

## 2014 Deliberative Session Minutes Saturday, February 1, 2014

Moderator Foss called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and asked everyone present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Foss acknowledged those residents that have passed away during 2013.

He noted that town counsel, Laura Spector, will be available by phone if necessary. Moderator Foss listed non-residents who may need to speak: Tim Redmond, Laura Spector, Bob Vezina, and John Vellaca. Moderator Foss asked if there were any others. Moderator Foss asked for a motion to allow these non-residents to speak. Mr. Kurk made a motion to allow these non-residents to speak. Selectman Leary seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Moderator Foss stated we will be using a process by which individuals will come to the microphone and they will give their names and addresses to speak, and then return to their seats, and allow someone else to take the microphone. Moderator Foss stated to stay focused on topic, and he noticed going over last year's meeting was that this year we are going to vote on the Amendment that's on the floor and not allow a second amendment to the first amendment. We will ask for an amendment to clarify whatever needs to be clarified. He noticed last year was confusing.

Today's votes will be cast using the white cards that we have, if you are a registered voter, sign in at the supervisor's checklist. Refreshments are provided by the Weare 250<sup>th</sup> Committee.

Questions or comments will be directed to the moderator. A motion to call to question will not be accepted unless all have had an opportunity to express their views. Amendments will be accepted however they must be in writing. Only one amendment will be allowed on the floor at a time. An amendment cannot change the subject matter or change the intent or purpose. Moderator Foss asked for any questions. There were none.

The moderator began the meeting at 9:16 a.m., calling the First Session of the Annual Meeting at the Weare Middle School February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to order.

Selectman Clow gave the State of the Town address.

Moderator Foss proceeded onto the articles.

### ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$967,000.00) for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works (Highway Department) facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$967,000.00) in bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) to finance the project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, issue, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof? (3/5 ballot

vote required). Estimated Tax Impact = \$0.00 for 2014.  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Lacasse came forward to address this Article. He would like to move Article 7 as read. Selectman Leary seconded. Selectman Lacasse stated that we invest a lot of money on highway equipment to keep our roads safe. We also have staff, and they need a safe place to work. The Joint Loss Committee has been working for a number of years now. The timing is good as the safety complex bond has been paid. Selectman Lacasse called Mr. Redmond to the floor. Mr. Redmond said he knows we have all heard this request as this is the fourth time that this has been requested. He stated we all know about the safety problems in the existing building they've been outlined multiple times before and we know what they are. He noted inside storage of the trucks will extend their life and reduce our costs. The savings were listed on the overhead projection. He stated over a ten year period, the savings become significant. He brought up issues that were brought up from previous deliberative sessions. A fire suppression and detective system are included in the new price. However when you look at the slide, you realize if you invest \$160,000 into a fire suppression system, it's a one time investment. If we did have a fire at the garage we have now, or a new one, it would pay for itself in the replacement of one vehicle. A new vehicle is \$182,000. So when you amortize the fire suppression costs, it's a small investment in a building that is going to house over \$3,000,000 in equipment. The plan was shown on the overhead. He noted the new building is slightly longer. The previous building was 140 ft long, the new one is 180 ft long. It allows us for the future expansion which was a talking point at last year's deliberate session. A ventilation system is also included in the plan. Mr. Redmond referred to the 1994 Master Plan, noting the building is a pole barn built in 1974. Poles are set into the earth and the building is set onto the poles, there are no footings. The 1994 Master Plan states that the vehicles have increased considerably since the 1996 writing of the plan, consequently there is a need for storage. He pointed out in 1994, the need for storage, and here we are 20 years later still looking for it. He added we need to drill a new well for water, there is bacteria in the present well. Also included is a new generator for emergency operations in the event of a power outage, and he mentioned the fire detection system again. He thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work on this article and all of the other articles. Moderator Foss thanked Mr. Redmond.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee does recommend Article 7, noting the building is 35 years old. A safer and updated structure is needed for the Highway Department personnel and equipment. Under current conditions, trucks are outside exposed to the elements; cold starts result in inefficiencies. Workspace is limited in size with no ventilation or fire suppression system. Approving this article will allow covered/heated storage and a wash bay to extend the life of all highway department vehicles. Proper ventilation will provide employees a safe working environment. Utility costs will be reduced with electrical upgrades and the elimination of block heaters. Beginning this project now takes advantage of lower interest rates and construction costs, expected to be higher next year.

Dell Rice of Pine Hill Rd. stated he was a member of the IBW, he is a union steward, he works for a large corporation and he deals with DES, EPA, OSHA. He just wanted to say that if you don't go along with this plan now, sooner or later you'll be forced to by law suits. Or if it is taken away from you by one of the entities, you'll have to pay for it anyway. Evelyn Connor, 45 Lawrence Rd., said she wanted to



support what was just said, and if you appreciate the work that they do for us, you really need to put this in this year. Hopefully some went to the open house, which was a sad turnout, but you can't even get in the door, it's broken. Let's be real and give our guys what they need. Moderator Foss called for a vote for all those in favor of Article 7. None were opposed. The motion was passed.

Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Donna Osborne seconded. None were opposed. The motion passed.

## ARTICLE 8

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 in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote in the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling Five Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$5,110,673.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars (\$5,040,892.00) 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.

	Department	Proposed	Default
A	TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES	\$ 21,894.00	\$ 21,894.00
B	TOWN OFFICERS' EXPENSES	\$ 33,564.00	\$ 28,489.00
C	ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 50,658.00	\$ 50,358.00
E	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 103,935.00	\$ 103,935.00
F	LEGAL FEES	\$ 66,900.00	\$ 66,900.00
G	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 88,729.00	\$ 88,729.00
H	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE	\$ 131,634.00	\$ 131,634.00
I	SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	\$ 156,477.00	\$ 156,477.00
J	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
K	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
L	LAND USE	\$ 26,090.00	\$ 26,090.00
M	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 59,798.00	\$ 59,728.00
M	CEMETERIES	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 33,800.00
O	INSURANCE	\$ 273,787.00	\$ 273,787.00
P	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 7,566.00	\$ 7,566.00
Q	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,423,583.00	\$ 1,406,605.00
R	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 4,256.00	\$ 4,256.00
S	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 372,371.00	\$ 342,919.00
T	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE FEES	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
U	BLDG DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 99,098.00	\$ 98,898.00
V	FOREST FIRES	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 3,660.00
W	TOWN MAINT / HIGHWAY DEPT	\$ 1,306,638.00	\$ 1,304,488.00
X	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 4,850.00
Y	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 346,081.00	\$ 345,981.00
Z	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 16,279.00	\$ 16,279.00

AA	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 3,839.00	\$ 3,300.00
BB	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 11,379.00	\$ 10,879.00
CC	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 4,902.00	\$ 4,902.00
DD	WELFARE	\$ 30,075.00	\$ 26,075.00
EE	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 52,188.00	\$ 47,797.00
FF	LIBRARY	\$ 204,283.00	\$ 199,257.00
GG	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
HH	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 1,215.00	\$ 1,215.00
II	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
JJ	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 134,571.00	\$ 134,571.00
KK	ONE TIME ACCRUAL PAYOUTS	\$ 9,808.00	\$ 9,808.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 5,110,673.00	\$ 5,040,892.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 2,638,848.00	
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,471,825.00	
DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$ 816,779	

Estimated Tax Impact \$ 3.03 \$ 2.94  
**(Recommended by Board of Selectman).**

Selectman Clow moved the article as read. Selectman Leary seconded. Selectman Clow stated that a question and answer format may be more appropriate. He stated the increases are scattered through the budget, some relate to salary changes, there are also substantial increases in liability insurance (\$183,000). There are changes in the fire dept, highway dept, transfer station budget, and some of those are differences in wages from one year to the next. Other than that, increase is approx 2.5% over last year's budget. He opened the floor to questions.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends Article 8. The Finance Committee believes the selectmen and department heads have developed a prudent budget sensitive to the current economic climate we all face. The overall budget increase is 2.25% over last year. This is reasonable considering the impact of increased liability and health insurance costs to the town. However, the Finance Committee objects to the default budget, which it believes has been inflated by at least \$26,000, so that voters do not have the appropriate choice between the default budget and the proposed budget.

