

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF ACWORTH  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Elections – 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Absentee ballots opened at 3:15 p.m. finished at 3:20 p.m.  
Polls closed at 7:30 began counting ballots**

**Counts given to Town Clerk at 8:00 to complete necessary paperwork, adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

**Due to blizzard conditions on March 13<sup>th</sup>, the  
business meeting was held on March 20<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

ARTICLE ONE: To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

Selectmen – One person for three-year term	
<b>Rob Devalk</b>	<b>77</b>
Brenda Melius	63
Tax Collector - One person for one-year term	
<b>Marianne Nevelson</b>	<b>130</b>
Treasurer - One person for one-year term	
<b>Melinda Loiselle</b>	<b>132</b>
Moderator – One person for two-year term	
<b>John W Luther</b>	<b>134</b>
Local Auditor 1 for one-year term	
<b>Lisa DeValk</b>	<b>124</b>
Trustee of Trust Funds – One Person for three-year term	
<b>Elizabeth “Betsy” Snider</b>	<b>125</b>
Cemetery Trustee – One Person for three-year term	
<b>Claudia Istel</b>	<b>130</b>
Library Trustee – Two persons for three-year term	
<b>Jennifer M Aiken</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Elizabeth “Betsy” Snider</b>	<b>107</b>
Planning Board – Two Persons for three-year term	
<b>Henry Sipple</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Rob Vogel</b>	<b>119</b>
Budget Committee – Two persons for three-year term	
<b>Jennifer Bland</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Conan Cook</b>	<b>89</b>

**ARTICLE TWO:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Ordinance definitions so that they will be consistent with the Town’s Subdivision Regulations definitions. The question on the Official Ballot will appear as:  
“Are you in favor of amending the existing Zoning Ordinance definitions so that they will be consistent with the Subdivision Regulations?”

**Results of ballots cast:**

**YES 111 NO 23**

**ARTICLE TWO PASSED**

**Moderator John Luther called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the Acworth Town Hall. John went over a few rules of how the meeting would be conducted. His expectations were that in all discussions, people would be respectful to one another. He then asked all to stand and join him in the pledge of allegiance. John Luther recognized Carol Barth for her service to the town for many years as the ballot clerk and presented her a plaque from the Selectmen.**

**ARTICLE THREE:** To see if the Town will vote to empower the Selectmen to serve as pound keepers, measurers of wood and fence viewers.

**Article three moved by Kenneth Grant. Seconded by Michael Aron.  
With no discussion, article three was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE THREE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE FOUR:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

**Article four moved by Kenneth Cubberley. Seconded by Linda Christie.  
With no discussion, article four was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE FOUR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE FIVE:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in an amount up to \$200,000 payable over a term of 5 years for the purpose of purchasing a highway truck and to appropriate the \$40,000 for the first year’s payment with said funds to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. *The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend this article. 2/3 Majority required.*

**Article five moved by William Starks. Seconded by Arthur Kline.  
After some discussion, article five was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE FIVE PASSED BY A VOTE OF 2/3**

**ARTICLE SIX:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$1,333,663 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. *The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend this article. Majority vote required.*

**Article six moved by Sarah Eaton. Seconded by William Starks.  
After no discussion, article six was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE SIX PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE SEVEN:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend this article. Majority vote required.*

**Article seven moved by Linda Christie. Seconded by Henry Sipple.  
After some discussion, article seven was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE SEVEN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE EIGHT:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Bridge Repair or Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established with \$10,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. *The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend this article. Majority vote required.*

**Article eight moved by Michael Aron. Seconded by Susan Metsack.  
With no discussion, article seven was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE EIGHT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE NINE:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase a highway truck for up to \$47,914 from Unassigned Fund Balance. (2017 SB38 unanticipated highway grant funds of \$72,086 will complete the purchase amount of up to \$120,000.) *The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend this article. Majority vote required.*

**Article nine moved by William Starks. Seconded by Brenda Melius.  
After some discussion, article nine was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE NINE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE TEN:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the establishment of a committee that will enhance the existing Veterans Memorial located at the Town Hall in the area of the flag pole. *By petition.*

**Article ten moved by Maureen Thibodeau. Seconded by William Starks.  
After explanation by Gregory Thibodeau and other discussion, article ten was moved to vote by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE TEN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ARTICLE ELEVEN:** To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Article eleven moved by Linda Christie. Seconded by Rob Vogel.

Gordon Gowen brought up that the school district hearing only had six people from Acworth at the meeting and three of them had to be there. He felt that is inexcusable. That we as taxpayers are paying a great deal of money. He asked that more people would come and participate.

Michael Aron, member of the Acworth planning board spoke saying that last year we celebrated the Acworth Sestercentennial. This year the planning board is working on updating the Acworth's Master Plan. They sent out some surveys that went out with the property bills and received some back. Asked people to get flyers on their way out that has the information regarding the essay contest. They are calling it Acworth 2038 and they want people to write an essay on what their vision is for 2038. Taking entries up until May 30<sup>th</sup>. Will announce the winners at the Memorial Day celebration.

Gary Baber from the Acworth fire department privately organization mentioned that it is sinking. Currently the Fire Marshall has control over them and that they have strict rules and regulations. Wants to form a committee to make the fire department a municipal department. This would mean the town owns the equipment, the building, and has control over the department. It still will be a volunteer fire department but will work with the Selectmen. John Luther mentioned that nothing on this article is binding but wanted to get a sense on how people felt. Voted unanimously for fire dept to seek the Selectmen's guidance on ways to go about becoming a municipal department.

With no further business, Brian St. Pierre motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kenneth Grant.

Adjourning the business meeting went to voice vote. Passed unanimously.

Moderator announced at 8:05 p.m. that the business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Charlotte Comeau  
Acworth Town Clerk