

2017 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

Moderator, Eileen Meaney, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moderator Meaney recognized the Board of Selectmen: Chairman Keith Lacasse, Vice Chairman Tom Clow, Selectperson Jennifer Bohl, Selectman Frederick Hippler, Selectman John (Jack) Meaney, Police Chief Sean Kelly, Fire Chief Bob Vezina, Public Works Director Benji Knapp and Town Administrator Naomi Bolton. She also introduced Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau, Deputy Town Clerk Jane Murchie, Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, Library Director Michael Sullivan, Finance Committee Chairman Matt Whitlock, Lori Davis, Bill Anderson, Stephen Wallace, Keith Erf, Jeff Brown, Neal Kurk and Travis Cochoran.

Moderator Meaney explained the rules of procedure that were going to be followed for today's meeting. Votes will be cast by raising the cards provided to registered voters after signing in with the Supervisors of the Checklist. Those wishing to speak were instructed to state their name clearly and to show their voter cards.

She recognized town officials and employees that are non-residents to speak on behalf of the Town: Fire Chief Bob Vezina, Police Chief Sean Kelly, Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan, Library Director Michael Sullivan and employee of the Highway Department Tom Cummings.

Moderator Meaney acknowledged those residents that passed away during 2016.

Chairman Keith Lacasse gave the State of the Town address.

Moderator Meaney proceeded onto the Warrant Articles, beginning with Article 4 which she read into the record.

ARTICLE 4

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 Seven Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$5,779,628)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Seven Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$5,785,882), 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	\$ 39,395.00	\$ 43,170.00
C	ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS	\$ 8,675.00	\$ 8,675.00
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 76,253.00	\$ 76,653.00
E	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 108,584.00	\$ 108,784.00
F	LEGAL FEES	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 59,500.00

G	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 83,945.00	\$ 84,080.00
H	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE	\$ 126,679.00	\$ 126,479.00
I	SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	\$ 171,530.00	\$ 171,043.00
J	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,500.00
K	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
L	LAND USE	\$ 27,934.00	\$ 28,534.00
M	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 96,738.00	\$ 97,777.00
M	CEMETERIES	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00
O	INSURANCE	\$ 557,155.00	\$ 557,155.00
P	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 7,757.00	\$ 7,757.00
Q	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,457,487.00	\$ 1,475,111.00
R	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 4,316.00
S	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 498,407.00	\$ 451,776.00
T	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE FEES	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,800.00
U	BLDG DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 105,713.00	\$ 105,116.00
V	FOREST FIRES	\$ 4,852.00	\$ 4 852.00
W	TOWN MAINT / HIGHWAY DEPT	\$ 1,293,666.00	\$ 1,308,334.00
X	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00
Y	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 373,347.00	\$ 370,551.00
Z	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 16,303.00	\$ 16,303.00
AA	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 2,692.00	\$ 3,300.00
BB	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 13,916.00	\$ 13,266.00
CC	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 5,231.00	\$ 5,231.00
DD	WELFARE	\$ 26,006.00	\$ 26,016.00
EE	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 52,049.00	\$ 49,037.00
FF	LIBRARY	\$ 201,397.00	\$ 218,956.00
GG	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
HH	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 2,055.00
II	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 0	\$ 0
JJ	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 147,719.00	\$ 147,719.00
KK	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 141,618.00	\$ 141,618.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 5,779,628.00	\$ 5,785,882.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 2,838,576.00	\$ 2,838,576.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,941,052.00	\$ 2,947,306.00
DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$ 855,800.00	
ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.44
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)		

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 4 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler. The proposed budget represents a 1.67% increase over last year's budget. Chairman Lacasse stated that he supports the Proposed Operating Budget and the thoughtful process that was followed in its preparation by him and his fellow Selectmen. However, he stated concern over the way the default budget was calculated. He said that the Selectmen have had a tradition to not ask for any more on any individual line item in the default budget than what is being asked for in the proposed budget. He said he believes this to be the correct and most ethical way to calculate the default budget. He said that he is not suggesting that the default budget is not legal but that it was his opinion and the opinion of other

voters at the Public Hearing that it was not right. Therefore, Chairman Lacasse moved that the proposed operating budget be amended to a total operating budget of \$5,670,756. Seconded by Matt Whitlock.

Amendment to Article 4:

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 Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Eight Dollars (\$5,779,628)~~ Five Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$5,670,756)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Seven Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$5,785,882), 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.

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$5,779,628	\$ 5,670,756.00	\$ 5,785,882.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE		\$ 2,838,576.00	\$ 2,838,576.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$2,832,180	2,772,180.00	\$ 2,947,306.00
DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000		\$ 855,800.00	
ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.44

Chairman Lacasse said that this number represents what the default budget would have been if we had continued the tradition of not including higher numbers on any lines in the default budget. He said that because there is no way of fixing the default budget here today, this is the only way left to fix it. He stated that the voters of Weare should be given a true choice when deciding on the Town budget and not the false choice currently being offered. He said that we need to trust the voters of this Town since they are the ones who elected us.

Moderator Meaney requested a Point of Inquiry of Chairman Lacasse. She asked him if he was speaking as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen or as a private citizen from the Town of Weare. Chairman Lacasse then stated he was making the motion as a private citizen.

Finance Committee Chairman Matt Whitlock read the original statement prepared prior to the amendment. The Finance Committee believes the Selectmen have proposed a budget that meets the needs of the town in the current economic environment. The proposed budget reflects a 1.7% increase over the current approved budget.

