? Selectmen Thompson, it will carry over to any new home buyers. Dick Bennett, it is to encourage the use of solar energy or wind. I installed a system to my business in North Conway, the cost was around \$32,000 and I got support from the NHEC, the State of New Hampshire and a Federal Tax Deduction. The net cost was around \$10-\$12,000, with a savings of \$200 per month. We should not discourage it by putting an assessment on any energy source. Dave Mason, are we taxing solar installations now and will those solar installations presumably get some kind of rebate? Any idea what that amounts too? Kevin Bennett, I figure around \$600,000 worth of solar in town since being building inspector. I'm not sure what the Assessor assesses solar at. Peter Benson, why is it limited to solar only, there are lots of alternative energy sources out there Wind, Geothermal. Is the RSA specific to Solar or is it the way it was written. Willis Kelley, it was a petition warrant article submitted to the selectmen. Scott Badger, is this for new installations or current installations? Jeanette Heidmann, looking at the RSA's if your town has this provision here is the form to apply for the allowance. Selectmen Thompson, it is an application process to apply

for a rebate. Jeanette Heidmann, the RSA allows for Solar, Geothermal and Wind specifically it doesn't exclude anything. Attorney Malia, feels it would be questionable to amend the article to include Wind and Wood Heating back into this article. You would have to cite the RSA's and come back and do it next year.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval

**Article 12: AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION - PETITIONED**

To see if the Town will vote to pass the following RESOLUTION;

WHEREAS, the founders intended that government should be answerable to, controlled by, and dependent upon "the people alone" (James Madison, Federalist No. 52, 1788); and WHEREAS, the influence of corporate and other moneyed interests on the political process has diminished the dependency on the people alone;

BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Jackson, New Hampshire instruct Jackson's state representatives to call for, and Jackson's congressional representatives to propose, an amendment to the United States Constitution declaring that: the rights and protections afforded to citizens by the Constitution of the United States apply only to natural persons; and the federal and state legislatures shall have the authority to regulate and limit, but not ban, all expenditures from any source supporting or opposing the election of any candidate for federal or state office, or for any initiative or referendum.

Jackson's state legislators are instructed to ratify such a constitutional amendment.

IF A MAJORITY of voters support the question, the Selectmen shall immediately, and on the twenty-first of January of each year, until Congress has proposed an amendment and such amendment is ratified by the state, send a written notice to Jackson's congressional delegation, and to Jackson's state legislators, informing them of the instructions from their constituents.

**DISCUSSION:**

Betsy Harding, this issue has come up since the decision of Citizens United where corporations were called Natural Citizens/Natural Persons. It was not addressed originally in the constitution because there were no corporations at the time the Constitution was written. Right now Corporations are contributing huge money into our elections carrying much more weight than we can carry as citizens. Something like \$336 million campaign expenditures in 2012. Over \$300 million in anonymous donors, corporations and such we are not carrying as much weight as we should in our elections. It's individual persons that should be able to contribute money as they see fit or to be regulated by the government as to what amount of money can be collected and from where.

Susan Ross-Parent, I need to ask this question to the town lawyer. What's a natural person and how long does that definition survive? How long would this amendment last? Attorney Malia, feels Betsy Harding can best answer this. Betsy Harding, it was a Supreme Court Decision in 1886, the report that I am ready says it was a critical mistake they allowed the court recorder to claim that corporations or person working with the intent of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. So a mistake 150 years ago is what we are still dealing with today.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval

**Article 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

To act upon any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

Emily Benson, I want to bring everyone’s attention to page 109 in our Town Report to review the information about the Jackson Neighbor Care Program. This is something the Jackson Safety Committee put together. Fire, Police and Ambulance Services created this form to enable residents to communicate information that emergency services should be aware of in times of need. It enables our first responders to have information at a time where you’re a little more calmly able to fill out the needs you might have in case one of the flooding events really happen or any other emergencies.

Dick Badger, question for the selectmen we voted three to four years ago to stop supporting Channel 3. Why has it been stopped and when. Selectmen Bennett, it was stopped on a vote last year. You may want to get it on the warrant for next year. Selectmen Thompson, that line item was amended last year and the citizens that were here at the meeting removed that \$7,000 amount. Voted on last year (page 91) to not have Valley Vision. Nothing can be done on it this year, must be an amendment for next year. Sarah Clemons, we voted that we wanted Mr. Benesh to do all of our meetings, the library, the planning board, etc. Moderator Kelley, points out this is his 50<sup>th</sup> year of community service to the Town of Jackson and wants to thank all the staff. Peter Benson, regarding Article 11 that RSA’s 61-64 do only include solar only.

Moderator Kelley, asked for a motion to dissolve this meeting. Moved and Seconded.

**VOTE:** Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Given under our hands and seals this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year Two Thousand Eighteen.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Thompson

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Allen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Bennett

Respectfully submitted and A True Copy of Record Attest,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen E. Burton, Certified Town Clerk