

**NORTH CONWAY WATER PRECINCT
ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 3:00 PM

North Conway Water Precinct Office
104 Sawmill Lane
North Conway, New Hampshire

Superintendent

Jason Gagnon

Precinct Officers

Robert F. Porter-Commissioner
John J. Santuccio-Commissioner
Suzanne Nelson-Commissioner

Fire Department Chief

Patrick L. Preece

Treasurer

Robert (Tim) Anderson

Clerk

Gary Chandler

Moderator

Donald Ekberg

Auditor

Roberts & Greene, CPA's

Moderator Ekberg opened the meeting at 3:09 PM by thanking everyone for their attendance and announcing the meeting would start with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Ekberg called upon Treasurer Robert (Tim) Anderson to lead the meeting attendees in the pledge, which he did.

Commissioner Robert F. Porter asked for Moderator Ekberg to have a moment of silence in memory of George Floyd. Moderator Ekberg conceded and requested the meeting attendees remain standing for a moment of silence (about 8-10 seconds), then thanked the group.

Moderator Ekberg stated there were some housekeeping items to note. He mentioned that most everybody likely knows where the restrooms are but stated the location of the sign for the restrooms. Moderator Ekberg noted that everyone should have been given an orange tab, which they needed for the ballot. He also stated everyone should have a yellow tab that said "A or B, yes or no." Moderator Ekberg stated that these were for the first two items and that the voting (for Article 1-Election of Officers) is on the officers. He stated that Article 2 and Article 3 are by ballot. He stated that if anyone didn't have one of these they should, and the boxes were in the back for the voting on Articles 2 and 3, regarding the Fire Station and the Solar Panels. Moderator Ekberg stated that the orange card shows that meeting attendees checked in, after double-checking with Superintendent Jason Gagnon who confirmed that the card shows you checked in with the Supervisor of the Checklist. Moderator Ekberg asked Superintendent Jason Gagnon if there were any other housekeeping items he wanted to discuss.

Tim Anderson made a motion to allow Superintendent Gagnon to speak at the meeting, which several attendees seconded.

Moderator Ekberg explained that the reasoning for this motion was that Superintendent Gagnon does not live in the region for the NCWP, and that there needed to be a motion by the attending body to allow him to speak. Moderator Ekberg stated that he was sure everyone wanted to hear from him.

Tim Anderson stated there needed to be a yay or nay vote. Moderator Ekberg prompted the yay or nay vote. **Motion to allow Superintendent Gagnon to speak passed.**

Tim Anderson made a motion to allow Allan Clark, Cris Salomon, and John Ricci, who are all related to the Fire Station, to speak at the meeting. Moderator Ekberg stated, "all in favor of allowing these people to speak, say I." **Motion passed.**

Moderator Ekberg stated that if he goes blind temporarily, it is because of the light in his face that he supposed nothing could be done about. Moderator Ekberg asked if everyone had the Annual Report with all the articles and items for the meeting listed.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that there were a few more housekeeping items. He reported that there were a second set of bathrooms, and he gave the location for both. He also announced that if anyone wanted to speak, there are two Water Precinct employees with microphones available for use and that the microphones would be disinfected between each use. Superintendent Gagnon also restated that the ballot boxes are in the back and that if there are any questions about logistics, attendees should feel free to ask.

Commissioner Suzanne Nelson stated that speakers should announce their names for the recording. Moderator Ekberg requested that when attendees standup, that they give their name.

Moderator Ekberg officially opened the meeting and discussion of the articles on the agenda. The first article up for discussion after Article 1 - the Election of Officers was Article 2.

Moderator read **Article 2-Design & Construction of New Fire Station:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,700,000) to demolish the existing fire station and to design, construct, and equip a new fire station in the same location (the "Project"); and to authorize the Board of Commissioners to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the dates, maturities, interest rates, and other details of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Board of Commissioners to accept on behalf of the Precinct any federal, state, or private funds that may become available with respect to the Project. Majority vote required. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg requested a motion to put **Article 2** to the floor. **Commissioner Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Robert Porter, to bring Article 2 to the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg announced that Chief Preece would address the article. Chief Preece thanked everyone for attending and coming to support the Fire Department. He explained that the process to rebuild the North Conway Fire Department (NCFD) started in 2006, and some of the folks who were there when the process began were in the room, such as Michelle Seavey and Steve Seavey. Chief Preece stated a bunch of work went into the process.

