

## **2012 Deliberative Session Minutes**

### **Saturday, February 4, 2012**

Moderator Jerry Little asked everyone present to rise for the pledge of allegiance. While everyone was standing, Moderator Little asked those present to keep standing while he read the residents that passed away in 2011. He then asked for moment of silence.

Chairman Clow was then recognized to give the state of the town address.

Moderator Little then proceeded to inform everyone his rules of procedure that were to be followed for today's meeting.

Moderator asked those present for permission for Tim Redmond, Public Works Director and Bob Vezina, Fire Chief to speak as department heads for their various articles. Both men are not residents of Weare they are employees. There was no problem with anyone present.

With no further questions or comments Moderator Little proceeded onto the articles.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate, as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Four Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$4,787,860.00)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Four Million Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars \$4,685,778.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only.

	<b>Department</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Default</b>
A	TOWN OFFICERS SALARIES	\$ 21,533.00	\$ 21,533.00
B	TOWN OFFICERS EXPENSES	\$ 20,158.00	\$ 17,588.00
C	ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS	\$ 19,100.00	\$ 19,100.00
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 52,533.00	\$ 52,533.00
E	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00
F	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 56,580.00	\$ 56,180.00
G	LEGAL FEES	\$ 61,900.00	\$ 54,000.00
H	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 94,037.00	\$ 94,037.00
I	TOWN CLERKS OFFICE	\$ 122,159.00	\$ 121,959.00
J	SELECTMAN'S OFFICE	\$ 143,780.00	\$ 143,780.00
K	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,640.00
L	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
M	LAND USE	\$ 25,381.00	\$ 25,181.00
N	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 55,472.00	\$ 55,372.00
O	CEMETERIES	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 33,800.00
P	INSURANCE	\$ 176,316.00	\$ 176,316.00
Q	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 7,142.00	\$ 7,142.00

R	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$1,447,311.00	\$1,388,701.00
S	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 4,150.00
T	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 290,519.00	\$ 279,733.00
U	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE FEES	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
V	BLDG DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 90,104.00	\$ 89,496.00
W	FOREST FIRES	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 3,660.00
X	TOWN MAINT / HIGHWAY DEPT	\$1,169,469.00	\$1,159,519.00
Y	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00
Z	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 351,464.00	\$ 348,082.00
AA	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 15,132.00	\$ 14,832.00
BB	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,850.00
CC	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 15,056.00	\$ 15,056.00
DD	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 4,676.00	\$ 4,676.00
EE	WELFARE	\$ 28,807.00	\$ 28,807.00
FF	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 42,258.00	\$ 39,888.00
GG	LIBRARY	\$ 186,040.00	\$ 181,334.00
HH	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
II	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 905.00	\$ 905.00
JJ	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
KK	AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00
LL	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 209,860.00	\$ 209,860.00
MM	ONE TIME ACCRUAL PAYOUTS	\$ 18,353.00	\$ 18,353.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 4,787,860.00	\$ 4,685,778.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 2,492,240.00	
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,295,620.00	
DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$ 801,968	
ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.74

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as written, Maureen Billodeau seconded the motion. Chairman Clow then offered an amendment to the article which was two parts, a reduction of \$20,000 to be taken from the proposed budget and a sentence which would read, "should Article 19 pass Article 9 will be reduced by an additional \$7,200.00"; Selectman Marcroft seconded the amendment.

Chairman Clow stated that the amendment has two parts. First the reduction basically is something that was negotiated with the Finance Committee. The \$20,000 will be coming from the Police budget. This would still leave us with a good increase in the overtime line but again targets a lower figure. The second piece has to do with Article 19, relating to computer upgrades. There is money in the operating budget for computers; therefore if Article 19 passes the amount would be reduced. The board feels they are acceptable changes to the proposed budget. The amendment passed by voice vote.

Chairman Clow then turned to Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator to explain the power point slides that have to do with the budget. The 2012 proposed budget represents a 0.85% increase and the default budget represents a 1.7% increase over the 2011 budget.



Moderator Little acknowledged Finance Committee Chairman Gregg Elwood.

Chairman Elwood stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article. The Finance Committee believes that almost all of the budgets have been managed in a fiscally responsible manner. We do believe that the budgeted amount for the police department is excessive and appreciate that that the Board of Selectmen has made some reductions in response to their suggestions.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Little read the amended article as follows:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate, as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Four Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$4,767,860.00)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Four Million Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars \$4,685,778.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. Should Article 19 pass, the proposed operating budget would be reduced by an additional Seven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$7,200.00).

