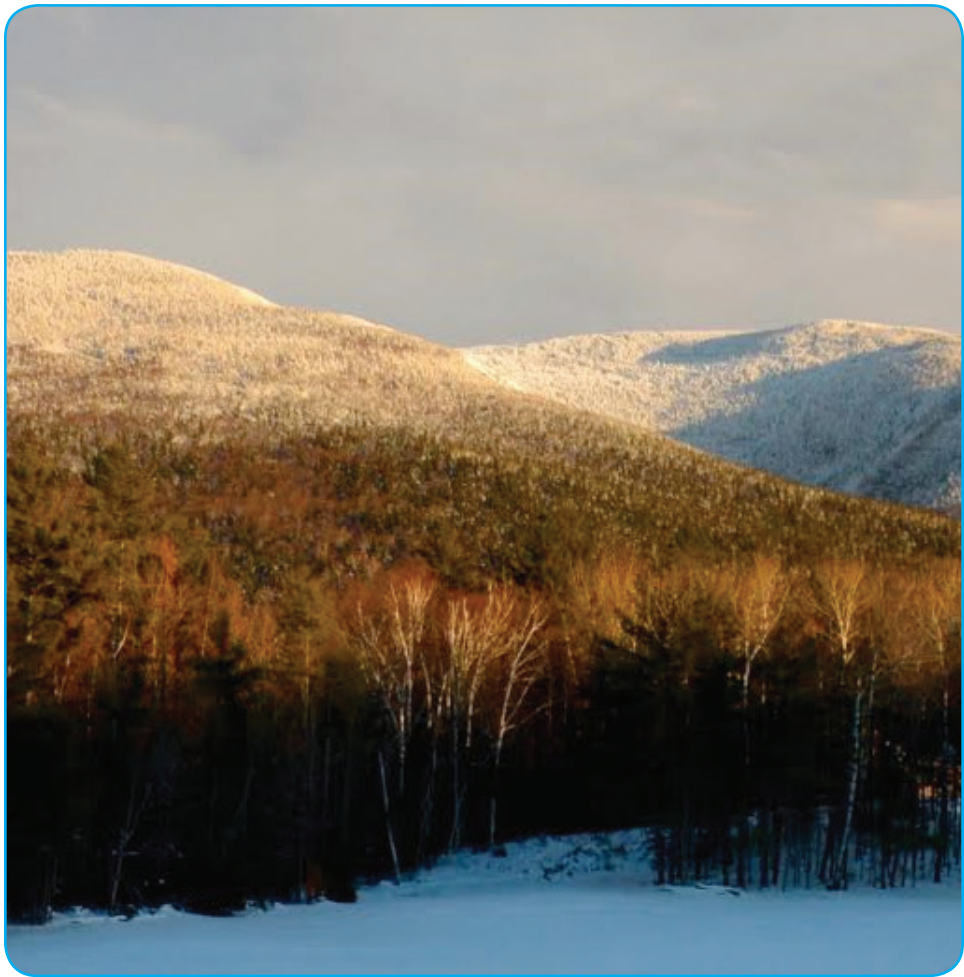


ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT



Town of
EASTON
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31, 2016

The 2016 Easton Annual Report
is dedicated to
Robert “Bob” Peckett III

Easton Road Contractor and Road Agent for 46 Years



Robert “Bob” Peckett III retired in October, 2016, after 46 years of faithful and dependable service as Easton’s Road Agent and Road Maintenance Contractor. Bob’s history in the area runs deep: His aunt was Katherine Peckett, founding proprietor of famed Peckett’s-on-Sugar Hill, the first resort-based ski school in the U.S. He has lived his entire life in Sugar Hill, except for his military service time, and attended one of the final classes at Dow Academy, together with long-time Easton resident Anna Darvid.

After three years of Air Force service in Alaska as a flight mechanic servicing B29s in Alaska, Bob returned to Sugar Hill, and worked first for the Town of Franconia, and then as a private contractor building many public and private roads, including sections of I-93. Over time, Bob acquired an extensive collection of road equipment: dump trucks, graders, pick-up trucks, excavators, and front-loaders. His son John later joined Bob, and they worked together in the business, repairing all their road equipment themselves in their workshop near Coppermine Trail in Franconia. Bob’s business was truly a family operation: For many years until shortly before her passing a little more than two years ago, Bob’s books and billings were ably maintained by Margaret, his beloved wife and soulmate.

In 1970, Bob became custodian of Easton’s roads on a handshake. This handshake proved sufficient to define Bob’s working relationship with the Town for the next 46 years during which Bob served as Easton Road Contractor/Road Agent. During this period, his duties included all aspects of road maintenance. It’s a long list that included: resurfacing, plowing, sanding, sweeping, mowing, culvert installation and maintenance, ditching, pothole and storm damage repair, fallen tree removal, and signage and weight postings. If it had to do with roads, Bob took care of it.

Bob took great pride maintaining Easton’s roads. In the winter during a snowfall, he could be heard at 5 a.m. making his morning plowing rounds, always trying not to block anyone’s driveway entrance. Bob had many entertaining stories to tell about his experiences and would recount these in his own colorful language, which were always a treat to hear.

After 46 years of dedicated road service to the Town, Bob, you’ve earned the right to sleep in on those cold snowy winter mornings - best of luck in your retirement!

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2016
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Town Meeting Warrant	Center Section
Town Officers/Elected Officials and Board Members	2
Selectmen’s Report.....	3
Results of Town Meeting March 8, 2016	5
Budget - Revenue	18
Budget - Expenditures	19
Budget Summary	20
Profit and Loss.....	21
Balance Sheet	24
Treasurer’s Report.....	25
Statement of Appropriations / 2016 Tax Rate Calculation.....	26
Summary Inventory of Assessed Valuation	27
Tax Collector.....	28
Tax Collector - Summary of Warrants	29
Tax Collector - Summary of Tax Lien Accounts	30
Town Clerk & Vital Statistics	31
Schedule of Town Property	33
Schedule of Long-Term Debt.....	33
Trust Funds.....	34
Fire Department	35
Cemetery Trustees	37
Planning Board.....	38
Conservation Commission.....	39
CALEX.....	40
Franconia Life Squad/Ambulance	41
Tri-Town Transfer Station.....	42
Lafayette Recreation Committee	43
Fees.....	44
Information.....	45
Select Board and Planning Board Meetings	IBC

All Agency Reports Are On File In The Selectmen’s Office
Front cover photo courtesy of Deborah Stever
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TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Selectmen

Deborah Stever (2017)
Edward Cutler (2018)
Zhenye (Zak) Mei (2019)

Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart (2017)

Moderator

Jim Collier (2019)

Lafayette School Board

Denys Draper (2017)

Cemetery Trustees

Richard Larcom (2017)
Denys Draper (2018)
Kristina Pastoriza (2019)

Town Clerk

Toni Woodruff (2017)

Tax Collector

Lisa Cutler (2017)

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Denys Draper (2019)
Sonia German (2019)
Tambra Gearhart (2019)

Supervisors of the Checklist

Tambra Gearhart (2020)
Lisa Cutler (2021)
Ed O'Brien (2022)

Planning Board

Gary Harwood (2017)	Zhenye (Zak) Mei (Ex Officio)
James Collier (2017)	J. Thomas Boucher (Alternate)
Denys Draper (2019)	Anita Craven (Alternate)
Phil Reeder (2019)	

————— APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS —————

Fire Chief: Arthur Rainville **Emergency Manager:** Edward Cutler

Health Officer: Inga Johnson **Welfare Officer:** Zhenye (Zak) Mei

Zoning Board of Adjustment: **Road Agent:** Robert Peckett (retired)
John Hynes (2017) Presby Construction

Kris Pastoriza (2018)
Ellen Pritham (2018)
Dennis Ford (2019)
Greg Sorg (2019)
(Ex Officio)

Recreation Committee: John Hynes
Matt Koehler

Kevin O'Brien (Alternate) **Deputy Town Clerk:** Robert Thibault

Deputy Tax Collector: Robert Thibault

Animal Control Officer: Richard Larcom

Conservation Commission

Kris Pastoriza, Chair (2019)	Roy Stever (2017)	Anita Craven (Res.)
Finn Goodwin (2019)	Steve Sabre (Alternate) (2018)	Beth Harwood (Res.)
Carl Lakes (2017)	Deborah Stever (2018)	

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

The year of 2016 saw the start of many new initiatives that were approved at the past Town Meeting.

The ambitious project of converting the former Ashton property next to the Town Hall into a more green, public-friendly space was launched in the Spring. After months of preparatory work including hazardous waste assessment and removal, the parcel is slowly starting to reveal itself as a blank canvas. Another blank canvas, the Town Sign, had its design finalized and is close to implementation.

Also as directed by the voters at Town Meeting, we entered into an agreement with Franconia's well-appointed Greenleaf Library to provide Easton residents with reduce-fee access to their plethora of intellectual and recreational resources. Their services go greatly above and beyond books. All Easton residents are highly encouraged to discover this great resource for themselves.

