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Strong Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2018

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**MINUTES OF
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018, 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 Susan Pratt elected and sworn in as Moderator to preside at said meeting. Susan Pratt inspected and locked the ballot box.

ARTICLE 2 Susan Pratt opened the polls for the election of Two Selectman (3 year terms), Two SAD 58 School Board Members, (3 year term and 1 year term), Two Budget Committee Members (6 year terms). Moderator, Susan Pratt closed the polls at 6:00 p.m.; at which time the 93 cast ballots were counted with the following results:

Rodney Cook	71 votes	Rodney Cook was elected to a three year term as Selectman for the Town of Strong.
Richard Worthley	84 votes	Richard Worthley was elected to a three year term as Selectman for the Town of Strong.
Candace Clark	79 votes	Candace Clark was elected to a six year term as Budget Committee Member
Clarence Nutting	83 votes	Clarence Nutting was elected to a six year term as Budget Committee Member
Stephen Hagerstrom	17 votes	Stephen Hagerstrom was elected to a three year term as SAD 58 School Board Member
Chastity Hill	13 votes	Chastity Hill was elected to a one year term as SAD 58 School Board Member

Meeting will reconvene at 9:30am, March 17, 2018.

**MINUTES OF
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF STRONG
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018, 9:30 A.M.**

Moderator, Susan Pratt, brought the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Pastor Mike Senecal opened the meeting in prayer. Pastor Senecal read a list of the deceased citizens from the town of Strong from the past year.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Moderator Pratt.

Moderator Pratt reported that 93 ballots were cast, with the following election results; Rodney Cook received 71 votes and was elected to a three year term as Selectman. Richard Worthley received 84 votes and was elected to a three year term as Selectman. Candace Clark received 79 votes and was elected to a six year term as a Budget Committee member. Clarence Nutting received 83 votes and was elected to a six year term as a Budget Committee member. Stephen Hagerstrom received 17 votes and was elected to a three year term as a SAD 58 school board member. Chastity Hill received 13 votes and was elected to a one year term as a SAD 58 school board member.

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 2018 during the period from January 1, 2019 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	9,464.00
Tarvia	69.64

ARTICLE 7 was read, moved, supported, and voted to increase the property tax limit of \$372,551.07 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 2018 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 8% per annum from November 1, 2018 on all real and personal taxes unpaid at that date.

ARTICLE 11 was read, moved, supported, and voted to appropriate from the overlay account, tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2018 fiscal year.

ARTICLE 12 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 13 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. Said sale to be public and by bid process at least once for anything over \$500.

It was moved, supported, and voted to take ARTICLE 40 out of order, so that the Director of the Economic Ministry, Tammy Gould could speak before she left for work. Tammy Gould thanked the citizens for their support of the Economic Ministry, answered questions, and offered the Ministry contact information. She also cited an increase in the number of households served in Strong in 2017 as 40 more than in 2016.

ARTICLE 40 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$2,700.00 for the Economic Ministry.

ARTICLE 14 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.

ARTICLE 15 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 16 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to utilize income generated to operating accounts to reduce the 2018 tax commitment.

ARTICLE 17 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from Surplus an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to meet unanticipated overages and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2018. (*Reduced to \$5,000 from the requested \$10,000*)

ARTICLE 18 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow the Selectmen to utilize revenues from the agent fees and raise and appropriate \$109,500.00 for General Government Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Administration	\$ 69,000.00
Town Charges	\$ 28,000.00
Assessing	\$ 6,000.00
Legal Fees	\$ 2,500.00
Code Enforcement	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
	\$109,500.00

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 transfer \$9,500 from County funds and up to \$9,000 from Avon Funds for the accounts listed below and to raise and appropriate \$30,500.00 for Protection Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Fire Department Equipment	\$ 6,500.00
Fire Department Operating	\$15,000.00
Fire Department Payroll	<u>\$ 9,000.00</u>
	\$30,500.00

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>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
	\$9,000.00	\$9,500.00

ARTICLE 21 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 for the first phase of paving the Fire Department parking lot.

ARTICLE 22 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department Truck Reserve Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 23 was read, moved, supported, and voted to allow any leftover balances in the protection accounts to be placed in the Fire Truck Reserve account at the end of the fiscal year 2018.