Moderator Meaney opened the meeting up for discussion.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road said he was in support of the amendment. He expressed concern over items being zeroed out in the Proposed Budget but carried over to the Default Budget. Vice Chairman Clow explained that the difference between the Default and Proposed Budgets is a \$91,332 increase over 2016. He said that taking into consideration that the increase in debt service payment for the Highway Garage is \$74,000, the increase is only \$17,332. He said that what he wants to make clear is this amendment would be a cut of over \$100,000. Richard Butt brought up the fact that in prior years the difference between the Default and Proposed Budget has been \$100,000. He stated that this year's Default Budget is higher than the Proposed and that it represents about \$115,000 of items carried into the Default Budget that shouldn't have been. He said by what has been done in the way these budgets were prepared is to take it or leave it leaving the voters no choice and while it may be legal it is not acceptable and not the right thing and a disgrace to this Town. Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, thanked Keith Lacasse for making this motion and stated that the problem is this new policy the Selectmen have been following relative to arriving at default budgets and this amendment is trying to right things here. Marjorie Burke, Merrill Road, was op-

posed to the amendment. Frank Campana, Quaker St was in support of the amendment stating that as of the December 19 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes there was quite a bit of surplus for last year at that time, \$347,000. Moderator Meaney asked Frank Campana if he was making an amendment and he stated he wasn't but was pointing out facts on the proposed budget being based on inflated figures. He went on to state that the tax impact for both the Proposed Budget and the Default Budget was \$3.44 and that there is really no choice. Frank stated he was wholeheartedly in support of the amendment. Moderator Meaney explained to Frank that he had gone over his three minutes. Frank Campana submitted a request for a ballot vote on the amendment and that he had the proper signatures (seven). He handed the request to Moderator Meaney. John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, stated he was in support of this amendment and that he was disappointed that the Selectmen didn't come back with a better prepared Default Budget, especially when it is \$5,000 or \$6,000 higher than the Proposed Budget. Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Road, asked if the amendment was dollar amount based on zero-based budgeting. She wanted to know if there were specific items cut or if the Selectmen could select within the bottom line number. Keith Lacasse stated it was calculated using the way previously calculated default budgets were done so that any individual line item where our proposed budget was less than the default budget would have been carried from the proposed budget line across to the default line and when it was added together it was the bottom line number. Lori Davis made three points: 1. when we bring forth proposals and amendments to things we should complete the first article of business, have the Finance Committee respond and then have separation of powers; 2. everything should be done with respect to everybody in this room as we all have rights to opinions, but we need to be polite, respectful and lose the anger and 3. call the question. Vice Chairman Clow stated that this cut in the proposed budget would be \$115,000, simple and clear and it was phrased that it was because of dissatisfaction of the way the Default Budget was put together and that this cut would have an impact. He expressed that the surplus Frank Campana spoke about earlier would go into the undesignated fund balance and that he didn't see it as a bad thing. Everyone of our departments was either on budget or under budget this year and a lot of it was due to the mild winter and fuel prices that are hard to estimate when preparing the budget. The undesignated fund balance isn't a starting point for building a budget because we don't have any access to it as it goes into the General Fund and it can only be used to offset taxes when the tax rate is set next October so that is a misconception that we start off with that money in hand in preparing the budget. There are some specific areas that will hurt and one of those areas he pointed out was very important is the expanding of coverage at the fire station for ambulance services that goes beyond what we have now. He stated there are daytime coverage people on duty to answer emergency calls during daytime hours on weekdays and the proposal in the budget would increase that to weekend coverage and also other hours that are hard to cover by on-call people. This is one of the major things we would lose if we cut the budget by \$115,000, which comes to mind first, even though there are other areas if there was time to go down the budget. He strongly urged that the amendment be defeated.

Moderator Meaney went on to the request to call the question. Seconded. She explained that the vote would be by a secret ballot vote. Point of Order was called by Neal Kurk because the secret ballot requested by Frank Campana was on the motion on the amendment and not on the motion to call the question. He said that the motion could be by normal vote. Moderator Meaney stated that the vote being taken was on calling the question. The vote was taken and the vote to call the question passed. Moderator Meaney advised that the vote now would be on the amendment and that she was going to read it because there was a question on the number so the amendment on the table is to change the total operating budget from \$5,779,628 to \$5,670,756. Voters can go up and vote and place their votes in the ballot box. Frank Campana stated he didn't know if it was appropriate but he wanted to know if Moderator Meaney would reiterate what the yes and no vote means in relation

to the amendment. Moderator Meaney stated that a Yes vote would be to adopt the amendment proposed by Keith Lacasse and the No vote would be to oppose the amendment and go with original as written warrant.

Moderator Meaney gave the results of the secret ballot vote on Article 4 - 41 votes in favor and 36 opposed. Voters approved to amend the Proposed operating budget from \$5,779,628 to an Operating Budget of \$5,670,756. She asked if there was any discussion on the article as amended and seeing none the article would be placed on the ballot as amended. Neal Kurk moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by John Lawton. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town approve the cost items contained in the three 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:

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Increase</u>	<u>Est. Insurance</u> <u>Offset</u>	<u>Net Estimated</u> <u>Increase</u>
2017	\$ 16,627	(\$ 2,815)	\$ 13,812
2018	\$ 32,056	(\$ 4,697)	\$ 27,359
2019	\$ 26,833	(\$ 4,697)	\$ 22,136

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$16,627) 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 increases employee health insurance premium contributions from 7% to 10%, consistent with all other town employees.