Our Town Hall received some upgrades such as a more reliable LED motion-sensor light to properly light the parking lot, and light-blocking shades for the large assembly room in order to produce a better environment for projector-based presentations. Thank you to the Kinsman Valley Club for initiating the latter project, one improvement among many that they continue to effect, such as organizing the annual Town Hall Cleanup Days, and being the guardian and enforcer of the Town Hall rental checklist.

The Town has also been diligently shoring up its legal foundations. In addition to working with Franconia and Sugar Hill to solidify the contractual relationships among the Towns regarding the Lafayette Recreation Committee, the Select Board is actively working to protect the Town's positions with regards to Northern Pass, and to the status of the unpaved portion of Paine Road. We've also strengthened our fiscal planning by reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan which was completed by the Planning Board and will help guide our major expense planning for years to come.

One example of a major expense is the Gibson Road re-design. During the past summer, the Town awarded the contract for that project to the lower bidder. We saved \$30,000 in the process, and the winning contractor has been very cooperative with the Town. That project will break ground in 2017. In addition, the Town also publicly solicited bids for a 3-year contract for the expert Highway Agent position. The position was eventually awarded to the only company that responded. However, no words can fully express the gratitude and indebtedness the Town has to the outgoing Road Agent, Mr. Robert Peckett III, who tirelessly and unselfishly served the Town for 46 years while charging extremely humble rates that are unlikely to be ever seen again.

A final thank you goes to all who made Election Day a success. Whether you were a poll worker or a part of the Kinsman Valley Club who provided delicious meals for the poll workers (or both!), we greatly appreciate your services to Easton.

We encourage any of you to attend the bi-weekly Monday Select Board meetings. They begin at 6pm, with the public input portion starting at 6:30. Please visit our website at www.townofeastonnh.org for more details and past minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
The Easton Select Board
Edward Cutler - Chairman
Zhenye (Zak) Mei
Deborah Stever

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 8, 2016

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

Ballot clerks were sworn in at 2:30 pm by Town Clerk Toni Woodruff. Moderator Jim Collier read the Warrant, presented to him by Selectman Ned Cutler, at 2:55 pm. The polls officially opened at 3:00 pm. Ballot voting commenced from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Election results are recorded below.

The deliberative session was called to order at 7:05 pm by the Moderator. He then thanked the community for coming together as a legislative body and added that with the turmoil in our nation the people of Easton have the power to make the Town what we would like it to be.

The Moderator thanked the Kinsman Valley Club for providing the delicious lunch and supper. He then asked the veterans present to stand and be recognized; followed by the Selectmen, those who hold or who have held a Town office, Sue Ford, our State legislator, the Easton firefighters present, and finally, the taxpayers. Each group was given a round of applause in appreciation. The Moderator followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Finally, Jim Collier introduced Laura Specter-Morgan, the Town Attorney who was in attendance.

For this evening's meeting, four assistant Moderator's were sworn in to assist with the collection and counting of ballots: Kevin O'Brien, J. Thomas Boucher, Patricia O'Brien, and Brenda Shannon Adam. The use of voting cards and yes/no ballots were explained to those assembled. As a conclusion to his opening remarks, the Moderator explained that he would use a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order instituted by his predecessor, and told those assembled that he had reinstated a tradition (The Return of the Warrant) whereby the Select Board Chairman presented the Moderator with the Warrant and the Moderator "warned" (read the Warrant) to those present to begin the 3:00 pm voting portion of Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot.

The Moderator read the Article and announced the results of the Article as follows:

With 77 people voting:

Selectman - 3 year term:

Zhenye (Zak) Mei 71

Planning Board - 3 year term: (Vote for 2)

Denys Draper 59

Phil Reeder 38

Town Clerk - 1 year term:

Toni Woodruff 75

Cemetery Trustee – 3 year term:

Denys Draper 62

Tax Collector - 1 year term: Lisa Cutler	71	Supervisor of the Checklist - 6 year term: Ed O'Brien	72
Treasurer - 1 year term: Darrel Gearhart	71	Trustee of the Trust Fund - 3 year term: (Vote for 3)	
Moderator – 3 year term: James Collier	72	Denys Draper	55
		Tambra Gearhart	26
		Sonia German	11

ARTICLE 2. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$212,036.00** for general Town operations as follows:

Executive	\$18,350.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	14,200.00
Financial Administration	12,700.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	7,300.00
Legal Expenses	1.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,050.00
Planning & Zoning	2,500.00
Government Buildings	12,200.00
Cemetery	1,800.00
Insurance	6,000.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,900.00
General Government - Contingency	7,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	5,700.00
Fire Department	20,550.00
Building Inspection	600.00
Emergency Management - Forest Fire	650.00
Emergency Management - Communication	1,500.00
Highway Maintenance	55,000.00
Solid Waste	24,587.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	3,000.00
Parks & Recreation	9,134.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00
Construction Bond - Principal	3,000.00
Construction Bond - Interest	<u>1,013.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$212,635.00

Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$212,635.00 for General Town Operation as printed in the Warrant, seconded by Zak Mei. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. Budget for Health Agencies and Hospitals

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,612.00 for Health Agencies and Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

(Majority vote required)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$500.00
North Country Home Health and Hospice	\$900.00
White Mountain Mental Health	\$212.00
	<hr/>
Total Health Agencies and Hospitals	\$1,612.00

Zak Mei moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,612.00 for Health Agencies and Hospitals, seconded by Deb Stever.

Denys Draper reiterated that the amounts being voted on were requested by the individual agencies and added that she hoped, in the future, mental health organizations would receive greater consideration.

With no further discussion, the Warrant passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Budget for Other Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,940.00 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

(Majority vote required)

American Red Cross	\$100.00
Burch House	\$140.00
Center for New Beginnings	\$250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$300.00
Tri-County Cap	\$2,150.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,940.00

Deb Stever moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,940.00 for Other Welfare, seconded by Ned Cutler.

There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Budget for Other Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for Other Culture and Recreation as follows: (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

North Country Boys and Girls Club	\$1,000.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Culture and Recreation	\$1,000.00

Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for Other Culture and Recreation, seconded by Zak Mei.

Ed O'Brien expressed the opinion that the Town should not give money to the Boy's

and Girl's Club citing that it was forcing the taxpayer to give to a particular organization that does not impact the children of Easton. Kevin O'Brien, Sonia German, Ned Cutler, Rich Larcom and Brenda Shannon Adam spoke in favor of this donation. Kevin explained that the Club is looking to invest in transportation so that Lafayette Elementary would have access. The motion passed with a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Bond for Purchase and Demolition of Ashton House to Create Common Green Space

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 (gross budget) for the purchase of the lot at 1070 Easton Valley Rd. (Map 3, Lot 14), and its demolition, removal, and conversion into public space, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$75,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (2/3 ballot vote required)

Zak Mei moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 (gross budget) for the purchase of the lot at 1070 Easton Valley Rd. (Map 3, Lot 14), and its demolition, removal and conversion into public space, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$75,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Deb Stever seconded.

Bob Craven spoke to exploring a financially prudent way to secure a bond. Cliff Chippendale asked if the Fire Dept. would demolish the property. Ralph Brigida asked if the heat from demolition would damage the siding on the Town Hall. Art Rainville (fire chief) said the fire dept. would mitigate against any damage by use of a water curtain and is looking into permits for this project. Ned Cutler explained that hazardous waste would be properly disposed of prior to demolition. Jim Hunt inquired about the owner of the property (Lon Ashton) and Brenda Shannon Adam asked about the use of the property (a natural area). Trish O'Brien mentioned that the old boards in the house could be sold for salvage.

Jim Collier called for a ballot vote (white ballots) 67 in favor, 10 opposed.

ARTICLE 7. Authorize Planning Board to Start a Capital Improvement Program for the Town

(The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

Deb Stever moved that the Town direct the Planning Board to begin and complete the process to create a Capital Improvement Program for the Town. Ned Cutler seconded. Denys Draper asked for a clarification of a CIP. Ned Cutler explained that it would involve identifying future long-term projects so that the SB could property budget. Jim Collier added that the role of the PB is strictly advisory. This article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. INDIVIDUAL WARRANT – Fee for the Franconia Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 for payment to the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia for a special discounted patron rate of \$10.00 per Easton resident. (Majority vote required)

Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 for payment to the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, for a special discounted patron rate of \$10.00 per Easton resident. Zak Mei seconded.

Denys Draper asked if this is a one-time payment (Answer – no. It is a trial membership for this year.) Denys expressed displeasure that Easton would not support its own library.

Barbara Collier remarked that during her tenure as a trustee hardly anyone used the Easton Library. Many residents including John Hynes, Phil Reeder, Ralph Brigida and Cliff Chippendale thought that the Town should not get involved and that residents could afford the \$25.00 fee. Inga Johnson wondered if the library fee could be considered under Town Welfare (Ned – No). Dennis Ford spoke in favor. Nelson Crowe, Angela Brigida, and Bob Craven expressed interest in making sure families could benefit from the Franconia library.

