

2016 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016

Moderator Foss called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked everyone present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Foss recognized the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Keith Lacasse, Vice Chairman Tom Clow, Jim Leary, Jennifer Bohl, Ricky Hippler; Fire Chief Bob Vezina, Police Chief Sean Kelly, and Public Works Director Tim Redmond. He introduced Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan; Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton; Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis; Town Treasurer, Jan Snyder; Town Clerk, Maureen Billodeau; Assistant Town Clerk, Jane Murchie; and Finance Administrator, Beth Rouse.

Moderator Foss acknowledged those residents that passed away during 2015.

Moderator Foss recognized Librarian Chris Hague for her presentation of a plaque to Paul Marsh, who has been a Library Trustee since 2003 and will not be seeking re-election. Chris expressed appreciation for herself and the Town for his years of service. Paul graciously accepted the plaque and stated that Chris Hague was the best thing for the library.

Moderator Foss informed everyone his rules of procedure that were going to be followed for today's meeting. He proceeded to ask those present for permission for Fire Chief, Bob Vezina; Police Chief, Sean Kelly; Public Works Director, Tim Redmond; and Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan to speak at this meeting, because they aren't residents of Weare. There was no objection with anyone present.

Today's votes will be cast by raising the beige cards provided to registered voters after signing in with the Supervisors of the Checklist. He gave instructions to those wishing to speak that they need to state their name clearly and show their cards.

Chairman Keith Lacasse gave the State of the Town address.

Moderator Foss asked for a Moment of Silence for everyone to gather their thoughts.

Moderator Foss proceeded onto the Articles.

**ARTICLE 10**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum of One Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,360,000) for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works (Highway Department) facility; One Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,360,000) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable

to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity of other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? (3/5 Vote Required)

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

Estimated Tax Impact = \$ 0.00 for 2016

Selectman Clow moved Article 10 as read. Seconded by Keith Lacasse. Selectman Clow stated that the existing facility was built in 1974 and that there are a number of safety issues. Starting the vehicles increases the diesel costs to \$800/month in the winter in order to warm them up. The Town paid off the Bridge Bond in 2015 and will pay off the Ferrante Property Bond in June, 2016 leaving the Town with no outstanding debt. He advised that the debt of the Bridge Bond and Ferrante Bond had a tax impact of .16 per thousand and that the debt for the Public Works Facility would be .22 per thousand; a difference of .06 per thousand per year.

Moderator Foss recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chairman. Finance Committee recommends Article 10. The existing structure is 37 years old, is unsafe, and is a liability to the Town. A safer and updated structure is needed for the highway department personnel and equipment. Currently, trucks are outside exposed to the elements; cold startups 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 work environment. Utility costs will be reduced with electrical upgrades and the elimination of block heaters. Over the past year, a committee of community volunteers has worked to develop the most cost-effective proposal to meet current needs, while allowing for future expansion. Beginning this project now avoids rising interest rates and increased construction costs in the future.

Moderator Foss recognized Steve Roberts, 815 Concord Stage Road, of the Public Works Garage Committee, who acknowledged and thanked all the committee members. Using the 2013 drawings, the committee reduced the size of the building and worked on actual needs with Public Works Director, Redmond. They researched questions of prior deliberative sessions; made site visits to local towns currently building highway garages, especially bordering town of Henniker; met with Harry Weatherbee, Engineer for their project who is from Weare and volunteered his time; did test pits and found no adverse factors for the site; and used Henniker figures and specs. The building being proposed is adequate for today with the ability to add on in the future. Committee agreed the sprinkler system is a necessity based on the fires at both the Henniker and Hopkinton highway garages and the substantial losses in insurance that incurred because their facilities had no sprinkler system. Proposed facility includes a sprinkler system, big tank and pump – cistern is necessary along with pump. Steve Roberts stated that the facility would adequately fit the needs of the Town within a reasonable budget. Travis Corcoran, 275 Quaker St., spoke against the article because he didn't know if it was a priority to have all the advantages mentioned since he has a pole barn for his vehicles and while it would be nice doesn't know if it's a necessity. Because the Town is debt free, it doesn't mean we have to go into debt. People have thought about this and decided we don't need it. Heleen Kurk, Mt. Dearborn Rd., said she does not like her taxes raised; however, spoke in favor of the article. There has been a need for a public works garage for many years and we would have saved a great deal of money; safety is-

sues should be a factor. Committee did a good job considering the costs, etc. certainly not frivolous. Bruce Fillmore, Building Committee Member, stated that the facility size is for maintaining the current fleet of equipment, what is needed today, not looking to add new trucks. Chris Hague, 35 Abijah Bridge Road, Joint Loss Committee, asked what's a life worth? Currently, there is unsafe air and working conditions, risk management, health and safety issues, prudence and prevention should be priority. Labor board's inspection will come on hard and will cost the Town. Chairman Lacasse answered a question relative to how it will be maintained. He stated the Board annually has an article that will add funds to the Government Building and Maintenance Fund to keep the town buildings maintained.

Selectman Clow stated the Board decided on a 10 year bond issue based on the interest rates and that increasing the length of the issue would increase those interest costs. He noted that because the building code requires a sprinkler system for a building of 10,000 square feet; the proposed building would require a sprinkler system. Approximately \$800/month savings would be realized and turned back to the Town towards the tax rate. It not only takes time to warm up the vehicles, but it also increases employee overtime. Steve Roberts said the builder provides a warranty, life expectancy is 50 years for siding, and roof has to be treated and taken care of, steel structure and should last many, many years. Best means to maintain equipment and best solution for the Town. Committee looked into several alternatives and cheapest wasn't always best. Committee members are taxpayers too and their judgment was based on what was best for the Town. Lori Davis, Chairman of Highway Garage Committee, said she talked to people and safety was paramount. The Town does not need lawsuits. Insurance for highway vehicles is not like car insurance because insurance companies do not replace them at full coverage. Current building is a safety hazard and not safe for employees; need to protect our vehicles, as well; hydraulics have to stay warm; need a proper facility to do proper procedures in a safe manner. Selectman Clow brought up the value of highway equipment: \$340,000 for a grader purchased last year, \$210,000 for a dump truck and \$180,000 for a loader in warrant articles this year, which represents half the cost of this garage, which will have a wash bay that will help to keep equipment longer.

Moderator Foss called for a vote for all those in favor of Article 10. All those opposed. Motion passed.

