

**Town of Cooper
Annual Town Meeting
March 27, 2006
Grange Hall**

7:00 P.M. The Cooper Annual Town Meeting comes to order with Kathleen Hull, Town Clerk, presiding.

ARTICLE 1. Diane Tilton and Neal Hallee are nominated to be Moderator for this meeting. Diane Tilton is elected by a vote of 29 to 19. Diane Tilton comes forward to be sworn in by the Clerk.

ARTICLE 2. Terry Viselli is nominated and unanimously elected as Town Clerk. Terry Viselli is sworn in by the moderator.

ARTICLE 3. Jon Reisman refers to the notes in the Annual Town Report. He reports that the Senate of the Maine State Legislature has on this day voted against granting Cooper authority to vote on whether or not it will deorganize.

ARTICLE 4. Jon Reisman and Stuart Shotwell are nominated for First Selectman. Stuart Shotwell is elected by a vote of 30 to 27.

Jeff Crowe and Jon Reisman are nominated as Second Selectman; Jon Reisman declines. Jeff Crowe is elected without opposition.

Bob Von Rotz is nominated and elected without opposition. It is decided to swear in the officers at the close of the Meeting.

ARTICLE 5. Chris McCormick, Dan Ackley, and Lynn Brown are nominated and elected unopposed as First, Second, and Third Assessors respectively.

ARTICLE 6. Kathy Keen is nominated and elected unopposed as Town Treasurer.

ARTICLE 7. Angela Boisvert and Kathy Keen are nominated and elected unopposed for the Superintending School Committee, Angela Boisvert to fill a two-year term vacancy and Kathy Keen for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 8. The Town votes to pay the Town Clerk \$750 for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 9. The Town votes to pay \$4,500 for the collection of taxes and \$5,500 to be in reserve for equipment.

ARTICLE 10. Terry Viselli and Kathy Keen are nominated as Collector of Taxes for the ensuing year; Kathy Keen declines. Terry Viselli is elected unopposed.

ARTICLE 11. John Viselli is nominated and elected unopposed as Constable for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 12. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$4,700 for Municipal Solid Waste, including the Marion Transfer Station and maintenance of the closed Town dump.

ARTICLE 13. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$65,000 for Highways and Bridges for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 14. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$50 for Town Welfare for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 15. The Town votes to raise and appropriate excise taxes plus balance from the General Fund, estimated at \$21,000, for Administrative and Contingent Expenses for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 16. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$1600 for the care of cemeteries for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 17. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$2500 for maintenance of the Cooper Volunteer Fire Department for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 18. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$100 for domestic violence services.

ARTICLE 19. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$500 for the Town Recreation, including maintenance and sanitary services for the Town Beach area.

ARTICLE 20. The Town votes to have all taxes due and payable at a certain date, and interest charged on all taxes unpaid thereafter.

ARTICLE 21. The Town votes down a motion to fix the date and interest mentioned in Article 20 at November 30 and 6.5 to 6.75 respectively. The Town votes unanimously to fix said date as November 30 and interest rate as the maximum set by the state, to be ascertained at a later time.

ARTICLE 22. The Town votes to pay the Town Labor at state scale for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 23. The Town votes, with two votes opposed, to authorize the Selectmen to sell any land on which the Town holds tax liens and on which the liens have expired.

ARTICLE 24. The Town votes down a motion, with nine votes opposed, to pay the First, Second, and Third Selectmen \$500, \$250, and \$250 respectively for the ensuing year. The Town votes to keep the payment the same as last year: \$1500, \$750, and \$750 respectively.

ARTICLE 25. The Town votes to pay the First, Second, and Third Assessor for the ensuing year at the same rate as the previous year: \$1500, \$750, and \$750 respectively.

ARTICLE 26. The Town votes to pay the Treasurer \$1600 for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 27. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Cathance Lake Association.

ARTICLE 28. The Town votes to pass the following resolution: Resolved that the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen or a majority thereof, he/she and they are hereby authorized to borrow from time to time in anticipation of taxes for the taxable year commencing April 1, 2006, a total sum not to exceed \$30,000.00 and for such purpose to issue and sell the Promissory Note or Notes of the Town, Note or Notes to be in such form to bear interest at such Note, and to be payable at such date, within the taxable year in which they are issues as the Selectmen or a majority thereof may approve and be paid out of money raised by taxation during the year, the money from the notes to be used for the purposes for which the Town may legally incur debt.

