

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF RUMNEY  
MINUTES OF THE WARRANT for  
2015 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

Residents were hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls opened for balloting on Article 1 and closed at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and were hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action was taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Meeting officially opened at 7:08 pm with the pledge allegiance. A letter written by Anne Dow was read as follows:

Thoughts on Town Meeting

“Town Meeting is the most important event in our town each year. It is when the voters (the legislative body) get together to debate, discuss and ultimately decide how the town will operate in the coming year. The Board of Selectmen (the governing body) carry out those decisions voted in at town meeting throughout the year. Town Meeting is often referred to as the “purest form of democracy”, and we are fortunate to be able to exercise it. One of the most important things we do by attending town meeting each year is to hopefully demonstrate to the younger members of our community the importance of this event and show them that supporting democracy in this way does take effort and active participation to make it work. Town meeting is our opportunity each year to speak, listen, learn, debate and understand the options available to us to determine the direction our town will go in during the coming year and beyond.”

Moderator James Buttolph gave a lesson from history on the Library. There was a warrant article in 1905 to see if the Town would raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Library. The library was as important then as it is now. We will be voting on an article to raise money to further preserve our historic library and make it handicap accessible and provide bathroom accessibility.

The following is from an article Anne Dow came across several years ago and saved it. She thought it would be a nice way to start a town meeting. With her impending departure, she has been going through her files and found it again and forwarded it to Moderator Jim Buttolph for use some day. He agreed to include it this year.

*Welcome to Town Meeting*

*We have come together in civil assembly, as a community, in a tradition that is older than our state itself.*

*We come together to make decisions about our community.*

*As we deliberate, let us advocate for our positions, but not at the expense of others.*

*Let us remember that there is an immense gap between saying “I am right” and saying “I believe I am right.”*

*And that our neighbors with whom we disagree are good people with hopes and dreams as true and as high as ours.*

*Let us always remember that, in the end, caring for each other, in this community, is of far greater importance than any differences we may have.*

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 10th): The results of the official ballot which was voted on March 10<sup>th</sup> was read.

Selectman for 3 years  
Treasurer for 1 year

Edward Haskell - 197  
Rita Wilkin - 207

Library Trustee for 3 years  
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years  
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years  
Fire Commissioner for 3 years

Vacant  
Deborah Maes - 194  
Kathryn Sobetzer - 200  
Tim Lewis – 122 Write In  
Mark Andrew – 40 Write In  
David Saad – 117  
Brian Flynn – 184  
Cameron Brown - - 41 Write In

(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$322,500 for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library to make it accessible to the disabled; and of this total, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$224,000 in bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further, to authorize the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Merrill Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998); and further, to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$20,000 from the Library Endowment Funds; and further, to apply for and expend \$28,500 from a grant through “LCHIP/Mitigation Funds”; and finally, to authorize the Town and/or Library Trustees to apply for, receive and expend other grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount of

the bonds or notes. The first bond payment would not be due until 2016. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (2/3 ballot vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 2 was read, a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded. An amendment was proposed by Tom Wallace, Library Trustee. The amendment was written as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,500 to construct and furnish an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library to make it accessible to the disabled and more fire safe and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$219,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998); to authorize the use of \$28,500 from a grant from the "Mitigation Funds" available to the Town as a result of the permit granted for the Groton Wind Project as administered by the State of New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) office; and to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw and expend \$25,000 of fundraising and other Library Endowment Funds held by the Library; all for this purpose. Also, to authorize the Town and Library Trustees to apply for, receive and expend grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount of bonds or notes. The first bond payment would not be due until 2016. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (2/3 ballot vote required)

The amendment passed by voice vote.

The article as amended passed by voice vote no nays recorded.

Discussion was that it will be a five year bond. Question was asked how this would impact the taxes. Selectman Haskell stated it would amount to about \$29.65 per one hundred thousand of property value.