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

Moderator Foss asked the floor for permission to read only the wording of Article 11 and not to read all of the information in the chart from A to KK, etc. Moved and seconded not to read. Motion passed.

### ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Five Million Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Sixty-Two Dollars (\$5,519,062)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Four Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$5,413,296), 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	\$ 40,847.00	\$ 33,154.00
C	ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS	\$ 19,211.00	\$ 15,161.00
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 74,004.00	\$ 73,504.00
E	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 108,544.00	\$ 104,994.00
F	LEGAL FEES	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 61,900.00
G	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 80,489.00	\$ 80,289.00
H	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE	\$ 122,850.00	\$ 123,950.00
I	SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	\$ 163,466.00	\$ 163,152.00
J	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
K	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
L	LAND USE	\$ 27,641.00	\$ 26,861.00
M	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 73,049.00	\$ 74,288.00
M	CEMETERIES	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 31,600.00
O	INSURANCE	\$ 583,740.00	\$ 583,740.00
P	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 7,552.00	\$ 7,652.00
Q	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,457,391.00	\$ 1,375,644.00
R	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 4,194.00	\$ 4,194.00
S	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 371,423.00	\$ 359,353.00
T	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE FEES	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
U	BLDG DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 101,418.00	\$ 102,036.00
V	FOREST FIRES	\$ 4,852.00	\$ 3,660.00
W	TOWN MAINT / HIGHWAY DEPT	\$ 1,295,235.00	\$ 1,316,481.00
X	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,850.00
Y	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 380,007.00	\$ 365,749.00
Z	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 23,079.00	\$ 23,079.00
AA	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
BB	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 12,774.00	\$ 12,874.00
CC	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 5,114.00	\$ 5,114.00
DD	WELFARE	\$ 26,016.00	\$ 26,516.00
EE	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 49,037.00	\$ 47,797.00
FF	LIBRARY	\$ 214,775.00	\$ 212,390.00
GG	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
HH	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 2,055.00	\$ 1,215.00
II	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
JJ	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 72,982.00	\$ 72,982.00
KK	ROAD GRADER LEASE PAYMENT	\$ 64,058.00	\$ 64,058.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 5,519,062.00	\$ 5,413,296.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 2,817,589.00	\$ 2,817,589.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,701,473.00	\$ 2,595,707.00

DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$	824,374	
ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	\$	3.28	\$ 3.15
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)			

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 11 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler. He stated that the operating budget represents a 2% increase over last year's budget. He opened the floor to questions.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 11. The Finance Committee believes the Board of Selectmen has proposed a budget that meets the needs of the town in the current economic environment. The proposed budget reflects a 2% increase over the current approved budget.

Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, stated that standard practice has been that if an article would impact the operating budget the article would contain wording to reduce the operating budget if passed. He was referring to Article 21 relative to the lease/purchase of five (5) new police cruisers. Richard Butt moved to make an amendment that if Article 21 is approved, the operating budget will be reduced by \$17,000. Keith Lacasse seconded the amendment. Amendment passed. Frank Campana, 322 Quaker Street, does not support proposed budget. Insurance costs – the Selectmen have done nothing to try and mitigate the \$335,000 increase in costs. The Board should shoulder that responsibility and have a discussion on how to try to mitigate cost; and, if practiced, monitoring the departments would have kept costs down. Chairman Lacasse stated that the statement was not accurate. We have worked all year to get a Prime rating from Primex. Also, we now have a Calea rating; both should reduce premiums. John Lawton, 200 Oak Hill Rd., made an amendment to reduce the operating budget to \$5,389,522. Seconded by Frank Campana. The reduction of \$129,540 is reflective of savings in healthcare 2015 to 2016, police dispatch and debt service. Frank Campana supports the amendment and would like a secret vote. Eight (8) registered voters have requested a secret ballot. He said savings are not returned to taxpayers as a common practice and encourages support for this amendment. He stated that there is a lack of personnel in one department and the winter has been calm. Paul Marsh, 106 Colby Road, asked for clarification on the reduction. Selectman Clow recognized Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, who said that the reduction comes from bottom line and not from items reduced in amendment. Selectman Clow said that things go up and down and Selectmen try to find savings, some things increase, savings in one way can afford something else. Offset may be better word. Richard Butt stated he finds it amusing that when costs go up taxpayers are expected to pay; however, when costs go down, we never see them. He gave example: salt and sand in last year's budget was \$190,000 this year's proposed \$160,000 and default \$190,000 inflated so proposed budget gets passed. Liability insurance in 2013 was \$117,000, 340% increase today at \$451,000 because of one department and it is unacceptable. He said there is no attempt to help taxpayers and urged everyone to approve amendment and take control back. Do we want a bigger Police Department? There should be discussions about this. Travis Corcoran said he would like to see the Selectmen mitigate increases to the liability insurance and thinks accepting combat rifles does not fit. Frank Campana commends successful attempt to lower the proposed budget by

\$80,000 to get support of the Finance Committee. However, he's not supporting it because the Finance Committee gave the Board pressure to reduce the budget, and that the Board made the cuts at the eleventh hour. The \$80,000 reduction should have come without the prompting of the Finance Committee. Selectman Clow strongly recommends voting against this amendment. The legal expenses and liability are not representative of the people on the department today – they go way back. Amendment would be devastating to the budget.

John Lawton made a motion to move the question. Seconded by Richard Butt.

Moderator Foss explained that a secret ballot vote would now take place on the amendment. The amount of \$5,389,522 is the new number in the amendment for the proposed operating budget.

Moderator Foss recognized Supervisor of the Checklist, Heleen Kurk, to explain the secret ballot process. Vote Opened: 10:36 AM Closed: 10:52 AM. Moderator Foss announced the result of the vote to amend Article 11; 31 yes votes, 43 no votes. Amendment failed.

Moderator Foss stated that we now go back to Article 11 as read with the amendment relative to a \$17,000 reduction of the operating budget if Article 21 passes.