(**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated net tax impact = \$0.02

Vice Chairman Clow moved the article as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler. Vice Chairman Clow stated that this article is pretty self-explanatory as written, but what we are trying to do with this three year contract is provide stability in the department and encourage new staffing in the department by having a contract in place. He said the department is currently down by two positions and recruiting is difficult when there isn't a contract in place. By having the contract, we can say to new recruits that this agreement guarantees them these wages for the next three years. He explained that there have been so many positive changes in the department over the last two to three years and that he hoped people would take that into consideration when voting on this. All other town employees currently contribute 10% toward health insurance premium contributions and the offset noted above reflects the increase from 7%, which is the Police Department's current contribution, to the 10%.

Moderator Meany recognized Matt Whitlock, Finance Committee Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The town's police officers have made favorable concessions on the police contract to be mindful to the taxpayers while improving the department's ability to attract and retain qualified officers. This three-year contract provides 3% raises in each of the first two years and a 3.5% step in the third year. It also brings the officers' health insurance contribution in

line with those of other town employees.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, asked what the gross amount would be for the three years of the contract – he had figured the cumulative amount to be \$140,000.20 for the three years. Vice Chairman Clow replied that the first column was the gross amount, but that he could not confirm the amount stated by Frank. He stated the first year is lower because it runs from April 1 to December 31, or for 9 months. Also, he said that the increase in retirement costs goes into effect as of July 1 so that increase is for only 6 months in the first year. He advised that the next two years are higher because they are based on 12 months. Frank then asked what the estimated Net Amount for three years would be and said he had figured it at \$132,000 and some change. John Lawton said that in answer to Frank's question, which he said he thought his numbers were high, the cumulative gross amount for the three years would be \$75,516. Richard Butt is in support of the police officers but doesn't support the way this has been calculated because it is based on numbers for insurance for the worst case scenario, which is the family plan. He said it also does not take overtime into consideration. He supported the article; however, he doesn't support how it has been packaged. He offered an amendment to Article 5 and gave same in writing to Moderator Meaney. Seconded. Moderator Meaney read the amendment.

Amendment to Article 5

Shall the Town approve the cost items contained in the three 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:

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Increase</u>
2017	\$ 16,627
2018	\$ 32,056
2019	\$ 26,833

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$16,627) 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 increases employee health insurance premium contributions from 7% to 10%, consistent with all other employees.

Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, confirmed that columns and numbers in those columns for Estimated Insurance Offset and Net Estimated Increase were being deleted to which Richard Butt confirmed in the affirmative.

Richard Butt stated that this amendment clarifies the article. Tax impact for year one is the same. Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on the amendment. Frank Campana supports the amendment. Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, stated that there are people in the back of the room where she was standing that are now completely confused. She said the reason for the Insurance Offset in the original article was taking into account the five officers who do not take insurance and receive a buyout instead. Further, this contract is important because having officers stay will decrease the overtime as they won't be having to cover shifts for unfilled positions or people leaving. Vice Chairman Clow had no problem with the amendment. Moderator Meaney asked if

there was any further discussion. Vice Chairman Clow moved the question. Moderator Meaney was asked to read Article 5 again. Moderator Meaney requested a vote on the Amendment as read. The Amendment passed and will appear on the Warrant.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by John Lawton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Four Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$34,646) to be used for raises for non-union Town personnel? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.04

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 6 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Chairman Lacasse stated that the purpose of this article is to give the Selectmen the opportunity to make salary adjustments for the non-union employees of the town and Library personnel. This year the Public Works Department is now part of this pool. Unlike what can be negotiated into multi-year union contracts, like we saw here today, the only avenue available to provide raises for these employees is the passage of this article and similar articles if they are proposed on an annual basis. This year's amount was calculated by applying a 3% salary increase across the board. Actual increases may vary depending upon performance.

Moderator Meaney recognized Matt Whitlock, Finance Committee Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. This article provides merit-based pay raises, averaging 3%, for non-union town and library employees. This now applies to DPW employees as well, as their union has disbanded.

Moderator Meaney stated that since there is no discussion on Article 6, it will appear as read on the ballot.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 7

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

Vice Chairman Clow moved Article 7 to appear on the ballot as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler. This Government Building and Maintenance Fund is for repair and maintenance of our town buildings. Anyone who drives by the Town Hall and takes a good look at it knows that we have an investment there ahead of us. During the last year and a half, the spires have crumbled and fallen to the ground; windows are in horrible shape with glazing falling out of them – a decision will need to be made whether to repair or replace them; there is rot along the cornice boards that can be seen by walking around the building; corner boards need to be replaced, and painting needs to be done. At the Town Office Building the insulating of the ceilings has been held off until a review by our engineer. Two estimates were received relative to stabilizing the Gazebo and the proposals were so different that we held up on it and had an engineer give us specs that we have in-hand now and will go out for new bids with this updated information. Those are three of the areas with major tasks at the Town Hall. There is approximately \$70,000 in the account now and with the addition of the funds

being asked for will bring it to \$145,000. One estimate alone for the Town Hall repairs was in the \$170,000 range. This account will also have to take care of any unexpected town building emergencies that may arise during the year.