The vote was done by secret ballot. Voting was held open for one hour. The count was found in favor of the amended article. **YES 116 NO 18. A 2/3 ballot vote was satisfied.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$322,500 for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library to make it accessible to the disabled; and of this total, to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$50,000 from the Merrill Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998); and further, to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$20,000 from the Library Endowment Funds; and further, to apply for and expend \$28,500 from a grant through "LCHIP/Mitigation Funds"; with the remaining sum of \$224,000 to be raised by general taxation; in addition, the Town and/or Library Trustees are authorized to apply for, receive and expend other grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation under this article. The Selectmen do not recommend this article. (Majority vote required.) **(It is the intent of the Selectmen that if Article 2 passes, no action should be taken on Article 3).**

**ACTION:** Article 3 was read, a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Because Article 2 passed the intent of the Selectmen was that no action be taken on Article 3.

**ARTICLE 4:** To choose three members for the **Advisory Committee:**

- 1 for a 3-year term from the Lake area
- 1 for a 3-year term from West Rumney
- 1 for a 1-year term from Quincy

**ACTION:** Article 2 was read, a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Tim Lewis was nominated, seconded and all voted in favor to represent the Lake Area and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast a single vote for Tim Lewis.

The West Rumney had 3 nominees so a secret ballot was called for.

The results were Roger Daniels as the winner with 59 votes, Lianne Vallieres with 31 votes and Arthur Morrill with 14 votes.

There were two nominees for the Quincy Area another secret ballot was taken and Robert Berti was the winner with 72 votes and Gerald Thibodeau had 23 votes.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$464,762** to defray the following **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 77,578
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 66,735
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 2,000
Financial Administration	\$ 34,039
Legal Expenses	\$ 49,200
Health Insurance	\$153,370
Planning Board	\$ 4,796
General Government Buildings	\$ 38,000
Street Lights	\$ 8,300
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 28,894
Regional Association Dues	\$ 1,850
<b>Total General Government Expenses</b>	<b>\$464,762</b>

**ACTION:** Article 5 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,500** for the purpose of painting the Highway Garage and to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw up to \$6,500 from the Town Facilities' Fund (established in 1987) with no amount to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 6 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** for **Assessing Services** and **Tax Map updates** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 7 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Article was passed by voice vote all in favor except for one nay. Question was asked about the cost and answered as follows: Last year was the final year in the 4-year revaluation process This year the assessing will consist of handling the "pick-ups" (changes reported on the annual inventory forms) subdivisions, current use, etc. The actual measuring and listing for the 2019

reevaluation will resume next year. \$8,000 of this amount is for the annual utility assessing by George Sansoucy.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** for the purpose of **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 8 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$31,810** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$6,150 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds and \$25,660 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 9 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,000** for the purpose of repairing the stone wall and gates at the Highland North Cemetery. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 10 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$198,990** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 11 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$203,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	40,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	40,000
Town Revaluation Fund (1984)	20,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	8,000
Town Facilities' Fund (1987)	20,000
Transfer Station Compactor Fund (2005)	4,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	3,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	30,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	8,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	25,000
Cemetery Improvement Fund (2014)	<u>5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$203,000</b>

**ACTION:** Article 12 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$42,000** to purchase a **police cruiser** to replace the 2007 cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of up to

\$42,000 from the Police Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1986). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 13 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 14 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,315** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 200
Emergency Management	<u>\$ 5,615</u>
<b>Total Safety, E-911 &amp; Emg Mgt</b>	<b>\$ 7,315</b>

**ACTION:** Article 15 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
Ray Valentin resigned earlier this year as Emergency Management Director; Mark Andrew has been appointed to the position. With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$70,019** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 16 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,900** to defray the cost of **purchasing two (2) new portable radios** and **two (2) new pagers** to replace out-of-warranty equipment and for **purchasing three (3) new sets of protective clothing** and **five (5) new Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles** to replace EXPIRED bottles for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$4,900 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2009) with the remaining funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 17 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000** so the Fire Department can **complete the repairs on the dry hydrant** located at the New England Fellowship. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 18 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,556** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 19 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$252,745** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 20 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road Improvements** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 21 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
The plan is to continue paving on Buffalo Road; distance depends on cost at the time  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$143,098** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 22 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,348** to defray the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,248) and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 23 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,200** to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 24 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

Selectmen Lewis gave a brief explanation about the article

Permit was renewed by DES for another five years

Monitoring report requirements were modified from twice a year to once a year and the Periodic Summary Report will be due in 2017