Ned Cutler suggested passing this Article and collecting data during the year to determine if we should consider this again next year.

Jim Collier called for a yes/no vote using the index card method. 45 were in favor, 25 were against. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 9. SPECIAL WARRANT – Paine Road Petition 1

Are you in favor of clarifying the status of the Town portion of Paine Road as a Class V road and designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section as a “Class V Highway to Summer Cottages” (NH RSA 231:79-81); and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

1. To close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10 and April 10 as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;
2. To have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;
3. In consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs and improvements to Paine Road, such as the installation of speed bump(s) to make it suitable for safe light travel; and
4. To appropriate and expend \$13,000 to accomplish the above work as follows: \$3,000 from the Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund, and \$10,000 from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

(The Selectmen do not recommend adoption of this Warrant Article) (Majority vote required)

Following the reading of the Warrant by the Moderator, Roy Stever was recognized and asked that the Moderator recuse himself from this discussion as he had signed the Paine Road Petition 1, and asked that Jim Collier also speak to this request. Jim Collier replied it is perfectly legitimate to question the Moderator and asked those present who wished him to recuse himself to respond Yay, those who did not want him to recuse himself respond No. The No votes won.

- *Bob Thibault was recognized and read an amendment to this Article. “I move that the Town vote to reclassify the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section of Paine Road from a Class VI emergency lane to a Class V Road per RSA 231:22-a with the intention of designating this same section to be a Class V Highway to Summer Cottages per RSA 231:79-81. Implementation of this article to be contingent upon passage of the following Article 10”. Bob Craven seconded. At this point Attorney Laura Spector-Morgan approached the Moderator for a private conversation, the question being that the motion should be made on the primary article and then the amendment to the article made and seconded.*
- *Ned Cutler made a motion to pass over this Article as the funding portion is incorrect and properly appears in Article 10. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and the Article was not passed over.*
- *Bob Thibault restated his amendment and Bob Craven seconded. Ned Cutler objected to this amendment saying that it changed the original intent and thus was illegal. The attorney explained that the Court could possibly rule the amendment illegal.*
- *Roy Stever read a letter from the Harwoods of Paine Road objecting to both Article 9 and 10 (entered into the record).*
- *At this point discussion ensued covering the topics of emergency lanes, definitions of Class V, Class VI roads, the history of Paine Road, the manner by which Laura Spector-Morgan was retained, betterment assessments, Paine Road safety issues, Paine Road as an alternate route during emergencies on Route 116, and development on Class V and Class VI roads.*
- *At this point, Jim Collier asked the attorney how to move forward. The attorney believed that there is no legal way to reclassify a Class VI to a Class V because it was not warned.*
- *Brenda Adam questioned the attorney as to the appropriateness of Selectperson Stever not recusing herself from all discussion regarding Paine Rd as Mrs. Stever may benefit from the decision. Selectperson Stever responded that her personal attorney advised her that she did not have to recuse herself because the subject had to do with Town safety.*
- *Bob Thibault disagreed with the legal opinion and referred to a section in Bernie Waugh’s book regarding NH roads and the law, A Hard Road to Travel. Bob also stated that there was no Class V road standard in Town – just for subdivisions, so his motion to amend Article 9 would bring those gathered to Article 10 which, if passed, would allow Paine Road to revert back to its original status as a Class V Road, with the 6/10 gravel portion unplowed and closed in winter. Ned Cutler responded that the Town does have standard road specifications, but the lawyer, when asked, stated that these standards only pertain to subdivisions.*
- *Pat Every made motion to table the discussion. This was disallowed by the Moderator because there was a motion on the floor.*
- *Zak Mei offered suggestions including addressing the gates without reclassification.*
- *Jim Collier called for an end to the discussion and read the amendment once again.*

- *Deb Stever questioned the attorney as to whether the motion was legal. The attorney responded that it would have to be decided by a court. Deb asked how an illegal article could be brought to Court. The lawyer replied by a Selectman or a member of the public. The cost would run between \$5,000-10,000.*
- *Andrew Noyes asked what happened to Ned Cutler’s original motion. The Moderator responded that it was disallowed because there was an outstanding motion on the floor at that time.*
- *Roy Stever spoke about the history of the gates on Paine Rd. and to the safety of the Rd. stating that before the gates he felt there was “one near miss a month”.*
- *The Moderator stating that a circular argument was not going anywhere called for a secret ballot (blue) Yes for the amendment to Article 9. No against the amendment to Article 9.*
- *The result was 54 Yes, 20 No. The Amendment to Article 9 passed.*

ARTICLE 10. Paine Road Petition 2

Are you in favor of clarifying the status of the Town portion of Paine Road as a Class V road and designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section as a “Class V Highway to Summer Cottages” (NH RSA 231:79-81); and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

1. To close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10 and April 10 as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;
2. To have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;
3. In consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs and improvements to Paine Road, such as the installation of speed bump(s) to make it suitable for safe light travel; and
4. To appropriate and expend up to \$13,000 to accomplish the above work from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

(The Selectmen do not recommend adoption of this Warrant Article) (Majority vote required)

Anita Craven moved that the Town clarify the status of the Town portion of Paine Road as a Class V road and designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section as a “Class V Highway to Summer Cottages” (NH RSA 231:79-81); and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

1. *To close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10 and April 10 as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;*
2. *To have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;*
3. *In consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs and improvements to Paine Road, such as the installation of speed bump(s) to make it suitable for safe light travel;*

4. *To appropriate and expend \$13,000 to accomplish the above work from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Seconded by Barbara Collier.*

Roy Stever moved that the Moderator comment and recuse himself from this Article because the Moderator signed Petition 2. Andrew Noyes seconded. On a voice vote, the No's were in the majority. The Moderator remains.

Anita Craven was recognized and amended the article as follows: "Are you in favor of designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section of Paine Road as a "Class V Highway to Summer Cottages" (RSA 231:79-81): and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

1. *To close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10th and April 10th as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;*
2. *To have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;*
3. *In consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs to make the gravel section suitable for safe light travel;*
4. *To consider the installation of a speed bump(s) on the paved section of Paine Road; and*
5. *To appropriate and expend up to \$13,000 to accomplish the above work from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.*

Denys Draper seconded.

- *Anita Craven spoke to this Warrant and to the Amendment stating that the prime reason for the Amendment is to ensure easier access to the 6/10th gravel section of Paine Rd. and better maintenance and provisions for safety concerns.*
- *Ned Cutler addressed the liability issue and land development issue with a Class V road vs. a Class VI road and said the "Emergency Lane" designation made this section passable for emergency vehicles.*
- *Laura Spector-Morgan lent her understanding of what would constitute liability on a Class V road and Anita Craven added that there are many signs warning those using the 6/10th gravel section to use caution.*
- *Deb Stever and Roy Stever, separately, spoke about the cost monetarily and environmentally of paving Paine Rd.*
- *Roy Stever spoke of the gates solving a safety problem and the cost of creating a Class V Rd. with possible legal liability as a result.*
- *Kevin Low questioned why the Select Board was fighting the will of the people?*
- *Betty Noyes supported the Select Board and expressed her opinion that the 6/10 mile gravel section of Paine Rd. is safe for her vehicle.*
- *Anita Craven addressed liability by reading a definition stating, among other things, that a Town is liable if a safety hazard exists only if it is not reasonably discoverable and avoidable by a person using the Road in a reasonable and prudent and lawful manner. She stated that there are 11 warning signs on the Road now.*

- *Bob Craven and Bob Thibault reiterated that this Warrant Article Amendment does not call for paving Paine Road, but repairing it so that it is passable for safe light travel.*
- *Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article. Seconded by Bob Craven.*

The Moderator brought Article 10 to a voice vote. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 11. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to create a Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding any legal expenses the Town may incur. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to such fund; of this amount \$7,500.00 to come from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$7,500.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority Vote required)

Zak Mei moved to see if the Town will vote to create a Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding any legal expenses the Town may incur. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to such fund; of this amount \$7,500.00 to come from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$7,500.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Deb Stever seconded.

Bob Craven asked what the money would fund. Ned Cutler responded that it is for any legal advice or action that the Town would need, but not to fight Northern Pass (separate fund). The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12. Deposit Land Use Change Tax into Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5,111, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, 11. If adopted this article shall take effect March 10, 2016, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the Town Meeting. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Deb Stever moved to see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5,111, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, 11. If adopted this article shall take effect March 10, 2016, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the Town Meeting. Ned Cutler seconded.

Article 12 passed, without discussion, on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 13. To Fund the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ned Cutler moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of

\$500.00 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Zak Mei seconded.
Article 13 passed on a unanimous voice vote without discussion.