Mr. Campana, Quaker St. had one question regarding line in the fire dept., an amount of money to extend EMT coverage on the weekends, which he believes is \$23,000. His question is if the selectmen felt strong enough that this is a need, why did you not take that funding money instead of putting in the proposed budget and draw it from the ambulance revenue fund to increase that \$90,000 which now pays for weekday folks and include that \$23,000 in that funding mechanism. The funding mechanism is already there through the ambulance revenue fund, why did you choose to separate the weekend people and put it in the operating budget? Selectman Clow said there probably would not be enough money to

pay for it, but additionally Selectman Clow feels that it belongs in the wage line even in the system we set up in the revolving fund using ambulance funds to cover weekday EMTs, we've often questioned that. Again we are talking about wages. Any ambulance billing went into something called the special revenue fund. That fund was used to set aside money to buy major equipment, fire trucks, ambulances and so forth. What we've done is eliminated \$90,000 a year from that special revenue fund in order to finance the weekday needs. It met a need. We were relying on our neighbors to provide coverage for us during weekdays, and we had to do something. And so we made that change, putting the money into a revolving fund. That leaves very little to accumulate. So, it's a mixed bag – we feel it belongs in the wage line. The discussion somewhere along the line will be should the whole thing belong in the wage line. There would not be enough money anyways, coming out of the revolving fund. Mr. Campana said if the proposed budget changes with wages for the weekend in there, it sets the stage for the argument that that \$90,000 should appear in the wage line, which he disagrees with.

Jerry Little, Woodbury Rd., had two questions. Selectman Clow said the difference between the current budget and proposed budget is 2.25%. The difference between default and proposed has not been calculated. Mr. Little said someplace less than 2.25%. He asked what were the program costs. Selectman Clow said insurance costs, Mr. Little was wondering whether the bulk in the increase in costs was primarily health care costs. He asked if we were maintaining services and seeing an increase in costs or are we increasing services? Selectman Clow said we had a major increase in liability insurance of \$183,000. The other thing ties in with contracts which can be discussed in more detail when we get to them. There is a change in healthcare plans that reduces the costs. He stated that until the contracts pass, he cannot include the health savings in the budget. For example, a family plan under the present health insurance plan would go slightly over \$20,000 in annual premiums. By changing plans, that same family plan would cost \$16,000. He stated several changes in the plans as far as individual costs, expenses and pharmacy costs. He stated the total savings if the contracts pass in year one is \$33,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$62,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> year \$73,000. Selectman Clow continued that this is a significant savings to the town if the contracts pass. Mr. Little asked if the last sentence after the semicolon in Article 8, the language he has seen in other warrant articles relative to contracts, but he's never seen it relative to the budget. He stated it doesn't seem like you should be able to take a second bite at the apple. The article is saying if this budget fails, we may call a special town meeting to try and run the budget by again. He is wondering if that is new language? Have we always had this in an article? How will we make the determination if we go to the default budget or will you take a second shot and call a special meeting? Selectman Clow stated it is the same language and we have no intention of taking a second bite at the apple and there is no intention of calling a second meeting. Neal Kurk, Mt. Dearborn Rd. asked if it would be permissible for this body to amend the article to delete that part of the sentence that deals with the apple, starting with the word or at the second to last line. Moderator Foss stated he wasn't sure he saw the need for that. Mr. Kurk said he is not proposing a motion, but he said if the Board of Selectman are not intending to use that part of the article, he would hope to see it disappear. Bill Allman made a motion and Moderator Foss asked for it in writing. Mr. Allman asked why the liability increased? Selectman Clow stated we go by very specific criteria in putting together this budget. He stated per RSA 40:13, it is required language, and it has that wording in it. Selectman Clow stated he does not believe we can change it as it statutorily comes to us. He stated this is not a devious intent on behalf of the board, it is statutory language and he doesn't see how we can amend it. He stated we've voted in default budgets in the past and moved on without special meetings. Evelyn Connor stated that Tom is correct, the language has to be there, it is



advisory to let you know that they do have that right, and that cannot be taken out of your bill. Moderator Foss stated we have a motion that was intended to be put on the floor. He asked that it be withdrawn, as we are restricted by law in the wording as it now stands. Mr. Allman withdrew the motion. Moderator Foss asked if anyone else wished to speak to the article. Selectman Clow stated we have our liability insurance through Primex and the premium among other things reflects town activity. We've had a number of issues where Primex had to come forward and support the town in settlements, and that is a major part of why that premium has increased. Mr. Allman asked if the voters knew about these settlements. Selectman Clow said it was public information. Mr. Allman asked where. Selectman Clow replied at the Town Clerk's office. Town Administrator Bolton said they are available for viewing at the Clerk's office, but they cannot be copied. Mr. Allman asked how many there are. Selectman Clow said there were a few, but it wasn't twenty. Moderator Foss asked for more questions. He moved to proceed with a vote on Article 8. Mr. Little asked for a point of order, saying we are voting on the language of the article, not on spending the money. Moderator Foss acknowledged, stating we are voting on the wording of the article. The motion passed.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded, and so moved.

## ARTICLE 9

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
2014	\$20,918.00
2015	(\$11,334.00)
2016	(\$34,642.00)

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$20,918.00) 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. This agreement provides for the Public Works Employees to be covered by the same health insurance plan as all other town employees and to contribute 5% to the premiums, as do all other employees.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.03

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Moderator Foss called Selectman Leary to the podium. Selectman Leary moved the article as read. Town Administrator Bolton seconded. Selectman Leary stated that this article had negotiations with the DPW and in trying to get their salaries a little more in line with surrounding towns, so that we are not a training ground for surrounding towns, we want these people to stay with us. A couple of changes included holidays. They had asked if they have to come out on Christmas or Thanksgiving, they should receive 2.5 x straight pay. Selectman Leary stated the Board of Selectmen felt that was fair. The other small thing they asked for was an allowance increase \$160/year for one pair of boots to \$250/year which would allow them to get two pairs of boots. Selectman Leary said he thought that was ideal for one pair for winter and one for summer. He continued the way they looked at it is that they are trying to get them

in line with surrounding towns, and year number one offsets with the insurance is fairly significant. It will end up being a savings to the town over three years. Year 1 we don't have the savings, but we have a net increase of \$13,000. The second year will be a net savings of \$18,000 and the third year will be a net savings of around \$34,000 which includes wages and benefits. The selectmen felt that that was a fair agreement. Moderator Foss asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends Article 9 as this contract will help make highway department salaries more competitive with surrounding towns, to which we are currently losing employees. The raises range from 10% for beginning works to 2% for those with more years of service. The contract also puts these workers on the same, lower-cost health care plan as other town employees. This is the only contract before us that saves taxpayers money over its three-year life.

Mr. Redmond stated everything he was going to present has already been said. He did make a point that when we talk about losing veteran employees to other towns, there is a significant cost to the taxpayer when that happens. It costs the taxpayers real dollars to attract applicants, to interview and select them, to complete the necessary paper work, job orientation and job training. After we've completed all of these at taxpayer expense, they take our trained employees and hire them at better pay rates and better employee plans. Presently, Weare is not an employment destination but a training ground. This will help job turnover, increase morale and better serve the community. Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Rd. said she understand the language but in the phrase where it says "and further to raise an appropriate the sum of x", that \$20 is not in addition, it's just legal language so we can have that money, is that correct? Moderator Foss stated it was correct. Dell Rice stated he would like to address the boots. He stated outside of municipalities, you are required to have these boots by OSHA. You don't have a choice. The reason is, if you buy these boots, it's going to save costs in injuries and protect the employees from electrical shock. As far as the holidays, he works with these guys during ice storms, hurricanes, major snow events, it's not like they're just going for a ride. It's a dangerous situation and he doesn't think it's a lot of money to spend on someone who is willing to risk their life for the town. Moderator Foss stated the wording of the article is on the floor, there has been no change. All those in favor, none were opposed. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Donna Osborne seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 10

Shall the town approve 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 Police Department Employees, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014	\$22,009.00
2015	\$17,057.00
2016	\$ 9,131.96

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Nine Dollars (\$22,009.00) 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. This agreement provides for the Police Department Employees to be covered by the same health insurance plan as all other Town Employees and to contribute 5% to the premiums, as do all other employees.

