

**TOWN OF THORNTON  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2021 THORNTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

The polls were opened at the Thornton Central School located at 1886 NH Rte. 175, Thornton, NH at 8:00 am by Moderator John Piantedosi. The polls remained open until 7:00 pm.

The total number of registered voters on Checklist: 2381

New Voters: 2

Ballots Cast: 289

To the inhabitants of the Town of Thornton in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in the town affairs and to act upon the following subjects:

**Article 1:** To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

**OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS**

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**Select Board Member**

*3 Year Term, 2 Positions*

Peter Laufenberg 197

Marianne Peabody 196

John Gaites 93

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**Trustee of Trust Funds**

*3 Year Term, One Position*

Ralph Bradley 249

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**Cemetery Trustee**

*3 Year Term, One Position*

Michael Benton 13 (write in)

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**Library Trustee**

*3 Year Term, One Position*

Anita Ross 236

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**Overseer of Public Welfare**

*1 Year Term, One Position*

Marianne Peabody 242

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**Treasurer**

*3 Year Term, One Position*

Susan Dumont 238

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**Planning Board Member**

*3 Year Term, Two Positions*

Steven Babin 216

Frank Freeman 220

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**Supervisors of Checklist**

*6 Year Term, One Position*

Cynthia McAuley 249

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**Saturday, March 13, 2021**

The Thornton Town Meeting convened at the Thornton Central School on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:00 am to act on the remaining articles of this warrant.

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Voters Present: 44

The Town Meeting was opened at 10:00 am by Moderator John Piantedosi.

Moderator Piantedosi then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Piantedosi introduced the following individuals representing the Town: Town Clerk Donna Monti, Town Administrator Debra Shepard, Select Board member Roy Sabourn, Select Board Vice-Chair Brad Benton, Select Board Chair Marianne Peabody, Select Board member Jack Gaites, Select Board member Joseph Monti, Supervisors of the Checklist, Mary Pelchat, Cindy McAuley and Clarissa Uttley.

Moderator Piantedosi stated that this is his first year as Moderator, and please have understanding and patience. He then discussed the challenges of COVID-19 the past year and beginning of this year and commended the voters and residents of the Town for being vigilant and keeping everyone safe. He then stated Town Reports are available at the back of the room.

**MOTION: To permit non-residents and unregistered voters to speak at the meeting for the purpose of information and clarification of the articles at appropriate times.**

**Moved:** Robert Macleod

**Seconded:** Anita Ross

**Discussion:** none

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**MOTION: To waive the reading of the warrant in its entirety.**

**Moved:** Anita Ross

**Seconded:** Robert Macleod

**Discussion:** none

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to approve a part time hourly position for a Zoning Compliance Officer, and to furthermore see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00)** to compensate the wages for this position hired on or after June 1, 2021. This position will be incorporated into the building and code enforcement annual operating budget starting in 2022. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Anita Ross

**Second:** Kate Hadaway

**Discussion:** Selectman Sabourn advised there are handouts in the back of the room discussing the position and the position requirements. He also stated the position will focus on helping residents fill out ZCAs, following up on complaints and violations, and insuring proper setbacks. Bob Hatcher asks if it was okay for speakers to remove their masks due to difficulty in understanding the speakers. Bob Hatcher asked what the annual total cost would be. Selectman Sabourn stated the annual amount is

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anticipated to be \$16,000 with no benefits. Chairman Peabody stated this is a contract position. Maryann Medaglia asks how many hours per week were anticipated. Selectman Sabourn responded with the approximate pay is \$25/hr.

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) to be added to the existing Mill Brook Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Anita Ross

**Second:** Mike Pomerantz

**Discussion:** Al Lewis asked what the money was being used for. Chair Peabody stated the money will be used for road upgrades on upper Mill Brook road. Maryann Medaglia asked how much money will be used. Selectman Monti stated that the total funding will be \$110,000, and this is a \$7,000 increment into the fund. Maryann Medaglia asked if this would be a short term or long term fix. Selectman Monti states it will be a long term fix to the road surface and subsurface.

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) to be added to the existing Department Paving Projects Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Robert Macleod

**Second:** Anita Ross

**Discussion:** Maryann Medaglia asked what is the difference between Articles 3 and 4. Selectman Sabourn stated Article 4 is for Town buildings that need paving, and Article 3 is for upgrading Mill Brook Road.

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the existing Assessing Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Anita Ross

**Second:** Roy Sabourn

**Discussion:** Bob Hatcher requested that foot notes be added to future Town Reports to explain line items in the Capital Reserve Fund.