Neal Kurk, 285 Mount Dearborn Road, raised a question relative to healthcare buyouts and requested an explanation from the Selectmen. Selectman Clow stated that what qualified under the Affordable Care Act was employees working 30 hours plus. Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton, researched and the pool is large enough to qualify three (3) people and they get the insurance buyout. Neal contacted Health Trust and was told that the Affordable Care Act states employers of 50 and above with employees who work 30 or more hours need to offer health care insurance. If they cannot afford the premium, they can purchase through the marketplace. Neal Kurk said that the two employees retired through the NH Retirement System should not be qualified and urged the Board not to provide buyouts unless legally obligated. He said he was not making a motion, but he was requesting the Board check with Health Trust. Selectman Clow said the Board would look into this again with Health Trust. Neal Kurk gave him the name and number at Health Trust, which was the same as Naomi's contact. Kurk also requested clarification of their decisions on the Default Budget compared to previous years. He said that fuel, for example, was lower last year but higher this year. Chairman Lacasse stated they are following the letter of the law due to lawsuit last year.

Moderator Foss called for a vote for all those in favor of Article 11 as written with the amendment noted above. All those opposed. Motion passed.

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

## ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town approve the cost items contained in the two (2) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Union for the Police Department Employees, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2016	\$25,246
2017	\$30,538

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$25,346) 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 increase premium contributions from 7% to 10%, as do all other employees. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated net tax impact = \$0.03

Selectman Bohl moved Article 12 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow. Selectman Bohl explained that it covers 2 years collective bargaining 2% cola and 3% raise.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. The Finance Committee does not recommend Article 12. The Police were awarded raises with last year's approved contract. This year's proposed contract awards 5.5% pay raises, which are not consistent with the raises proposed for other town employees this year.

Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, referred to previous year's article regarding Police Department collective bargaining stating that the percent increase was the same. Selectman Clow said last year was offset by insurance because they changed the insurance plan for the Police Department. Police union approved insurance contribution from 5% to 7%. Richard Butt said he feels it was deceptive and wanted to know what the raise was. Selectman Clow stated the raise was 2% cola as was proposed in the budget. Richard Butt suggested rewording the article to break out offset of \$2,771.56 that Selectman Clow said was the insurance offset this year. Richard Butt said the taxpayers should be made aware of the offset. Sharon Czarnecki, Newman Wilson Road, agreed with Richard Butt. Last year \$10,000+ and this year \$20,000+ and it should have been explained last year that the insurance was an offset. Marge Burke, 47 Merrill Road, asked if Board of Selectmen could change the wording because this is what took place as part of the negotiations. Selectman Clow said that the 2% cola, steps and insurance contribution were part of the negotiations and that no dollar amount was part of collective bargaining. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, added that it can be amended to reflect the wording clarifying numbers being requested. John Lawton wanted to know how it would affect next year's wording since this is a two year agreement and 2017 is for \$30,538 including insurance and assumes raise will not be higher. Selectman Clow said that the numbers for the current year are based on if there was a savings, Selectman Clow stated that the numbers for the current year are based on nine (9) months; also, reflects offset in insurance contribution. Richard Butt stated he would make an amendment, but he did not know the numbers and requested the Board do it. Chairman Lacasse moved that the Board make the change. Seconded by Selectman Clow. The Board unanimously voted in favor of making this change for more clarification. Marge Burke spoke in favor of the Police Department relative to the rebuilding that has been done; the hard work taking place to be part of the community; and that salaries, as for with teachers, should be comparable to surrounding towns to keep officers here; as well as, time and money to send officers to the police academy. Frank Campana would like better bargaining over contract years and views it excessive as it is currently done. Chairman Lacasse read the addition to the article to include estimated gross increase, insurance offset and net estimated increase as shown below:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Insurance Offset	Net Estimated Increase
2016	\$ 28,117	(\$2,771)	\$25,346
2017	\$ 35,868	(\$5,330)	\$30,538

Chairman Lacasse moved to add to amendment— If Article 12 passes, the proper changes will be made to the Operating Budget. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss read amendment. Neal Kurk asked why the change reflected raising the full amount, approximately \$3,000 more than needed. Town Counsel, Spector-Morgan, stated that DRA requires raising and appropriating the full amount, even if there are offsets. Howard Ka-logian, 217 Colby Road, asked if offset would occur whether or not Article 12 passes. Chair-man Lacasse replied no; only if it passes.

Selectman Clow stated that this is one of the most important articles on the Warrant to continue with the rebuilding of the Police Department and we have to move on. We've had two officers go to the City of Manchester and, likewise, Nashua and Concord. We need to support these peo-ple. We have one track and 10 steps versus other towns with many tracks and steps, i.e. Goffstown has 20 steps. We need to support and build the department, and would like the Fi-nance Committee to take a second look. It should be a top priority. Matt Whitlock, Finance Committee member, asked if it is correct that if we do not approve the contract that the officers would not move up a step. Police Chief, Sean Kelly, said yes. Chief Kelly stated that nationally and locally people are not applying for police officer positions and urged the Town to vote in favor of this article. Neal Kurk asked what the average salary was and what would it be to be competitive. Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton, 58 Norris Road, gave starting salaries for sur-rounding towns, Henniker \$20.94; Dunbarton \$21.90; Hopkinton \$19.80; Goffstown \$20.82 and New Boston \$18.94. Weare is currently at \$19.59. Selectman Clow moved the question.

Moderator Foss called for a vote for all those in favor of Article 12 as written with amendment. All those opposed. Motion passed.

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

### ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$20,200) to be used for raises for non-union Town and Library personnel? If approved, this ad-dition would become part of the annual budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.02

Selectman Leary moved the article as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee rec-ommends Article 13. This article provides merit-based raises, averaging 3% for non-union Town and Library employees. These raises would be partially offset by having the employee's health care premium increased from 7% to 10%.

Richard Butt asked if it was the Board's intent to stop at 10% employee contribution toward in-surance premium. Selectman Leary replied that they are already paying 10%. No further discus-sion.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 13 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the previously established Government Building and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintenance and repairs to the various Town Buildings? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.09

Chairman Lacasse moved the article as read. Seconded by Selectman Leary.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 14. The Finance Committee believes it is prudent to have sufficient funds available for emergency repairs, given the aging condition of our town buildings. Currently, the fund has \$15,000 available. Approval of this warrant article would provide a sufficient amount to address emergencies.