In 2009, NCFD phase approached and built Seavey Street, a NCFD building which will be critical to the rebuild of Norcross Circle where NCFD plans to house part of the current Fire Apparatus. Part of the Department will be on Seavey Street and some of it will be here on site. Chief Preece stated that NCFD has a wonderful design team and a committee that worked hard the last two years to bring the drawing to the NCFD. Chief Preece asserted that the redesign is a need more than a want, as the redesign is aimed to promote the safety and health of their firefighters. He stated that firefighters are getting Cancer at an alarming rate, a 25 percent higher rate than the general population due to exposure to toxins and carcinogens.

He explained that the State of New Hampshire started questioning why firefighters are getting cancer about three years ago. He explained that the reason being is that the smoke and building materials that are being used today are full of toxins, carcinogens, and things of that nature, which gets on the gear of the firefighters and stays on them. They go back to the firehouse and start washing their gear (SCBA's, airpacks, and things of that nature). However, the rate at which the Department can clean the equipment is limited. They can only wash half a set of gear at a time. In the meantime, there is nowhere to dry clean sets, for there are no drying mechanisms so they have to put the clean gear next to the other dirty gear, so it really makes no sense. All of the carcinogens that they wash off one set of gear off-gasses into the building onto the next set of gear. Chief Preece asserted that we need to address these things, they (firefighters) are your neighbors, that every member of the Fire Department is a neighbor or parent and has family.

Chief Preece explained that when he goes home, he is covered with soot and smoke and he is exposing his family to that, as is every other firefighter. He stated firefighters are bringing these things home, it is not right, and we need to address that. He stated, that this is the plan, to address that, with the meeting attendees help. He stated that it is emotional for him because the Fire Department considers themselves a family, and when one person gets Cancer, they all feel it. They are there, they are the support staff. He stated the meeting attendees can help support NCFD by making the rebuild happen. He asked if there were any other questions. Chief Preece asked Superintendent Gagnon if he wanted to speak.

Moderator Ekberg stated Superintendent Gagnon would talk about the money.

Superintendent Gagnon spoke on the financing of the Fire Station. He stated, that as Chief Preece mentioned, the project costs 6.7 million dollars. Superintendent Gagnon said that one of the advantages to doing the project right now is that we are seeing historically low interest rates, so we were able to secure an interest

rate from a local bank, keeping our money here in the Valley. The interest rate is 2.3 percent over twenty years. Other advantages about doing the project right now, that were discussed within the fire station committee—Even three months ago, the fire station committee thought that they were going to be up against a pretty tough bidding climate and that the 6.7 million dollars was going to be pretty tight. Superintendent Gagnon stated, that as one can see by “the wedding venue” of the meeting, Covid-19 has changed a lot of things and that one of the things that it has changed is that the construction bidding market is not nearly as tight as it was three months ago. The committee is really anticipating some favorable pricing as they move into this project. He explained that the 6.7 million dollars and 2.3 percent from Northway works out to a payment of Four Hundred and Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$412,227.00) per year over the twenty-year period. The estimated tax rate impact in the first year is 53 cents per thousand evaluation. Superintendent Gagnon asked if there were any other specifics they should get into.

Moderator Ekberg asked if anyone had any questions for Superintendent Gagnon or Chief Preece.

Deborah Fauver asked what the 2nd and 3rd years of payments are going to look like.

Superintendent Gagnon explained that the loan is a level payment on the bond so it would be \$412,227.00 for the life of the 20-year note.

Moderator Ekberg asked if anyone else wished to speak on the article.