Moderator Little further stated that it would appear as amended on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$22,200.00) to be used for raises for non-union Town and Library personnel? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget.

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.03

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Vice Chairman Butt moved to amend the article by adding the following sentence to the end of the article. "If approved, the Selectmen will consider a plan to cost share the cost of health insurance in fiscal year 2012." Chairman Clow seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt spoke to amendment. He added that the Board has talked about cost sharing but have been reluctant to do it without wage compensation. If this article passes, the Board will commit to reviewing the idea of cost sharing. This was run by Town counsel who provided us the wording.

Chris Hague, 35 Abijah Bridge Road, stated that in looking to relative pay rates of area towns with 5,000 to 9,999 population size, Weare is at the bottom of the scale in most departments. Most of the other towns pay 95% health coverage and dental, which we don't do. Her question is pay equity, as one of the lowest paid towns we will be looked at paying up to 20% towards health care. If the highway raise doesn't pass it would paralyze some employees more than others.

Gregg Elwood appreciated the amendment and offered a suggestion instead of looking at considering implementing the Finance Committee would like to see the Board "implement" with an industry average by the end of 2014.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that one concern is legality and the opinion of Town counsel is that, if this was put in, it is non-binding as the Board takes care of the prudent affairs of the Town. We are making the commitment to look at this and our goal is to implement something in 2012. With this article passing we could implement something without it being an overburden to the employees.

Jim Franciscovich, 115 Grandview Drive, asked if an increase in health insurance wipe out any raise.

Vice Chairman Butt responded that based on the 4% increase, a 5% cost share would not negate the raise, it would be a balance. We will do this incrementally, 5% to start and then move to 10% then to 20% but we do not know when we would get to the 20%. We understand that the increase may be redistributed to pay for their insurance costs.

Janet Perry, Del's Way, asked how many years has it been since library wages were increased? Chairman Clow responded, 5 years for all Town non-union contracted employees.

Ms. Perry suggested a raise after 5 years should stand by itself and not be compensated or attached to it with a cost share of the benefit. If it fails, there is no raise, but if it passes there will be a raise but also an expense. She is opposed to the amendment so the original article should appear on the ballot.

Beth Salareno, 1105 River Road, stated that inflation for the past two years has been 2% and inflation last year was 3.5%. Insurance has increased by an average of 14% per year. We are talking about people already behind. She is opposed to this and in favor of the raise without the addition of the cost share.

Vice Chairman Butt further stated that in some other departments, Fire and some of the Library personnel, they do not have health insurance. He believes that the board is committed to "looking into" this. The reason they have not is that there has been no pay increase. We are not going to get into a situation where we are taking money from the employees. It will be done based on merit. It is the beginning of a process. We expect to reach a balance. This does not commit us to implement, but to look into or review the options available to us. There are other plans and not just a cost share. We need to spend time and review it.

Chairman Clow stated that when he said earlier it has been 5 years since the last raise; on April 1<sup>st</sup> it will be 6 years. Historically that raise in 2006 came about from the default budget. There was no alternative; they felt the increases were warranted. Two times since 2006 articles for raises have failed. A benefit review committee worked for a long time on a wage scale to put into place and that failed by 12 votes, and a recount failed as well. They are trying to craft something that will pass. We appreciate your support.

The Moderator re-read the amendment, which was as follows:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$22,200.00) to be used for raises for non-union Town and Library personnel? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget. If approved, the Selectmen will consider a plan to cost share the cost of health insurance in fiscal year 2012.

A voice vote was taken; the moderator had doubts so he asked for everyone to hold up the green card that you were issued when you came in today.

The result of the card vote was:



Yes-33; No-11; motion to amend passes.

John Lawton, 200 Oak Hill Road, asked if the amendment is for non-union personnel or it is going to be part of the union employees or are they going to be exempt.

Chairman Clow responded we have two unions. The Highway Department agreement mirrors the Town language in the Town personnel policy, so that possibility is there. We do not have a proposal for the Police Department. We did negotiate but did not come to an agreement, but at this time there is no such language in it but it will be considered.

#### ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town approve the cost items contained in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the *American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)* Union for the Public Works Employees which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Estimated Increase	Year	Estimated Increase
2012	\$ 18,863.78	2013	\$ 20,842.59

Year	Estimated Increase
2014	\$ 21,676.29

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Eight cents (\$ 18,863.78) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.02

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as written; Selectman Marcroft seconded the motion. Chairman Clow addressed the article. He stated that to begin with the same goes here; there have been no raises for five plus years here as well. The contract was negotiated in good faith. As this is discussed further, we would look for the finance committee for support. It is 4% across the board pool; it is typically going to be a 2-2.5% across the board. The other thing that came up is that it is a 3 year contract. There was a concern over the cumulative comment that is on the finance committee's information. There is about \$7,000 in legal costs associated with negotiations. If we have to negotiate each year there is a cost associated with that. Let's put it into our employee's pockets rather than the attorneys. That is a benefit for a multi-year contract. In the finance recommendation handout, Chairman Clow stated that he would like to review the last part of it. The first year the cost is \$18,863.78, a 2% approximate tax impact. The second year is \$20,842.59, another 2-2.5% and a similar amount for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The tax impact is about 2%. The actual increase is about \$60,000 not the \$119,000 accumulative as represented. He would ask the finance committee to re-look at it when they make their final recommendations. He seriously disagrees with the logic.

Public Works Director, Tim Redmond stated that we are talking about if you use a 2.5% increase, the raise on the high side will be 0.47 cents per hour and 0.20 cents on the low end of the scale. It is a rather small increase but it is a recommended and appreciated amount. The DPW employees come in every snow storm, flood event, or whenever needed. As a director, not a resident, he would recommend this article for the employees.

Finance Committee Chairman Greg Elwood stated that they do appreciate the work that is provided by the Public Works Department, but having a 4% increase each year over a 3 year period they feel is excessive. If it were set up for a 1 year period they may look at it differently, but a 3 year contract they are not supporting it. A one year might have been more reasonable to them.

Chris Hague, 35 Abijah Bridge Rd, stated that it is not unusual to have a multi-year contract and this is a modest increase. Without a small increase each year we will start to lose people. It is great to keep the experienced staff on board, but it is also a moral issue. We want people to work here to have a positive morale. They feel like they are appreciated for the work they do. The benefits are really for the taxpayers.

John Lawton, 200 Oak Hill Road stated that he understands Chairman Clow's comments. The Town is going to vote on this one time and he feels that the finance committee figures are more accurate because they only get this one chance to vote on it. He would like to amend the article and has the figures, if they were able to vote every year on each increase.

John Lawton moved to amend the figures for 2013 to be \$39,706.37 and 2014 to \$61,382.66; Neal Kurk seconded.

Discussion on amendment: Wilfred Townsend, Hoit Mill Road stated that he would like to offer a friendly amendment to include the words over 2011 with each of the numbers. He feels it would make it clearer.

John Lawton and Neal Kurk agreed to add the friendly amendment from Mr. Townsend to add over 2011 with proposed numbers inserted.

Forrest Esenwine, 63 Buxton School Road stated that he doesn't think anyone disagrees that they could use an increase. The 3 years worries him. We don't know when we are going to get into a mediocre economy. He felt the 3 years maybe a little hard to swallow when it comes to the voters. The 3 year maybe self defeating. He would like to see them get some increase but to commit for 3 years is self defeating.

Greg Begin, 57 Lyndsay Lane, spoke against the amendment he appreciates what they are trying to do but it will be confusing to the voters.

Chairman Clow stated that when we draft these articles we run them by Town counsel and DRA and this is the language from them. It specifies one year over the previous year. Chairman Clow stated that he is against this too. He doesn't believe it will conform to the legal language and second he doesn't believe it really reflects a 2-2.5% increase for each year.

Finance Chairman Greg Elwood is against the amendment. The finance committee is not under the same guidance the Selectmen are. They are trying to get the figures out there for information purposes only and that was their purpose.



Don Burke, 47 Merrill Road, commented on the negotiations and if we pay the employees fair wages they might not be in a union. He likes it the way it has been done and what the Board has done and he thinks the finance committee has been fair.

The moderator called for a vote on the amendment proposed by Mr. Lawton.  
A voice vote was taken and the amendment failed.

Paul Marsh, 146 Colby Road, the one concern he has is possibly using the wording "up to" so that the taxpayers know it is no more than \$18,000.00 the first year.