ARTICLE 14. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to the Town Roads' Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$10,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to the Town Roads' Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$10,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Deb Stever seconded.
Without discussion, Article 14 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 15. Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to add to the Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$1,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$2,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Deb Stever moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to add to the Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$1,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$2,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Ned Cutler seconded.
Bob Thibault raised the question why this funding is necessary since the Town just reclassified Paine Rd. and owners of property on Reel Brook have the maintenance responsibility.
Ned Cutler explained that the Town should have access to maintenance funds in case the Reel Brook property owner defaulted. Deb Stever further clarified. Tom Boucher moved the motion. Denys Draper seconded. Article 15 passed on a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 16. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ned Cutler moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Zak Mei seconded.
Bunny Ford pointed out that there is already \$48,000 in this fund. Having a "work weekend" to clean-up Town Hall including power washing the outside was mentioned.
Article 16 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 17. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

*Zak Mei moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Deb Stever seconded.
Without discussion, Article 17 passed on a unanimous voice vote.*

ARTICLE 18. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount \$2,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Deb Stever moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount \$2,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Ned Cutler seconded.

Ralph Brigida pointed out that there is \$30,000 in this fund. Ned Cutler responded that a great deal of money will be needed to fight Northern Pass during the SEC process. Town lawyer, Laura Spector-Morgan said spending \$30,000 for this process is entirely possible.

Article 18 passed on a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 19. Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle; of this amount \$25,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation and \$25,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ned Cutler moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle; of this amount \$25,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation and \$25,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Zak Mei seconded.

Bunny Ford questioned why so much money is appropriated since there is \$57,000 in this fund. Ned Cutler explained that this money would be used for the new tanker, and if the tanker is obtained through a grant, this money would go toward another needed fire engine.

Article 19 passed on a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 20. Purchase of a New Fire Department Tanker

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the Purchase of a New Fire Department Vehicle, with \$57,500.00 to come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and \$142,500.00 to come from FEMA assistance to Firefighters Grant. This Article is contingent on receipt of the grant. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the Purchase of a New Fire Department Vehicle, with \$57,500.00 to come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and \$142,500.00 to come from FEMA assistance to Firefighters Grant. This Article is contingent on receipt of the grant. Deb Stever seconded.

Article 20 passed on a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 21. Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Deb Stever moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Ned Cutler seconded.

Article 21 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 22. Town Information Sign

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase and install a Town Information Sign, to be located between the Fire Department and Town Hall; of this amount 50% or \$2,500.00, is to be raised from general taxation, with 50% or \$2,500.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ned Cutler moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase and install a Town Information Sign, to be located between the Fire Department and Town Hall; of this amount 50% or \$2,500.00, is to be raised from general taxation, with 50% or \$2,500.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. Zak Mei seconded.

Kevin O'Brien questioned how the other end of Town would benefit from this sign. John Hynes offered the suggestion that perhaps he and Bob Thibault could construct the sign, saving a considerable amount of money. The sandwich board signs would still be used.

Jim Collier called for a yes/no vote. Article 22 passed 26 to 18.

ARTICLE 23. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei moved to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Deb Stever seconded.

Article 23 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

ANY ADDITIONAL TOWN BUSINESS

- **Dennis Ford offered that if Northern Pass comes through and tears up Route 116, they should perhaps pay for repairs on Paine Rd. since Paine Rd. would provide an alternate route.**
- **Denys Draper expressed that the Library Trustees should not have appeared in the Annual Report since their term expires today.**
- **John Hynes informed the residents that in conjunction with Lafayette Recreation and Earth Day, there will be a clean-up effort next month. Purple trash bags will be provided for roadside debris. He asked if the Kinsman Valley Club could help get the word out.**
- **Ed O'Brien thanked all those who work on behalf of the Town.**
- **Denys Draper reminded everyone of the Lafayette and Profile Annual School Meetings scheduled for March 10th and March 17th.**
- **Ned Cutler thanked Butch Casey and Ralph Brigida for their service to Easton.**
- **Ellen Malessa reminded those gathered that Game Night is scheduled for March 18th.**
- **Laura Spector-Morgan was thanked for her legal service.**
- **Jim Collier thanked the residents for their confidence.**

Jim Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. Trish O'Brien seconded. The Easton Town Meeting came to a close!

Respectfully submitted,

**Toni Woodruff
Easton Town Clerk**

**March 28, 2016
Revised May 20, 2016 – Corrected Minutes**

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2016	Actual 2016	Estimated 2017
Taxes:			
3185 Yield Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	34,202.00	34,202.00	34,202.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	1,000.00	4,229.00	1,000.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	45,000.00	62,617.00	45,000.00
3230 Building Permits	500.00	1,500.00	500.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	200.00	1,821.00	200.00
3311-3319 From Federal Government	0.00	0.00	0.00
From State:			
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	13,444.00	13,444.00	13,444.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	8,714.00	8,714.00	8,714.00
3359 Other State Revenue	0.00	6,000.00	0.00
3379 From Other Governments	142,500.00	0.00	0.00
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	0.00	2,554.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3501 Sale of Municipal Property	0.00	672.00	0.00
3502 Interest on Investments	200.00	719.00	300.00
3503 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
Interfund Operating Transfer In:			
3915 From Capital Reserve Fund	57,500.00	0.00	0.00
3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Fund	13,000.00	35,194.00	0.00
Other Financing Sources:			
3934 Proceeds from Long Term Bonds and Notes	75,000.00	53,383.00	0.00
9998 Amount Voted From Fund Balance	57,000.00	57,000.00	26,500.00
9999 Estimated Fund Balance To Reduce Taxes	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Estimated Revenue & Credits	\$458,260.00	\$300,049.00	\$130,360.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2016	Actual 2016	Budgeted 2017
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 18,350.00	\$ 16,311.00	\$ 20,250.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics	14,200.00	14,027.00	12,500.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	12,700.00	9,203.00	12,750.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	7,300.00	7,205.00	6,000.00
4153 Legal Expenses	1.00	42,216.00	1.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	2,050.00	1,976.00	2,000.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	2,500.00	6,535.00	2,500.00
4194 General Government Buildings	12,200.00	9,098.00	13,100.00
4195 Cemeteries	1,800.00	1,660.00	1,900.00
4196 Insurance	6,000.00	2,434.00	3,200.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Association	1,900.00	1,852.00	1,970.00
4199 Other General Government	7,500.00	1,250.00	15,000.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	0.00	0.00	0.00
4215-4219 Ambulance	5,700.00	5,200.00	5,804.00
4220-4229 Fire	20,550.00	26,892.00	22,550.00
4240-4249 Building Inspections	600.00	0.00	250.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	650.00	282.00	650.00
4299 Other (including communications)	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	68,000.00	43,305.00	70,000.00
Sanitation:			
4321 Administration	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4323 Solid Waste Collection	0.00	0.00	0.00
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	23,587.00	23,587.00	28,719.00
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	300.00	0.00	300.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies & Hosp. & Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Welfare:			
4442 Welfare Direct Assistance	3,000.00	1,300.00	3,000.00
4449 Other Welfare and Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation	9,134.00	8,022.00	8,896.00
4550-4559 Library	0.00	0.00	1.00
4583 Patriotic Purposes	100.00	0.00	100.00
4589 Other Culture & Recreation	0.00	0.00	0.00

Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	1,000.00	739.00	1,750.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	3,000.00	3,000.00	7,700.00
4721 Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	<u>1,013.00</u>	<u>966.00</u>	<u>4,556.00</u>
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL	\$ 225,635.00	\$ 229,560.00	\$ 247,947.00

SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4915 To Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$10,000.00
4916 To Exp. Trust Fund	63,500.00	63,500.00	59,000.00
4153 Expert Testimony on Northern Pass	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
4902 Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	200,000.00	0.00	0.00
4903 Land (Ashton Property)	<u>75,000.00</u>	<u>54,708.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Special Articles Recommended	\$388,500.00	\$168,208.00	\$84,000.00

INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4312 Highway and Streets	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies, Hospital & Other	1,612.00	211.00	2,011.00
4449 Other Welfare & Donations	2,940.00	2,700.00	2,940.00
4449 Other Welfare & Donations	0.00	0.00	500.00
4450-4559 Library	450.00	450.00	450.00
4589 Other Culture & Recreation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4909 Improvements Other than Bldgs.	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>450.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Special Articles Recommended	\$11,002.00	\$4,811.00	\$9,001.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Prior Year	Prior Year	Ensuing Year
Operating Budget Recommended	\$225,635.00	\$229,560.00	\$247,947.00
Special Warrant Articles Recommended	388,500.00	168,208.00	84,000.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>11,002.00</u>	<u>4,811.00</u>	<u>9,001.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	625,137.00	402,579.00	340,948.00
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	<u>458,260.00</u>	<u>278,613.00</u>	<u>130,360.00</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$166,877.00	\$123,966.00	\$210,588.00

PROFIT & LOSS
January through December 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