Since 2003, \$50,150 has been spent on the required monitoring

Tom Duffield continues as our engineer

With no further discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,887** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	2,050
Health Officer Stipend, etc.	946
Health Administration	400
Mount Mooselaukee Health Center	1,250
Pemi-Baker Community Health	4,250
Voices Against Violence	1,000

Bridge House	1,750
Genesis	300
CASA	400
CADY	600
Direct Assistance	11,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	4,746
Grafton County Seniors	3,300
Tri-County CAP	<u>3,895</u>
<b>Total Animal Control, Health &amp; Welfare</b>	<b>\$ 35,887</b>

**ACTION:** Article 25 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Non-profit organizations requesting funding must submit information indicating how they help the town, how many residents they helped, and copies of their financial statements, etc. The question was asked what the \$400 in Health Administration was for. It is for drug and alcohol testing for those who have a CDL license.

With no further discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,300** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	1,600
Baker Athletic Field	1,800
Jim Darling Natural Area	600
Patriotic Purposes	450
Conservation Commission	1,050
Baker River Watershed Dues	300
Conservation Trust	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Total Culture, Recreation &amp; Conservation</b>	<b>\$9,300</b>

**ACTION:** Article 26 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,500** for the purpose of an **Old Home Day** celebration; \$4,043 will come from the 2014 end-of-year fund balance, with the remaining \$457 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 27 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$37,730** to defray the cost of operating the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 28 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

An amendment was made by Tom Wallace to read as follows: - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$37,880** to defray the cost of operating the Byron G. Merrill Library for the ensuing year.

The amendment passed by voice vote with no discussion.

The amendment was needed to add \$150 to the total amount for an increase in telephone and electric expensed as discussed during the budget meeting but the change did not get made to warrant article before town meeting.

The article as amended passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 29:** Shall the Town accept the provision of RSA 33:7 providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Selectmen to issue **tax anticipation notes**? (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 29 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

This article was suggested by DRA because once voted in, it would not have to appear on the warrant again unless rescinded at a future time. An amendment was proposed to change to article to read as Article 28 in last year's report. "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 to defray the cost of interest expenses on loans in anticipation of taxes and other temporary loans for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)"

The amendment passed by voice vote.

The article as amended passed by voice vote.

HOWEVER, AFTER CHECKING WITH DRA THE NEXT MORNING, THEY SAID IT CHANGED THE MEANING OF THE ARTICLE BY ADDING A DOLLAR VALUE TO IT AND THEREFORE IS NOT LEGAL. In checking records, it was found that this article had already been addressed at the 1996 Town Meeting, Article 27. See page 59 of the 1996 Town Report. The article was voted in the affirmative at that meeting. The minutes read as follows:

"The Town voted to accept the provision of RSA 33:7 providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the selectmen to issue tax anticipation notes."

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the **Office Equipment/Software Fund** for the purpose of funding purchases of general office equipment and software, as needed, for all town departments and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** to be placed in said fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 30 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Selectmen's office needs updated accounting software – estimated initial cost - \$20,000

Selectmen suggested a Capital Reserve Fund to spread out the tax impact and begin saving for other software and computer needs for all departments in town

With some discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for the purpose of purchasing security equipment for the Town Office Building and to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,500 from the Town Facilities' Fund (established in 1987). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 31 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.

Basic security equipment – several cameras and maybe tinted windows, etc.

