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Strong Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2017

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**MINUTES OF
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017, 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.**

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

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

Moderator Lambert swore in Deputy Moderator, Sandra Collins to preside over the election during his absence.

ARTICLE 2 Roger Lambert opened the polls for the election of One Selectman (3 year term), Two SAD 58 School Board Members, (3 year terms), Three Budget Committee Members (6 year terms). Deputy Moderator, Sandra Collins closed the polls at 6:00 p.m.; at which time the 166 cast ballots were counted with the following results:

Rupert Pratt received 73 votes and Rodney Spiller received 92 votes. Rodney Spiller was elected to a three year term as Selectman for the Town of Strong.

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| Barker, Lois | 130 votes | Lois Barker was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member |
|--------------|-----------|---|

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Stinchfield, Jessie | 132 votes | Jessie Stinchfeid was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member |
|---------------------|-----------|---|

After Mr. Lambert announced the election results to the citizens present, a motion was made and carried to recess the meeting and reconvene Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Lambert recessed the meeting.

**MINUTES OF
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF STRONG
SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017, 9:30 A.M.**

Moderator, Roger Lambert, brought the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Mr. Lambert reported that 166 ballots were cast, with the following election results; In the only contested race on the ballot Rupert Pratt received 73 votes and Rodney Spiller received 92 votes; Rodney Spiller was elected to a three year term as Selectman; Lois Barker was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member, receiving 130 votes; Jessie Stinchfield was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member, receiving 132 votes. Moderator Lambert also announced that there were three vacancies on the Budget Committee for which no nomination papers were taken out. Therefore, as required by law, three write-in slots were listed on the ballot. Out of the many write-ins, the individuals that received three votes each were Andrew Pratt, Bill Birden, Mary White, Alan Smith, and Barbara Worthley. The Selectmen will be asking each individual if they wish to serve and finalize the results within the next week.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by James Burrill.

Pastor John Evans read the names of the Town of Strong Citizens who had died in 2016. Pastor Evans then opened the meeting in prayer and had a moment of silent remembrance of those who had passed.

Moderator Lambert then swore in Susan Pratt as Deputy Moderator to take over the meeting if he needed to leave due to illness.

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 2017 during the period from January 1, 2018 to the Annual Town Meeting.

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| LRAP | \$ 9,172.00 |
| LRAP Deferred | 9,172.00 |
| Tarvia | 974.75 |
| Strong Town Sign | 130.78 |

ARTICLE 7 was read, moved, supported, and voted to appropriate \$104.63 from surplus to ratify the following overdrafts:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Animal Control | \$ 36.04 |
| Town Garage | <u>\$ 68.59</u> |
| Total | \$104.63 |

ARTICLE 8 was read, moved, supported, and voted to increase the property tax limit of \$335,756.16 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 9 was read, moved, supported, and voted to use \$250,000.00 from surplus to reduce the 2017 Tax Commitment.

ARTICLE 10 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 11 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, 2017 on all real and personal taxes unpaid at that date.

ARTICLE 12 was read, moved, supported, and voted to appropriate from the overlay account, tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2017 fiscal year.

ARTICLE 13 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 14 was read, moved, supported, discussed and then amended. Amendment was read, moved, supported, and voted. ARTICLE 14 was read, moved, supported, and voted as amended 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. *Said sale to be public and by bid process at least once.*

ARTICLE 15 was read, moved, supported, and voted to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations 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.

At this time Selectman Rodney Cook presented a plaque to James Burrill for his dedicated service spanning some ten years as a Selectman for the Town of Strong. Jim thanked the town for the opportunity to serve.

ARTICLE 16 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 17 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to utilize income generated to operating accounts to reduce the 2017 tax commitment.

ARTICLE 18 was read, moved, supported, and voted by a standing vote of 37 Yes, 8 No to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from Surplus an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unanticipated overages and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2017.

ARTICLE 19 was read, moved, supported, and voted to enact the Shore Land Zoning Ordinance as amended.

ARTICLE 20 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow the Selectmen to utilize revenues from the agent fees and raise and appropriate \$103,500.00 for General Government Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Administration | \$ 63,000.00 |
| Town Charges | \$ 28,000.00 |
| Assessing | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Legal Fees | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Code Enforcement | <u>\$ 4,000.00</u> |
| | \$103,500.00 |

ARTICLE 21 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Town Office Dedicated Technology Account.