3110-1	Property Tax Revenue	\$ 739,128.36
3186-0	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	34,202.00
3190-0	Penalties & Interest	4,229.45
3220-0	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles	62,617.00
3230-0	Building Permits	1,500.00
3290-0	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,820.50
3352-0	Rooms & Meals Tax	13,444.47
3353-0	Highway Block Grant	8,714.18
3359	Grant Money Received	6,000.00
3401-0	Income from All Departments	2,554.12
3402	Sale of Cemetery Lots	550.00
3501	Sale of Town Property	122.10
3502-0	Bank Interest	719.40
3508	Donations	8,000.00
3916-0	Transfers from Trust Funds	35,194.43
3934-0	Proceeds from Notes & Bonds	<u>53,382.97</u>

Total Income

\$972,178.08

Expense

4130-0	Executive	
4130100	Salaries - Selectmen, Moderator	9,450.00
4130150	Secretary Pay	1,170.00
4130300	Outside Services - Tax Maps	1,106.85
4130600	Office Expenses	<u>4,584.20</u>

Total 4130-0 Executive

16,311.05

4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

4140100	Salary - Town Clerk	6,000.00
4140150	Deputy Town Clerk	2,000.00
4140200	Fees - Town Clerk	484.56
4140500	Election & Voter Registration	4,818.66
4140600	Office & Miscellaneous	<u>723.51</u>

Total 4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

14,026.73

4150 Financial Administration

4150100	Salaries - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor	5,000.00
4150125	Financial Services	2,000.00
4150200	Fees & Miscellaneous	891.58
4150600	Office Expenses & Bank Charges	<u>1,310.63</u>

Total 4150 Financial Administration

9,202.21

4152-0 Revaluation of Individual Property

4152100	Revaluation	4,800.00
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4152200	Reval Software	1,143.00	
4152300	Reval of Individual Property	<u>1,261.55</u>	
Total 4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		7,204.55
4153-0	Legal Expenses		42,215.84
4155-22	Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes		1,976.40
4191-00	Planning & Zoning		6,535.22
4194-0	Government Buildings		
4194400	Utilities	5,319.90	
4194800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	3,327.92	
4194900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	<u>900.00</u>	
Total 4194-0	Government Buildings		9,547.82
4195-0	Cemetery		
4195900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>1,660.00</u>	
Total 4195-0	Cemetery		1,660.00
4196-0	Insurance		
4196100	Property Liability-NHMA	<u>2,434.00</u>	
Total 4196-0	Insurance		2,434.00
4197-0	Advertising & Regional Association		1,851.87
4199-0	General Government-Contingency		1,250.00
4215-0	Ambulances		5,199.96
4220-0	Fire Department		
4220100	Salary - Fire Chief	750.00	
4220110	Firefighters Call Pay	1,136.00	
4220200	Training, Dues, Other	1,070.00	
4220400	Utilities	3,284.18	
4220600	Office & Miscellaneous	759.06	
4220630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	5,861.43	
4220700	Equipment & Small Tools	8,373.84	
4220800	Building Maintenance & Supply	<u>5,657.75</u>	
Total 4220-0	Fire Department		26,892.26
4290	Emergency Management - Forest Fire		
4290100	Labor	162.54	
4290200	Training	<u>119.42</u>	
Total 4290	Emergency Management - Forest Fire		281.96
4299-0	Emergency Management – Communication		1,500.00
4312000	Highway Maintenance		
4312100	Highway Maintenance General	42,305.00	
4312000	Highway Maintenance - Other	<u>999.71</u>	
Total 4312000	Highway Maintenance		43,304.71

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 14, 2017**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-3. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

To act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

ARTICLE 2.

Are you in favor of making the following changes **indicated in bold** to the Easton Zoning Ordinances? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Ballot Vote)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Add the words

to protect water quality,

If approved, the first paragraph will read: “This Ordinance is designed to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of Easton, to protect the value of the property, to prevent the overcrowding of the land, to avoid undue concentration of population, to provide adequate air and light, **to protect water quality, and** to facilitate the adequate provisions of other public requirements.”

REASON: These words are on page 5 of the Master Plan, and in 604 C Groundwater Protection of the Zoning Ordinance.

ARTICLE 3.

Are you in favor of adding a new paragraph to the Easton Zoning Ordinances? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Ballot Vote)

ARTICLE VI – FUTURE USES

SEC 604 WETLANDS CONSERVATION & SURFACE WATERS OVERLAY DISTRICT

A. TITLE AND AUTHORITY

3. The word “District” as used in this Section is meant to define lands that exhibit the physical conditions described herein.

REASON: This adds clarity to the word “District” in the Heading.

ARTICLE 4. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$247,947 for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$20,250
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	\$12,500
Financial Administration	\$12,750
Revaluation of Individual Properties	\$6,000
Legal Expenses	\$1
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	\$2,000
Planning & Zoning	\$2,500
Government Buildings	\$13,100
Cemetery	\$1,900
Insurance	\$3,200
Advertising & Regional Associations	\$1,970
General Government – Contingency	\$15,000
Police Department	\$0
Ambulances	\$5,804
Fire Department	\$22,550
Building Inspections	\$250
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	\$650
Emergency Management – Other Public Safety	\$1,500
Highway Maintenance	\$70,000
Solid Waste	\$29,719
Animal & Pest Control	\$300
Welfare Assistance	\$3,000
Parks and Recreation	\$8,896
Library	\$1
Patriotic Purposes	\$100
Conservation Commission	\$1,750
Construction Bonds – Town Hall	\$5,681
Construction Bonds – South Common	\$6,575
<hr/>	
Total Operating Budget	\$247,947

INDIVIDUAL WARRANTS:

ARTICLE 5. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$500
North Country Home Health & Hospice	\$800
CASA	\$500
White Mountain Mental Health	\$211
<hr/>	
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$2,011

ARTICLE 6. Budget for Other Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,940 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

American Red Cross	\$100
Burch House	\$140
Center for New Beginnings	\$250
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$300
Tri-County CAP	\$2,150
	<hr/>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,940

ARTICLE 7. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	\$1,000
	<hr/>
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000

ARTICLE 8. Fee for Franconia Library

To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450 for payment to such library for this purpose. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

SPECIAL WARRANTS:

ARTICLE 9. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to add to the Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$10,000 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance with the remaining balance of \$10,000 is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 10. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 11. Payment for Expert Testimony Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project

To see if the Town will vote to contract for 2 years with George E. Sansoucy, P.E., LLC

of 89 Reed Road, Lancaster, NH to provide engineering consulting, valuation, regulatory analysis, expert testimony, and technical support to the Town and to representing the Town's position regarding the Northern Pass Project; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for payment of the services contained in the contract; of this amount \$7,500 to come from the unassigned fund balance with the remaining balance of \$7,500 to be raised from general taxation. This article is non-lapsing 12/31/18. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 12. Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 13. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance with the remaining balance of \$10,000 to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 14. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 15. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 16. Fire Dept. Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$2,500 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance with the remaining balance of \$7,500 to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 17. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 18. Animal Rescue Donation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for Above the Notch Animal Rescue; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 19. Street Number Signage Ordinance

Are you in favor of making the following addition **in bold** to the Easton Town Ordinances?

The purpose of this ordinance is to safeguard the health and safety of the residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town of Easton by providing clear and accurate street address information to police, fire and emergency medical responders who may be dispatched to the location in an emergency.

a. Owners of all commercial and residential buildings shall post the street address number of the building in a location that is clearly visible from the road during all seasons of the year. For buildings not readily visible from the street the assigned street number(s) shall be conspicuously displayed at the driveway entrance. Street address numbers posted on mailboxes meet the requirement of this ordinance if the mailbox is located in close proximity of the driveway to the building. Numbers placed on mailboxes shall be visible from both directions of travel. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 20. Street Number Signage Package Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 to purchase sign blanks, channel posts, and number packs for street number signage if needed; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 21. Town Information Sign

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to complete the purchase and installation of the Town Information Sign, to be located between the Fire Department and Town Hall; of this amount the entirety is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. (Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 22. Expert Highway Agent

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Select Board to appoint an expert highway agent pursuant to NH RSA 231:64, who, under the direction of the selectmen, shall have the same power and perform the same duties as a highway agent elected by the town. (Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 23. Blasting Ordinance

To see if the town will adopt a blasting ordinance that will require a 3 million dollar bond before blasting and forbids blasting within 500 feet of groundwater protection districts and 100 feet of wetlands. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 24. Borehole Sealing Standards

To see if the town will adopt the National Cooperative Highway Research Program standards for sealing of geotechnical boreholes, with requirement of a bond equal to that required by the DOT in the case of DOT approved borings, and the requirement that applicants are required and will be responsible for the expense of the Town hiring and independent expert to oversee the filling/sealing of boreholes. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 25. Horizontal Directional Drilling

To see if the Town will adopt an ordinance prohibiting Horizontal Directional Drilling within 500 feet of the Groundwater Protection district, prohibit use of drilling additives other than bentonite, and prohibit discharges of Horizontal Directional Drilling fluid to surface or ground waters. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE 26. Thermal Backfill