Board will look into options

With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

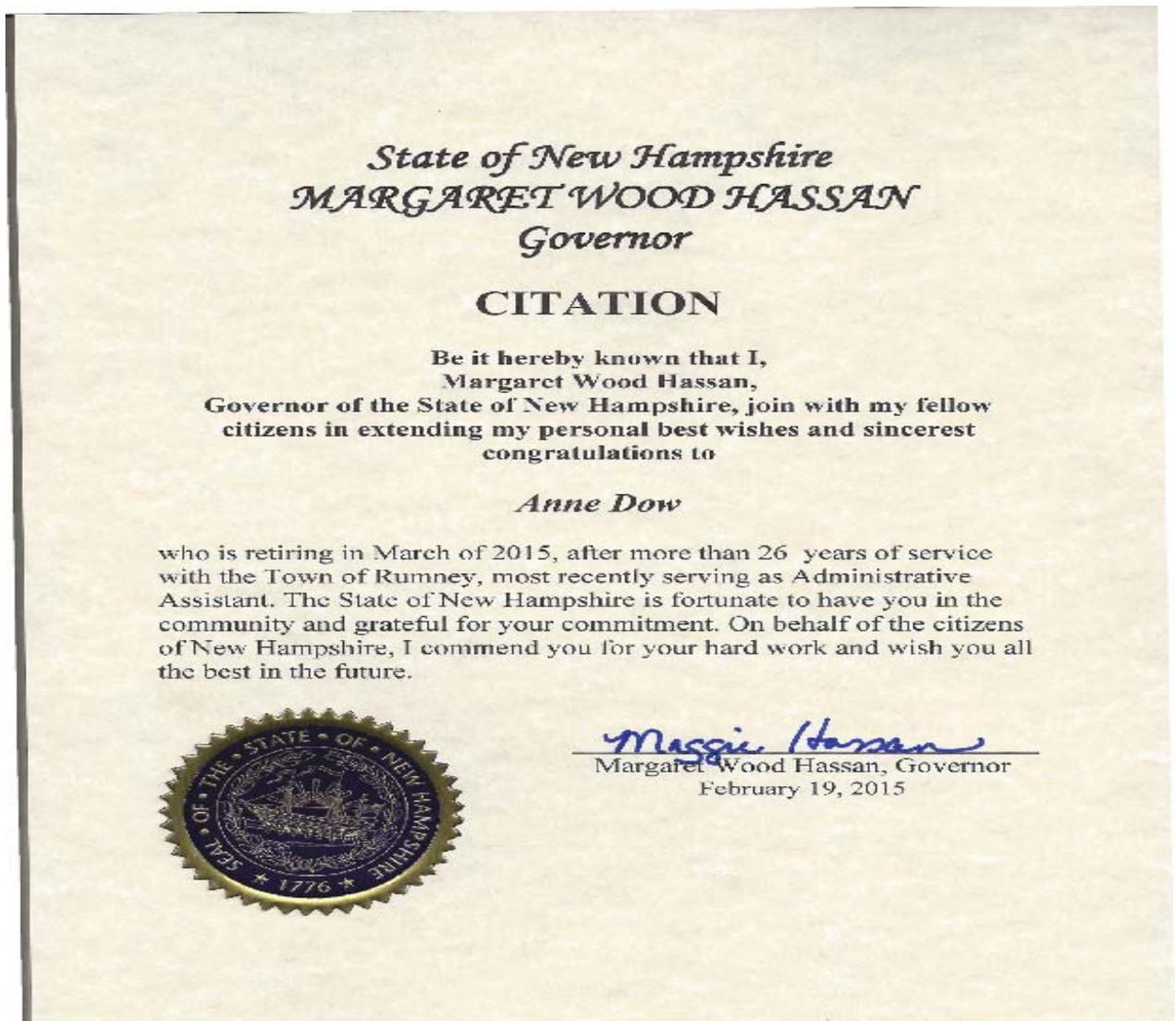
**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to retain Parcel #11-06-02, taken by Tax Collector's Deed dated 06/12/13 with a street address of 1140 Old Route 25, to be used for

public purposes. The intent of this article is to allow the Town to retain the cited tax parcel and obtain a boundary line adjustment to add this parcel to the existing Parcel #11-06-01 (1142 Old Route 25-West Rumney Fire Station) currently owned by the Town of Rumney . The addition of this parcel (#11-06-02) would add ¼ acre to the existing Town parcel and provide a septic system for the property for future Town needs. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Article 32 was read; a motion was made to put it on the floor and was seconded.  
With no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 33:** To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

At this time the Selectboard presented Annie Dow, Administrative Assistant, with a bouquet of flowers for her 26 years of service to the Town Of Rumney for her work in various departments. She was also presented with a letter from Governor Hassen. The letter reads as follows:



There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

Linda Whitcomb,  
Rumney Town Clerk