Chairman Lacasse explained the work that was done in 2015 to preserve and to make the town office building safe. Insulation work still needs to be done in that building to save money on heating. Additional work to our other government buildings is needed and funding is also needed for unexpected expenses that may occur.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 14 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500) to be added to the Weare Fire Department's Operating Budget to allow for the purpose of funding per diem EMT/Firefighters? This represents the wages for nine (9) months. If approved, this addition would become part of the annual operating budget. This article is contingent on the passage of article 16. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.08

Selectman Hippler moved Article 15 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 15. Currently, per diem EMT coverage on Monday – Saturday is paid out of revolving funds received for ambulance services. The Finance Committee believes the per diem services are a recurring annual cost and would be more appropriately funded in the town budget. This would allow all ambulance reimbursement funds to be placed in the Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue Fund. This capital reserve fund could accumulate and be used as authorized by voters in future years to make major fire department purchases for fire trucks, support vehicles and ambulances. This would spread out costs and avoid the one-year, high tax impact associated with a major purchase.

Selectman Hippler stated that from the EMS billing receipts \$90,000 goes to the EMT/Firefighter Revolving Fund to pay the per diem EMT personnel; and the balance of the receipts, if there are any, pay the yearly billing fee (approximately \$8,000 - \$9,000) and the remainder is placed in the Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue Fund. This arti-

cle would make the EMT per diem personnel payments part of the Fire Department operating budget. Johanna Grzywacz asked where the amount of the ambulance billing receipts shows up and what has been received in the last three (3) years.

Fire Chief, Bob Vezina, recognized Captain Scott Dinsmore for his 30 years of service and his wife, Ann Mary, for 20 years of service, and Captain Dave Huey, for his being recognized as Citizen of the Year. He then went on to answer the question relative to receipts stating that in 2015 \$130,000, in 2014 \$100,000, and in 2013 \$115,000 was received. Grzywacz asked where she could find this information online. Town Treasurer, Jan Snyder, 10 Thorndike Road, told her that the information is located in the Treasurer's Receipts report that appears in the Annual Town Report. John Lawton reminded everyone that when the article was initiated it was a way to provide coverage with an offset for the cost of the service. He also stated that the \$90,000 is restricted right now and that restriction goes away by placing it in the operating budget and could dramatically increase. Fire Chief Vezina suggested that it may have its own line in the budget. Frank Campana made an amendment to add to second to the last line "with the total sum of an increase of up to \$90,000 for twelve (12) months." Chris Hague, 35 Abijah Bridge Road, suggested this would muddy the waters to an already confusing warrant article. John Lawton asked if this addition is part of the operating budget if it would restrict the 3% raise. Town Counsel, Spector Morgan, said that it would not and that her understanding of the amendment is for people to see it will cost \$90,000; however, it may be better to say expected to cost \$90,000. Frank Campana agreed to a change to his amendment from up to expected. Frank Campana expressed confusion of the \$67,000 for nine (9) months and \$90,000 for twelve (12) months and wanted language to clarify. Chief Vezina stated that with Article 16 2016 was methodically done to offset cost. Steve Roberts spoke against the amendment and in favor of the Article. Town Treasurer, Jan Snyder, explained what was actually transpiring for 2016 with the \$90,000 needed to cover per diem wages - \$22,500 will come from ambulance receipts for three (3) months and will go into the Fire Department EMT/Firefighter Revolving Fund for payment of per diem wages to cover the period prior to Town Meeting vote and \$67,500 for nine (9) months needing to be raised and appropriated for addition to the Weare Fire Department Operating Budget. Richard Butt asked what the status of the EMTs would be if approved. Fire Chief Vezina stated they are already employees of the Town and are covered by workmen's compensation and liability insurance. Richard Butt asked about benefits. Fire Chief Vezina stated they will qualify as any Town employee; however, they will not get to 30 hours per week, 99.9% will not get to 30 hours. Richard Butt added it could. He asked who was responsible for this article. Selectman Clow said that it came from the Board of Fire Wards, but it is a Board of Selectmen article. Richard Butt said that the Board of Selectmen has responsibility of the bottom line of the budget and could restrict this line. Selectman Clow replied that the amount is put in the line; however, it is up to the Department Head not to go over. Moderator Foss requested a vote on the amendment with the total sum increase expected to be \$90,000 for full twelve (12) months. Vote did not pass.

Howard Kaloogian raised a question of how the estimated tax impact is only for this year. Town Counsel, Spector-Morgan, stated estimates are not required; however, cannot restrict for future years because of the formula used based on net assessed value of Town. Travis Corcoran would like to see amendment of tax impact. Howard Kaloogian recommended that tax impact .08 also show for full \$90,000 at 10.5 cents. Selectman Clow advised that the estimated tax impact is not on the Official Ballot; it is for informational purposes at the Deliberative Session for the citizens

of Weare. Chairman Lacasse suggested the Board could include this information in the mailer. Board approved and will include in mailer.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 15 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town discontinue the EMT/Firefighter Revolving Fund that was established in 2010 thus transferring all funds and accumulated interest in said fund to the General Fund? This article is contingent on the passage of Article 15? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Hippler moved Article 16 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 16. With the passage of Article 15, the revolving fund would no longer be needed and would need to be discontinued. This article must pass for Article 15 to be enacted.

Sherry Burdick, 382 Deering Center Road, asked if funds can be used for something else. Selectman Clow explained that the balance of funds would go back to the taxpayers because it would go into the General Fund and wouldn't be used for something else. Sherry asked about the ambulance billing funds and where do they go. Selectman Clow said they will go to the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund, which requires a Town Meeting vote. Fire Chief Vezina stated that with the passage of both Articles 15 and 16 would keep debt service down and have the actual costs where they should be. It restores EMS revenue to the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund. The funds will be used for the lease payment in a later article. Neal Kurk stated that with \$90,000 coming out of taxpayer funds, the money from ambulance billing would go into FD Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund and not cost the taxpayers for a high price tag piece of equipment. He said pay now or pays later. Frank Campana reiterated this summary. Chief Vezina said that in order for the funds to be spent from the FD Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund, it needs to go back to the voters. Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 16 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three (3) year lease/purchase agreement for Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$238,100) for the purpose of leasing one (1) fully equipped Ambulance, and to raise and appropriate Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$83,000) for the first year's payment? Furthermore, if Article 15 passes, to authorize the lease payment of \$83,000 to be withdrawn from the Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue Fund. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) If Articles 15 & 16 fails the estimated tax impact is \$0.10.

Estimated tax impact= \$0.00

Selectman Hippler moved Article 17 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 17. This article would replace the older of two town ambulances, a 2003 two-

wheel-drive model with over 90,000 miles and 5,000 engine hours. Increased maintenance costs and downtime due to age and condition are calling into question the reliability of this vehicle. The replacement ambulance will be all-wheel-drive, improving timely, life-saving access to secondary roads in adverse weather. Leasing will spread the costs over a three-year period. If the EMT per diem article is not approved, this article will have an estimated tax impact of \$0.10 in the first year.