Commissioner Suzanne Nelson spoke on the Fire Station. She noted to not be afraid of the figures that you just heard because when we get to the next article, you will see that the next article will have an impact. She wanted to remind everyone that we have a lot of growth in this Valley. We have a big hotel and a distillery coming online. All of that is going to increase the tax base. She asserted that voters should not think on one number but take everything together or to consider the bigger picture. She stated, the Fire Station Redesign is not going to have a huge impact on everyone’s taxes, but what it is going to do for the Valley, for the people in the Valley, and for the people who are the first people to go out there and save you when you need to be saved, is really important. She requested everyone keep the whole picture in mind.

Moderator Ekberg asked if Commissioner Nelson’s words prompted anyone else who wished to speak or if anyone had any questions or input whatsoever on this article. Seeing no hands, and no requests to speak, Moderator Ekberg spoke on casting ballots for Vote A (Fire Station) on the yellow tabs. He restated that the ballot boxes were located in the back and that the group would take some time to cast the ballots.

He stated the polls would be open for one hour, while the meeting takes a recess. Moderator Ekberg requested everyone socially distance as appropriate.

Moderator Ekberg called the meeting back to order after asking if everyone had the opportunity to vote.

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 3-Design & Construction of Solar Array:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of One Million Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$1,989,000.00) for design and construction of additional solar infrastructure at the Wastewater Treatment Facility to bring the total Solar Array capacity to the maximum 1 MW allowed by the State of New Hampshire net metering regulations. This article will be funded with \$95,000.00 from the NCWP Energy Upgrades Capital Reserve and the remainder from existing sewer fund balance with no additional new funds to be raised. This article shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked for a motion to put **Article 3** on the floor. **Suzanne Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Porter, to place Article 3 on the floor for discussion.**

Superintendent Gagnon spoke about the solar project. He stated that there were two ways that the project came about. When the original solar panel was built at the Precinct, the idea was that the Precinct was going to build a full MW of capacity. Unfortunately, in 2008, the cost of solar construction was significantly higher than what it is now. The Precinct built what they could afford back then. The cost of solar development has come down substantially since then, so as the Precinct was in the fire station discussion and realizing that the cost of the new fire station was not insignificant, they were brainstorming some way to off-set some of that cost for the Precinct. That was how the solar project came to be. Through several years of solid management in the Water and Sewer Department, which Superintendent Gagnon stated he can't take any credit for, they have been able to accrue some extra fund balance in the Sewer Fund. What the Precinct is able to do is take some of that fund balance, basically money that is sitting in the bank, and apply that to buy the solar project. By doing that they can built out to the full one MW, which is allowed by the State of New Hampshire net meter regulations as the maximum size system you can have and still get paid for any excess electricity that you produce. What that does is provides the Precinct with electricity savings at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and at some of the remote pump stations as well.

Superintendent Gagnon explained that, in the Sewer Budget every year, there is a line item called Capital Contribution, which is sewer funds that are raised through sewer rates that are then brought back over into the General Fund to help off-set taxes. The idea is that the Precinct will take the savings from the solar project, which are estimated to be One Hundred and Thirty-Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) in the first year, and then grow annually after that with the cost of electricity. The Precinct will be able to take those savings and apply them through the Capital Contribution to help off-set the tax impact of the Fire Station.

Superintendent Gagnon explained that one of the reasons why the Precinct is going to the full MW right now is because that is more than the amount of electricity they currently use at the Wastewater Plant but less than the electricity they use overall at all of the NCWP waste water facilities and they anticipate some additional demand coming online at the Wastewater Plant. As that happens, they then use more of that solar power behind the meter versus sending it out onto the grid and receiving a lower payback for the utility for it. As that demand increases here at the Wastewater Plant, the savings will just continue to grow and grow. Superintendent Gagnon stated that, as the article says, the total cost is estimated at \$1.989 million, though the Precinct is still going through the design review process with the co-op.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that Ned Reynolds was present. He is with Revision Energy and if anyone had any questions, somebody can make a motion for him to speak.