ARTICLE 24 was read, moved, and supported to raise and appropriate \$125,935 for Public Safety Accounts for the ensuing year. Article 24 was amended, supported, and voted by standing vote 36 yes, 9 no to raise and appropriate \$129,453 (amendment passed). Article 24 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$129,453 for Public Safety Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Ambulance	\$ 14,176.00
Hydrants	\$ 32,027.00
Street lights	\$ 9,000.00
Animal Control	\$ 4,250.00
Insurance	<u>\$ 70,000.00</u>
	\$129,453.00

ARTICLE 25 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$9,000.00 for Health and Sanitation Accounts for the ensuing year

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Landfill and Solid Waste	
Management Account	\$ 8,500.00
General Assistance	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$ 9,000.00

ARTICLE 26 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$152,305.00 for the Highway Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Winter Roads	\$ 80,750.00
Roads and Bridges	<u>\$ 71,555.00</u>
Total	\$152,305.00

ARTICLE 27 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$71,000.00 for the Public Works Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Town Garage	\$ 14,500.00
Equipment Operating	\$ 50,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$ 1,500.00
Pole Barn	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 71,000.00

ARTICLE 28 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$5,500.00 for the Town Garage Yard Repair.

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, and supported to take \$27,635.26 from the Special Equipment Fund for the first payment on the Case 590SN Loader Backhoe. Article 30 was amended, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$27,635.26 for the first payment on the Case 590SN Loader Backhoe. (Amendment passed). Article 30 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$27,635.26 for the first payment on the Case 590SN Loader Backhoe.

It was moved, supported, and voted to take ARTICLE 34 out of order. Many stood and spoke in support of the Scott Paul Veterans Memorial Park and its value to the town.

ARTICLE 34 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$6,750.00 for the Recreation Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Town Park	\$ 3,000.00
Recreation	<u>\$ 3,750.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,750.00

At this time Moderator Pratt recognized the local dignitaries in attendance and gave each an opportunity to briefly speak. Those in office or running for office in attendance were, Randy Hall, Jane Collins, Thomas Saviello, Russell Black, Clyde Barker, Robert Carleton, and Gary McCrane.

At this time Moderator Sue Pratt was asked to step out of her role as moderator and speak to the school budget in her role as Superintendent for SAD 58. Mrs. Pratt stated that the district will see a significant decrease in state funding, a decrease in enrollment, and a decrease in tuition students, making this a difficult budget year.

Motion made and seconded to recess for lunch at 11:35am and reconvene at 12:30pm.

Moderator Susan Pratt called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. At this time four of the newly elected officials were sworn into office by Moderator Pratt; Rodney Cook, and Richard Worthley as selectmen, and Candace Clark and Clarence Nutting as budget committee members. Not in attendance were newly elected school board members, Chastity Hill, and Stephen Hagerstrom.

ARTICLE 31 was read, moved, and supported to table this article indefinitely. Motion to table voted on, motion did not pass. ARTICLE 31 was read, moved, supported, and voted to authorize the Selectmen to spend up to the total amount in the special equipment fund for the replacement of the 1-Ton Truck.

ARTICLE 32 was read, moved, supported and voted to transfer \$60,000.00 from the Surplus account to the Tarvia account for the ensuing year.

At this time, Selectman, Rob Elliott said that he had information sheets on the cost of paving the Pond Road. He said that the town has been offered \$40,000 in donations to help cover the cost of this project. He stated that at a date, still to be determined, the selectman would be having a special town meeting to discuss in further detail the Pond Road paving issue.

ARTICLE 33 was read, moved, supported and voted to transfer carry-over of \$9,172 from the L.R.A.P. Account and \$9,464 from the deferred L.R.A.P. Account to the Tarvia Account for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 34 TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AFTER ARTICLE 30

ARTICLE 35 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 36 was read. Motion was made, supported, and voted to table indefinitely the article to raise and appropriate the funding request of \$3000 for the Tennis Court.*(Article to table passed by a standing vote of 16 yes to 13 no)*

ARTICLE 37 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$20,426.00 for the Unclassified Accounts.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2018</u>
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$ 2,426.00
Cemeteries	\$ 500.00
Payroll Taxes	<u>\$17,500.00</u>
	\$ 20,426.00

ARTICLE 38 was read, moved, supported, and voted to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Parade.

ARTICLE 39 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 any other revenues, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the Forster Building Account.

ARTICLE 40 TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AFTER ARTICLE 13

ARTICLE 41 was read. Motion was made, supported, and voted to table indefinitely to allow the Selectmen to pursue the revitalization and snow removal of the sidewalks.

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy DuBois
Town Clerk

Attested

Strong Town Clerk

Betsy DuBois