ARTICLE 29. The Town votes to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50 to support the services of the Washington County Children's Program for children with disabilities.

ARTICLE 30. The Town votes to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50 to support the Washington County Association for Retarded Citizens for adults with disabilities.

ARTICLE 31. The Town votes, with one opposed, to raise and appropriate \$4,000 plus balance from General Fund for Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance for all Town employees and Town officers.

ARTICLE 32. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Washington-Hancock Community Agency.

ARTICLE 33. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$1000 in order that ambulance services at private expense be available to the Town of Cooper.

ARTICLE 34. The Town votes, by a vote of 26 to 14, to raise and appropriate \$300 for Septic Services.

ARTICLE 35. The Town votes to authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 1/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the Town of Cooper during the period from March 1, 2007 to the Cooper Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 36. The Town votes, with five opposed, to authorize the Selectmen to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA 2953.

ARTICLE 37. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Dennys River Watershed Council.

ARTICLE 38. The Town votes to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature.

Education Subsidies	EST	\$70,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing	EST	\$7,200
Local Road Assistance	EST	\$12,000
Snowmobile Registration Fund	EST	\$50
Gasoline Tax Refund	EST	\$400
Tree Growth Reimbursement	EST	\$377
General Assistance Reimbursement		
Veterans Reimbursement	EST	\$101
Property Tax Relief	EST	\$313

During discussion, Jon Reisman reports that the newest estimate of State Education Subsidies is \$113,000.

ARTICLE 39. The Town authorizes the Selectmen to transfer money (estimated at \$50) reimbursed by the State of Maine from Snowmobile Registration to the Breakneck Mountain Snow Riders Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining local trails.

ARTICLE 40. The Town votes to authorize the Tax Collector to accept advance taxes for FY 2007.

ARTICLE 41. The Town votes, 23 to 16, not to form a committee of 5 voting taxpayers for the purpose of organizing the procedures and guidelines pertaining to a not-for-profit “Private Beach Association of Cooper” to present the Town for approval at the next Town meeting. The town votes to form a committee of taxpayers to be chosen by the Selectmen for the purpose of organizing the procedures and guidelines pertaining to the Cooper Town Beach to present to the Town for approval at the next Town meeting.

ARTICLE 42. The Town votes not to authorize the Selectmen to sell the Town Beach to the highest bidder with a reserve price of \$75,000.

ARTICLE 43. The Town votes not to hire an assessment firm to reevaluate the entire town at current value under this article.

ARTICLE 44. The Town votes not to raise and appropriate up to \$22,000 to pay a private firm for reassessment under this Article 45.

ARTICLE 45. The Town votes to raise and appropriate \$10,000 and raise the balance from surplus for an outside assessment to take place if the Town does not deorganize. (Estimated total cost of reassessment is \$25,000–\$30,000.)

ARTICLE 46. The Town votes to allow the Treasurer to pay the School warrant after it has been reviewed, approved, and authorized by the School Board and to send a copy to the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 47. The Town votes, by 26 to 19, not to join the Washington County Council of Governments and raise and appropriate \$250 to pay for membership.

ARTICLE 48. The Town votes to elect a committee to study options for substantially reducing winter maintenance costs under the supervision of the road commissioner.

ARTICLE 49. The Town votes to direct the Selectmen and the heads of other committees to distribute minutes and agendas by (1) e-mail to those who subscribe by submitting their e-mail addresses and (2) by leaving extra copies at Cathance Lake Variety.

ARTICLE 50. The Town votes, with one opposed, against the article to discontinue winter road maintenance on Route 191.

ARTICLE 51. The Town votes, with one opposed, not to discontinue winter road maintenance on the Vining Road, the Crowe Road, Breakneck Mountain Road, Grove Pond Road, the unpaved portion of East Ridge Road and the Dodge Road.

ARTICLE 52. The Town votes, with 7 opposed, not to vote in a non-binding secret ballot to deorganize.

ARTICLE 53. The Town votes to transfer \$1500 from the Documents Grant Account to participate with the Town of Alexander and The Alexander-Crawford Historical Society for the addition of storage space to the Alexander Municipal Building for Town historical documents.

Approximately 10:15 P.M. The Officers are sworn in as the meeting is adjourned.
Given under our hands this 4th day of April, 2006.

Terry Viselli, Town Clerk
corrected 4/10/06