Selectman Hippler said it is a 2003 vehicle with over 5,000 engine hours on it. It is not reliable and there have been several occasions when it would not start. Minutes could mean a life. If not running properly, it can cost time to get the other ambulance in service; therefore, putting the patient in a life and death situation. Johanna Grzywacz asked if the lease mileage was included in this dollar amount. Selectman Clow stated that a lease/purchase agreement is a finance agreement and is not the same as leasing a vehicle. There is no mileage restriction. David Récupero, 12 Rossdale Lane, asked if the first year's payment is coming out of the FD Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund; that further payments will all be paid for out of this fund; and that the future goal is to have all capital purchases out of this fund. Chief Vezina replied yes and there will be a real savings by moving per diem costs into the operating budget and the ambulance coming out of the fund. Mark Phillips, 599 South Stark Highway, spoke in favor of this article. He said he actually works on the vehicle and wouldn't want to have an emergency and need this ambulance. Steve Roberts spoke in support of the article. He said he had an emergency and needed the ambulance and a second call came in that required the use of the second ambulance (backup ambulance). There would have been no in-town backup; therefore, an ambulance from surrounding town would have been needed resulting in possible 30-45 minute wait. This could be catastrophic, especially based on the condition of this vehicle. Selectman Clow explained that a slight amendment is needed for Article 17. Selectman Clow moved that where, if Article 15 passes should read: if Article 15 and 16 pass. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss requested a vote on the Amendment as read. Amendment passed.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot as amended. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

## ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the purchase of a replacement forestry vehicle and to authorize the withdrawal of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) from the Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue fund? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.00

Selectman Hippler moved Article 18 as read. Seconded by Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton. Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 18. The Fire Department's Forestry Vehicle is undersized for its intended purpose. This article would allow the purchase of a new Forestry Vehicle and the transfer of the current Forestry Vehicle to replace the command car, which likely will not pass inspection. The Finance Committee believes this is the most cost-effective way to meet two operational needs to

the department.

Selectman Hippler stated that this new forestry vehicle would replace the 2006 Durango from the Police Department, which will probably not pass inspection. The current forestry truck that has an undersized bed for what is required of the forestry truck will become the command vehicle.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 18 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the previously established Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing Jaws of Life equipment? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.04

Selectman Hippler moved Article 19 as read. Seconded by Selectman Lacasse.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 19. The Finance Committee believes this article should be approved as a critical life-safety issue. The town's current Jaws of Life cannot cut through modern automotive materials. As a result, our crews are finding themselves in situations where they are not able to extract critically injured drivers/passengers from their vehicles when time is critical for survival. Purchase will ensure our first responders have the right tool to match current automotive technology.

Selectman Hippler stated that the department currently has two Jaws of Life in place. One is located at the Center Station and the other is at the South Weare Station. They were purchased in 1985 (power unit replaced in 2003) and 2000, respectively. They stall out because they cannot cut through the materials in newer vehicles.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 19 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$116,745) representing the cost of adding three (3) additional full time police officers to the existing Police Department? This represents the wages and benefits for six (6) months Article 20. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.14

Selectman Jennifer Bohl moved Article 20 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend. The Police Department has not been at full complement over the past year. The Finance Committee believes we should fill existing vacancies before investing in additional officer positions.

Police Chief Sean Kelly said this article is in response to requests of the community including 24

hour coverage. Chief Kelly confirmed Finance Committee's comments are accurate. He said we still have vacancies; however, he will not replace just to replace. He is looking for honorable, ethical people; 130 people to get to 2 officers. He said the impact if not offered now would result in a delay of 2017 for the Police Academy in Concord and staffing to 2018 and not able to have 24 hour coverage. Chief Kelly replied that starting salary for Weare is \$40,700; \$46,280 Concord; \$48,400 Manchester; \$59,119 Nashua. He said he would do whatever the people want. Travis Corcoran wanted to know the workload of the organization. He asked what types and how many calls. Police Chief Kelly replied that he wanted to put police blotter on their website and Weare Community News will be publishing data. He said that in 2015 the department wrote 171 tickets; 130 car crashes; made 180 custody arrests – 60% alcohol and drugs; summonses are down; and 9,476 calls for services. National average of 2.5 officers needed per 1,000 and we are at 1.1 per 1,000 now or 3 times smaller than rest of the nation. Even, at full staff, we would have 1.5 officers per 1,000. Sex crimes take a lot of time. Howard Kaloogian asked what happens when a call comes in and the station is not staffed. Chief Kelly said that the station is not staffed during 3:00 and 7:00 A.M. In 2015, there were 148 calls for service that went to dispatch who passed the calls on to the State Police. The State Police covered; however, the State Police do not have to cover or may already be on a call and Weare would have to wait until call is concluded. Of the calls, 38 % were for domestic violence. Howard Kaloogian asked why the dollar amount is for only three (3) months. Selectman Lacasse said that it takes approximately six (6) months for Chief Kelly to hire new officers. Howard Kaloogian wanted to amend with an estimated annual tax impact of .28/\$1000. Town Counsel, Spector-Morgan, said the amendment is legal. Howard Kaloogian said that with the amendment there would be full disclosure and transparency. Chairman Lacasse stated that this would be included in the mailer. Dennis Leblanc asked if schools are covered during the day. Chief Kelly responded that schools are covered, if called. Selectman Clow spoke against the amendment. Moderator Foss requested a vote on the amendment. Amendment failed.

Marge Burke spoke in favor of this article and that schools are affected by the majority of calls in the home. There is no longer a DARE officer or SRO (School Resource Officer) in the school system. Richard Butt said he doesn't support the article based on the numbers provided; doesn't see a need to support programs not currently offered; and bringing the force up to 24/7 coverage isn't necessary according to the numbers provided. He asked how many complaints were received for lack of service and how many complaints have been received from State Police? He stated that the positions open right now need to be filled and the focus should be on that. Chairman Lacasse and Selectman Clow both said they haven't received any complaints. Chief Kelly said he hasn't had any complaints either. John Lawton stated that it doesn't appear that the dollar amount adds up. \$6,500 a month per officer is a great deal higher than quoted and overtime is still occurring. Selectman Leary said he believes the numbers are comparable. Salary being compared, not benefits. David Erikson, 246 Poor Farm Road, spoke in support of improving the Police Department; however, he wanted to know if the article is approved and the Chief was unable to hire these officers if the money could be spent. Chief Kelly answered no. David Erikson wanted to know where the State Police would be coming from. Chief Kelly replied wherever

their last call was. Marge Burke said that she is frequently asked questions as to when the DARE officer will be back running the program in the school system regarding drugs and alcohol. Richard Butt asked if a DARE officer was being hired under this article. Chairman Lacasse replied no. Frank Campana moved to make an amendment to Article 20 as follows: after annual operating budget, with the estimated sum increase to \$233,490 for a full twelve 12 months. Seconded by Neal Kurk.