Superintendent Gagnon continued to explain that the \$1.989 million would be about \$1.9 million from the Sewer Fund, from that money that is in the bank, and about \$95,000 from the Green Energy Capital Reserve. That Green Energy Capital Reserve is funded with money from the sale of renewable energy credits from the current NCWP solar panels. It would reinvest some of the money that already accumulated from the existing solar array to help fund the new one.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that the estimated life span of the solar panels is forty years, and when the Precinct was looking at ways to address the impact of the cost of the Fire Station they looked at potentially paying down bonds and other things like that. However, those savings disappear when the bonds go away. This project has a forty-year lifetime of savings which they thought was very appealing. The cost of this facility works out to about One Dollar and Fifty-Two Cents (\$1.52) per Kilowatt hour. For comparison the last plant bill in New Hampshire at a wastewater facility was in Plymouth in 2014. The cost that they paid was Three dollars (\$3.00) per Kilowatt hour. Superintendent Gagnon asserted that this highlights how much the price of solar has come down and why the NCWP is able to do something like this now.

He stated that as much as he likes Ned, as he is obviously selling the NCWP some solar, they had a third-party review done to make sure the projections were accurate. Superintendent Gagnon stated that the New Hampshire DES energy-efficiency folks took a look at everything that Revision has given the NCWP. The DES felt like all of their estimates were on the conservative side, so if things go well, the NCWP could receive a better return than what they projected. "So," Superintendent Gagnon stated, "lets hope the Sun keeps shining."

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any questions for Superintendent Gagnon. Moderator Ekberg noticed that Karen Umberger had a question and he asked if she could get a microphone. She asked if she could use Commissioner Porter's, and she was told she could not unless it was disinfected.

Karen Umberger asked if the total of the \$1.9 million for the solar project would be spent next year or over the course of several years. Superintendent Gagnon clarified that the \$1.9 million is the construction cost including design, engineering, permitting, and construction. He stated that the idea is that if things move quickly through the Co-op, and if they don't hit any major roadblocks, that the \$1.9 million will be spent this year and that this system will be up and running by the end of the year. This way, the savings can be realized in time for next year's bond payment for the Fire Station.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any questions or concerns for Superintendent Gagnon or the Co-op attendees. Moderator Ekberg noted that a motion would be needed for the Co-op attendees to speak. Seeing no hands, Moderator Ekberg announced a brief recess for a ballot vote, B, on Article 3. He noted the polls would be open an hour though the recess would not be an hour. He also told the meeting attendees that Box A needed to be taken away as that ballot box was for the Fire Station vote, and voters should drop their ballots for Article 3 in Ballot Box B.

Moderator Ekberg asked if everyone had the opportunity to vote for Article 3, and where everyone went, stating, "It must have been something I said."

After a few moments, Moderator Ekberg announced he was resuming the meeting and double-checked to see if everyone had had the chance to vote on B, Article 3.

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 4-Long Term Debt:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$1,429,648) for the retirement of outstanding bonds, notes, interest, and temporary loan interest for the ensuing year. This article will be funded by grant revenues estimated to be One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$117,378); Sewer Fees in the amount of Four Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Eight Dollars (\$452,608); and the remainder to be raised by general taxation. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Debt Amount Funding Source

\$117,378.00	NHDES – State Aid Grant
\$452,608.00	Sewer Revenues
\$874,281.00	Tax Revenues

Moderator Ekberg requested a motion to bring **Article 4** to the floor. **Commissioner Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Santuccio, to place the article on the floor for discussion.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the article. There being none, he asked if those present were ready to put Article 4 to a vote. **Article 4 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 5-Operating Budget – General Fund:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six (\$137,656.00) for the General Fund (Commissioners) operating budget, including \$6,750.00 to fund the Schouler Park Skating Rink and \$10,000.00 to support the North Conway Public Library but excluding the long-term debt raised in Article 4. This is a tax funded article. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg requested a motion to place **Article 5** on the floor. **Commission Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Santuccio, to place Article 5 on the floor for discussion.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any comments or discussion about the Article.