Estimated net tax impact = \$0.03  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Clow moved the motion as written. Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Selectman Clow stated that the Board of Selectmen, working with a negotiator, has been working on this collective bargaining agreement for the last 3 months. We have balanced insurance savings with salary increases to present a contract that has minimal impact on the tax rate. Selectman Clow stated the first year is listed as .03 cents, it is more like .027 cents. The second year of the contract is 2%, and the third 1%. The structure of the police contract is much the same as most police contracts in the state in that there are steps built into the contract. As the officer gains experience, they get a step increased based on that experience. So as we look at the increases, which include 3% the first year, 2% the second and 2% the third, there is also a step increase calculated in because if the contract is in effect, the step program is in effect. Now there is another whole piece to this, the financial piece. We have been working on contract language in these negotiations for years, trying to get things changed and we are in the present contract. This year the Board got virtually every language change that they've been seeking. One being a Management Rights Clause. This management rights clause is a page and a half long. There is also language relating to a shift assignment which we've been wanting to change. Selectman Clow continued that the year before last they had MRI do a study on police overtime. They made recommendations to the contract which they've been able to include in this contract. It would be devastating to see it slip by as this contract is the way it needs to be worded for the town. Selectman Clow summarized that you've got to give something to get something. As you look at the wage increases, that was what we gave to get. Insurance carries into the police department, which is a huge amount of money. Also, in the third year of the contract, the employee's premium contribution will increase from 5% to 10% which is a significant number when talking about insurance. We have changes in language, increase in wages, and very significant changes in health insurance. The Board is strongly urging those that are here and the public to support this contract.

Moderator Foss asked for the Finance Committee to speak to this motion. Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee does not recommend this article. This three-year contract provides for raises of 6.5% in the first year and 5.5% in each of the next two years. The Finance Committee believes these are excessive compared to other town and school employees and thus unfair. This outweighs the benefits to the town from the changes in the officers' health insurance plan.

Frank Campana asked for the actual full dollar amount in 2016. He doesn't believe it is as simple as adding up the three years that is on the request, he thinks there needs to be another number added in there. Selectman Clow said he didn't know what he means, and the articles have all been cleared with DRA. What you see is Year 1 net cost to the town after insurance savings of \$22,009. That is the actual, about .027 cents on the tax rate. It goes right down through Year 2, net costs of \$17,057 and \$9,131 in 2016. He said there are two reasons for that decreasing amount. We have in 2016 the increase in co-pay premiums for 5% to 10% which lowers the cost substantially.

Mr. Campana asked what is the total amount of the three year contract in 2016. He stated it is not as simple as adding the three years. He said you have to add the 2014 in there again because we are appropriating it this year and it will be included in the next two years. He asked what was the total impact.



Tina Connor said once it's voted and approved, it becomes part of the next year's operating budget – so yes, so then you have the estimate for the second year and the estimate for the third year, so if Mr. Campana does want to look at it as three years down the road, then yes. Mr. Campana asked is the \$70,000 accurate. Tina Connor said yes, that is accurate. He asked about current staffing – what is it now and is it fully staffed? He asked for the number of folks. Selectman Clow said he mentioned we had four new hires that are in training now, and that would bring us to full staff once their training is complete. Full staff is at 11, plus the Chief. Chris Hague asked if she understands correctly that there is a new ceiling for overtime built into the operating budget. Selectman Clow said he didn't know what she meant by a ceiling. He said the number is lower than what we spent, and we have seen a downtrend in the last couple of months with overtime. The overtime budget for 2013 was substantially over, twice as much as what was budgeted. But, he stated, we are running the department with five officers, so you can't provide coverage without paying overtime. The amount in the budget is \$100,000 which is the same as it was last year. Chief Vellaca has said he can live with that and make it happen. Selectman Clow clarified there is no legal ceiling, but that we have confidence in our new chief that he will do that, with a full staff in the next four to six months we have every reason to believe the overtime will change. Ms. Hague said that is a savings, and that this contract will probably stabilize things if people don't come here, get trained and leave. She stated she thinks bringing the wages up might help. Heleen Kurk, Mt. Dearborn Rd., asked if this was the only article that says "Estimated Net Tax Impact" and she questioned why this article had the word Net in it as no other articles have that in it. Town Administrator Bolton said she believes it is a typo and it should not have net in it. Matt Whitlock, Collins Landing, member of Finance Committee stated the total cost of this contract is not \$70,000, it is \$109,000 – to get that you would have to consider the \$22,000 was in all three years – so when you add up all of those you get \$109,000.

Jerry Little asked if a motion was needed to remove Net from the language. Moderator Foss said he thinks they are going to delete it from the ballot when it is printed and he did not think we needed a vote on that. Town Administrator Bolton said none of the tax impact numbers appear on the actual ballot anyway. Selectman Clow reviewed the numbers and called them up on the overhead projector. You can add it up any way that you want but it's like saying I don't want to pay you two years in a row because I've already paid your salary and that on top of this year's salary and it's just too much – I disagree with that logic but people are welcome to it if they are so moved. Mr. Clow stated to take a look at the insurance savings in the police contract. In the first column, you have 2014 first year savings of \$12,051.96. 2015, \$24,103.92, and in 2016, \$24,103.92 which adds up to a total insurance savings of \$60,259.80. That is real. That is the difference. Selectman Clow stated if this contract does not pass, this union stays on their old insurance plan and that \$60,000 will be part of the budget. Now, if you move to the left it explains further about the issues with this. In order to negotiate these insurance changes, these numbers are specific to the police department, year 1 is \$23,000 supplement from the \$500, \$1500 to the \$1000/\$3000 so that would be deducted from the savings until you reach those figures out to the side. During the third year, the HSA goes away but the 5% changes to 10% which accounts for \$58,000. That is real savings – that is money that will be in the budget if we have to leave the employees on the old insurance program, so that we are coming out with a loss. Because we are saving so much as we move through the process. Total is over \$200,000 over the next three years in savings of insurance costs, and an \$80,000 in years after that by being able to put everybody on the same plan. He pointed out the police had been on a separate plan and the Town has had to run two plans over several years, partially because of a failed contract. It's a no-brainer here. These insurance costs town wide, outweigh everything else

that's been said here by so much that it's a service to the town to pass this contract.

Chuck Metcalf of N. Stark Hwy asked if it is appropriate to be able to ask the Finance Committee a question. Moderator Foss said yes. Mr. Metcalf stated his confusion as this article from the Board of Selectman's standpoint presents large costs savings. Yet it is the first one that the Finance Committee is voting against. He asked if the true fact is cost savings, why is the governing body against it? Mr. Whitlock stated he thinks respectfully, the calculating of numbers being used is two different methods. There are savings in each year, and you don't get to count them multiple times. He said the total \$58,000 is correct for a three year period, but the total that you have is not the total additional costs to the town over three years, it is the \$109,000 that he stated before. He stated if we approve this contract, it doesn't have the net cost savings as stated.

Moderator Foss asked all those in favor of the wording of Article 10. The wording has been approved.

Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 11**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$20,400.00) 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 = \$0.02

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Butt moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Butt stated that this article is for all the non-union employees; the firefighters, the Parks & Recreation employees and the Library employees. Over the past few years we've consolidated some positions and we have people in the Selectman's office. The secretary is doing a lot of tasks for the Board of Selectmen as well as the Highway Department and we are asking a lot of our employees, and we think they are providing services that are needed. One of the things between collective bargaining member and non members is that we've created an appraisal system which represents a 3% increase to non-member employees. Last year we gave merit reviews from 1 to 4%, it is based on evaluation of performance and we hope you approve this article.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends this article as this contract provides for raises of approximately 3%. The Finance Committee believes this is a responsible recognition of the service these personnel, not covered under union contracts, provide to the community.

Moderator Foss moved to put this wording of Article 11 on the ballot. Tina Connor seconded. All were in agreement.

Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.



## ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$1,475,818.00) for the purpose of replacing the Peaslee Road Bridge? Of the \$1,475,818.00, the sum of One Million One Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$1,180,654.00) is anticipated to be received from the Highway State Bridge Aid Program (pursuant to RSA 234); Two Hundred Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two Dollars (\$208,792.00) from the unexpended fund balance and with Eighty Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Two Dollars (\$86,372.00) to be raised by taxation. This article will not lapse until the Peaslee Road Bridge is completed or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.