Selectman Clow advised that a change needed to be made to the dollar amount in the amendment to \$224,312 for twelve (12) months. John Lawton asked the Board to clarify where funds go. He said he knows it goes into the General Fund; but, if not spent for this purpose, it could be spent for something else or reduce taxes. Chairman Lacasse said the money goes back to General Fund to offset taxes and nothing else. Moderator Foss requested a vote on the Amendment as read. Amendment passed.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot as amended. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three (3) year lease/purchase agreement for One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$124,500) for the purpose of leasing five (5) new police cruisers; further to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$91,500) (\$41,500 for the first year's payment and \$50,000 to purchase related equipment for the five (5) cruisers), or to take any other action in relation thereto? The lease agreement contains an escape clause. If approved the proposed operating budget will be reduced by \$17,000. **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**  
Estimated tax impact= \$0.11

Selectman Tom Clow moved Article 21 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 21. The Finance Committee supports this comprehensive proposal to rectify maintenance and dependability issues with our aging fleet of cruisers. This article will ensure that officers can provide the emergency response expected by town residents, while reducing the vehicle maintenance budget. The fleet would be reduced from nine to seven vehicles and be leased, in lieu of purchase, to minimize first-year costs. Five all-wheel-drive Dodge Chargers would replace seven current vehicles, the majority of which are 5-7 years old with over 100,000 miles each. Selectman Clow clarified that it is a lease/purchase with a buyout of \$1/vehicle at the end of three (3) years. The standard maintenance has been \$17,000; however, this year it was \$30,000. The price of each vehicle is approximately \$24,000. The first year payment is higher due to the \$50,000 or \$10,000/vehicle cost of equipment. Rose Gilman, 167 Old Town Road, asked what an escape clause was. Town Counsel, Spector-Morgan, said that in future years the Town can vote to get out of the lease. Mark Phillips spoke in support of this article. He said there is a definite need to update our fleets. Marge Burke spoke in favor of this article. She wanted to know how many miles of dirt and paved roads there are in town. Public Works Director, Redmond, said there are 106 miles of roads; 60 miles of paved and 46 miles of dirt. Richard Butt wanted to know about this particular vehicle. Chief Kelly said that previous vehicles were \$50,000 Ford Explorer and Crown Victorias, which are not being made anymore. The choices

with this plan were the Ford Sedan, Ford Explorer or Dodge Charger. He said that all were test driven very hard at the Speedway and the Dodge Charger all-wheel-drive vehicle was overall, hands down, best at price point. Lori Davis said that mileage should be curtailed especially going out of town. Chief Kelly said that both he and the Lieutenant go out of town; otherwise, the vehicles go out of town to court and training. Everything we do has to have a valid reason for it. Frank Campana wanted confirmation on how many cars the department has at present. Police Chief Kelly stated that the fleet is currently at 9 and would drop down to 7. Of the new vehicles, 1 will be assigned to the Lieutenant and 4 will be used for patrol. This package is part of State bid, which has the highest replacement value; vehicles will have a 5 year warranty; will start rotating in last year of 3 year lease; Dodge breaking, cooling; actually, all systems are more robust; and the fact is Dodge is trying to get the market share against other vehicle manufacturers. Frank Campana asked where the lease was being purchased. Chief Kelly said the state bid is in Keene. John Lawton said the price seems cheap. Chief Kelly said that the Dodge police package is vastly different because the vehicles made more robustly (hemi engine) and Dodge has reduced the police package vehicles to get police business.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 21 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000) for the reconstruction and resurfacing of roads with up to Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Eighty-Six Dollars (\$268,086) anticipated to be received from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant(pursuant to RSA 235) and the remaining balance to be raised by taxation? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.26

Selectmen Leary moved Article 22 as read. Seconded by Chairman Lacasse.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 22. The Finance Committee supports this recurring article, funding the Highway Department's road maintenance work. State funding helps reduce the cost to the taxpayers. Selectman Leary said that funds are raised annually for the reconstruction and resurfacing of roads.

Public Works Director, Redmond said that the Highway Block Grant is offsetting revenue from gas tax. He said he asked Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee to increase by \$50,000 or .06 tax impact to achieve 1 mile of paved road.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 21 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new wheel loader for the Highway Department? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.22

Selectman Clow moved Article 23 as read. Seconded by Selectman Leary.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 23. The current loader is eleven years old with over 10,000 engine hours. It is critical to loading winter sand/salt into trucks. It is the only loader in our fleet. If it breaks down, roads cannot be treated until it is fixed or a replacement is leased.

Selectman Clow said the loader is breaking down; is on its last legs and is worn out. Public Works Director, Redmond, stated it was a replacement item for CIP 4 years ago and there were other items that came up needing replacement. Jon Osborne asked what was the size of the present loader. Public Works Director, Redmond said it was 3.5 and the new one is 3.0. He didn't feel that .5 warranted the cost of an additional \$20,000. Frank Campana asked if the bucket could be oversized. Public Works Director Redmond said the machine came with a 3.5 bucket. He will get 5 estimates.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 23 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$29,600) to be added to the previously established Transfer Station Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new skid steer? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.04

Selectman Clow moved Article 24 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend. The current equipment is a 2005 model with over 4200 engine hours. It is used to move recyclables and fee-based items at the Transfer Station. The Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee designated this project as a secondary need. Selectman Clow stated that this is an essential piece of equipment to the Transfer Station. He said the actual cost is \$59,600 with \$30,000 currently in the Transfer Station Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Public Works Director Redmond said that the scale was the primary choice but was rejected; and that the second choice should then become the primary choice. The current skid steer has 4200 hours on it. He said it could be reduced by applying for a grant or possibly getting some trade value on the present skid steer. It is a revenue producing piece of equipment. Dennis Leblanc said he was in favor of the article and it has 4200 hours on it. He said demolition fees are lost.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 24 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$27,500) to be added to the previously established Chase Park Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of renovating the bathrooms to be ADA compliant, seal coat and

stripe the parking lot and to develop a Beach Storm Water Management to fix erosion? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Leary moved Article 25 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 25. This article would improve the bathroom facilities and parking lot at Chase Park and would remediate beach erosion.