Moderator Meaney recognized Matt Whitlock, Finance Committee Chairman. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. This article would provide funds to begin repairs to the town hall and gazebo to arrest further decay in these structures. However, it is not clear to the Finance Committee that the town has taken steps to create a comprehensive work plan, secure appropriate quotes, and establish an appropriate working budget for the project. Therefore, the Finance Committee thinks this request is premature.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on this article. Frank Campana said that Vice Chairman Clow had mentioned that there was \$70,000 in the Government Building and Maintenance Fund account now and he was requesting the Board consider that it be in the mailer because it is important for people to know. Richard Butt stated he does not support this article. Last year the Board requested and the voters agreed to \$75,000 to do, basically, the things that were just mentioned. He said that there is no plan so why should the voters be giving you more money. He stated that the Board formed a committee to look into a firing range to make it usable for the public, which is a real questionable use, and you don't have a person or committee in place to go out and take a look at these buildings. He then pointed out that in addition to the \$70,000 the Selectmen have \$30,000 that was left by Mildred Hall for that building, which gives you \$100,000 and I understand the quote for the Gazebo came in around \$15,000. He said that back when there was a Building Committee the Board decided to leave \$40,000 in the Fund to cover any emergency and anything above that would be for a specific project. He said that he didn't understand why the Board can't develop a plan to repair the Town Hall and do it in stages, if you think the costs are so exorbitant, and do the other small projects. He didn't support this article because the Board cannot identify costs with the exception of the Gazebo. Develop a plan and let the voters know the costs and ask for the appropriate amount of money. Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, expressed concern that there is no plan for the Town Hall, but is even more concerned that we spent money on the doors that we haven't gotten work for and had to redo the doors, which was totally unnecessary as we have the President of the Weare Historical Society, Sherry Burdick, who has a great mind for this and has done a lot of research. She said she hoped that any money that is in this Fund, whether we add more money or use the money that is in there now, that we use the knowledge and expertise that we have in the Town. There are people who are truly committed to do the best not only for the taxpayers, but for the historical value of these buildings that we have and she hoped that the new Board will take that very seriously. Vice Chairman Clow stated that the Board of Selectmen have contracted with Team Engineering, an architectural firm, because the problem that we've had was going out to bid without having specs in hand so we could get apples to apples when we receive bids for the work. The Board started with the specs for the Gazebo earlier in the year, which we now have in-hand and they are working on specs for the various projects for the Town Hall so we are moving ahead with planning that's based on expertise rather than judgments of the Board. Marjorie Burke, Merrill Road, had a question for the Selectmen and the Weare Historical Society. She said that the Town Hall is an old historical building in our community and we should be cognizant of that and should be doing everything in our power to preserve it. She wondered if anyone was looking into applying in the greater world of historical funding and maybe we could get some grant money for the Town Hall. Chairman Lacasse said he was unable to answer the question about grants, but he was able to answer the question relative to the Selectmen not knowing the dollar value of the work and he said that was true. Also, the statement that was made that the Board doesn't

have a specific plan for exactly what needs to be done there and that it also true. It is true because of the nature of the needs of that building due to the destruction of the building over time where there is rot here and there on the surface and without doing destructive analysis there's no way to know how far it has traveled behind the surface. He said it is really hard to get an actual number on that until you hire someone so I believe that's why after we had three contractors go through the building and only one of them gave an estimate of \$179,000, which was high. He went on to say that if he were giving an estimate it would be high, too, because of the unknown. Chairman Lacasse said that the number being requested was reasonable and wouldn't cover all the work needing to be done on the Town Hall. Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on this article. Vice Chairman Clow said that Sherry Burdick has written grants for the Weare Historical Society and had received approval from the Board of Selectmen for the Clinton Grove Academy, which haven't come through so far. Heleen reminded Vice Chairman Clow that one did come through for the tower. Vice Chairman Clow said that grants are a possibility but that these are also matching grants and do not cover a whole project. Donna Osborne, South Stark Highway, wondered what happened to Mildred Hall's money that was left to fix the Town Hall. Vice Chairman Clow stated that some has been used and there are funds still remaining. He said that this fund was used for a fire alarm system inside the building; heating system was replaced; doors were replaced (these doors, however, needed to be upgraded, which the Town was charged for the upgrade) with new doors that are now ready for installation; granite steps; and iron rails in the front of the building. Richard Butt said that the Town needs to preserve its buildings and the voters need a plan. Heleen Kurk stated that she would like to reiterate that if anything is done to the Town Hall that the Weare Historical Society be involved and that the thoughts from that organization, especially the President, be taken seriously. She said that if the recommendation of Sherry Burdick relative to the doors was followed we wouldn't find ourselves in the current situation with the doors. Lori Davis stated that although she's heard a lot about this she is against the article because there isn't a plan. The other thing she would like the people to think about is that the school budgets are up astronomically; and, unfortunately, the Town is taking a hit on that. She said that we have to be responsible about which articles we pass and which articles we don't. Because, if we pass all the articles this year, the tax impact for the Town is going to be horrendous and the schools are already doing a job on this.

Moderator Meaney read Article 7 again. Moderator Meaney stated that since there was no amendment, Article 7 will appear on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$107,184) for the purpose of purchasing three (3) fully equipped patrol vehicles? The entire One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$107,184) will be withdrawn from the unreserved fund balance. If approved, the operating budget will be reduced by \$10,000.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.00

Selectman Meaney moved Article 8 as read. Seconded by Greg McDowell. Selectman Meaney said that the Police Department has been trying to get cruisers for the past couple of years. He stated the Selectmen and the Finance Committee agreed to fully purchase them for \$107,184 instead of a lease purchase. For the past two years, the Police Department has spent on maintenance alone \$82,731, which is almost the cost to purchase these new cruisers. This will replace three cruisers in the fleet that will go to auction with the money received for them coming into the General Fund as

an offset toward this cost. There will then be three cars out on the road that men and women from our department will be in something safe to drive. They are at risk enough each and every day they go to work and shouldn't be placed in vehicles that are banded together and shouldn't be out there for the high mileage and maintenance costs expecting them to respond to emergencies. This is putting their lives in danger as well as everyone else on the road they may encounter if they have some catastrophic failure, which is not uncommon. These cars are not the common everyday car that we drive; they are specially built and sometimes running for 24 hours a day. We should give these guys and gals the best that we can by showing our support.