Kristine Cluff asked a question regarding two appropriations, one at Schouler Park and the other to the Conway Library. Her concern was that if they pass the article and funding doesn't come in, the Board of Commissioners will have the ability to not pay these two articles out. Kris Cluff stated she wants assurance that that is not going to happen. She stated she expressed concern because the Board of Commissioners has daily operation of that budget, so if funding doesn't come in, she asserted that the Board could eliminate the two line items in the budget and she just wanted assurance that the Board won't do that. She stated that they had always been separate articles, and though she knows it is easier to combine them, she wants assurance that if funding doesn't come in, the Board will not eliminate the two line items.

Moderator Ekberg asked if a Commissioner wished to address the question.

Commissioner Nelson said that they do not consider at all not going through with paying out the funds stated in Article 5 if it passes.

Moderator Ekberg asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Seeing no hands, he asked if those present were ready for the vote. **Article 5 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 6-Operating Budget – Water Department:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$1,198,444.00) for the operating budget of the water department to be funded by water revenues, with no amount to be raised through general taxation. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg requested a motion to place **Article 6** on the floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to place Article 6 on the floor for discussion.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if any members had any comments or input regarding Article 6. Seeing no hands, he asked if those in attendance were ready for the vote. **Article 6 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg announced he had the results for the voting for Article 1-Election of Officers.

Commissioner: John Santuccio was re-elected. (48 votes, not announced in meeting)

Moderator Don Ekberg was re-elected. (47 votes, not announced in meeting)

Treasurer Robert (Tim) Anderson was re-elected. (48 votes, not announced in meeting)

Clerk Gary Chandler was re-elected. (47 votes, not announced in meeting)

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 7-Operating Budget – Sewer Department:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$1,766,078.00) for the operating budget of the sewer department to be funded by sewer revenues, with no amount to be raised through taxation. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to bring **Article 7** to the floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 7 to the Floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any comments, input, or questions on this article. Seeing no hands, Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready for the vote. **Article 7 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 8- Operating Budget – Fire Department:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$645,373) for the operating budget of the fire department for the ensuing year. This is a tax funded article. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to bring **Article 8** to the floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 8 to the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any comments, input, or questions about Article 8. Seeing no hands, he asked if those present were prepared to vote. **Article 8 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 9-Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$646,924) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. \$211,351 to come from water fund balance, \$115,000 to come from water revenue, \$45,573 to come from sewer fund balance; \$55,000 to come from sewer revenue and \$220,000 to come from taxation. The breakdown is as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	Amount	Revenue Source
Fire Equipment	\$195,000	\$195,000 Tax Revenue
	\$260,000	\$200,000 Water Fund Balance
		\$60,000 Water Revenues
Water	\$30,000	\$30,000 Water Revenues
	\$11,351	\$11,351 Buy-In Fees
Water Vehicle	\$30,000	\$30,000 Sewer Revenues
Water Infrastructure	\$42,710	\$42,710 Buy-In Fees
Sewer Vehicle	\$2,863	\$2,863 Sewer Revenues
Sewer Infrastructure	\$75,000	\$25,000 Sewer Revenues
Energy Upgrades		\$25,000 Water Revenues
Uncompensated Absences		\$25,000 Tax Revenues (Fire)

[RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSIONERS 3-0-0].

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to bring **Article 9** to the floor. **Commissioner Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Santuccio, to bring Article 9 to the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any questions or input on the article. Commissioner Nelson stated that Superintendent Gagnon recommends reducing the Water Capital Contribution by Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) coming from the Water Fund Balance due to uncertain conditions with the Well #2 project.

Commissioner Nelson made a motion to reduce the amount of transfer from the Water Fund balance to the Water Capital Reserve by Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), so the new amount would be Four Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand Nine-Hundred and Twenty-Four Dollars (\$446,924.00). Commissioner Porter seconded Commissioner Nelson's motion.

Moderator Ekberg stated that there was a seconded motion to amend Article 9 to increase the Water Contribution, from 260 to 460.

Commissioner Nelson stated that was inaccurate, and the Board stated it is the other way around, and Moderator Ekberg recanted that the motion was to reduce it.

Commissioner Nelson repeated that the idea was to reduce the Water Capital contribution from \$646,924.00 to \$446,924.

Moderator Ekberg asked if Superintendent Gagnon wished to speak to this motion.