Selectman Leary said there have been no updates made at Chase Park for a long time. Bruce Fillmore suggested that Chase Park Funds be used for Chase Park instead of the General Fund. Selectman Clow said they would look into State Laws relative to a Revolving Fund.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 25 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 26**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) to be added to the previously established Recreational Development and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of expanding parking, improving drainage, and expanding and improving the soccer field at Bolton Memorial Park? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.10

Selectman Leary moved Article 26 as read. Seconded by Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend Article 26. This article has failed in previous years. There are parking and drainage issues at Bolton Field; the soccer field is smaller than standard. While this article would correct these issues, the Finance Committee believes there are more pressing operational needs requiring taxpayer support. Selectman Leary explained the safety issues relative to the parking situation on weekends for football games; specifically, there is no space for emergency vehicles to get in and out due to parking on both sides of the roadway. Bruce Fillmore said he has located some material on the site that can be used and that the money being asked for is more than needed. Selectman Leary said that DRA doesn't allow for a reduction in dollar amount. He said that the assistance at the fields from townspeople is greatly appreciated. Greg McDowell suggested charging parking fees seeing not only our children are using the field.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 26 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 27**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$4,520) for the purpose of adding additional support staff hours at the Weare Public Library as follows: 360 hours annually for desk pages and 66 hours annually for planning and presentation of adult and children's programs? No additional benefits shall accrue to these positions. If this article is approved, future funding for these additional hours will be included in the Weare Library operating budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.01

Selectman Bohl moved Article 27 as read. Seconded by Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend Article 27. The Finance Committee believes current library services are adequate to meet community needs.

Librarian Chris Hague said that article was derived from input from the public. We are currently understaffed and families and students need help. We need a floating staff person from April through July when there is increased patronage both upstairs and downstairs. The desk pages hours will be used to cover books going in and out while the director can plan and run programs. The dollar amount is fixed.

Brenda Cannon, 54 Grandview Drive, spoke in favor of the article stating that she is a patron of the library and people use the library a lot. She said they also want more from their library and the cost is less than \$5,000 for the additional help needed. Selectman Clow said that the cost is closer to ½ cent (tax impact).

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 27 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 28**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the previously established Cemetery Construction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of continuing to repair the stone walls around the cemeteries? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.01

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 28 as read. Seconded by Selectman Leary.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends Article 28. This project would repair cemetery perimeter stone walls. As Cemetery Trust Funds may not be used for this purpose, there is an estimated tax impact.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 28 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

#### **ARTICLE 29**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for cemetery improvements and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from Cemetery Trust Funds Cy Pres Account? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.00

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 28 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends. These funds are used to maintain the interior of town cemeteries. This is funded with a withdrawal from the Cemetery Trust Fund and has no tax impact.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 29 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 30

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to cover the costs of the Town's participation in one (1) local Household Hazardous Waste Collection in 2016? 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? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

Selectman Leary moved Article 30 as read. Seconded by Selectman Clow.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends. This is a recurring warrant article to have a scheduled day once per year to collect hazardous waste at the Transfer Station.

Selectman Leary explained that this collection is done annually and the dollar amount was increased by \$1,000 to allow for additional time. Paul Marsh supports article; however, suggested it needs more publicity. Neal Kurk made the suggestion that articles in the future should contain "Special Warrant Article" as this one does so that money cannot be used for any other purpose. He said that with this wording, articles may get passed.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 30 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 31

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for the 2016 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? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

Selectman Leary moved Article 31 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend. Providing fireworks is not a critical function of the town. It is more appropriate as a private fundraising option.

Selectman Leary explained that the vendor for the carnival rides, etc. will not set up without fireworks. On Saturday evening of the Patriotic Celebration, the fireworks draw the townspeople to the center of town where the rides and other vendor booths are located.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 31 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 32

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to amend a lease with the Weare Historical Society for what were formerly the Gordon Brown barns on East Road (Tax Map 203-94) to allow the Society to open the barns up to four (4) times per year for the public to view the Society artifacts stored in the buildings? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Clow moved Article 32 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends.

Selectman Clow explained that this article would amend the lease so that the WHS has the ability to display and have the items viewed by the public that are in cold storage at various times of the year. Heleen Kurk, Director of WHS, stated that they realize they have ability to have displays there, but they would like the lease to include the wording to allow it to be open to the public up to four (4) times per year for viewing. Also, the WHS would like to engage the school children and community with farm implements that are now located there.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 32 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 33

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) 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?

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.00

Selectman Clow moved Article 33 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends. The Finance Committee believes that professional management of the town's forests is a wise use of resources to the continuing benefit of the town. This article is funded out of the Town Forest Account and has no tax impact.

Selectman Clow said that planned logging operations on town property and the stumpage funds from them go into the Town Forest Account thereby allowing the funds to be available for withdrawal for this article.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 33 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 34

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for Conservation Commission expenditure toward the purchase of new town forest land, and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Town Forest Account? **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Estimated tax impact = \$ 0.00

Selectman Clow moved Article 34 as read. Seconded by Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee recommends. The Finance Committee believes that having funds available to purchase land to add

to the town forest helps foster the rural character of our community. This article has no tax impact.

Selectman Clow said it gives the Town the opportunity to purchase new town forest land when it becomes available. He stated that if article is approved, nothing comes out of the fund unless Conservation Commission approves. John Lawton said that he is opposed to continuous land and not making it available to town. He gave examples of what New Boston does to mark the areas of Conservation Land, puts labels on trees and has pamphlets outlining those areas. He said when he was on the Board that Trails Committee was brought up and he would like to see the trails marked and used. He is tired of land being locked up and not used. Marge Burke supports article. She said she thinks this would be a great idea as a Boy Scout Eagle Project.

Selectman Clow stated that there is an active Trails Committee.

Moderator Foss stated that since there is no amendment, Article 34 will appear on the ballot as written. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 35

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of making necessary safety improvements to the Town's firing range located behind the Transfer Station, or take any other action in relation thereto? The range would be open to Weare residents upon completion of the improvements. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)  
Estimated tax impact = \$0.12

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 35 as read. Seconded by Selectman Leary.