To see if the Town will adopt an ordinance prohibiting thermal backfill or thermal concrete containing coal ash within the groundwater protection district. All fluidizing agents must be approved by the town before thermal backfill may be used. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

4324-0	Solid Waste		
4324100	Administration	1,000.00	
4324200	Disposal	<u>23,587.00</u>	
Total 4324-0	Solid Waste		24,587.00
4415	Health Agencies & Hospitals		211.14
4442	Welfare Direct Assistance		1,300.00
4449	Other Welfare		
4449100	Other Welfare & Donations	<u>2,700.00</u>	
Total 4449	Other Welfare		2,700.00
4520	Parks and Recreation		
4520100	Administrative Fees	1,000.00	
4520200	Tri-Town Recreation Program	<u>7,022.39</u>	
Total 4520	Parks and Recreation		8,022.39
4589	Other Culture and Recreation		
4589900	Boys & Girls Club	<u>1,000.00</u>	
Total 4589	Other Culture and Recreation		1,000.00
4619	Other Conservation		739.40
4711	Construction Bond - Principal		3,959.19
4721	Construction Bond - Interest		6.56
4901	Land and Land Improvements		54,708.57
4902	Capital Expenses		450.00
4915	Transfer to Capital Reserve		50,500.00
4916	Transfer to Trust/Agency Funds		63,000.00
4931	County Taxes		109,918.00
4933100	Lafayette Regional School District		189,904.00
4933200	Profile School District		<u>270,482.00</u>
Total Expense			<u>972,882.83</u>
Net Ordinary Income			<u>(703.85)</u>
Net Income			<u><u>(\$703.85)</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1001 WGSB Checking Account

\$212,492.14

1002 WGSB Money Market Fund

123,198.59

Total Checking/Savings

335,690.73

Other Current Assets

1010.3 Cash on Hand

100.00

1080100 Property Taxes - Current Year

70,403.75

1110 Tax Liens Receivable

31,571.63

1310 Due from Trustees of Trust Funds

21,436.27

Total Other Current Assets

123,511.65

Total Current Assets

459,202.38

Other Assets

1670 Tax Deeded Property

1,442.97

Total Other Assets

1,442.97

TOTAL ASSETS

\$460,645.35

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2023 Property Taxes POA/Overpayments

\$ 1,364.81

2025 Withholding Taxes

3,892.79

2026 Bills Payable

18,295.68

2075 Due to School Districts

189,005.50

Total Other Current Liabilities

212,558.78

Total Current Liabilities

212,558.78

Total Liabilities

212,558.78

Equity

2450 Restricted Fund Balance – Conservation

709.85

2460 Committed Fund Balance

20,291.43

2490 Assigned Fund Balance

1,442.97

2530 Unassigned Fund Balance

226,346.17

Net Income

-703.85

Total Equity

248,086.57

TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY

\$460,645.35

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Bank Balance- January 1, 2016		\$ 199,848.60
Receipts:		
Tax Collector	\$869,011.84	
Town Clerk - Motor Vehicles, Fees, etc.	63,611.50	
From Federal & State Government	62,360.65	
From Capital Reserve Fund	2,554.12	
Bank Interest	719.40	
Other Sources	<u>29,998.92</u>	
Total 2016 Receipts		<u>1,028,256.43</u>
Total Available Receipts		\$1,228,105.03
Disbursements:		
Grafton County - County Taxes	\$109,918.00	
School Districts	427,383.50	
Selectmen Ordered Paid	<u>335,095.98</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$872,397.48</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016		\$355,707.55

**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS
2016 TAX RATE CALCULATION**

Town Portion		
Appropriation		\$625,137.00
Less Revenues		(391,260.00)
Less Fund Balance Used		(67,000.00)
Add War Service Credits		2,950.00
Add Overlay		<u>5,076.00</u>
Net Town Appropriation		174,903.00
School Portion		
Net Cooperative School Appropriations		460,386.00
Less Locally Retained State Education Tax		<u>(151,524.00)</u>
Net Local School Portion		308,862.00
State Education Tax		
State Education Tax		151,524.00
Less State Education Tax Not Retained		<u>0.00</u>
Net State Education Tax		151,524.00
Approved County Tax Effort		<u>109,918.00</u>
Total Property Taxes Assessed		745,207.00
Less War Service Credits		<u>(2,950.00)</u>
Total Property Tax Commitment		\$742,257.00

2015 Tax Rate			2016 Tax Rate		
		%			%
Town	\$ 2.61	23	Town	\$ 2.77	23
County	1.76	16	County	1.74	15
School	4.18	38	School	4.90	41
State	<u>2.56</u>	<u>23</u>	State	<u>2.44</u>	<u>21</u>
	\$11.11/1000	100%		\$11.85/1000	100%

2016 SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Value Land Only

Current Use	\$ 250,571.00
Residential Land	26,420,800.00
Commercial/Industrial Land	<u>166,700.00</u>
Total Of Taxable Land	\$26,838,071.00
Tax Exempt and Non Taxable Land	(20,711,000.00)

Value Buildings Only

Residential	34,948,198.00
Commercial/Industrial (excluding Utility Buildings)	<u>418,500.00</u>
Total of Taxable Buildings	35,369,500.00
Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Buildings	(281,800.00)

Utilities and Timber

Utilities	880,300.00
Valuations Before Exemptions	\$63,087,871.00
Exemptions Applied	<u>(20,000.00)</u>
Net Valuation	\$63,067,871.00
Less Utilities	(880,300.00)
Net Valuation without Utilities	\$62,187,571.00
Change in Net Valuation over 2015 (\$61,740,504.00)	\$ 447,067.00

TAX COLLECTOR

The Tax Collector's office is continuing with an initiative we began a few years ago. An Internet kiosk is available for you to look up taxes and view tax cards. This will greatly facilitate getting information, quickly, to those who express a need. The website is www.nhtaxkiosk.com.

As always, you can call the office (603-823-8017) Thursdays between 1:00 and 5:00 P.M. or stop in if you need more personal assistance or email eastontaxcollector@gmail.com.

Lisa Cutler
Easton Tax Collector

TAX COLLECTOR – SUMMARY OF WARRANTS
Levies of 2016 and Prior

	DEBITS		
	2016	2015	Levies of: 2014 Prior
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year:			
Property Taxes #3110	\$	\$79,867.76	
Prior Years' Credit Balance			
This Year's New Credits	(1,461.28)		
Taxes Committed This Year:			
Property Taxes #3110	746,907.00		
Yield Taxes #3185	0.00		
Overpayment Refunds:			
Interest - Late Tax #3190	<u>206.62</u>	<u>2,895.06</u>	<u> </u>
Total Debits	\$745,652.34	\$82,762.82	
	CREDITS		
Remitted To Treasurer:			
Property Taxes	\$670,560.78	\$60,858.76	
Yield Taxes			
Interest (include lien conversion)	206.62	2,481.06	
Penalties		414.00	
Conversion to Liens (Principal only)	19.56	19,009.00	
Abatements Made:			
Property Taxes	5,826.44		
Uncollected Taxes-End Of Year: #1080			
Property Taxes	70,403.75		
Property Tax Credit Balance*	<u>(1,364.81)</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Credits	\$745,652.34	\$82,762.82	

*This is the amount of taxes pre-paid for next year as authorized by RSA 80:52-a

SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

DEBITS

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Unredeemed Liens				
Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$0.00	\$ 0.00	\$18,036.58	\$1,630.54
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	0.00	20,903.97	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	<u>0.00</u>	<u>139.84</u>	<u>350.28</u>	<u>637.65</u>
Total Debits	\$0.00	\$21,043.81	\$18,386.86	\$2,268.19

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$0.00	\$ 3,780.11	\$1,636.61	\$1,630.54
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	0.00	139.84	350.28	637.65
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens	0.00	1,257.98	694.22	0.00
Unredeemed Liens End of FY #1110	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,865.88</u>	<u>15,705.75</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$0.00	\$21,043.81	\$18,386.86	\$2,268.19

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Motor Vehicle Registrations & Titles	\$62,734.00
Dog Registrations	575.00
Penalties	49.00
Copies	27.00
Marriage License & Certified Copies	85.00
Miscellaneous	<u>141.00</u>
Transferred to Town	\$63,611.00

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
August 16, 2016 Littleton, NH	Ashton Gavin Sheridan Crowe	Nelson Crowe Brown Katherine Crowe

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Date & Place Of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
May 20, 2016 Easton, NH	John Monaghan III Trisha Pinkham	Easton, NH Easton, NH
September 10, 2016 Bethlehem, NH	David J. Bogdziewicz Megan E. Audet	Easton, NH Easton, NH

DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Date & Place Of Death	Name & Surname Of Deceased
March 20, 2016 Littleton, NH	Helene Gottwick
March 26, 2016 Laconia, NH	Jean Kennard
June 11, 2016 Easton, NH	Emily Platt
June 26, 2016 Lancaster, NH	Shirley Place
July 12, 2016 Easton, NH	Priscilla Locke

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Woodruff, Town Clerk

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

December 31, 2016

Assessed Values:	
Land - Town Hall and Fire Station	\$ 90,500.00
Land - Deeded	15,200.00
Land - Cemetery	92,300.00
Building - Town Hall	247,200.00
Building - Fire Station	58,400.00
Estimated Values:	
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	18,900.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire Station	163,285.00
Furniture and Equipment - Library	2,200.00
Furniture and Equipment - Police	<u>800.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$688,785.00

SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT

December 31, 2016

	Principal
Original Amount	\$120,000.00
Balance December 31, 2015	40,407.00
Payments in 2016	<u>3,000.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2016	\$ 37,407.00

Note: Loan from the USDA Rural Development for the Town Hall addition dated December 14, 2001.