Superintendent Gagnon stated, that as Commissioner Nelson alluded to, two things have happened since the NCWP put the new Capital Reserve appropriations together. One is the Covid-19 situation, which the Precinct is watching closely. He stated that they do not think there are going to be any major impacts to revenues, but he qualified that we are only 2 months into this (stay-at-home orders and pandemic-related precautionary procedures), so the precinct is just trying to be a little cautious and to keep the fund balance where it is incase the Precinct needs it. Secondly, the Well #2 project is going to be going out to bid later this year and the cost estimating for that was done three years ago, so he just wanted to have the funds available incase pricing ends up being higher than they've got authorized to borrow.

Moderator Ekberg asked if Superintendent Gagnon's comments prompted any input or questions.

Karen Umberger asked which fund is going to be reduced by the Two-Hundred Thousand down in the Capital Reserves.

Commissioner Nelson stated the Water Fund Reserve balance would be reduced by the Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars.

Karen Umberger asked if there is technically a second amendment to the Article, but Moderator Ekberg stated that there was only one.

Karen Umberger asserted that the figures at the bottom of the proposed budget are changing which she figured should require an additional amendment. Commissioner Nelson explained that the amendment she proposed was to transfer from the Water Fund balance.

Jason Gagnon stated that the motion was to remove \$200,000 from the Water Fund balance that would be transferred into the Capital Reserve account. That brings down the total from \$646,924.00 to \$446, 924.00.

Karen Umberger stated that she thought that the Precinct should show in the final decision, that the figure at the bottom is \$60,000.

Moderator Ekberg restated that they were referring to the reduction of 200,000 dollars from the Water Fund Reserve, which he would treat as one motion. It knocks 200,000 dollars off both of those numbers.

Karen Umberger requested that the amendment be read again.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the amendment is to reduce the amount of transfer from the Water Fund balance to the Water Capital Reserve by \$200,000. The new amount, new total amount, would be \$446,924.00, so it specifies that it is coming from the Water Fund balance.

Moderator Ekberg asked if everyone was clear on the amendment and if anyone had any input on this.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that he just got clarification from the Precinct Attorney, and introduced Steve Bennett, the Attorney. Superintendent Gagnon stated that Steve Bennett said that the motion meets all of the requirements to amend the Article.

Tim Anderson stated to Superintendent Gagnon that Superintendent Gagnon said he wanted to put the Two-Hundred Thousand back into the Water Fund Balance or Water revenue or wherever it is going, that was because if the pricing on the well comes in higher than we approved two years ago, correct, or last year. Superintendent Gagnon stated, if the pricing comes in higher than what we are authorized to borrow for the project. Treasurer Anderson stated, this was authorized by the voters, which Superintendent affirmed.

Tim Anderson then asked if Superintendent Gagnon would have to come back to the voters to ask for more money.

Superintendent Gagnon replied, not as long as the Precinct doesn't borrow more than what is authorized if the pricing comes in and that maybe the body could get clarification from the NCWP Attorney on this issue.

Superintendent Gagnon asked if the bid pricing comes in higher than what is authorized to borrow in the article, is the NCWP allowed to dip into our General Fund balance to cover any overages, with the Commissioners being agents to expend the General Fund balance.

Steve Bennett inquired about the specific amount from the original warrant article. Superintendent Gagnon requested Hannah Andersen (NCWP Business Administrator) retrieve the Annual Report for 2015 to confer with the 2016 warrant and budget.

Moderator Ekberg announced a short recess.

Moderator Ekberg announced that the meeting was re-convening and asked if we had an answer.

Steve Bennett stated that they reviewed the prior article from 2015, when the authorization for the original amount of money was given. No limit was given in the article, and the article said that should the bidding price come in higher than anticipated for the bidding price, the General Fund balance can supplement the funding for the bid.

Superintendent Gagnon asked to clarify whether the funding should come from the Water Capital Reserves or the Water General Fund balance. Superintendent Gagnon stated that what the amendment does is it keeps it in the General Fund balance (the Water bank account) and doesn't move it into the Capital Reserve account. These accounts are technically managed by the town, which includes a more involved process to get out funds if it is needed.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any more comments or questions on the amendment. He stated that the amendment is to knock off Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars from the Water Fund balance.

Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready for the vote on the amendment to article 9. **The Amendment to Article 9 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready for the vote on Article 9. **Article 9 passed as amended.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 10-Water Asset Management Program:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to authorize the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for the purpose of Asset Management for the Water Distribution System with to be offset by a \$20,000.00 grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and \$20,000.00 to come from Water revenues. This article authorizes the Commissioners to enter into and approve a grant agreement with the NHDES in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the North Conway Water Precinct and authorizes Superintendent Jason Gagnon to sign paperwork associated with such grant on behalf of the Precinct. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to put **Article 10** on the floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to place Article 10 on the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any questions, input, or comments on the article.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that, as another unfortunate side effect of Covid-19, the Precinct missed the deadline due to the State of New Hampshire's fiscal year to actually receive these funds. While the NCWP was awarded the funds technically in December, because they did not vote on them before June 1st, the Precinct is no longer eligible. Superintendent Gagnon recommended to vote Article 10 down and that the NCWP take another swing next year at it.

Karen Umberger stated that the State's fiscal year runs through the 30th of June, so she asked if it was simply DES saying that it had to be not because of the fiscal year.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that DES told him it was because of the fiscal year, so that it must be the process that it has to go through at DES and then through governor and counsel. We may have missed their internal deadline for the process.

Karen Umberger stated that she now understood that it was a DES decision and thanked Superintendent Gagnon.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any other questions or input on Article 10. Hearing none he asked if those present were ready to vote. **Article 10 did not pass.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 11- Purchase of NCWP Pickup Truck:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for a new pickup truck and appurtenances for use by the water and sewer departments and to authorize the withdrawal of Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$20,000) from the Water Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund and Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$20,000) from the Sewer Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to move **Article 11** to the floor.

Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 11 to the floor.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any discussions or questions regarding the Article. Seeing none, Moderator Ekberg asked those who were in attendance if they were ready for the vote. **Article 11 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 12: Phase III Sewer Alternate – Village at Kearsarge:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) for construction of Phase III of public sewer construction as shown on the plan provided by HEB Engineers. This article shall be funded in full by the Sewer Infrastructure Capital Reserve account previously established. This article shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to bring **Article 12** to the floor. **Commissioner Nelson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Santuccio, to bring Article 12 to the floor for discussion.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any questions or input regarding Article 12. Seeing none, he asked those in attendance if they were ready for the vote. **Article 12 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 13-WWTF Riverbank Erosion Study:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to conduct a study to quantify potential threats to, and propose potential remedial actions to protect, the wastewater treatment facility from riverbank erosion along the Saco River. Funding for the study shall come from sewer usage fees and revenues offset by Principal Forgiveness from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and/or Federal Emergency Management Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds. This article shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to bring **Article 13** to the floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 13 to the Floor for discussion.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was any input, questions, or comments on Article 13.

Seeing none, Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready for the vote. **Article 13 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 14-Reprogram Manhole Cover Funds:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-One Dollars and Ten Cents (\$57,521.10) for the replacement and raising of sewer manhole covers and water gate valve boxes on Route 16 north of the Intervale railroad crossing in conjunction with New Hampshire Department of Transportation paving, on Intervale Crossroad in conjunction with Town of Conway paving, and on Skyline Drive in Bartlett in conjunction with Town of Bartlett paving. This article shall be funded in full from the general fund unassigned fund balance. Said funds being the remainder of funds from the 2018 Warrant Article 18:

Manhole Cover Replacement Project. No new funds shall be raised to support this article. This article shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. **[Recommended by Commissioners 3 – 0 – 0].**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to put **Article 14** on the Floor. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 14 to the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was any input on Article 14.

Treasurer Anderson asked Superintendent Gagnon what was going to happen if this fails?

