

**TOWN OF SUGAR HILL  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES – RESULTS  
MARCH 10, 2020**

Moderator James F. Snyder declared the polls open at 11 AM for the voting by ballot on Article 1 (the election of town officers), Article 2 amending Article 3 Section 309 of the Zoning Ordinance and Article 3 to add a solar ordinance to the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance. Polls will close at 7:30 PM unless the town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour. All articles will be presented, discussed and acted upon at 7 PM. Moderator Snyder went over his rules of conduct for the meeting. The Moderator asked that all newly elected officers stay after the meeting to get sworn in by the Town Clerk. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Article 1, 2 and 3 to be passed over until ballots are counted at which time Moderator Snyder will read the results. Moderator Snyder introduced our new Chief of Police, Michael Ho Sing Loy. Chief Ho Sing Loy expressed his pleasure to serve the Town of Sugar Hill and to continue to meet residents over the months to come.

**ARTICLE 1:** To vote by nonpartisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Town Clerk to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Tax Collector to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Moderator to serve for a term of two (2) years
- A Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years
- One Trustee of the Trust Funds to serve for a term of three (3) years
- Two Board of Adjustment members to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- One Board of Cemetery Trustees to serve for a term of three (3) years
- And such other Town Officers as may be required by law

**RESULTS OF ARTICLE 1:**

Selectman, Three Year Term	John J. Strasser, III	77
Town Treasurer, One Year Term	Amy Venezia	80
Town Clerk, One Year Term	Lissa M. Boissonneault	77
Tax Collector, One Year Term	Lissa M. Boissonneault	77
Moderator, Two Year Term	James Snyder	79
Supervisor of the Check List, Six Year Term	John Colony	79
Library Trustee, Three Year Term	Irene Amsbary	73
Trustee of Trust Funds, Three Year Term	Russell Gaitskill	76
Two Board of Adjustment, Three Year Term	Donald Boissonneault	61
	Carl Hjelm	75
Cemetery Trustee, Three Year Term	Kathleen Jablonski	80

**ARTICLE 2: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3 Section 309 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Performance Standards. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the Official Ballot:

*“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the planning board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: To amend Article 3 Section 309 relating to Performance Standards by prohibiting and defining nuisances and adding junk, stagnant water, and certain sewage conditions to the list of prohibited property conditions?”*

**YES 70 NO 13 ARTICLE 2 PASSES**

**ARTICLE 3: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

To see if the Town will vote to add a solar ordinance to the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance. The official copy of the Solar Ordinance is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the Official Ballot:

*“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the planning board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: To amend the Ordinance by adding a new section addressing solar energy collection systems and distributed generation resources, regulate and permit residential and roof mounted solar collection systems by right, and regulate and permit commercial solar by right or special exception depending upon district?”*

**YES 72 NO 11 ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$1,497,748.00) to defray Town charges.

Executive .....	\$63,750.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics .....	26,935.00
Financial Administration .....	25,740.00
Property Revaluation .....	15,000.00
Legal Expenses .....	25,000.00
Payroll Taxes .....	32,000.00
Planning Board .....	2,500.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment .....	750.00
General Government Buildings .....	42,150.00
Buildings & Grounds .....	35,750.00
Cemetery .....	15,000.00
Insurance .....	164,041.00
Advertising & Regional Associations .....	7,245.00
North Country Council .....	1,245.00
Franconia Notch Chamber .....	6,000.00
Unemployment .....	100.00
Police Department .....	243,738.00
Ambulance .....	25,256.00
Fire Department .....	89,975.00
Building Inspections .....	1,500.00
Emergency Management .....	2,500.00
Airport .....	665.00
Town Maintenance .....	221,950.00
General Highway Department Expense .....	194,075.00
Street Lighting .....	3,500.00
Highway Block Grant .....	45,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal .....	56,774.00
Health, Hospitals .....	5,604.00
North Country Home Health .....	1,775.00
Grafton County Senior .....	500.00
American Red Cross .....	292.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health .....	1,250.00
Burch House .....	287.00
Above the Notch .....	500.00
Center for New Beginnings .....	500.00
Franconia Children’s Center .....	500.00
Welfare .....	6,000.00
Tri County Cap .....	1,750.00
Parks and Recreation .....	31,670.00
Library .....	42,380.00
Patriotic Purposes .....	2,000.00
Conservation Commission .....	700.00
Interest Expense - Tax Anticipation .....	1,000.00
Long Term Notes .....	52,500.00
Interest Long Term Notes .....	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS .....</b>	<b>\$1,497,748.00</b>

The Select Board recommends these Appropriations.

