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2016

## Strong Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2016

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**MINUTES OF  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016, 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by Town Clerk, Betsy DuBois, with 10 people present.

ARTICLE 1 was acted upon, with Susan Pratt elected and sworn in as Moderator to preside at said meeting. Mrs. Pratt inspected and locked the ballot box.

ARTICLE 2 Mrs. Pratt opened the polls for the election of Two Selectmen (3 year terms), One SAD 58 School Board Member, (3 year term), One SAD 58 School Board Member (1 year term) and One Fire Chief (3 year term). Mrs. Pratt closed the polls at 6:00 p.m.; at which time the 75 cast ballots were counted with the following results:

Elliot, Robert	65 votes	Robert Elliot was elected to a three year term as Selectman for Town of Strong
Pond, Gerald	64 votes	Gerald Pond was elected to a three year term as Selectman for Town of Strong
Deming, Loretta	67 votes	Loretta Deming was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member
Stinchfield, Jessie	72 votes	Jessie Stinchfield was elected to a one year term as SAD 58 School Board Member
Boyd, Duayne	72 votes	Duayne Boyd was elected to a three year term as Fire Chief

A motion was made and carried to recess the meeting and reconvene Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Pratt recessed the meeting.

**MINUTES OF  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF STRONG  
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016, 9:30 A.M.**

Moderator, Susan Pratt, brought the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Mrs. Pratt reported that 75 ballots were cast, with the following election results; Robert Elliot has been elected to a three year term as Selectman, receiving 65 votes, Gerald Pond has been elected to a three year term as Selectman, receiving 64 votes, Loretta Deming has been elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member, receiving 67 votes, Jessie Stinchfield has been elected to a one year term as SAD 58 School Board Member, receiving 72 votes, Duayne Boyd has been elected to a three year term as Fire Chief, receiving 72 votes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Susan Pratt called upon Pastor Mike Senecal who read the names of the 12 Town of Strong Citizens that had died in 2015. After each name was read; Aaron Marden rang a bell in their honor. After the names of the deceased were read, an invocation was given by Pastor Senecal.

ARTICLE 3 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to make appointments to minor offices for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 4 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to procure temporary loans in anticipation of tax payments.

ARTICLE 5 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12ths of the amount budgeted in each account of the annual budget for 2016 during the period from January 1, 2017 to the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 6 was read, moved, supported, and voted to carry over the following balances:

LRAP	\$ 9,214.00
LRAP Deferred	9,214.00
Pole Barn	516.33
Salt Shed	<u>1,106.92</u>
Total	\$20,051.25

At this time, Moderator, Susan Pratt, called upon the Selectmen to make a presentation. The Selectmen thanked Clyde Barker for his many years of service to the town, county, and surrounding communities. In honor of his years of service, Clyde's family donated a framed portrait of him to be hung downstairs in the Forster Memorial Building. Clyde Barker was also the recipient of this years' Town Report dedication.

Selectman Mike Pond presented a plaque to Mike and Laila Senecal and the kitchen staff, honoring them and thanking them for their years of service with the Community Table. Through this ministry over the past several years they have served over 27,000 meals and given away 18 tons of food.

ARTICLE 7 was read, moved, and supported. This article passed, by written vote of 30 Yes and 4 No, to increase the property tax limit of \$320,310.94 established for the Town of Strong by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

ARTICLE 8 was read, moved, supported, and voted to use \$250,000.00 from surplus to reduce the 2016 Tax Commitment.

ARTICLE 9 was read, moved, supported, and voted that taxes shall be made payable and collected according to law and to authorize the Tax Collector to accept early payments.

ARTICLE 10 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow a discount of 2% (to be taken out of overlay) when all real estate and personal property taxes are paid within 30 days of the date of commitment by the Assessors and to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum from November 1, 2016 on all real and personal taxes unpaid at that date.

ARTICLE 11 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and execute quit claim deeds for such properties, and to sell all interest in tax liens whether completely foreclosed or not, said sale to be public and by bid process.

ARTICLE 12 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts of money and equipment and dispose of surplus equipment to support the needs of the Town that they deem advisable, the reason being for insurance purposes.

ARTICLE 13 was read, moved, supported, and voted to appropriate the sum of \$6.00 per registration of snowmobiles to the Narrow Gauge Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails and to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into an agreement with the Club under such terms as the Municipal Officers deem advisable, for that purpose.

ARTICLE 14 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to accept and/or apply for any and all funds that may become available to them and to expend such funds for their intended purpose.

ARTICLE 15 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to utilize income generated to operating accounts to reduce the 2016 tax commitment.

ARTICLE 16 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow the Selectmen to utilize revenues from the agent fees and raise and appropriate \$63,000 for the Administration Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 17 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$28,000 for the Town Charges Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 18 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for improvements to the Town Office for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 19 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Town Office Dedicated Technology Account.