Town of Easton Report of Trust Funds

December 31, 2016

Funds	Type of Fund	Beginning Balance	Additions		Withdrawals	Ending Balance
			Principal	Interest		
Cemetery Maintenance	TRUST	\$ 13,090.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 16.43	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,107.04
Cemetery Maintenance	ETF	2,001.11	1,000.00	1.10	0.00	3,002.21
Conservation	CRF	1,003.45	500.00	0.55	0.00	1,504.00
Emergency Lane	ETF	4,001.15	3,500.00	2.90	565.00	6,939.05
Fire Dept. Equipment	CRF	60,456.04	50,000.00	71.34	0.00	110,527.38
Fire Dept. Major Equipment	ETF	16,415.98	10,000.00	33.18	0.00	26,449.16
Forest Fire	ETF	3,004.90	1,000.00	3.25	0.00	4,008.15
Legal Funds Northern Pass	ETF	22,618.22	7,500.00	49.40	16,449.93	13,717.69
Legal Funds Regular	ETF	0.00	15,000.00	12.70	14,545.61	467.09
Library	ETF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Town Roads Maintenance	ETF	112,411.71	15,000.00	364.04	0.00	127,775.75
Town Building Repairs	ETF	48,252.52	10,000.00	75.83	0.00	58,328.35

Library Trust Fund remains open with a zero balance pending ruling of New Hampshire Attorney General's Office.

A Trust Fund (TRUST) is a normal type fund. The Trustees share discretion over spending.

An Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) is a fund over which the Selectmen have discretion for spending.

A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a fund which needs Town vote to spend.

All of these Trust Funds must receive written application of Select Board and/or Trustees before any money is released from the fund, regardless of who has discretion over the actual spending.

EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2016 was another great year for the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department has once again proven its effectiveness and value to the Town of Easton and the many surrounding towns that Easton Volunteer Fire Department provides mutual aid to.

Easton Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 21 calls in 2016 and these calls are broken down as follows:

Fire Alarm Activations	(3)	Trees on Power Lines	(3)	Propane leak	(1)
Motor Vehicle Accidents	(7)	Structure Fires	(3)	Welfare Checks	(2)
Forest/Brush Fires	(2)				
Mutual Aid Calls:		Franconia	(2),	Landaff	(2),
		Sugar Hill	(1)	Lincoln	(1)

The efforts put forth by the Department to obtain a grant to replace the home built tanker were unsuccessful. The Department will continue to vigorously pursue any and all grant opportunities that are available. We have had success in the past and will again in the future.

Easton Fire Department has continued to pursue training opportunities whenever possible as with the Ashton house for hands on smoke drills and interior fire fighting techniques. Which will help our interior firefighters to be prepared if the unfortunate structure fire occurs.

The Easton Fire Department is always looking for new members (male & female) to join the Department. We need all types of volunteers; you do not necessarily need to charge into burning buildings. We need help operating equipment, fire engines and other fire fighting apparatus. In addition to fighting fires, we typically respond to reports of downed power lines and traffic accidents. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chief Art Rainville at 823-9558 or Deputy Chief Darrel Gearhart at 823-7152 or stop by the Fire Department during one of our meetings which take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.

All of the Firefighters of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of your support and we Thank You for allowing us to serve our great community. We stand ready to respond when called to action.

Respectfully submitted,

The Easton Volunteer Firefighters
Art Rainville, Chief

EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET-2016

Expenditure	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	4220	
Fire Chief's Salary	100	\$ 750.00
Fire Fighters Call Pay	110	3,200.00
Training, Dues, Other	200	1,000.00
Utilities	400	4,500.00
Office and Miscellaneous	600	800.00
Truck Inspection, Maintenance and Repair	630	5,000.00
Truck Fuel	636	1,000.00
Equipment and Small Tools	700	4,500.00
Building Maintenance and Supplies	800	<u>1,800.00</u>
TOTAL		\$22,550.00
Emergency Management/Forest Fire	4290	
Labor	100	\$ 500.00
Training	200	<u>150.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL		\$23,200.00

CEMETERY TRUSTEES REPORT

The year 2016 has been a relatively quiet one for the cemetery trustees.

- In May, we held our traditional Memorial Day Service.
- The trustees have made the decision that instead of fencing the cemetery, we will consult with our Grafton County Forester and plant trees along at least two of the sides of the cemetery. This allows any wildlife to move through freely and, when grown to sufficient height, will allow the cemetery relative seclusion. This is important for those having services there, or those visiting the graves of loved ones.
- The trustees have the blue prints for the kiosk to be built and it will, in all likelihood be completed by 2018.
- Other projects in the works include a new flagpole with solar lighting so that we may legally fly the flag at night.
- If you wish to buy a cemetery lot, please make sure to fill out all paperwork at the town hall. This makes it much easier for all involved. A trustee will be happy to go to the cemetery with you so you may see the available lots, but all paperwork must be completed at the town hall so that records remain consistent and accurate.

Please feel free to contact one of the trustees or the town clerk if you have questions. We will all be more than happy to help you.

Denys Draper
Richard Larcom
Kristina Pastoriza

EASTON PLANNING BOARD

The Easton Planning Board began its year at the April 2016 meeting by welcoming new member, Denys Draper. Sam Brown agreed to serve as an alternate along with Anita Craven and Tom Boucher. Jim Collier was nominated and elected Chairman of the Board. After the reorganization, it was time to address the needs and concerns of Easton as they applied to subdivisions and land use, zoning ordinances, and initial plans for a Capital Improvement Program.

Subdivisions and Land Use

The Board worked with Chance Stith (as agent for David and Michelle Kenney) on a minor subdivision of their property. The subdivision was approved by the Board and registered at the Grafton County Registry of Deeds

Many land owners attended meetings to ask questions and receive answers and guidance regarding their property. Residents and non-residents having an interest in Easton are encouraged to join the Planning Board on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall!

Capital Improvement Program

At Town Meeting, the Planning Board was directed, by the approval of a Warrant Article, to begin and complete the process of creating a Capital Improvement Plan for Easton. After research and consultation with the North Country Council, the Board presented their Plan at a Public Hearing held on January 5, 2017.

Zoning Ordinances

The Board reviewed the Town's Zoning Ordinances for possible revisions and presented their findings at a Public Hearing on January 5, 2017. Five members of the community were present and thoughtful discussion and deliberation took place. The Board will initiate two considerations for minor Zoning changes, to the public, at Town Meeting, and will continue the process of refining this important document throughout the coming year.

The Planning Board thanked Sam Brown for his time and service (as he and his family move to Bethlehem, NH) and also thank all who participated this past year. Here is to a productive 2017!

James Collier – Chairman
Gary Harwood
Phillip Reeder
Denys Draper
Zhenye Mei (Ex Officio)

Anita Craven (Alternate)
Sam Brown (Alternate)
Tom Boucher (Alternate)
Toni Woodruff (Secretary)

EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

We have limited our activities, for the most part, to efforts to hold Northern Pass accountable, with the geotechnical boring and other issues before the NH Site Evaluation Committee. We have sent letters to DOT, WMNF, DES and Northern Pass regarding geotechnical boring and other Northern Pass issues. Northern Pass is claiming a 66' ROW through Easton, and we have been active in research regarding ROW widths on Routes 112 and 116. We have submitted pre-filed testimony to the NH Site Evaluation Committee charged with making the decision on Northern Pass.

Kris Pastoriza, Chair
Roy Stever, Member
Deborah Stever, Member

Finn Goodwin, Member
Carl Lakes, Member
Steve Sabre, Alternate



**Caledonia Essex Area Ambulance
Service Inc.
Town Report
Easton
2016 CALEX Responses 20**

Another busy year providing Emergency Services in our region. CALEX continues to provide the highest quality of pre hospital care to all the towns we serve providing 911 coverage at the Paramedic level 24/7/365. Serving 12 towns in Vermont & New Hampshire – Saint Johnsbury, Waterford, Barnet, Concord, Kirby, Victory, Danville, Peacham, Walden and in New Hampshire – Littleton, Sugar Hill, and Easton.