Moderator Foss recognized Finance Committee Chairman, Lori Davis. Finance Committee does not recommend. The Finance Committee does not believe the town should be directing taxpayer dollars to this function. The Police Department already has other facilities for training. Furthermore, a town firing range would present a high liability to the town.

Chairman Lacasse said that there wasn't a public hearing or vote on closing the Town's firing range. Apparently, vandalism had taken place and it was the Selectmen, at the time, who decided to close it. Lori Davis said that the figures for the article came from the insurance company, who are not qualified and NRA was never contacted. Selectman Leary said he contacted the NRA and has numbers and correspondence. Also, he said our insurance company has former police personnel familiar with firing ranges. Town Counsel, Spector-Morgan, said it was no more liable than any other accident on town property. Howard Kaloogian asked if the town is hiring a range officer. Selectman Leary said there was no plan for that at this time. It would be a self-policed range. Howard Kaloogian asked what the \$100,000 was being used for. Chairman Lacasse said to increase the height of the berms and moving of earth. Travis Corcoran said he is pro guns but that a firing range is an entertainment option and he doesn't believe that taxpayers should be required to pay for it. Steve Roberts made an amendment that read "Shall the town establish a feasibility study committee for the purpose of making safety and operational improvements to the Town's firing range located behind the Transfer Station? The committee shall develop a plan and cost of the project." Seconded by John Lawton. Steve Roberts then said that by being on the Highway Garage Committee, he feels this article is headed for disaster; will cost a significant amount of money; will fail the way it is; and we need to find out whether location is best. Also, he said the highway or transfer may need land in the future.

Moderator Foss requested a vote on the Amendment as read. Amendment passed. Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot as amended. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### **ARTICLE 36**

Shall the Town amend Article 48 passed at the March 11, 2003 Town Meeting to read as follows: The Town asks that all Boards, Commissions, and Committees use their best efforts to schedule all meetings at times and in locations to best facilitate the ability to broadcast the meeting, or record for later broadcast, on the Weare Community Access Channel and/or on an internet site determined by the Cable Committee. Effective September 1, 2016, the following Boards, Commissions, and Committees will be required to broadcast their meetings or record their meetings for later broadcast: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Board of Fire Wards, Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, CIP, and Parks and Recreation Commission.

**(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

Selectman Clow moved Article 36 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl.

Selectman Clow explained the changes from the original Article of 2003 which include the addition of Committees, and internet, etc. especially for meetings recorded and out on You Tube. Richard Butt opposed the article as written and moved to make an amendment striking the sentence beginning with Effective September 1. Richard Butt stated that it was unrealistic due to the cost and extra hours that the Cable Committee would have to be involved, citing that the targeted objective was the Finance Committee. Matt Whitlock seconded the motion on the amendment. He stated that this article has no teeth because there is no enforcement clause resulting in no penalty if not complied with. Neal Kurk said that he supports the amendment. He stated that he is on the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals that meet in the Selectmen's office; thus their meetings are recorded. However, he went on to say that he also served on the Finance Committee where it is much harder to get volunteers and it would be better to change the culture and not mandate this action. He said it worries him if this was directed at the Finance Committee. Rochelle Pitkaniemi, Concord Stage Road, Finance Committee member said that the Finance Committee meets almost every night until their decisions are final and realizes that other committees using the Selectmen's space may not want to give it up. Is the Conservation Room, where the Finance Committee meets, going to be set up the same as the Selectmen's room? Steve Wallace, Mt. Dearborn Road, supports the amendment. He is serving on the Finance Committee for a second year and said it is difficult enough to get people to serve. The meetings are open to anyone to observe. Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, Finance Committee Chairman, supports amendment. Heleen Kurk the Heritage and Agriculture Committees had members; however, it doesn't appear that anyone is on these committees at this time. Selectman Lacasse stated that the intent was transparency, putting the light of day on government. As far as equipment is concerned, a mini tripod and a smart phone can be used for later broadcast.

John Foss said he was in favor of this article as transparency is the objective. John Foss stated, as Moderator, he currently appoints people to the Finance Committee and the proceedings of that committee should be as transparent as possible. Lori Davis said that the Finance Committee doesn't have a smart phone and members will not be using their personal phones, etc. Travis Corcoran wanted to know the definition of meeting and wondered if friends wanting to chat and

meet meant a meeting. There's no regulation. Matt Whitlock said that he is a fan of accountable; however, the Finance Committee is a check on the Board of Selectmen and School Boards, which results in candid and frank discussions. These types of discussions would probably not occur if people knew they were on cable. Selectman Clow stated he didn't understand because any discussion should be professional. Steve Roberts thought that the language needs to be cleaned up relative to whom this involves and there needs to be a plan to implement. Steve Roberts confirmed that the amendment should be to drop everything after the first sentence as was the amendment made by Richard Butt and seconded by Matt Whitlock. Richard Butt moved the question.

Moderator Foss requested a vote on the Amendment as read. Amendment passed.

Moderator Foss moved to place this article on the ballot as amended. Moderator Foss stated it has been approved. A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration; all in favor.

### ARTICLE 37

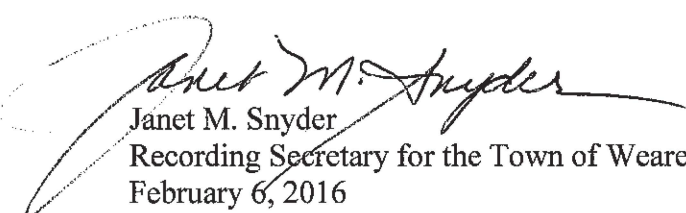
To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting?

Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton, brought up that there would be a candidate's night for contested offices – Selectmen and Treasurer. The date will be March 1.

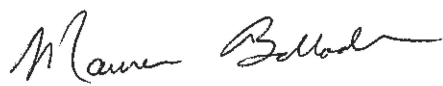
Paul Marsh wanted to remind everyone that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on March 8 at the Weare Middle School.

Neal Kurk thanked the Selectmen and the Department Heads for a pleasurable meeting.

Moderator Foss thanked the voters in attendance and reiterated that voting on the Ballot would be held on March 8 at the Weare Middle School.



Janet M. Snyder  
Recording Secretary for the Town of Weare  
February 6, 2016



Maureen Bellodi  
Town Clerk