ARTICLE 20 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Legal Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 21 was read, moved, and supported to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for the Assessing Account for the ensuing year. After some discussion, there was a call to move the question and cease debate. The motion to move the question and cease debate passed. The vote was conducted on the motion to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for the Assessing Account. The motion failed. An amended motion was read, moved, supported and voted to raise \$6,000 for the Assessing Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 22 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the Code Enforcement Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 23 was read, moved, and supported to raise and appropriate \$4,500 for the Street Light Account for the ensuing year. After some discussion, the vote was conducted and failed. An amended motion was moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for the Street Light Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 24 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$32,027 for the Hydrant Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 25 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$55,000 for the Insurance Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 26 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$3,800 for the Animal Control Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 27 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$21,190.50 for the Ambulance Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 28 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the Park Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 29 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,300 for the Recreation Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 30 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the Recreation Maintenance Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 31 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Tennis Court.

ARTICLE 32 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$6,500 from County funds and \$3,000 from Avon Funds and raise and appropriate \$6,500 for the Fire Department Equipment Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 33 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$1,500 from Avon funds and raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the Fire Department Operating Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 34 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$3,500 from Avon Funds and up to \$2,250 from County Funds and raise and appropriate \$7,500 for the Fire Department Payroll Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 35 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$20,100 for the Fire Department Truck Reserve Account for the ensuing year.

Aaron Marden was recognized for his efforts in securing thousands of dollars in grant money over the last year for the Fire Department. A round of applause was given in appreciation of Mr. Marden's work.

ARTICLE 36 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Landfill and Solid Waste Management Account for the ensuing year.

Moderator Susan Pratt recognized the arrival of Representative Russell Black and Senator Tom Saviello. They thanked the citizens for allowing them to represent them and answered a few questions from those in attendance.

ARTICLE 37 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$500 for the General Assistance Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 38 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer carry-over of \$9,214 from the L.R.A.P. Account and \$9,214 from the deferred L.R.A.P. Account to the Tarvia Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 39 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$60,000 from the Surplus account to the Tarvia account for the ensuing year.

It was moved, supported and voted to take a one hour break for lunch at 11:30am and reconvene at 12:30pm.

Moderator Susan Pratt reconvened the meeting at 12:30pm. Mrs. Pratt then swore in all the newly elected officials. Selectman Richard Worthley presented outgoing Selectman Milton Baston with a plaque for his 9 years of dedicated service as Selectman for the Town of Strong.

ARTICLE 40 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$59,000 for the Roads and Bridges Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 41 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$78,000 for the Winter Roads Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 42 was read, moved, supported and voted to raise and appropriate \$14,000 for the Garage Account for the ensuing year. Selectman Mike Pond noted the additional \$4,000 being requested reflected an unanticipated need to replace the current oil furnace at the Town Garage.

ARTICLE 43 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the Special Equipment Fund for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 44 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the selectmen to spend the money in the special equipment article as follows:

Payment on town truck Western Star \$16,877.90

Partial payment on new dump body \$ 5,701.59

ARTICLE 45 was read. It was moved and supported to pass over this article. After discussion, motion did not pass. Motion was made, supported and voted to allow the selectmen to use the funds in the Special Equipment Fund to purchase new equipment by a vote at a special town meeting or at an annual town meeting.

ARTICLE 46 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the Equipment Operating Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 47 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the Equipment Fund Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 48 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for improvements to the Town pole barn.

ARTICLE 49 was read: To see if the town will vote to take up to \$40,000 from surplus for the purpose of purchasing a used excavator. It was moved and supported to pass over this article. After discussion, there was a call for a written vote on the motion to pass over the article. Motion to pass over this article failed with 27 No, 14 Yes. There was a call for a written vote on the article as written. After the written vote the article failed to pass 29 No, 17 Yes.

ARTICLE 50 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$16,500 for the Payroll Tax Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 51 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow the Selectmen to utilize interest and dividends from accounts at the Portland Trust Company and to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for the Library Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 52 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow the Selectmen to utilize \$4,800 in growth of funds invested in Linsco Private Ledger Accounts and raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 for the Forster Building Account.

ARTICLE 53 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the selectmen to include the nine known "Ancient" or "Private" cemeteries to become part of the Village Cemetery Trust for the purpose of maintenance and State mandated restoration project purposes.

ARTICLE 54 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$500 for the Cemetery Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 55 was read, moved, supported, and voted to accept the following Cemetery Trust Funds:

From Heather Powell and Elwin Ellis	\$100.00
From Patricia Gott and Randall Probert	\$400.00

ARTICLE 56 was read, moved, supported, discussed, and voted AGAINST allowing the selectmen to use original principle from the Winston Beal Scholarship Fund and the Ralph and Anna Knowlton Trust to award \$100 scholarships annually. This article is contingent on the release and approval of the persons or heirs of the original trusts if possible.

ARTICLE 57 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,426 for the Franklin County Animal Shelter Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 58 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,200 for the Parade for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 59 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Strong sign restoration account.

ARTICLE 60 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for United Methodist Economic Ministry for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 61 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$575 for American Red Cross.

ARTICLE 62 was read, moved, and supported to raise and appropriate \$0 for Lifeflight Foundation. After discussion and vote, motion failed. Motion was made, supported and voted to raise and appropriate \$607 for Lifeflight Foundation.

ARTICLE 63 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$0 for Work First Inc.

ARTICLE 64 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$500 for Safe Voices.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Attested

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Betsy DuBois  
Strong Town Clerk