Moderator Meaney recognized Matt Whitlock, Finance Committee Chairman. The Finance Committee strongly recommends this article. Two cruisers in the town's aging fleet are now deemed by Ford as unsafe for emergency responder use. Passing this article would ensure that the police department can continue to provide the emergency response expected by town residents. Three all-wheel drive Dodge Chargers would replace three current vehicles. The chief would retain his current vehicle, and the lieutenant would switch to one of the remaining existing cruisers. All three new cruisers would be used for frontline patrol duty.

Travis Corcoran, Quaker Street, said that while he is a fiscal conservative he supports this article. Someone earlier said that last year we spent \$50,000 to \$60,000 in maintenance so this is a prudent way to invest on our infrastructure and reduce costs for the long term. With that said, he wanted people to look at the line in this article indicating the withdrawal from the unreserved fund balance and the estimated tax impact of \$0.00. He stated that this is a good thing but he wanted to call attention to the method that was used to get the \$0.00 tax impact. This method is legal and entirely within the law, but I think it is stacking the deck and I don't like to see that. It's a good thing and we should vote on it. John Van Loendersloot, Walker Hill Road, said that he is 100% on board with this because the officers need it badly. He asked about the last sentence where it is stated that if approved, the operating budget will be reduced by \$10,000. He wanted to know if this would apply seeing Article 4 was amended and Vice Chairman Clow told him that if it passes the vehicle line of \$30,000 would be reduced by \$10,000 or making it \$20,000. Frank Campana wanted to make a comment that Selectman Meaney stated roughly \$80,000 for maintenance – Selectman Meaney clarified that it was \$82,731.68 – I've heard over the past year about the cars being in poor condition and repairs of \$82,000, looking back the Board and Police Chief wanted to lease purchase 5 vehicles and the vetting process had gone through the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Planning Board, and CIP, which is about 20 people. Out of those 20 people, nobody thought last year there should be one, two or three vehicles and I really put the responsibility on the Board not to decrease last year's cars and because of that you have wasted my tax money for the repair costs.

Frank offered an amendment and gave the amendment to Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, to read. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan told Frank he couldn't make the amendment he presented to her because the Special Detail Revolving Fund is set up so that money goes in for detail and out for detail so it can't be used for anything that isn't typically related to detail. Because the patrol cars are generally used cars, you can't use the Special Detail Revolving Fund to fund a vehicle. Frank said he understood what Laura was saying but there is money at the rate of \$10/hour for a car on special detail so he stated to Laura that she was telling him that the \$2,200 in the Special Detail Revolving Fund can never be used. Laura asked if this was for the car itself and Frank replied that it was and that he had a document that lists the departments, including the Police Department, that had a column that had offsetting revenue and in that column was \$2,200. At a recent Selectmen's meeting, he said he asked if all available money was used to offset the cruisers and Vice Chairman Clow said that there was about \$2,000 in the Revolving Fund. He never indicated it

couldn't be used and they are agents to expend. Laura replied that she understands that there is money in there but that Special Detail Revolving Funds are generally set up for wages and benefits. Without having the actual article creating the Revolving Fund, which may or may not have included the authorization to use the money for cars, Laura said she couldn't give a definitive answer but, in her opinion, it was a questionable legal amendment and would recommend not doing it to avoid the question. Since the Selectmen can look into it and because they are agents to expend, the Board could use these funds to reduce the article outside of this process. Frank said that he recalls a few years ago an article using funds from the Special Detail Revolving Fund to purchase a police vehicle. Frank decided to make the amendment. Laura told him he could do that but that she didn't know if it was a legal amendment; and if it passes, the Board may have to find the \$2,200 somewhere else. Frank then went on to make the amendment.

Amendment to Article 8

Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars for the purpose of purchasing three (3) fully equipped patrol vehicles? Two thousand two hundred Dollars (\$2,200) to be withdrawn from the Special Detail Revolving Fund with an additional amount not to exceed One Hundred Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$104,984) to be withdrawn from the unreserved fund balance. If approved, the operating budget will be reduced by \$10,000.

Frank stated that the \$104,984 represents the balance to be taken from the unreserved fund balance after using the \$2,200.