Paul Marsh moved, Neal Kurk second the motion to add "up to: after the words "the current staffing level" and leave the rest of the article the way it is written.

Ronald Nase, 195 Concord Stage Road, stated that he is in favor of the article. They haven't had a raise in the last 5-6 years. He doesn't believe that when the director gave the high number of 47 cents, it is very high at all for what they do.

Lorraine Meyette, 44 Duck Pond Road, responded, give these raises to the employees and do not have the voters be persuaded by miss information.

Jim Franciscovich, 115 Grandview Road, stated that he supports the article but would like to see if there is a way of decreasing the legal costs by about \$7,000.00.

Chairman Clow stated that he would be reluctant to take any money out of the legal budget. He would not advise it. The \$7,000.00 is the total cost of both negotiation processes.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Little stated that the article would appear as amended on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

Chairman Clow moved to restrict reconsideration on Article 10 (as it was not done immediately following the article); Ray Kelly seconded the motion, all in favor

## **ARTICLE 12**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Nine-Hundred Dollars (\$374,900.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new fire truck and to take any other action needed in relation thereto and authorize the withdrawal of said sum from the previously established Weare Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.00

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Vice Chairman Butt moved to approve the article as read; John Rauscher seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that this provides a new fire engine which will replace one that was purchased in 1990, which will replace one that was purchased in 1979. The engines are on a 20 year rotation. This vehicle is fully funded through revenue fund. He feels it is time and it has been on for a number of years. This particular piece of equipment was on last year for \$350,000.00, which failed and each year it gets put off the cost keeps increasing due to requirements.

Vice Chairman Butt recognized Fire Chief Vezina to speak but only after he gave the residents a list of his credentials and background.

Chief Vezina thanked Vice Chairman Butt for the nice introduction and stated that the truck is warranted. We have several vehicles reaching replacement age. Each year we do wait we loose purchasing power by continuing to wait. He hopes to get everyone's support.

Chairman Gregg Elwood stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article and thanks the Chief for the extended explanation as to why it is needed.

Forrest Esenwine, 63 Buxton School Road stated that he hopes that the voters of this town realize what this says. Last year it was on for about \$25,000 less. He hopes it doesn't happen again this year. He asked if there is a way to make people understand this. It is very frustrating because all the information is here at this meeting, but not many people show.

Barry Arnold, 814 River Road, commented on the wording of the article and stated that "shall the Town raise and appropriate" when people read those words they think it will be an increase automatically.

Chairman Clow explained it is necessary wording per Department of Revenue Administration and has to be worded this way.

Bill Tiffany, 197 Tiffany Hill Road, questioned what the balance would be in the fund after the purchase.

Chairman Clow responded that there would be \$7.11 left in the fund after this purchase. There will also be some funds that will go to there after the \$90,000 for the EMTS are paid from the ambulance money.

John Lawton, 200 Oak Hill Road, asked how the fund was accumulated to get to this balance.

Chairman Clow explained the ambulance money that the Town receives goes into this special revenue fund but the majority of the funds were then directed a couple of years ago to start the EMT program. The first \$90,000 the Town receives goes towards the EMT's so that the fund will not accumulate as quickly as it did before. This past year only \$10,000 was put into the fund.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.



A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 13**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Fire Equipment Fund for the purchase a new defibrillator/AED machine for the Fire Department?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.04

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Marcroft moved to approve the article as read; Ray Kelly seconded the motion.

Selectman Marcroft recognized Chief Vezina to speak. Chief Vezina stated that he finds this necessary more towards the training aspect. We currently have two very different pieces now and they both require different training. So from a liability standpoint the Town is looking to have two identical units that operate the same.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated they recommend it.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 14**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads? Of the \$400,000.00, the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred-Thirteen Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$248,413.94) is anticipated to be received from Highway Block Grant Funds from the State of New Hampshire (Pursuant to RSA 235) with One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars and Six Cents (\$151,586.06) to be raised by taxation.

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.19

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Vice Chairman Butt moved to approve the article as read; John Rauscher seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that this is an annual amount each year and that has been approved. Vice Chairman Butt recognized Public Works Director Tim Redmond to speak, after he gave those present an introduction of his credentials and background.