Moved by Richard Bielefield

Seconded by Tim Egan

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by John Strasser

**All in Favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be used for Highway Department Roadwork improvement projects to be chosen at the discretion of the Road Agent and Selectmen. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:3, VI and will not lapse until the fund is expended or in 3 years, whichever is less. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Margo Connors

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1993.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Mike Warren

Seconded by Greg Connors

**All in Favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Rusty Talbot

Seconded by Mike Warren

**All in Favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Kathleen Jablonski

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2009.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by John Strasser

Seconded by Tim Egan

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Carolina Crapo Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Cathy Strasser

Seconded by Margo Connors

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by John Strasser

Seconded by Greg Connors

Discussion

**All in Favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Twenty- Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund created in 2012.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors

Seconded by Tim Egan

**All in Favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund created in 1991.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Mike Warren

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Cathy Strasser

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a three year lease agreement in the amount of One Hundred Ninety Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$196,356) for the purpose of leasing a 10 Wheel Truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Launa Glover

John Strasser made an amendment to change the two amounts to \$168,000 for the lease and \$56,000 for the first year’s payment

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Brenda Aldrich

Discussion

**All in favor of the article as amended “Aye”, Opposed “No, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty- Four Thousand Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$24,097) to be placed to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019 said sum shall come from unassigned fund balance.

Moved by Margo Connors

Seconded by Cathy Strasser

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for the purpose of purchasing automated software for the Richardson Memorial Library with Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to come from the Library Trust Funds and the remaining Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to come from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Howard Mitz

Seconded by Launa Glover

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for support of the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. The Boys and Girls Club is a fun, safe, positive place for all children of the North Country under the guidance of caring adults.

Moved by Tim Egan

Seconded by Gail Clark

Discussion

**All in favor “Aye”, Opposed “No”, the “Ayes” have it**

**ARTICLE 20:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Allan Clark gave an updated report of monies collected and not collected from FEMA for storm damage in Sugar Hill. \$160,000 has been received with \$100,000 to come yet and bridge issues to be dealt with, an ongoing project. It has been extremely difficult dealing with the FEMA Agency. Chief Clark also addressed the Covid 19 outbreak and what to look for and what to do to keep yourself safe from contracting the virus. He is only a call away from any help Sugar Hill residents might need.

Greg Connors recognized Allan Clark for all his years of service on the Board of the Trustees of Trust Funds.

John Strasser read a Proclamation honoring the Willing Workers Society of Sugar Hill for their 100 plus years of being an active and very valuable organization, doing good works in many areas of our town life.

Betsy Fraser, President of the Willing Workers, presented a plaque honoring Edith Aldrich, Sugar Hill’s first Town Clerk and Tax Collector serving for 36 years in that capacity and for being a loyal member of the Willing Workers. It will be hung at the Town Office along with other important town photos.

Selectboard member Richard Bielefield gave thanks to the many people that help to make Sugar Hill and the running of the town and the town meeting possible.

Kitty Bigelow for once again creating the outstanding cover for the Town Report

Sugar Hill Improvement Assn. for the renovations done in the meeting hall at the Sugar Hill Meetinghouse. Thank you to Dennis Cote for the sound system for the meeting. Thanks to former Police Chief Bob Mancini for his time in Sugar Hill and to Brett Hucksohl for his dedicated 15 years on the road department. Mr. Bielefield also asked that any person that is interested in serving on a board or other volunteer services, to please let the Selectboard know.

Starcy Branch spoke on the survey she had at the meeting for the SHIA organization for ideas or interests for speakers that SHIA can sponsor that residents would be interested in. She also spoke about the book awards that are sponsored by SHIA to Sugar Hill graduating seniors and for ongoing education.

Cornelia Lorentzen asked to be recognized and proceeded to read a list of grievances from three years ago against the town and or town representatives. Moderator Snyder questioned the fact that it was not appropriate for the purpose of this article. A motion was made and seconded for her to desist, and passed. She continued and finished her rant.

Brenda Aldrich announced that she will no longer chair the Fall Festival for lack of volunteers and that she is getting too old to keep it up. She said she would help anyone that would want to take on the task.

Gary Young thanked the Cemetery Trustees for getting the new area of the cemetery up and ready for use.

Moderator Snyder read the results of the election. Town Clerk, Lissa Boissonneault, will swear in the newly elected officials.

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully, submitted:

Lissa M. Boissonneault, Town Clerk