Moderator Meaney stated that there was a proposed amendment on the table and wanted to know if there was a second to Frank's amendment. Seconded by Richard Butt. Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on the amendment. Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Road, wanted to know if that amendment passes and it is found not to be legal, will the amendment nullify the entire article? Laura replied that it shouldn't and that the only thing it would do is nullify the withdrawal of the \$2,200. Richard Butt explained that we have purchased several vehicles using the \$10/hour vehicle charge money from the Special Detail Revolving Fund, which were substantial amounts, and was separated out that way in the accounting practice. Laura stated that if it was done before and DRA allowed it, that is great. She expressed concern that they may not allow it this year. She said that she thinks it is a questionably illegal amendment; but that if vehicles have been purchased that way in the past, from the Revolving Fund and it was approved by DRA, then she didn't believe they would have any reason not to approve it this year. Chairman Lacasse said that he remembers making the purchase through the Revolving Fund previously. Tina Connor, South Stark Highway, stated that vehicles have been purchased in the past but it was only on the \$10/hour that was charged to the vendor for the use of that cruiser. It was not taken out of the Revolving Fund as the fund was designated just for wages and benefits for personnel. Tina said that she kept track of the \$10/hour that was charged so that was all it was used for. Laura asked Tina if she was saying that the \$10/hour never went into the Revolving Fund. Tina stated it was outside of that realm. Tina said there were astronomical amounts coming in because we had so many details. Laura stated that if the \$10/hour for the use of the cars never goes into the Revolving Fund, then you certainly cannot take the money out of the Revolving Fund. It was tracked separately. Jan Snyder, Thorndike Road, former Town Treasurer, stated that she received from the former Finance Administrator, Tina Connor, vouchers from the Board of Selectmen to transfer cruiser money received from vendors from the General Fund to the Revolving Fund and then transfer to the General Fund for the purchase of a cruiser(s). Moderator Meaney asked if there were any other questions on the amendment. Moderator Meaney read Article 8 as amended. Moderator Meaney asked for all in favor of the amendment and all

those opposed to the amendment. The amendment failed. Moderator Meaney asked if she should read Article 8. Vice Chairman Clow moved the question. Moderator Meaney asked if there was further discussion on the article as written. David Recupero, Rosedale Lane, asked what the cost plus the upgrades for each of the vehicles was. Selectman Meaney replied that the cost was \$27,000 per vehicle and the remaining amount is for the upgrade of radio equipment, roll cage, roll bar and light bar so each car would be \$35,728. Seeing someone moved the question on Article 8 earlier, Moderator Meaney asked all those in favor to raise their cards and all those opposed to raise their cards. Moderator Meaney stated Article 8 passed as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

Moderator Meaney proposed a ten minute break.

ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$95,500) to be added to the previously established Air Pack Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? It is anticipated that these funds will be utilized for the purchase of refurbished SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.12

Selectman Hippler moved Article 9 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Selectman Hippler referred to Chief Vezina to speak on Article 9. Chief Vezina wanted to take a quick opportunity to thank the entire fire and rescue staff and their families for their continued hard work and dedication in making Weare Fire and Rescue Department the professional organization that it is and the residents who continue to support us in our department's efforts. We are governed by the Board of Fire Wards so there are some things that go on in the Fire Department that weren't mentioned in the Chairman's remarks in the beginning. We have a couple of people who have longevity this year. Mark Bluteau and Wanda McLain have 15 years of service to the community. We have one other person, Bob Richards. Bob started in the department when he was 18 years old, which, I believe, makes him slightly older than me, and gives him about 35 years of service in the community. He has a very wide range of knowledge and experience and a great sense of humor and the department and the membership has benefited immensely from his tenure over that time. His ongoing dedication to the fire department and to the Town serves not only as a standard for a career in public service, but also as a symbol of devotion to the community. All of our organizational achievements are made possible because of individuals like him and we're all better off because of those efforts. If Bob would come up, I have a little presentation for him and I will then yield the floor. This plaque is just a little symbol of our gratitude for his 35 years of service to the Town of Weare.

Chief Vezina stated that the air packs the fire department have are at the end of their service life and need to be replaced. The department had four options available to them, which they presented to the CIP and it was decided jointly to go with the refurbished units and save around \$125,000 as opposed to going with brand new units. Chief Vezina said that this is a very wise choice.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The fire department's air packs are at the end of their service life and are in need of replacement. Purchasing refurbished air packs saves over 50% off the cost of buying new. Firefighters cannot legally enter a burning building without this equipment.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 9.

John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, asked Chief Vezina the life span of this breathing apparatus. Chief Vezina replied that it was 15 years. John asked if the refurbished units had the same life span. The driving component of the 15 year life span is the new air bottle. Both the new and the refurbished breathing apparatus have the 15 year life span. Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on this article. Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 9 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$185,596) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? It is anticipated that these funds will be utilized for the purpose of replacing an existing plow truck with a new fully equipped 10-wheel plow truck.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.22

Selectmen Hippler moved Article 10 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Selectmen Hippler referred Article 10 to DPW, Director Benji Knapp who advised that this truck would replace the oldest truck in the fleet. We have 12 trucks and 12 plow routes. We don't have any spares so when a truck goes down that plow route needs to be made up. Each route is about 3 hours long so that is a 3 hour route that needs to be done and, in addition, the mechanic has a 3 hour route and that needs to be made up, as well. We are rotating the trucks out with the oldest first so we are proposing replacing a 1982 Mack that is 35 years old, is in poor condition, is unreliable, and has unrepairable damage to the frame rail. Director Knapp urged the voters to pass this article as read. It is very important to keep the rotation going so that we don't end up like the Police Department. In reality, they should be out the door every 10 years – the next vehicle is a 1999 and then 2000, etc. This vehicle has outdated brakes, has an outdated body, plows; and if it has to go another winter, all these things will need to be updated. The brakes are web-style brakes and cannot be adjusted. It's just an oddball vehicle all the way around.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. The Finance Committee was divided on this article, which would replace a 1982 Mack 6-wheeler, which is by far the oldest plow/dump truck in the town's fleet. Those who supported the article believe that moving up to a 10-wheeler would reduce operating costs by allowing longer runs before the truck must return to the garage to refill with salt and sand. Those who opposed the article agree with that analysis, but believe that, given other tax rate increases, this expenditure should be delayed.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 10.