Estimated Tax Impact = \$0.11

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Clow stated the figure he would draw our attention to is the very last one in the article as it is \$86,372.00. The rest of the numbers are pretty scary to look at, the large numbers above are already in town's fund balance. He asked Mr. Redmond to explain about the state reimbursements.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends this article as this contract provides for raises of approximately 3%. The Finance Committee believes this is a responsible recognition of the service these personnel, not covered under union contracts, provide to the community.

Mr. Redmond stated that it is very complicated to get all the way down to the 86,000 appropriation. This is a continuation of an effort that was put in motion by DPW many years ago to begin addressing these red list bridges in Weare. Bridges that had been done are the Riverdale, River Rd. Twin Bridge, Perkins Pond, Abijah Bridge, and Woodbury Rd. He stated this is nothing new to the town, and the town pays 20% while the state pays 80% of the cost to repair/replace these bridges. He did receive a letter from the state that the funds are available and will be paid to the Town of Weare. When you accept the state's 80%, you have to build a bridge that meets state engineering requirements. We still have two more bridges in Weare that are considered unsafe – Lull Rd, which is also in the 80/20 plan. Hopefully if this project gets approved, we can move to the Lull Rd., and the last one is the Old Francestown Rd. bridge. He stated we still have two more to go after this. If we do not approve this article, we will put ourselves in jeopardy as the state will not hold our place forever. The state has been very good with us, we've received two letters from the state stating they are holding our place. He reiterated that lack of approval will jeopardize our place with the state. He stated there are two residents that live on the other side of the Peaslee Rd. bridge. It is presently rated at ten tons, which is substandard. In the flood of 2006, the road overtopped at that place and the two houses were cut off from access until the water receded. The new bridge is an enlarged span to allow the water to proceed under the bridge and the road and bridge deck are raised to avoid the water that does come down in a 100 year flood. It is not out of the realm of possibility that we could have another 100 year flood whenever. The bridge costs are down, contractors are hungry for work, and it is a good time to do this. We presently have spent \$170,000 in engineering and the state has reimbursed us \$137,000. The expense to the Town is \$34,000. There are funds in the bond account and we are ready to go to bid right now. When the bid is awarded by the State of NH, the state will give



us a check for \$500,000 the day that the bid is approved and awarded. At that point, the town needs to have available \$590,000 which the state will reimburse at the time of completion of the project.

Moderator Foss moved that we place this wording on the ballot. Town Administrator Bolton seconded. All were in favor.

Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

### **Article 13**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$119,525.00) to be used to increase the staffing for the Police Department by adding two (2) full time officers? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual Police Department budget.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.15

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Leary moved this article as read. Selectman Lawton seconded. He asked Chief Vellaca to the podium. Mr. Vellaca stated a welcome and thanked the Weare community for the tremendous support he has received since he arrived. He stated the question he gets most of the time: "How do you know you need more police?". He says the Finance Committee said he needs some time to look over the situation. He respectfully says he has been in police management since 1999, and he knows about allocating staff. If you get up in the morning and your car doesn't run, you don't have to be a mechanic to know you need service. Chief Vellaca asked, "Has your police dept. been working efficiently?" He stated they have not been. He said the department is not acceptable. 11 officers is not working. He has based his need on population density. The national average is 2.5 officers per 100,000. In NH our violent crime is 120, which is third safest in the country. In Weare, it is 102. So, Weare is a very safe community in a very safe state. We don't talk about Part 2 Crimes which is what we see in Weare – motor vehicle, drug offenses. In the northeast, our numbers are 1.9 per 1,000. For a population of 9,000, a full police force calculates to 17 based on this data. He is only asking for 2 additional officers. Chief Vellaca continued to take into account how much mutual aid we are going to get. He stated Weare does not see a lot of mutual aid right now, that we do not get a lot of assistance. It is just our officers out there operating on their own. He continued that we have to take into account the presence of notable incidents. Notable incidents usually result in a fastidious critique of your department. It is more labor intensive. Without beating this to death, why more cops? Chief Vellaca summarized that it is an officer safety issue. Putting one police officer out there, he has no assistance if he needs it. He receives none. Two officers can at least, in a situation that turns ugly, retreat and get themselves out of the way. If he can't get to his radio or cell phone – that's it. There is nobody else out there. Chief Vellaca added that it is impossible to run 24/7 in this town with 11 police officers. He's had to shut the shift down already from 3am to 8am and receive NHSP coverage. The high school officer has been pulled from the school as he has had to put her on patrol.

Mr. Alleman asked why did our insurance go up? Chief Vellaca responded that we can all figure on why it went up. The Weare Police Department has become a place with no supervision. The Chief asked the voters to understand that. He furthered that there are no Sergeants. There is nobody to supervise the

officers. When you don't have supervision you remove checks and balances which result in bad decisions, which results in law suits, which results in the Primex liability insurance going up.

The Chief added that the Police Department was \$121,325 over the budgeted overtime line item last year. He reasoned that the way you control overtime is by supervising and questioning every minute of their overtime. That's how you reduce it. Without any supervision, there is no oversight. He calculated that this has cost \$83,000 all together with an increase of \$203,000, which is the cost to run this Police Department at its' current staffing level. And, he may add, hasn't been doing a good job at it. Officers need leadership and direct supervision. In every walk of professionals, we all need it. These officers have been robbed of leadership and it has resulted in some pretty bad morale.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does not recommend this article. Weare currently has 11 officer positions. The new Police Chief has brought a renewed energy to the department with an emphasis on improving relations with and service to our community. The Finance Committee applauds his approach and early efforts. He has provided documentation that for a community of our size and crime levels, 20 officers are appropriate to provide proper public safety services. Before we add any new police officers, the Finance Committee feels it would be appropriate to wait a year to allow the chief and townspeople additional time to assess current staff, future needs, and the culture of the Weare Community.

Moderator Foss stepped out of his role as moderator to discuss this issue. He served on the committee of advisors with Jack Dearborn looking into the situation of why we were dealing with such a large overtime cost over the past several years. After reviewing the contract and meeting with the members of the police force, there was no chief at this point, Jack and I came to the decision that his feeling is that we need to have, in order to properly service this town, we need to have a full contingency of police officers. Mr. Foss continued that in his opinion, after looking at all of the data that he was privileged to look at it, he stated he believed 12 was doable for the present time.

Evelyn Connor spoke in support of the Chief. She stated that he has to have the help, if you tie his hands, it is not going to work. She does not agree with the Finance Committee at all. He needs the staff to give us the correct patrols and men to service our town. You have a lot of crimes that you don't see and hear about. You really need to support him. Brenda Lashway stated perhaps the short term issues meets, and perhaps the Chief really needs to be fully aware before as he was unable to answer some questions that he was asked. Marjorie Burke spoke in support of this article as the Chief mentioned our schools, and they do provide us with traffic control, and that Center Rd. is a nightmare. We're very grateful for this coverage. She is also the mother of a police officer and she understands the Chief's comments about supervising of officers. She is distressed we don't have the SRO at the high school anymore. Barbara Hibbard supports this article also. In our area we've had a little bit of activity down there, and she spoke to Town Administrator Bolton recently about it. With all our businesses, including Country 3 Corners, we really do need more support and we do need more officers. Dell Rice asked what kind of requirements do have as far as the Officers and where they live? He knows we can't require they live in the town, but is it possible to ask them to live nearby? In the past, he says, we've had a couple that lived as far away as Mass and is that going to happen? Selectman Clow stated again there are four officers in training, three are residents of Weare, and one is a resident of New Boston. Mr. Campana said he has only spoken with the Chief a number of times, he seems very professional to me. He stated he does not support the article



for a couple of reasons. The Chief did mention about not being able to provide 24/7 coverage. He is wondering if it is because he is fully staffed now, however some of those folks are in training. If two or three are in training, that doesn't give a fair representation of what they will be able to do when they get certified. He would like to delay hiring more cops to see how the Chief can manage people and how he will select people out of the 11 to manage themselves. He disagrees a little that the police need management, he likens it to a football team – guys are hired with a contract and they need a coach? They don't know how to play the game? He doesn't believe that. He thinks it is advisable to delay. As far as the dollar amount, the wording in there usually says salaries and benefits – and he sees it as missing from this article. He asked what about the cost of education, training, vehicles, extra time, etc. He said he is not sure but he thinks this is a lowball figure. He stated we've had 24 hour protection in the past, and he thinks this police chief here can do an immense amount better. He asked, what about part time officers? He stated that would decrease expenses over time to hire part time officers instead of full time officers. He stated that would be beneficial for when they are out sick, in training, etc. He asked again, the total dollar amount has there been consideration as to how it will impact the total budget. Tina Connor said the amount consists of a 39 week basis for 2 officers and includes education incentive, health insurance at the higher premium, Medicare, retirement, life insurance and uniforms for two new officers.