Mr. Redmond stated that it is an essential expense according to the Finance Committee. He went over the projects that he has planned for 2012. He is proposing to spend approximately \$200,000 on Old Franconstown Road from Route 149 to the point where the gravel road begins which is approximately 600 LF. He is going to put top coat on Sugar Hill Road, Beech Hill Road and Sherwood Forest Road. Mr. Redmond stated that this is a very important program and to keep it alive it needs the support of the Town.

Gregg Elwood, Finance Committee recommends this article and thanked Mr. Redmond for the job he has done.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 15**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Highway

Truck and Equipment Fund for the purchase of a new backhoe and pickup for the Highway Department?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.19

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lacasse moved to approve the article as read; Selectman Marcroft seconded the motion. Selectman Lacasse recognized Tim Redmond to speak. Mr. Redmond stated that he has a fleet of equipment that is beginning to show its sign of age. An article of equipment has been on last year and the year before and failed. Without replacement, repairs and maintenance continue to increase. All of these pieces of equipment asking to be replaced are showing signs of age.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article.

Janet Brown, 108 Orchard Path Road, stated that she commends the work that Mr. Redmond has done and wanted to thank him.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 16**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$42,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Transfer Station Equipment Fund for the purchase of a used trailer and a new baler for the Transfer Station?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.05

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow stated that we have a Capital Improvement Program that goes through a process. The Planning Board selects a subcommittee; the departments each meet with the subcommittee; then the subcommittee makes recommendations to the Planning Board; then it goes to the Board of Selectmen before going to the ballot. Chairman Clow recognized Tim Redmond to speak to the article.

Mr. Redmond stated that this year they are looking to replace a trailer that had to be taken off the road in the fall last year because it could not pass inspection and it was not repairable. This also has funding in it to replace one of the balers.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

At this point in the meeting the Moderator declared that a 5 minute recess was going to be taken.

#### **ARTICLE 17**



Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing one (1) new police cruiser and to take any other action needed in relation thereto and to authorize the withdrawal of Sixteen Thousand (\$16,000.00) from the previously established Police Detail Revolving Fund, with the remaining balance of Sixteen Thousand (\$16,000.00) to be raised by taxation?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.02

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Vice Chairman Butt moved to approve the article as read; Chairman Clow seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that he would like to make a motion to zero out the article in its entirety so it would read as follows:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Zero Dollars (\$00.00) for the purpose of purchasing one (1) new police cruiser and to take any other action needed in relation thereto and to authorize the withdrawal of Zero Dollars (\$00.00) from the previously established Police Detail Revolving Fund, with the remaining balance of Zero Dollars (\$00.00) to be raised by taxation?, Gregg Elwood seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt explained that after the process of putting together the warrant and had the public hearing we found out that we had \$49,000 in the revolving fund and that we will be ordering one right away and leave the balance to be added to for the next replacement.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment and the amendment passes, so the amended article will appear on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 18**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$9,200.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Police Communications Fund for the purpose of upgrading the equipment to be able to maintain constant radio communications with dispatch?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.01

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Donna Osborne seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow recognized Chief Begin to speak to the article regarding the communication gaps.

Chief Begin explained that this Town is very challenging for communications. We have added seven (7) voter sites in the past year in an effort to eliminate the dead spots that we have in Town regarding radio communications. This article would allow for the purchase of a piece of equipment, which is a switch box that would be mounted on the big antenna on Mine Hill, which is another way of minimizing the dead zones.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article.

John Lawton asked how much money is currently in the Capital Reserve Fund. Finance Adminis-

trator Tina Connor responded 0.03 cents in the account.  
Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.  
A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 19**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Computer System Fund for the purpose of upgrading the servers, software and computers?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.04

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Chairman Clow stated that he would like to amend the article. He would like to add the following sentence to the article: "Should this article pass the proposed operating budget would be reduced by Seven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$7,200.00). Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion. Chairman Clow explained that this is the same amendment we added to Article 9, the operating budget. If this passes there will be a reduction of the proposed budget. There is money in the operating budget for computer expenses, so if it passes that money would be taken out of the operating budget.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment and the amendment passed.

Chairman Clow stated that this article is to replace computer equipment in the Town office and the Police Department. It is a combination of hardware and software.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that he would like to amend it further to add the words "Article 9" after the words "operating budget"; Selectman Marcroft seconded the motion.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on this amendment and the amendment passes, so the amended article will appear on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 20**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Employee Retirement and Accrual Fund?

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.02

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lacasse moved to approve the article as read; Chairman Clow seconded the motion.