Superintendent Gagnon stated all of the work is not done yet and that unfortunately DOT does not wait for Annual Meetings. He stated that if the Article does not pass, because the Precinct can't expend General Fund dollars without voter approval, this money currently has to come out of the Sewer General Fund because it was technically Sewer man-hole covers. So if this does not pass it will be a hit to the Sewer Budget and the precinct will have to make cuts in order to find money to pay for it. He stated however that the funds already exist, they are sitting in the bank in the General Fund—what is left over from 2018. Superintendent Gagnon explained that the article was so specific that they are not allowed to use the funding on other roads and that this article then, adds these roads in.

Treasurer Anderson replied, "I had to."

Moderator Ekberg asked if there were any more comments, questions, or input about Article 14. There being none, Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready to vote. **Article 14 passed.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 15-Ratify Auditor:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will ratify the appointment of Roberts & Greene as the Precinct Auditor for the calendar of 2019.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to place **Article 15** on the floor for discussion. **Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to bring Article 15 to the floor.**

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was any input, questions, or comments on Article 15.

Karen Umberger asked if the date, 2019, means that the audit is for the books for last year or if the Precinct should be looking to this figure for 2020 as well.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that the audit for the calendar year for 2019 has not happened yet and that that usually happens in 2020. However, he stated that he is not sure and that somebody would know the answer to this in the audience.

Kris Cluff responded saying the article needs to be amended to read 2020, and that an article was approved last year to do the audit for 2019 and that it was complete already or should have been.

Superintendent Gagnon stated that Covid-19 has delayed it and that the auditors would show up in the next week.

Karen Umberger moved to amend Article 15 to read Precinct Auditor for Calendar Year of 2020. Motioned was seconded by Commissioner Nelson.

Moderator Ekberg asked if the motion to amend prompted any input, questions, or comments.

Superintendent Gagnon said just a thank you.

Moderator Ekberg asked again if there were any questions or comments regarding the Amendment. Seeing none, he asked those present if they were ready for the vote on the Amendment.

Amendment to change Article 15 to read 2020 instead of 2019 passed.

Moderator Ekberg asked if those present were ready for the vote for Article 15 as amended. **Article 15 passed as Amended.**

Moderator Ekberg read **Article 16-Borrowing Against Credit of Precinct:**

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to allow the Commissioners to borrow against the credit of the Precinct, such sums of money as may be necessary in anticipation of taxes, bonds, sales, and Water and Sewer bills.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was a motion to move **Article 16** to the floor.

Commissioner Santuccio moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to place Article 16 on the floor for discussion.

Moderator Ekberg asked if there was any input, questions, or comments about Article 16. Seeing none, Moderator Ekberg asked those who were present if they were ready to vote on Article 16.
Article 16 Passed.

Moderator Ekberg stated that Article 17 is related to any other business and he asked if there was any other business to bring before the body. Seeing none, Moderator Ekberg stated that the meeting would have a recess until the hour was up for the A and B ballot questions.

Moderator Ekberg called for a recess until the required hour was up for ballot Articles 2 and 3.

Moderator Ekberg called the meeting back to order, announcing the results of the voting for Articles 2 and 3.

Article 2 regarding the Fire Station, passed with 45 yes, 3 no, 1 blank.

There was a brief but enthusiastic applause. Moderator Ekberg asked for no hugging.

Moderator Ekberg called for another brief recess until the required hour was up for the vote on Article 3.

Moderator Ekberg called the meeting back to order to announce the results of the vote.

Article 3 (B) regarding the Solar Panels Project, passed with 45 yes, 3 no.

Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn, received a seconded motion, and thanked everyone for coming.

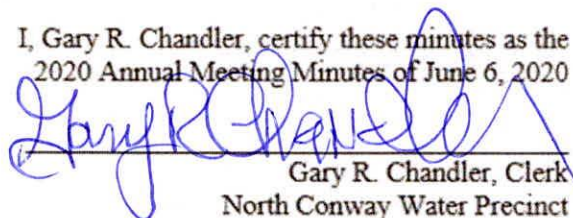
Moderator Ekberg adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Katarina H. Andersen, Recording Secretary

I, Gary R. Chandler, certify these minutes as the
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2020



Gary R. Chandler, Clerk
North Conway Water Precinct