Steve Roberts, Concord Stage Rd. thanked the Chief for his words. He said Weare is the second largest town in the state of NH, and that impacts our ability to provide services. It takes a long time to drive from one end of the town to the other. He said if 20 or whatever he said was what was calculated out, he is only asking for two additional members, not the full number calculated by the Chief. He had an issue where he walked up to see what was going on and a firefighter was hit by a car, because he was doing traffic control, not his job. Was that situation impacted by the shortage? Mr. Roberts stated he believed it was. He furthered that when the Finance Committee looks at money on the paper, they aren't taking that into consideration. He would ask that people support that article based on that need. Selectman Butt asked did the Finance Committee meet with Chief – how did they come to the conclusion that the chief needs more time? Ms. Cloud said they did meet and speak extensively before coming to this article.

Chuck Metcalf said in his opinion if he gets the 2 new officers, will we be back to 24 hr coverage or not? The Chief responded maybe. When you talk about management, he respectfully disagreed with Mr. Campana. They come to your house and you're not happy with the service you got. What do you do? If a Sergeant of Chief responded to the call, where do you go? Where do you take that? Part time officers are a part time committee – The Chief stated that he doesn't need people who are part time committed, just collecting a part time paycheck. He needs full time officers committed to the people of Weare – not just people collecting a paycheck. He furthered that the town's overtime has been skyrocketing with part time officers. He added that with part time officers, there was 24/7 coverage. He then asked if the town liked our police officers working a ten hour shift at night after a ten hour shift during the day. He clarified that that is how the Police Department provides 24/7 coverage now.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### ARTICLE 14



Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$220,000.00) to purchase a new ambulance and fund this appropriate by authorizing the withdrawal of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) from the Weare Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund with the balance of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000.00) to be raised by taxation?

Estimated tax impact = \$0.23

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lawton moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. At this time he recognized Bob Richards who has all the details and costs. Mr. Richards stated this is a replacement vehicle, and this would be a total cost to replace the vehicle. Selectman Lawton asked him to give details. Mr. Richards said it is similar to what is in the south station now. As of last Friday the price of the chase went up \$1600. Going back to 2013 when we ordered the engine, by waiting that one year, it represented a \$60,000 increase by waiting that one year. This is a similar issue as the chase has gone up in just one week. He added that this includes the trade-in value.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does not recommend this article as the town has two ambulances. This article would replace a 10-year-old ambulance, which has 65,000 miles and 3500 engine hours on it. While a new ambulance would minimize operational costs for vehicle maintenance and repairs, the Finance Committee does not feel a compelling case has been made to replace this vehicle now.

Mr. Richards stated that the CIP Committee did recommend this as a Warrant Article.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 15**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00) for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads? Of the \$450,000.00, the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$238,037.00) is anticipated to be received from Highway Block Grant Funds from the State of New Hampshire (pursuant to RSA 235) with Two Hundred Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$211,963.00) to be raised by taxation.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.26

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Leary moved this article as read. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Leary stated we've seen some of this nice work that has been done on Old Francestown Rd. and Flanders Memorial Rd and half of Gould Rd. He called forth Tim Redmond to speak on this article.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does recommend this article. This is the usual article funding the highway department's road maintenance work. It has been increased this year from \$400,000 to \$450,000. The Finance Committee supports the article. Taking advantage of the state block grant helps reduce the cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Redmond stated this is an ongoing successful program funded annually and he appreciates that. In 2013, they completed construction the Flanders Memorial Dr. from Hodgdon Rd. In 2014 from East St. to Peaselee Hill Rd. is the next road on our list. And following that, from Mr. Dearborn Rd. to Sawyer Rd. is the last of his five year plan. The increase to \$450,000 this year is to accommodate increasing construction material costs and to attempt to complete more shim that do not need total reconstruction. Completing more of these overlay projects will keep some roads together longer at a significant savings compared to when the road needs to be completely reconstructed.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 16**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$205,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Highway Truck and Equipment Replacement Fund? It is anticipated that this money will be expended for the purchase of a 10-wheeler dump truck for the Highway Department, representing replacement of existing vehicles.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.25

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lawton moved this article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Lawton stated that this article is to replace a current 1998 plow truck that was a replacement for a truck that was rear-ended at Center Woods 2 years ago. It was purchased from surplus with the insurance money that was used for that one. He called on Tim Redmond to speak further to this article.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does recommend this article. Approving this article will allow replacement of a 1998 Highway truck that has reached the end of its useful life. The new 10 wheeler truck will replace a 6 wheeler truck and have added load capacity, this will make sanding/plowing operations more efficient.

Mr. Redmond stated that this request is a larger capacity vehicle. This truck would be assigned to the Mountain Rd. route area which is the complete opposite side of town from the town garage. The idea of a ten wheeled truck is to try and complete the job in one trip, reducing miles by one trip vs. two will reduce wear and tear on the vehicle. It reduces fuel use and hours placed on truck while in service. Safety is our first priority, and the employee operating the truck can get the necessary work done with needed breaks. The time element for treating the roads is what is the issue – the truck can carry enough material to complete in one trip. We can keep our staffing at current levels if we can deploy a ten wheeler on this route. It will help us get it done quicker and more efficiently. There are fuel savings and repair savings. Due to increased repairs on the DPW plowing trucks, the 2013 vehicle budget repair line exceeded by \$43,000 because of the extensive repairs needed to keep the present fleet running. It is highly recommended to get the vehicles on a replacement program to keep repair costs down.

Selectman Lawton asked him to speak to what the \$205,000 includes. Mr. Redmond said it is a total amount to purchase a new 2014 cab and chassis ten wheeler. They did receive three bids from three vendors; Mack, Volvo and International. The International chassis was the least expensive and provided



us with all the equipment needed for a winter operation plow truck. It does also include a sander body, which is a stainless steel body. We have begun to put stainless steel bodies on our trucks because they do not rust out. If we do get on a replacement schedule in time, we can reuse these stainless steel bodies and greatly reduce costs. It also includes the plow, a wing, and all the necessary lights and strobe lights, etc.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 17**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Highway Truck and Equipment Replacement Fund? It is anticipated that this money will be expended for the purchase of a new or used pickup truck for the Highway Department, representing replacement of existing vehicles.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.06

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lawton moved this article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Lawton also noted that the CIP Committee recommended both Article 16 and 17. This article is to replace a pickup truck with 199,000 miles and is in danger of not passing inspection. He asked Mr. Redmond to speak to this article.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does recommend this article. Approving this article will allow replacement of a 2001 pickup truck with 199,000 miles on it and considerable rust damage to the body and chassis. The new pickup truck will be equipped with a plow.