Selectman Lacasse move to amend the article by changing the dollar amount from \$15,000 to \$7,500. So the article would read as follows:

"Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Employee Retirement and Accrual Fund?" Chairman Clow seconded the motion.

Selectman Lacasse stated that we have the fund to offset the liability of the town. The employees have accrued hours accumulated that the Town is obligated to pay if the employee leaves or retires or if they come to the board requesting the money for a financial hardship. The board has amended the policy so that there are no longer large payouts. When we know about a retirement we include it in the operating budget. We are asking to have it replenished for the unknown event.



George Malette, 115 Concord Stage Road, suggested that the article include the tax impact of 0.01 cents not 0.02 cents, due to the amendment.

Gregg Elwood, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that they will discuss it at their next meeting so they are not supporting or supporting at this time.

John Lawton asked what the current liability was to date. Selectman Lacasse responded approximately \$98,000. Finance Administrator Tina Connor stated that there is currently \$1,600 in the fund today.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on this amendment and the amendment passes, so the amended article will appear on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 21**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$4,346.00) to be added to the Weare Public Library's wage line to add three (3) hours weekly to one (1) existing part-time page position and three (3) hours weekly to one (1) existing part time aide position, and two and a half (2.5) hours weekly to the existing cleaning position? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget. No benefits accompany these additional hours.

Estimated tax impact= \$ 0.01

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow recognized Chris Hague, library director to speak on this article. Mrs. Hague stated that they have asked for this in past years and have gotten default budgets. This is a separate article that is very important to them. It is basically adding a few hours to existing positions, no new positions. She thanked the Finance Committee for their support and recommendation.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 22**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for cemetery improvements and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from Cemetery Trust Funds Cy Pres Account.

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.00

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; John Rauscher seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow recognized Janet Brown to speak. Mrs. Brown stated that she and Rob Gordon are saddened to see Don Burke leave the committee after 9 years of dedication to the Town. She thanked Don. She also thanked Keith Erf and his daughter Kayla as they have begun to input the burials on a computer system. The money for this article is spent on work done inside the walls of the cemeteries.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 23**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) to cover the costs of the Town's participation in one (1) local Household Hazardous Waste Collection in 2012? This warrant article has been designated by the Board of Selectmen as a Special Warrant Article so that the funds, if approved, may not be transferred for any other purposes.

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.01

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lacasse moved to approve the article as read; Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Selectman Lacasse stated that there are certain substances that can't be taken to the transfer station and this would fund one day to allow the Town to host an event to dispose of those items properly. It usually passes and the funds are used. Selectman Lacasse recommends its passage. Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article. Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 24**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for 2012 Weare Patriotic Celebration? This warrant article has been designated by the Board of Selectmen as a Special Warrant Article so that the funds, if approved, may not be transferred for any other purposes.

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.01

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Marcroft moved to approve the article as written; Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article. Terry Wahnowsky, 24 Peaslee Hill Road, stated that the committee used to come forth and ask for \$8,000. It did not pass last year and they raised some money for a lesser show, but due to the economy the committee has asked the Town for less. This event is a way of bringing the community together and they are enjoyed by all the citizens. Gregg Elwood, Chairman stated that the Finance Committee recommends the article. Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 25**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to allow the Conservation Commission to secure contracted services with the Town's Licensed Forester to prepare forest management plans; secure contracted services for the Town Forest maintenance, and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Town Forest Account?

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.00

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Chairman Clow recognized Andy Fulton, Chairman of the Conservation Commission to speak. Andy Fulton, 37 Hemlock Drive, stated that these funds allow them to meet their obligations of managing the forests and the fund are replenished by the sale of forested products.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.



## **ARTICLE 26**

Shall the Town designate the Wood Family Forest (an existing conservation land adjacent to Bolton Field, Tax Map 411-Lot 160.1, recorded in Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds at Book 7264, Pages 2587-2590, containing 207.9 acres) as a Town Forest under the provision of RSA 31:110?  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Donna Osborne seconded the motion.

Andy Fulton was recognized to speak. Mr. Fulton stated this article allows, when there is a harvest on this land the money received would go to the forestry account and if they have a harvest while it is just conservation land then the funds received would go into the general fund.

John Lawton asked if doing this changes any usage of the land. Chairman Clow responded that the easement restrictions will remain the same.

Bill Alleman, 140 Helen Dearborn Road, asked if it has any tax impact.