Frank Campana asked the history of this truck. He was sure it wasn't purchased brand new and requested a brief history on the truck. He said people deserve to know the answer. Vice Chairman Clow stated that the truck was purchased used. Frank stated, again, this was another poor decision on the Board's part that is costing me money. Frank offered an amendment that would buy the truck straight out and not place the funds in the Capital Reserve Account. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan said that the amendment was not warned and she is concerned it isn't a legal amendment. She said that the amendment changes the original intent of warning the voters that the funds would

be placed in a savings account. It doesn't state that the purchase will actually be made, but is anticipated.

Frank then explained that he wanted the full amount of the truck in the article so Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan suggested the following amendment that Frank approved.

Frank offered the following amendment:

Amendment to Article 10 (includes both amendments made by Frank)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$185,596) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? These funds will be utilized for the purpose of replacing an existing plow truck with a new fully equipped 10-wheel plow truck at a total cost of \$220, 596.

Seconded by John Lawton. Frank said he is concerned that the \$35,000 will not be used this year - no guarantee. John asked if the wording regarding it is anticipated could be eliminated. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan said it would need another amendment. Frank asked if he could include the wording in his amendment and Town Counsel said that he could and he made the appropriate change to his original amendment as noted above. Seconded by John Lawton.

Moderator Meaney read the amendment to Article 10 with the additional wording. Moderator Meaney asked for a vote of all those in favor of the amended article and all those opposed. The amendment failed.

Moderator Meaney read Article 10 as originally written. She asked if there was any discussion on the article as written.

Selectman Hippler explained further some of the problems with this vehicle. He wanted to speak to Mr. Campana and stated that the Board has to put faith in our Department Heads and Directors to make the calls that they do on vehicles and on day to day operations. Selectmen Hippler stated that the comment Frank made relative to the Selectmen not being responsible regarding the trade of the Osh Gosh to the Mack wasn't fair. He said he was probably the only one on the Board that would be able to look at that truck and say we shouldn't have done that. Everybody else would say yes that is a truck. Selectman Hippler said that he, the retired Director, and Director Knapp could all look at the same vehicle and each come up with different opinions on the vehicle. John Van Loendersloot, Walker Hill Road, said he had questions for Benji. If Article 10 passes, what is the anticipated future of that truck - the old truck. Director Knapp said that it would be used as a trade-in. He wanted to know if Director Knapp knew what the trade might be and he replied he did not. John asked what could be reused off of the old truck onto the new truck? Director Knapp replied that it had a great hydraulic pump. He was concerned, however, with the trade-in value being reduced. John asked if the article fails, do you have a dollar amount to bring that truck up to safety specs. Director Knapp replied he did not. Joe Sarno, Barnard Hill Road, said that he was in support of this truck. He said he works at the DPW and knows the repairs this vehicle has had. We cannot provide the service to this town when things keep breaking. It leaves the yard and ends up being towed back. We have to keep up with this fleet.

Bruce Filmore, CIP Committee Member, Gould Road, stated that the CIP Committee spends a lot of time every year weighing the Department Head's requests against the real needs and to prioritize things so that there aren't spikes in the budget. There is no better time to do it because we keep putting it off and it gets worse and worse. We really need to address this and keep the fleet up to date. By putting it off, it is only going to get worse. Prices are going to be higher and we'll have to buy

multiple trucks instead of one. Marjorie Burke, Merrill Road, spoke in favor of this article. She said that the plow trucks are always visible during any given snow storm. David Hewey, Sr., East Road, retired from Weare Highway Dept. and he supported this article. Richard Butt requested clarification from the Finance Committee on what the tax rate increases are that they refer to in their non-recommendation. He said that nothing has been voted on yet, so what tax rate increases are we to be concerned about? Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman, stated that she hoped the people who are here today are watching your schools and that you are reading the newspapers and you need to take time to go to your School Boards. If you pass everything with the Town and the Schools, you are looking at a minimum of \$475 for each \$250,000 home. Anybody with a home over that, your tax increase is going to be over \$500. Part of the job of the Finance Committee's is to look at what are the drastic needs of the Town and what can the Town residents afford. We struggled over that this year because we take our job very seriously. One of the things we did was go over the CIP classifications of order of need. The 10-wheeler came under the middle and not under the hot button of having to be replaced immediately. I am not arguing the need for it, but that is what we were looking at. Also, we had to bear in mind what the taxpayers can afford and the schools are going up 8% this year and we have no control over that. They have a teacher's contract coming through that does not address health insurance benefit decreases as was done for Town and Police Department employees. Nothing has been done on the school side. There is no control on the school costs and the result is that the Town budget takes a hit. It is the only place that can take the hit and it is unfortunate. We are all working very hard to bring in a reasonable budget. The Board of Selectmen did an awesome job this year and we wanted to approve everything, but we also did not want to bring across a \$500 to \$600 increase to the average homeowner owning a \$250,000 home. That was our reasoning, study the rest of the things that reflect your tax rate and you will understand why I said that we were split on the recommendation for this article. The only reason it was taken off was to keep the tax rate down.