Mr. Redmond stated that this is a 2001 Chevrolet and it does have 195,000 miles on it, to correct the mileage for the record. The truck would be replaced with a new or used one ton single wheel extended cab pickup truck. A new vehicle would be preferred as it would come with a three year warranty. A used vehicle would run the risk of repairs. A replacement truck will be heavy enough to have a one ton sander. The sander is not funded in the article. It can accommodate up to four passengers to bring to job sites. The vehicle is the only pickup in the current fleet and will be used daily by the Director to do everything from road inspections to meeting residents, to plowing, picking up parts and supplies as well as another long list of duties.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 18**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$49,600.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Police Cruiser Fund? It is anticipated that this money will be used to purchase one (1) four wheel drive (SUV) police cruiser.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.06

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Butt moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Butt said apparently there is a change in attitude, and in policy, and a purchase of cruisers does reflect this. Each vehicle is assigned to an officer. This year, with this plan, there is one unmarked vehicle which is the Chief's vehicle. His goal is to get the vehicles being used, not assigned to an officer, but assigned to a shift. It does reflect a change in attitude. This is for a marked patrol vehicle. Moving away from Crown Victorias to the Ford Taurus unfortunately requires us to purchase all of the sundry items. Lights, bells and buzzers cannot be transferred because they don't fit. So the cost unfortunately has increased. Last year we purchased one of two vehicles that was identified to be replaced. When police officers work, \$10 per hour goes into a fund to purchase vehicles. Last year, we purchased an SUV, the type that we are requesting in this article. It hasn't arrived yet, it is being built. And we also had a settlement check that is going towards it. This type of vehicle, the Chief feels, is more appropriate for our community. The Board of Selectmen hope that this effort will be supported. In addition to this the Selectman hope that moving vehicles that are no longer needed into another department will also be supported. Late last year the Town moved a Dodge Durango from the police department to the fire department. Mr. Butt furthered that they received a request to the CIP for \$30,000 for a new vehicle, but this transfer of the older usable vehicle eliminated the need to put that article to warrant. Selectman Butt summarized that he thinks that is a movement in the right direction.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee does recommend this article. This article will allow replacement of a 2007 cruiser with over 180,000 miles on it with a four-wheel drive SUV cruiser. The formerly preferred Ford Crown Victoria police interceptors are no longer manufactured. The difference in purchase price between the SUV and a sedan is approximately \$3,000. The police chief has recommended the SUV as the vehicle of choice because it provides sufficient storage capacity for police equipment vital to handling independent calls in a rural environment. The rural roads and winter driving conditions also favor the SUV. Gas mileage has also been improved in these models. A portion of the appropriation is for replacement of interior fittings.

Frank Campana stated that he has a couple of concerns. The replacement vehicle that was just purchased is a like model for what is asked for. So now if this gets approved, we will have two of those. What is the plan for the dept? All SUVs? He didn't hear any mention of what is going to happen to that car, is it going to get transferred to another dept? The Highway Dept. has an old police cruiser – does this car get transferred down to them as an additional, or as a replacement? How many vehicles does the board, in review with chief, does the department actually need? The car that this one is replacing – will it go home with an officer? Selectman Butt said no, he doesn't believe it is, and he doesn't know what the mix will be. Right now it has been identified that 2 SUVs will be sufficient and we still have the Ford Expedition as well. We are focusing on replacing vehicles at this time, and his other questions will be determined by the chief over time. Currently officers are not allowed to drive vehicles to their homes. Mr. Campana said where do the cars go? Selectman Butt said he thinks as there is an opportunity and a need, certainly he would hope that the people would be thankful to receive it and save \$30,000 requests, and extend the life of that vehicle. The two vehicles that are being replaced, it is possible that they will be kept and only used for detail work to save wear and tear on the vehicles. Selectman Butt furthered that Mr. Campana's questions apply to this article, but not directly. These are changes that will be incorporated as the situation arises. Mr. Campana asked how much are we growing the vehicles through the police department? If cars are being saved for detail, he doesn't agree with it. He said the more vehicles you keep, the more it is going to affect costs, and next year we are going to hear more maintenance of a



growing fleet and it should be a concern when an additional vehicle is asked for. Selectman Butt said to be clear, it is a concern – but we are not discussing that now. The chief has already taken it in a positive direction as far as he is concerned, in moving vehicles into other departments. Selectman Butt is sure this is going to be a concern of the board. Mr. Campana stated that if the board didn't put their foot down this time, saying that an old car that is no good anymore, than that was the time to do that.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$68,000.00) to be added to the previously established General Maintenance Trust Fund called the Gasoline System? It is anticipated that this money will be expended for the purpose of upgrading the current fueling depot located at the Public Works Department used by all departments.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.08

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved this article as printed. Moderator Foss seconded. Because of his limited knowledge of gasoline systems, he called on Tim Redmond.

Kate Cloud said the Finance Committee recommends this article. The existing fuel storage at the Highway Department does not meet NHDES Underground Storage Tank Regulations. If not in compliance by December 2015, it will have to be shut down. All town vehicles would then have to find alternative sources for fuel. This is not a realistic alternative. Compliance requires replacing fuel lines, the pumping equipment, and the fuel transfer station.

Mr. Redmond stated that this article is very important in his opinion. The present fueling station at the Public Works Department serves the public works, police, fire, building and code enforcement, and the John Stark maintenance department. It was constructed in 1989. The system has a 4,000 gallon storage tank and 6,000 gallon diesel fuel tank, both with double walled construction and leak monitoring systems. They presently pass inspections mandated by NHDES. In 2013, an overfill protection system was installed as required by DES. These portions are in compliance at this time. The upgrades that are needed at this time will be to the underground pipe system, which is a single wall system that needs to become double wall. The spill controls at the fills at the tanks and under the fuel dispensers – in the event of a spill or a leak, these spill controls are necessary to prevent environmental damage. The NH DES has required these repairs be done by 12-22-15 or NH DES will consider our system to be non-compliant and order it to be closed. We need to fund these upgrades and make them in 2014 because of the limited number of contractors that are available to provide these services. Waiting until 2015 would not be advised, as it could result in us not meeting the deadline. We must do it anyway, so we should do it sooner than later. As Kate alluded to, alternate fuel services are not feasible as they are too far away. As far as local vendors, we could buy fuel from them but we would have to get rebates from them, and also

they are not open at night when police/fire may need fuel. Moderator Foss asked if anyone was wishing to speak to this article.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 20**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Government Building and Maintenance Fund?  
Estimated tax impact = \$0.05

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lacasse moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Lacasse said we have invested in buildings over the years and it would be irresponsible not to maintain them. This fund allows us to pay for both anticipated maintenance projects and surprise maintenance. A lack of maintenance causes a slow death of buildings. He stated people long before us wanted us to have these buildings and it's our responsibility to maintain them.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends this article. It is anticipated that funds from this article would be used to replace the boiler in the old Town Hall building and for removal of lead paint in the town offices. The Finance Committee believes this is a responsible use of funds to support maintenance of town structures.

Selectman Clow stated a slight correction: The lead paint exists on the outside of the buildings on the trim of the stone building and when we had the roof done we asked if the contractor could do the painting on the whole eyebrow things on the roof at the town office building and they tested that, and it had lead too. So it is exterior lead in both cases.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 21**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Recreational Development and Improvement Fund? It is anticipated that this money will be expended for the purpose of expanding parking and the soccer field at Bolton Memorial Park.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.06

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Leary moved as read. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectmen Leary stated this is an article on making some improvements on Bolton field to increase parking to 150 parking spaces with access to the fields and the playground. Right now on Saturday mornings there are cars parked on both sides going all the way and getting an emergency vehicle in there would be difficult. The proposal is to put some



parking in the upper part of the Bolton field area, adding parking spaces. They are going to be taking some of that hill out and they are going to assist in expanding the lower soccer field to make that into a regulation size soccer field. Right now it is not regulation size. They are going to develop a vehicle and pedestrian management plan that includes signage and walkways to provide access to user areas. While doing this, they will develop a formal storm water management system including cache basins and grass swales to contain some of the water as it runs off the hills. Right now there is a driveway as you come in that continually gets washed out every rain season, and they have to come in and regrade it. This will be a more permanent fix. They are going to improve the connection between the fields with safe pathways. We only have Inneson field which is the only regulation soccer field, they do utilize the lower Bolton field for smaller groups, but for football, lacrosse – they are looking to expand that. The new parking area is along the main road north of the baseball field. We also want to fix the drainage. Basically, add 150 parking spots and fix existing parking with some new draining and create some new walking paths, and with the same time expand the field to regulation.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee does not recommend this article. The proposed warrant would pay for expanded parking and an expanded soccer field at Bolton Field. The Finance Committee agrees that parking can at times be limited and having a regulation size soccer field would be desirable. However, in today's budget climate the town has more urgent needs. Regulation size fields are in place at the high school, and Bolton Field is adequate for youth programs.

Melissa Drury of Oak Hill Rd. stated she just wants to present this as a savings to the Bolton Master Plan which originally called for a lot of blasting and rock removal. Instead of spending \$400,000 which the plan had outlined, we have cut it down to \$50,000 just to provide parking and a few other things while the contractor was there. A few years ago it was put on the warrant as over \$1 million dollar warrant. They are trying to cut cost but yet provide services to the town as well.