Selectman Lacasse stated that if this changes, the money would no longer go into the general fund it would go into the town forest account.

Chairman Clow stated that to date we have not had a harvest on the land.

George Malette stated that when the town forest account money needs to be spent it takes a warrant article and town meeting for approval of any expenditure.

John Lawton asked what the balance was in the current forestry fund. Finance Administrator Tina Connor responded, approximately \$58,800. Mr. Lawton asked, is there any way in the future these forestry funds can be used to offset future purchases of land for conservation. In the forest fund who can expend the money? The response was, the voters.

Paul Doscher, 274 Poor Farm Road, stated that the conservation fund is a fund which general appropriations or current use money goes. Approvals to spend from the conservation fund are expended by the Conservation Commission after approval from the Board of Selectman. The forestry account is set up differently and can only be expensed through a vote of Town meeting.

George Malette, asked why we are discussing this if there is no money tied to it.

Chairman Clow responded that we have always discussed all article except for zoning or petition articles.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

## **ARTICLE 27**

Shall the Town designate Tobey Hill (an existing conservation land, Tax Map 407-Lot 14, recorded in Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds at Book 7076, Pages 0003-0004, containing 52.3 acres) as a Town Forest under the provision of RSA 31:110?  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; Neal Kurk seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow stated that this is exactly the same, just a different piece of property.

George Malette wanted everyone to be aware that when the Conservation Commission takes a piece of land and ask to change it to a Town Forest, it is discussed to see if it could be used as a better use of the land.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

## **ARTICLE 28**

Shall the Town amend the Finance Committee Ordinance to create flexibility in the number of seats on the Committee (at least 9 but not more than 13); clarify some communication timing issues; and to allow the moderator more options in selecting members?  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Chairman Clow moved to approve the article as read; John Rauscher seconded the motion.

Chairman Clow stated that there are copies of the ordinance on the table today with the other handouts. These recommendations came to the Board from the Finance Committee and Moderator. Janet Brown, stated that she appreciates the Finance Committee and thanks them for the long hours they have spent for the Town.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

There was discussion as to whether the final article gets discussed.

Neal Kurk, 285 Mt. Dearborn Road stated that we have always discussed all articles except for the planning board articles. The Moderator then read the article for discussion.

#### ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town implement a policy that a volunteer appointed by the Board of Selectmen serve on no more than three boards, commissions or committees at one time. (By Petition)

Forrest Esenwine agreed with Mr. Kurk that we have always discussed all articles except the zoning ones.

The Moderator stated that in order to discuss the article someone needs to make a motion. The lead petitioner was not present.

Forrest Esenwine moved the article as read for discussion purposes; Donna Osborne seconded the motion.

Mr. Esenwine asked what the point of this article was.

No one was present to speak on the article.

Chairman Clow asked for clarification, if no one moved this forward would it have appeared on the warrant. The Moderator responded that our purpose is to speak to the warrant.

Chairman Clow stated that he would be against this article because we are always looking for volunteers.

George Malette spoke against this article. It serves no public benefit. There have been committees that have not been able to meet because of lack of quorum.

Will Townsend moved to amend the article from 3 to 99; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion.

Deb Brown, 1302 So. Stark Highway, lead petitioner arrived. She stated that she had 47 people sign it and she didn't feel this group has the right to alter it. She feels that 3 committees are enough. She is looking for a new fresh set of eyes from one board to another. It is time for new people to come aboard. She would appreciate leaving it the same.

Mr. Esenwine states that he understands the same faces on every board and it is time and the fact of the matter that there are no other people stepping forward. Changing around the petitioned article



really makes it convoluted and they have taken the time to put together a petition the Town should have the right to vote on the petition.

Paul Marsh stated that he is currently serving on three boards and he felt that the solution to this would be to have the 47 that signed the petition to show up and volunteer.

Bill Alleman stated that we have citizens, taxpayers who have a right to place petition articles on the ballot and we have the right to obtain the right to have the voters decide that. He is voting no on the amendment. He believes the petitioner has the right to put it on the ballot.

Don Burke feels they should let it go to the voters as the petitioner intended and not to allow this few people here change it.

Deb Brown stated that she doesn't understand why this handful of people can make the change.

Moderator Little stated that approximately six years ago he saw a petition article regarding Judge Souter's house be discussed in this forum.