ARTICLE 22 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$9,500 from County funds and \$8,000 from Avon Funds for the accounts listed below and to raise and appropriate \$29,000.00 for Protection Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Fire Department Equipment | \$ 6,500.00 | |
| Fire Department Operating | \$15,000.00 | |
| Fire Department Payroll | <u>\$ 7,500.00</u> | |
| | \$29,000.00 | |
| | | |
| Transfer of Funds | <u>Avon</u> | <u>County</u> |
| Fire Department Equipment | \$3,000.00 | \$6,500.00 |
| Fire Department Operating | \$1,500.00 | |
| Fire Department Payroll | <u>\$3,500.00</u> | <u>\$3,000.00</u> |
| | \$8,000.00 | \$9,500.00 |

ARTICLE 23 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the Fire Department Truck Reserve Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 24 was read, moved, supported, discussed, amended, and voted as amended to allow any leftover balances in the protection accounts to be moved to Fire Truck Reserve account at the end of the fiscal year 2017. (*amendment: remove the word annually, add 2017*)

ARTICLE 25 was read, moved, and supported to raise and appropriate \$121,017.50 for Public Safety Accounts. Motion was amended, read, moved, supported and voted by written ballot (34 Yes, 13 No) to raise and appropriate \$123,935.00 for Public Safety Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Ambulance | \$ 17,658.00 |
| Hydrants | \$ 32,027.00 |
| Street lights | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Animal Control | \$ 4,250.00 |
| Insurance | <u>\$ 61,000.00</u> |
| | \$123,935.00 |

ARTICLE 26 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$12,000.00 for Health and Sanitation Accounts for the ensuing year

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Landfill and Solid Waste | |
| Management Account | \$11,500.00 |
| General Assistance | <u>\$ 500.00</u> |
| | \$12,000.00 |

ARTICLE 27 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$143,000.00 for the Highway Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Winter Roads | \$ 78,000.00 |
| Roads and Bridges | <u>\$ 65,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$143,000.00 |

ARTICLE 28 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$71,500.00 for the Public Works Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Town Garage | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Equipment Operating | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Equipment Fund | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Pole Barn | <u>\$ 8,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 71,500.00 |

ARTICLE 29 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for the Special Equipment Fund for the ensuing year

ARTICLE 30 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the selectmen to spend the money in the special equipment article as follows:

Final Payment on town truck Western Star \$16,878.90

ARTICLE 31 was read, amended, supported, discussed, and amendment voted on by written ballot (28 No, 22 Yes). (*amendment: to strike the words and/or raise and appropriate*) Amendment failed.

ARTICLE 31 was amended, supported, discussed, and amendment voted on *to appropriate from surplus* for 2017, \$35,000.00 to be placed in the special equipment fund and authorize the selectmen to enter into a lease/purchase agreement not to exceed \$35,000.00 per year for not more than 3 years. Amendment passed.

ARTICLE 31 was read, amended, supported, discussed, and amendment voted on by standing vote (28 Yes, 17 No). (*amendment: The piece of equipment to be a Rubber Tired Backhoe*). Amendment passed.

Motion was made to recess the meeting at 12:25pm and reconvene at 1:15pm.

At 1:15pm the meeting was reconvened and brought to order by Deputy Moderator Susan Pratt. Mrs. Pratt presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Deputy Moderator Pratt swore in the newly elected officials that were present. Lois Barker was sworn in as a SAD 58 school board member, and Rodney Spiller as Selectman.

ARTICLE 32 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer \$60,000 from the Surplus account to the Tarvia account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 33 was read, moved, supported, and voted to transfer carry-over of \$9,172 from the L.R.A.P. Account and \$9,172 from the deferred L.R.A.P. Account to the Tarvia Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 34 was read, moved, amended, supported and voted as amended to change the town park's name to Lance Corporal Scott Paul Veterans Memorial Park. (*amendment: add the words Lance Corporal*)

ARTICLE 35 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$5,900.00 for the Recreation Accounts for the ensuing year.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Town Park | \$ 2,600.00 |
| Recreation | <u>\$ 3,300.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 5,900.00 |

ARTICLE 36 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 \$8,000.00 for the Library Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 37 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Tennis Court.

ARTICLE 38 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the Strong sign restoration account.

ARTICLE 39 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$20,926.00 for the Unclassified Accounts.

| Statement of Fact | <u>Appropriated 2017</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Franklin County Animal Shelter | \$ 2,426.00 |
| Cemeteries | \$ 500.00 |
| Parade | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | <u>\$16,500.00</u> |
| | \$20,926.00 |

ARTICLE 40 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 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 for the Forster Building Account.

ARTICLE 41 was read, moved to table, supported, and voted by written ballot (25 Yes, 22, No) Article 41 was tabled. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the first stage of the Pond Road Improvement and Paving Project.

ARTICLE 42 was read, moved, and supported, to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Economic Ministry. After discussion, Motion was amended, supported, and voted as amended to raise and appropriate \$2,700.00 for the Economic Ministry.

ARTICLE 43 was read, moved, supported, and voted to NOT change the Budget Committee from an elected committee to an appointed committee. The Budget Committee will remain an elected committee.

ARTICLE 44 was read, moved, supported, and voted to change the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the Third Saturday in March.

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm

Attested

Betsy DuBois
Strong Town Clerk