Selectman Butt said in 2007, the town did do a study of Bolton Park, and the town has not put a penny into the park. The work that has been done so far has been by all volunteer groups. He thinks it is about time for the town to step up. When is there going to be a good economic climate to do this? He finds that this facility is one of the best used facilities in the town. He sees people there all the time. If you ever go down there during a football game, you will not find a place to park. I think this is a bad representation of the Town of Weare. And as far as why should we make soccer field regulation – we can't hold tournaments, which boost economic activity in Weare. I don't know why we continue to ignore this diamond in the rough. People go in and use that facility for all sorts of activities. \$50,000 is a small amount of money to upgrade the facility to improve the parking and improve access to that facility and is an economic benefit as well.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund called the Cemetery Construction Fund? It is anticipated that this money will be expended for the purpose of adding fence to the north and west side of Pine Grove

Cemetery.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.02

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Leary moved this as read. Maureen Billodeau seconded. This article is to remove a fence that was damaged and replace it with a black vinyl chain linked fence on the north side of that cemetery which will secure it, replacing the existing fence.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee recommends this article. This article would replace the old and worn out wire fence on the north and west boundaries of the Pine Grove cemetery. This would secure the rear areas of the cemetery from adjoining properties using a black vinyl coated commercial chain link fence.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

### **ARTICLE 23**

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)

Selectman Leary stated this has a tax impact of 0. He moved the article as read. Maureen Billodeau seconded. He stated it is for the maintenance of cemeteries. We have seen some repairs on different cemeteries, it is to repair damage that happens over time.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee does recommend this article. These funds are used to make improvements and repairs to the town's cemeteries. The appearance of our cemeteries is an important element in the character of our community. This is funded with a withdrawal from cemetery trust funds and has no tax impact.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

### **ARTICLE 24**

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 2013? 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 Clow stated this is a yearly article that is self explanatory, and he moved the motion as printed. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Clow said it is as it states, that it provides people the proper disposal at the Transfer Station. This allows for one day, the collection is made up to the point that we can finance, but usually we are able to accommodate everybody for that day.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee recommends this article. This is the usual warrant article to have a scheduled day, once per year, to collect hazardous waste at the Transfer Station. The Finance Committee believes this is important to preserve the quality of our land and water in Weare.

Paul Marsh, Colby Rd., moved to amend the article by changing the date 2013 to 2014. Moderator Foss said the amendment has been made to change the date as printed, 2013 to 2014. Does anybody wish to speak to this amendment. Mr. Little seconded the amendment. Moderator Foss stated it has been moved to change the date from 2013 to 2014. None were opposed. Moderator Foss motioned to approve \$6,000 for hazardous waste for the year 2014. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for 2014 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 the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Lacasse moved the article as read. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Lacasse stated they do so much for so little. Our fireworks in Weare are as good as, if not better than those in larger surrounding cities.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee supports this article. In the past, the Finance Committee has not supported this article. This year, however, we support the article as part of the 2014 Weare Patriotic Celebration in recognition of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Evelyn Connor stated this is her day. She enjoys putting on this celebration for the town. Most of our Town comes out, and a lot of other towns come out. She furthered that residents should have all gotten a booklet of all of the events we are holding together with the Weare 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration – this year fireworks will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and expect some additional things as it is part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. This money pays for the fireworks and the port-a-potties, insurance.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 26

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) 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 the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved the article as printed. Selectman Lacasse seconded. As it says, money for this article will be drawn from the Town Forest Account. It takes a public vote to authorize a withdrawal from this account. That is why the Board of Selectmen support and recommend this.

Kate Cloud stated they have no recommendation on this article.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

Dennis Leblanc stated that the new building that they want to put up – the question he has is how is he going to heat it? Moderator Foss said it is a great question, however we have already moved past this article and it has been voted to restrict. Heleen Kurk suggested this gentleman go and talk to Tim Redmond.

## ARTICLE 27

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to allow the Conservation Commission to secure a cost-share agreement with New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to install a gate at the Ferrin Pond Access Road and to correct erosion on the access road owned by New Hampshire Fish and Game, 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)**

Selectman Clow moved this article as printed. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Clow stated once again, the money for this comes from the Town Forest account and so it requires a vote in order to expend from that account. He deferred to Andy Fulton for details of that.

Andy Fulton, Hemlock Dr., Chair Conservation Commission, stated that the intent behind this article is to allow Fish and Game access to Ferrin Pond in order to stock the pond, to allow that with a properly secured gate on property that is actually owned by Fish and Game. This will allow us to facilitate this activity.

Kate Cloud stated that the Finance Committee recommends this article. This article is designed to improve security and prevent off-road vehicle access and damage to Ferrin Pond conservation area. There is no tax impact; funds are to be provided from the Town Forest Account.

Paul Doscher, Poor Farm Rd. gave a little history. Mr. Doscher stated that 33 years ago when he moved to Weare, he attempted to take his family up to Ferrin Pond and there was a road that had been constructed when Fish and Game acquired what was supposed to be a pedestrian access for fishing, and they built a road and it was being used by four wheel drives. This brought a lot of people that came from places way outside of Weare, and it brought a lot of undesirable activities. He furthered that he brought his family up there one time, and said never again. Many years later, in 1991 he had the opportunity with state assistance to acquire the land that included Ferrin Pond from the landowner. And with the state grant program, we did that. The town bought that land and we actually closed off that road so it couldn't be used. In the process of doing that, we did erosion control. We made it so that road was for walking up to Ferrin Pond, it is not exactly an easy walk, coming back is difficult and it is easy to fall. Mr. Doscher stated that Fish and Game owns that right of way as a pedestrian walkway, that they bought that as a right of way years ago. There are boulders at the bottom to keep ATVs out however it prevents Fish and Game from stocking the pond, plus the erosion is getting worse. Mr. Doscher clarified that there was a gate there many years ago but it was destroyed, which is why the boulders were put in. He summarized that what we've got here is a great collaborative effort between the Conservation Commission and Fish & Game, and he thinks the Conservation Commission should be complimented on this. He thinks this is a great thing, it solves the problem, he recommends Weare residents take their families there, Ferrin Pond is a great place and a wonderful investment by the town.

Chuck Metcalf asked if Fish and Game owns the road, why aren't they putting up the gate? Andy Fulton stated the short answer is they don't have the money. It also facilitates the town's management of the Town Forest, and is an appropriate use of the Town Forest monies in collaboration with Fish and Game.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## **ARTICLE 28**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to allow the Conservation Commission to implement a conservation law enforcement agreement with New Hampshire Fish and Game to conduct extra patrols on town owned lands and roads with a focus on illegal ATV use?

Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

**(Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved the article as printed. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Clow stated when the Board of Selectmen discussed this article, it was difficult to understand the dimensions of what was being requested, it appeared as though a onetime \$10,000 investment may not do the trick, it may in fact need to be an ongoing investment, and so not being clear on the details of it, we could not support it.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee does not recommend this article. They do not believe this expenditure would realistically have a positive impact on preventing ATV damage. NH Fish and Game enforcement resources are extremely limited. The article is not specific enough on what the increase would be and how it would be provided. Moreover, the Police Chief has emphasized his policy is to



provide more patrol visibility throughout the community, which would include a more visible patrol presence where these conservation areas are accessed.

Frank Campana commented where it mentions the Finance Committee said the Police Chief is committed to more of a presence, he thinks back probably eight years ago – he is wondering if there is a plan to resurrect the ATV that the Police Dept. tried a few years ago. Selectman Clow said there has been no discussion whatsoever of placing policemen on ATVs and sending them into the wilderness. Already with 11 officers we are stretched pretty thin.

Kate Cloud clarified that the Finance Committees comments were that they were not going to be patrolling lands, only the access areas. Mr. Campana said his comment was not directed at this current board, only for the future.