Bill Alleman stated that he was here 6 years ago and was opposed to it then. He is opposed to a petition article being amended.

Heleen Kurk, 285 Mt. Dearborn Road, stated that she believes some of the intent so that one person can't carry so much weight on so many committees. She felt that we should deal with the fact that maybe there are some people that sit on too many boards.

Forrest Esenwine stated that if this was like a regular Town meeting, it would come to the floor and it could be amended as saw fit and voted on. So amending it now, pending a vote is not really any different now that it is SB2 then if it was the old traditional system.

Janet Brown stated we have been to Town meeting and seen many articles. The problem is that it can be intimidating to go in front of several boards and see the same eyes. She doesn't see any problem with this article and stated that she feels it is just frustrating with the same people on multiple boards. She said that we should let the people of the Town vote on the original article.

Chairman Clow stated that there are some laws that govern which Board members can sit on other Board. For instance there is a Selectman that sits on the Planning Board. There is a Planning Board member that serves on the Zoning Board. The Selectmen have to approve volunteer members of other committees and commission. There is a process that is followed where a comment or comments can be made. Reality is that hasn't happened; there are a lot of empty spots. Ethics Committee is vacant as no one runs for it. We have the measures in place if things are over done, but he doesn't believe we want to restrict it in this way and have more open slots.

George Malette stated that he is one that is on more than three committees in Town. He is going to vote against the amendment, especially in this exaggerated manner.

Moderator Little explained there are two options to bring forth an article. Either the Selectmen submit them or by petition, once that is done they are equal. They end up on the warrant and are open for discussion.

Without any further comments, Moderator Little called for a vote on calling the question.

The amendment failed.

Selectman Lacasse stated that he will probably not be supporting it, but he thinks this discussion could be brought to Concord and maybe a petition article shouldn't be allowed to be discussed at SB2 first meeting.

Chairman Clow disagreed and stated that means that any bizarre thing could come forward and he would be opposed to take away any opportunity for debate.

Will Townsend stated that he felt this discussion is out of order. He disagreed with Selectman Lacasse and agreed with Chairman Clow.

Andy Fulton stated that he would like to offer an amendment and insert the word "new" before volunteer. We would then not be in a position to ask people step down.

Moderator Little clarified that this would be for prospective volunteers not current.

A second to the motion was made to the amendment.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that it is a moot point. The Selectmen have control to implement or not implement. We didn't get a legal opinion. He will speak against the amendment, all we are trying to do is neuter it. He feels it is a Selectmen issue and to restrict people from volunteering is not proper.

Forrest Esenwine asked to move the question.

Moderator Little stated that we will be voting on the amendment. The amendment fails. The original article is back on the floor.

Jill Dagenais, 311 Colby Road, stated that there are two different things going on here. She would like to amend the article and to add the words: "if there are other volunteers willing to serve on these boards" after the last word, time; Neal Kurk seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that we have not been in this situation before and establishing a policy like this could take years. We should not try to legislate this. We need to embrace as many people as we can and the process works and restricting people is not beneficial.

Mr. Esenwine stated that he feels this is an exercise of redundancy, not just keep amending, let it go the way it is, let's put it to bed and go home.

John Lawton stated that he can understand, perhaps, the people's concerns and he agrees we should leave the question as it is.

George Malette stated that he likes the amendment, if there are no spaces it is good, so we have full boards. What is going to be the benefit of the Town? He is speaking in favor of the amendment, as it would serve a purpose to the Town.

Someone asked to move the question.

Moderator Little stated that before everyone is the proposed amendment. A voice vote was called. The moderator was unsure so he asked for card vote. The motion failed by the card vote.

Being there was no further discussion the article will appear as written on the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration, all in favor.

### ARTICLE 30

To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting?

Neal Kurk wanted to thank Moderator Jerry Little for his time as he is not going to run for re-election. He is going to retire.

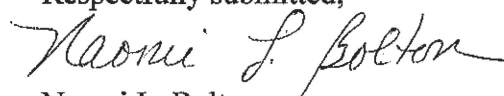
Forrest Esenwine wanted to thank everyone that took part in getting the loudspeaker to work.

Chairman Clow echoed his thanks.

Moderator Little reminded everyone to please attend the Weare School District deliberative session on Tuesday and the John Stark deliberative session on Wednesday.

Chairman Clow moved to adjourn at 12:48 PM; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Naomi L. Bolton

Minute Taker