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to be added to the existing Police Cruiser and Cruiser Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

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**Motion:** Peter Laufenberg

**Second:** Ralph Bradley

**Discussion:** John Palmieri asked why we need a new cruiser, and is it due to the new police officer we added last year. Chair Peabody responded the new cruiser is part of the normal rotation of vehicles. Chief Miller stated yes in part it is due to the new officer, and we currently have three marked cruisers in the CIP budget and we will be adding one unmarked cruiser.

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)** to be added to the existing Highway Vehicle, Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Robert Macleod

**Second:** Peter Laufenberg

**Discussion:** Selectman Monti asked to amend the motion to decrease the amount of Article 7 by \$35,000, to a new Article 7 amount of \$25,000. He stated the reason being was to support an additional \$35,000 for Article 8 to purchase two urgently needed cardiac monitors. Bonita Gorbaty asked why we needed to move the money. Selectman Monti explained that last year, the Highway Department purchased a very good used backhoe instead of a new backhoe. This resulted in a savings of \$35,000 from the original planned amount for a new backhoe.

**Motion to move the amendment forward:** Selectman Monti

**Second:** Selectman Sabourn

This amendment moved by majority vote, Article 7 shall now read: **Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be added to the existing Highway Vehicle, Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required).

**Motion to Move as Amended:** Selectman Monti

**Second:** Selectman Sabourn

**Discussion:** none

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000)** to be added to the existing Fire Truck/Rescue Vehicle/Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

**Motion:** Robert Macloud

**Second:** Anita Ross

**Discussion:** Selectman Monti asked to amend the motion to increase the amount of Article 8 by \$35,000, to a new Article 8 amount of \$165,000. He stated the reason being was to support and additional \$35,000 for Article 8 to purchase two urgently needed cardiac monitors.

**Motion to move the amendment forward:** Selectman Monti

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**Second:** Selectman Sabourn

This amendment moved by majority vote, Article 8 shall now read: **Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$165,000) to be added to the existing Fire Truck/Rescue Vehicle/Equipment and Major Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required).

**Motion to Move as Amended:** Selectman Monti

**Second:** Selectman Sabourn

**Discussion:** Bob Hatcher asked why we were adding an additional \$165,000 to the Fire Department, when there is already a balance of \$200,000. Selectman Sabourn indicated the information is in the Town Report. Bob Hatcher once again requested that footnotes be added to the Town Report to clarify what money is being spent on. Julie Piehn asked if we will be needing any further equipment with all the building going on? Selectman Monti brought attention to the Town Report CIP information, which shows future expenditures of \$1.1M over the next ten years. Julie Piehn then stated that with all the building going on in the Town, will we need a Hook n' Ladder truck. Chair Peabody stated that our current zoning does not allow for building higher than what we currently have. Fire Chief Defosses stated that we have agreements with neighboring towns for mutual aid, and does not see Camp-ton/Thornton requiring to purchase a ladder truck. John Palmieri asks the life expectancy of fire trucks. Chief Defosses response with 20-25 years. He also stated that purchasing used vehicles is always an option, as we had purchased a used rescue vehicle in 2019. Steve Babin stated that he was very impressed with the Highway Department buying used equipment to save the Town money. Steve Medaglia stated we are investing over \$1M in the Fire Department, is the Police budget also going to increase with our population increase? Selectman Sabourn stated that we are seeing an increase in single family home building, Owl's Nest expansion, and growth all over Town. Steve Babin expressed concern with the Owl's Nest Expansion with regard to the amount of revenue generated for our Town. Selectman Sabourn stated there will be substantial revenue boost after expansion.

**Selectman Monti called for a vote on this Article.**

**Second by Peter Laufenberg**

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million three hundred and eighty-three thousand five hundred and eighty three dollars (\$3,383,583) to support town operations for the 2021 year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles. (Majority vote required)

**Motion:** Peter Laufenberg

**Second:** Anita Ross

**Discussion:** none

**Motion carried by majority vote.**

Moderator Piantedosi then asked if there is any other Town Business. Sally Davis requested the Board look into the funds collected for property taken out of current use, and those funds distributed to the Conservation Committee. The Board responded they would look into it, and if an error was made, it was be fixed. Chair Peabody recognized Selectman Jack Gaites for his six years of service to the Town of Thornton as a Selectboard member

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and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Chair Peabody then welcomed Peter Laufenberg to the Board of Selectmen.

**Motion to adjourn:** Robert Macloud

**Second:** Anita Ross

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM**

Given under my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dosine L. Mahmain  
for Donna J. Monti 4/2/2021*

Donna J. Monti

Town Clerk

Town of Thornton