Andy Fulton stated that ATVs are a terrific tool with lots of great uses. As a Conservation Commission, we do have an obligation to try and preserve habitat on town lands and to enhance the recreational opportunity on those lands. The commission finds that illegal ATV use, on Class VI roads, where they are not allowed by state statute, without town permission, particularly on town properties – as managers of the town conservation land we find the burden of regulating illegal use beyond our current capacities. This is an appeal towards some creative engagement to allow us to try to limit and manage illegal activity. Conservation officers do patrol these areas, particularly around Ferrin Pond, but their resources are stretched quite thin, and this is an idea to try and engage them directly to give us more attention than they can otherwise.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

## ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the Conservation Commission expenditure toward the purchase of new town forest land, and fund the appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Town Forest Account?

Estimated tax impact = \$0.00

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved this article as printed. Selectman Lacasse seconded. As with the other articles, this relates to a required vote that sets aside an existing \$100,000 towards the potential purchases through the course of the year if a parcel came available. In 2014, if nothing came available, and it was not expended, it would simply go back into the Town Forest Account. Mr. Clow stated that the Conservation Commission has done a fantastic job towards conserving land and preserving rural character, again bringing up East. Rd., Eastman, and Ferrin Pond and we could go on and on about things that have come forward in the last few years. Sometimes, in order to take advantage of a piece of property, the funds have to be available in a timely fashion, and this article makes the money available should a piece come up during 2014.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends this article. The Finance Committee believes that purchasing land to add to the town forest serves the purpose of this fund and helps foster the traditional rural character of our community. The article has no tax impact.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### ARTICLE 30

Shall the Town raise and appropriate up to Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$3,200.00) for the replacement and installation of computer hardware and software for the library and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2013? This amount represents the portion of the library appropriation which was not expended in 2013, and which was therefore returned to the town. This is a special warrant article and will lapse upon completion of the project or December 31, 2015, whichever comes first.

Estimated tax impact = \$0.00

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Butt moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Butt said he knows nothing about the article except for what is written. He knows it is not in the capital improvement fund. He has had his foot half in and half out of the office for a few months, and he apologized to Chris Hague. He stated that didn't go over as well as expected, and he asked Chris Hague to speak on this article.

Kate Cloud said the Finance Committee recommends this article. This article allows the library to carry over a specified amount of unexpended funds to upgrade computer hardware and software. The funds are already in place; there is no new tax impact. While many families today have home computer access, the library still provides this important community service to those who are without access.

Paul Marsh, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated basically this is a replacement of computer hardware that operates on Windows XP which is no longer being supported. This is now to use funds that were collected last year, but by law are returned from the Trustees to the Selectmen, and we are asking for those funds back for the purpose of upgrading the computer system. Chris Hague stated she would like to acknowledge the service of Ray Kelley who was a Library Trustee for five plus years and has recently moved away. Lee Marcroft is fulfilling his term for the remainder of this year. When we thought we would have a surplus as Chairman Marsh pointed out, it was too late to research what to buy. The workstations for our employees were purchased in 2008. We cannot add any software to the computers, and hers crashes several times a year. The Trustees passed a technology plan this year that states we will inventory all of our computers and develop a rotation schedule. She stated the server is full, and the anti-virus is taking up most of the space on it. So there are immediate needs. There is one newer public access computer. The immediate need is for staff computers, they are on the computers all the time. She reiterated that we just didn't have time in November to research it, so they put this on the warrant.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### ARTICLE 31

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:29-a which would allow the surviving spouse of any person who was killed or died while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States in the wars, conflicts or armed conflicts, or combat zones, shall receive a tax credit of \$2,000.00 for taxes due upon the surviving spouse's real property?

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Butt moved the article as written. Maureen Billodeau seconded. Selectman Butt said he did have a situation in town where it was applicable, and the board decided to allow it. Spouses who have lost a loved one during combat should be compensated in the form of a tax credit. In today's world where people have jobs and wind up in a combat zone, we think it is the right thing to do, the moral thing to do, the ethical thing to do.

Kate Cloud stated the Finance Committee recommends this article. This article would provide an annual property tax credit of \$2,000 to the spouse of any military member who died or was killed while on active duty. Unlike the veteran's tax credit currently in place, it is anticipated that this credit would apply to very few individuals and thus have negligible impact on community taxes. The Finance Committee supports this article as a small, compassionate measure we as a community can take should a military spouse have to endure such a tragic loss.

Mr. Marsh had one question that was not clear. Is this an annual allotment or a onetime allotment? Selectman Butt clarified it was annual. Mr. Marsh suggested an amendment to clarify "to receive an annual tax credit" Mr. Kurk seconded. Moderator Foss asked was anybody wishing to speak to that amendment? Moderator Foss asked for everybody wishing to add the word annual please raise your cards. All were unanimous.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot as amended. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. Maureen Billodeau made a motion to restrict reconsideration. Wendy Stevens seconded. All were in favor.

#### ARTICLE 32

Moderator Foss asked if there was any other business. Selectman Clow stated that he learned this morning that Selectman Butt did not arrive at the town office just before 4:30 yesterday to re-enlist, so he is not going to be on the ballot. Selectman Clow would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Selectman Butt of his powerful presence on the Board over the last six years. A person who would speak his mind, and yet listen to all sides of the issue before making a decision. He is leaving some big shoes to fill, and Mr. Clow totally enjoyed his presence on the board, and he will be missed. Moderator Foss added his appreciation. Mr. Kurk said while he is a member of the Finance Committee, he is not speaking on their behalf. As we've gone through the articles, we have looked at them individually. Mr. Kurk summarized, talking about the town portion only, the current tax rate \$3.30 per thousand. On a \$250,000 house, that is \$825.00. If all of the articles are passed, that tax rate would go from \$3.30 to \$4.47. That



\$250,000 house would go up from \$725 to \$1,117, a \$292 increase. If only the articles recommended by the Finance Committee were adopted, the tax rate would be \$3.99 and taxes on a \$250,000 would go up to \$997. So regardless whether all or some are passed, the tax rate is going up. The difference between all of the articles and the Finance Committee articles is \$120 for that \$250,000 house. If we only passed default budget, the tax rate would go down, but if we do that, we'll have to plow our own roads and that's probably not a viable solution.

Selectman Butt said if anybody looks at the town reports, there is a page in there that talks about the annual tax rate. One of the things the Board of Selectmen has done has used unreserved funds to affect the tax impact. What is not considered is what we are going to give back to the town. For the past several years, last year we gave \$300,000 back to the town and reduced the tax rate by .05 cents. Generally we are very frugal, generally there is money leftover at the end of the year. In 2007, the tax rate was \$2.76 which was the year we went through a re-evaluation. In 2007, it was \$2.76. In 2008, 2009, 2010, in 2011 we went through a re-evaluation. In 2011 the rate was \$3.11. You are paying approximately the same amount of property taxes based on the evaluation in 2012, it was \$3.35. In 2013, it went down to \$3.30. Our net appropriation has gone up over the past seven years, but we've basically kept it flat. What he is saying is correct, but the reality is that the money that is available is being sent to the taxpayers to offset the tax rate.

Betty Straw, Flanders Memorial Rd. I have a question for Selectman Leary when he was talking about the use of athletic fields, she noticed he didn't mention Purington Field. Is that one not being used? Selectman Leary said the Purington Field is still a viable field, but it is in such disrepair right now, it is really kind of a dust hole. Getting grass to grow there is very difficult, but as you're aware, that is the old dump and so what they did was put a mat down on top of that and then put fill on top of that. Subsequently, trying to put irrigation in there has not happened and so the grass is dry. We don't know exactly how far down the mat is and if we perforate it, it would be damaging. Mrs. Straw said she has an interest in Purington Field because her brother was responsible for getting all the federal grants in 1992 and that's where it got its name. She is concerned about it and she would like to see it used because he was an avid sports fan. Selectman Leary noted most people in the WAC program would like to see that. Selectman Lacasse added that the WAC is going to invest some money into keeping Purington Field utilized. The problem with the grass is the issue, however, WAC is going to try and work with it. Selectman Lacasse summarized we need all the fields in town that we have.

Moderator Foss asked for any other business. He took a moment to speak to a few minutes to thank the people seated in the room. He thanked the Finance Committee, the Weare 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the Selectman, and all of the town officers and the staff.

He hopes to see everyone at the March 11<sup>th</sup> vote. Heleen Kurk added some thanks to Mr. Moderator for moderating. Moderator Foss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 pm. Maureen Billodeau seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

A true record.

*Wendy J. Stevens*

Recording Secretary