We responded to 30 calls for service in the Town of Easton, up from 2015 of 20 responses. Our busiest day is Monday and our busiest time is from 0900-1200. Our average response time for our entire service area in our NH operation is little over eight minutes. Overall for our agency both VT & NH we responded to 3,667 up slightly from 2015. CALEX provided 782 inter-facility transports throughout the year, 266 were NH destination transfers. CALEX continues to provide emergent and non-emergency transports from Littleton Regional Hospital to various facilities across the state.

The system creates many challenges as we have overall low volume and a high no transport rate. This financially creates a high cost of readiness, as close to 400 of our NH responses were non-billable.

CALEX St. Johnsbury continues to serve as the area’s American Heart Association CPR and First Aid Public Training Center. Classes are offered monthly to the public, they can also be arranged to be held privately, and are also held for large and small businesses throughout the Kingdom. Of course, having seen first-hand the positive difference immediate CPR and First Aid can make to patient outcomes, we urge everyone, from teens to seniors to take part in these classes. Imagine the joy in knowing you made the difference in saving a life, easing fears, and/or discomfort. Those who have been able to make the difference in even the life of a stranger will tell you how wonderful the experience truly is. Visit us at www.calexambulance.org to sign up today! We have also begun an annual EMT/AEMT/Paramedic refresher training program for area folks who need to maintain the requirement for recertification and ongoing training.

As we end 2016, I look forward to another successful year of providing the very best of pre hospital care to our communities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced team providing care for when it is needed to anyone who may need our service in the communities we serve.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our staff, their families, and the CALEX Board of Directors and our dedicated dispatchers for their continued support and dedication to the Agency’s mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Wright, NREMT-P
Chief Executive Officer

FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD/AMBULANCE

The Franconia Ambulance currently has three (3) members who are certified to provide Advanced Life Support, two (2) of whom are nationally registered paramedics. The Franconia Ambulance at years' end, has eleven (11) active members. A membership well prepared to assist our citizens and the visitors to our area with quality emergency medical care.

All members are Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians. They are continually training and improving their skills. Each member must have a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education each year for a total of 40 hours after two years, at which time they must reapply for their national certification and state license.

Many of the members have other specialized training including ice rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue and motor vehicle extrication certifications. All of our members are certified in advanced CPR and in the use of the heart monitor and defibrillator. Most importantly, all of our members are dedicated to providing compassionate emergency medical care from the scene to the hospital.

The Ambulance Service continues to seek its' membership from the surrounding area by recruiting from the towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton, the same communities it provides service to. Anyone willing to volunteer is welcome to apply for membership. Each member is dedicated to providing the highest quality emergency care to the communities we serve.

The current list of active members of the Franconia Ambulance are:

Chief Paul Schmucker EMT

Asst. Chief Mark Taylor EMT

Capt. Pam Oakman Paramedic

William Mead Paramedic

Allan Clark EMT

Bill Blackwell AEMT

Ned Wilson EMT

Susan Simpson EMT

William McCarthy EMT

Zach Chicoine EMT

Jeffrey Collins EMT

The Franconia Ambulance responded to 295 calls for assistance during 2016, of those 176 required transport.

In 2016, the total operating expenses for the Franconia Ambulance were \$81,216.89. While income obtained from patient billing and subsidies from Sugar Hill and Easton totaled \$96,482.89. The net cost for the operation of the Franconia Ambulance to the Town of Franconia being no cost and a surplus of **\$15,266.35** was returned to the town. Your Ambulance is currently operating at the Advanced Life Support- paramedic level. Again, I sincerely thank the townspeople for their continued support and the privilege of serving them. And I especially thank the men and women of the Franconia Ambulance for their countless hours of dedication and sacrifice, serving others in their community in their time of need.

In closing, I would like to pay homage to one of Franconia Ambulances' founding fathers Joel Peabody. Who recently passed away at the all too young age of 70. Joel had the vision and foresight to see the need for medically trained residents to respond to calls of assistance from their neighbors in their growing community. And during his life contributed his time and energies toward that goal and the continued growth of that Ambulance service and the idea of neighbor helping neighbor.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schmucker-Chief
Franconia Life Squad

TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

2016, the tragic year we lost Donald "Chippa" Dimick. He was a good friend and a credit to this community. He will be greatly missed. Corey Rush also left the Transfer Station. He is now working with the Town's Grounds and Maintenance Department. To fill the void, we have hired Eric Rasmussen and Seth Raynor.

Recycled Commodities:

Newsprint	20.86 Tons
Cardboard	64.85 Tons
Mixed Paper & Magazines	63.92 Tons
Aluminum	3.31 Tons
Tin Cans	5.22 Tons
Plastic	13.31 Tons
Glass	109.62 Tons
Scrap Metal	39.74 Tons
Tires	1.73 Tons
Electronics	5.94 Tons
Fluorescent Bulbs	7500 Ft.
Batteries	123 Unit
Textiles	6.14 Tons

Tri-Town Recycling Rate 43.3%

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Wells, Manager
Kevin Dauphine
Seth Raynor

LAFAYETTE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Lafayette Recreation had a busy and fun 2016, chockful of events, sports, and activities for all ages. The Committee works hard to provide recreational opportunities to the residents of Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton, and we're continually striving to expand our activities in ways that engage our communities.

In 2016 Lafayette Rec. hosted twice weekly adult basketball and Zumba programs and partnered with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire to host a variety of events. We also continued our work to make Old Home Day, Earth Day roadside cleanup, and Halloween happenings successful community events. Holiday events included caroling through downtown Franconia, including a stop at the Lafayette Center, and a First Night party at the ice rink.

Our youth programs continue to engage children from all three member towns. We had 58 children involved in our baseball and softball teams last spring, 15 in the trail running program, 88 playing soccer, and 55 now involved in basketball. During the summer 60 Lafayette students – more than half of the school's enrollment – joined us for the Summer Recreation program, visiting many of our area's fun spots, taking swim lessons, and learning about bike safety.

In addition to these regular programs the Lafayette Recreation Department, in collaboration with other organizations and with a dedicated corps of volunteers, hosts the annual Top Notch Triathlon, Halloween Cup youth soccer tournament, Wobble-N-Gobble fun run, and the Franconia Scramble Color Run. Proceeds from these events have provided important funding through the years to improve and maintain the skating rink, build and maintain the gazebo at Dow Park, and create countless other positive changes and improvements to our recreational programs and infrastructure.

We continue to strive to offer an array of programs and activities for residents of all ages in our communities and welcome ideas. The Lafayette Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month in the conference room at Lafayette Regional School, and residents are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Lafayette Committee Members

Franconia: Adam Boyer, Meghan McPhaul, and Frank Pinter

Sugar Hill: Haley Ireland and Launa Glover

Easton: Matt Koehler and John Hynes

Lafayette Regional School: Gordie Johnk

Kris Kappler, Youth Program Director

Kim Cowles, Parks & Recreation Director

TOWN OF EASTON

FEES

(As of January 2017 - Subject to Change)

Building Permit Fee

New Residence: Varies, see building permit
New electric and/or plumbing in existing building: Varies, see building permit
No electrical or plumbing in new construction (requires 1 inspection): \$150
All others that require no inspection: \$5.00

9-1-1 Building Numbering

\$30.00

Current Use Application

\$20.00

Driveway Permit for Town Roads

\$20.00

Reappraisal Charges

\$45.00

Subdivision Application Fees

Minor and Major Subdivisions: \$200.00
Plus \$10.00 per Abutter
This Covers All Filing Fees

Minor Lot Line Adjustment and/or Boundary Agreement: \$10.00

Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances

Available on the Town of Easton Website
www.townofeastonnh.org
Paper Copies for Review Available at Town Hall

Copies

Taxpayers - \$0.10 per page
Non-Taxpayers - \$0.25 per page
Non-Resident Tax Card - \$2.00

Faxes

\$1.00 per page

*Clerical Time to Meet Miscellaneous Information Requests
\$25.00 per Hour, Payable Before Information Is Released.*

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police – Fire – Medical Emergency
9-1-1

New Hampshire State Police – Troop F
846-3333

Fire Chief
Art Rainville – 823-9558

Deputy Fire Chief
Darrel Gearhart – 823-7152

Fire Wardens
Warden – Art Rainville – 823-9558
Deputy – Darrel Gearhart – 823-7152
Deputy – Edward Cutler – 823-5050
Deputy – Zhenye Mei – 823-7264

Town Clerk and Tax Collector
Town Hall Telephone – 823-8017
Town Hall Fax – 823-7780

Hours
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
and by appointment

A license for all dogs is required by May 1, 2017

**A current rabies certificate is required, in Easton,
in order to license a dog**

NOTES

Select Board Meetings for 2017

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	*5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	*6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				*1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	*6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	*3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	*5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Select Board Meetings – 6:00 p.m. every other Monday evening.

Meetings on New Years (Observed), MLK day, and Columbus Day are rescheduled for the next day (Tuesday).

***Planning Board Meetings** – 7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each month.

Department Head Meetings with the Select Board – by request.

Town of Easton
1060 Easton Valley Road
Easton, NH 03580