Moderator Meaney said that she wanted to restrict our conversation to Article 10 and she recognized Vice Chairman Clow who wanted to speak. He stated that we have a 35 year old truck that needs to be replaced; not only for the safety of the driver and anyone else on the road, it is important to replace it. We do have a CIP Program (Capital Improvement Program) and it is important that we look down the road and not just on the corner where we are standing when we go to make purchases like this. We are talking about a \$200,000 purchase; and as our DPW Director Knapp, stated we have 12 trucks out there plowing roads and 8 of them are more than 10 years old. Out of that 8, 4 are 15 years old so we have an aging fleet and we can't afford to let this back up on us because we are talking about a \$200,000 purchase. He would respectfully ask that the Finance Committee, when they meet, to reconsider discussion of this because the whole purpose of the CIP Program is to spread out these huge costs. We have to replace a very aging truck and we have to keep on some kind of a schedule here or be looking at more than one truck per year. Vice Chairman Clow highly recommends the passage of this article. Jeff Brown, Woodbury Lane, new member of the Finance Committee said he went at great depths considering this article. He said that while currently a real estate agent, his past life was a Town Manager and every winter he would get into the plow trucks with every one of my drivers and ride the trucks. This would allow me to assess the condition of the trucks and to prepare my Town budget in an informed manner. He said he has been in trucks that had no floor and had sheet metal put on over the rust and that we took those trucks and prolonged their life as long as we could. He has great sensitivity to the guys in the Highway Department and their desire to replace this truck, but he voted against it. He wanted to piggyback on what Lori said and our taxes are going to take a hit this year. There were people here earlier that expressed some concern over the Board of Selectmen's manufacturing of the Default Budget and how closely related it was to the Proposed Budget. Well, if the people in this room come out this week to

the schools, you'll see a lot bigger budget with just about the same amount of difference between them. As we considered the tax impact of what the schools have done in manufacturing their Default Budget and having it so close to the Proposed Budget and really leaving the taxpayers no choice. We had to make some hard decisions on what we thought the Town could afford and he voted against this article knowing with full awareness that this truck probably needs to be purchased. He stated he was only speaking for himself but the tax impact for this truck in consideration with what is going on with the schools, we just can't keep buying everything. So unless there is some care and adjustments are taken on the school end, in my opinion, we just can't buy everything. He said that recognizing that this truck needs to be bought and saying that he voted against recommending it knowing it needs to be bought but understanding what our responsibility is trying to be the watchdog on our tax dollars and the tax impact of everything we've put forth.

Chris Hague pointed out that on a graph of the Towns in this region Weare has the smallest percentage of expenditures for the Town side and the largest percentage of expenditures for the school side. She said this town is running on fumes and we need what we ask for. With that, Chris called the question. Seconded by Selectman Lacasse.

Moderator Meaney read Article 10 again. Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 10 will appear on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$111,000) to be added to the previously established Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? It is anticipated that these funds will be utilized for the purpose of replacing an existing backhoe with a new backhoe.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.13

Selectman Bohl moved Article 11 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Selectman Bohl referred to DPW Director Knapp. Director Knapp stated that the Fermac backhoe will cost more to repair than it is worth. It was purchased in 2000 and has approximately 9,000 hours on it. A backhoe is needed because it would not only be used at the Transfer Station but it would allow for more regular cleaning of culverts and other highway needs, i.e. preventative maintenance and ditch lines. If culverts are full, the water is not going to run through them. He pointed out that it wouldn't make sense to rent a backhoe for 12 months at a cost of \$40,000, as it would come out of road money and we don't have enough road money right now and doesn't want to waste it. He did say, however, he would have to do that for the summer months. Director Knapp went over the CIP categories on the CIP paperwork advising what the categories are: Urgent, Necessary, Desirable, and Deferrable. Director Knapp said he put everything at Necessary because he thought Urgent meant life or death. He said that he filled the forms out honestly and now he's getting beaten up over it.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chair. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. This article would replace the town's 2000 Fermac backhoe, which has accumulated over 8800 engine hours and is no longer roadworthy. Although replacing the backhoe would allow more regular cleaning of culverts, the Finance Committee believes this equipment purchase can be delayed. DPW can rent a backhoe as a stopgap.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 11. Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 11 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000) for the reconstruction and resurfacing of roads? Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$278,373) is 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= \$0.24

Selectman Meaney moved Article 12 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Selectman Meaney stated that road reconstruction is extremely important. He said that we have a pretty good handle on it here in Weare. Director Knapp did a great job last year and he rebuilt a lot of roads with the Highway Block Grant money. The average cost is \$200,000 per mile to redo roads. A lot of that is built up with not only the time and the people who are doing it, it is the cost of the asphalt. Selectman Meaney said that this is a very important article to help the Town.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee supports this recurring article, funding the highway department's road maintenance work. State funding helps reduce the cost to the taxpayers.

Moderator Meaney opened the floor for discussion. Director Knapp said it costs \$200,000 per mile to completely rebuild a road from the ground up. It costs \$142,000 a mile for 3 inches of asphalt; \$70,000 a mile to reclaim; and \$60,000 for gravel. There's no culverts and no fuel, just materials, which comes out to \$272,000. We put crushed gravel down and we have some really good gravel roads and the money comes from here. Director Knapp said that he doesn't think there's another town around here that has crushed gravel roads like the Town of Weare does. He said rental of equipment comes out of this money as well. He wanted everyone to know how expensive it is and how important this money is even if it isn't enough.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on this article.

Frank Campana wanted to know what the \$0.24 tax impact referred to? Selectman Meaney replied it is the difference from the Highway Block Grant received from the State of NH \$278,373 and the amount to be raised and appropriated \$480,000. Selectman Meaney said the difference was \$201,627, which is the Town's portion and what the \$0.24 tax impact is based on. Frank wanted to know how the taxpayer is going to know that by reading this article? Frank said it is misleading because the amount to be raised is \$480,000, which would be \$0.56. Last year was the first year in many that the Town's portion wasn't included in the article.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was further discussion on this article. Selectmen Meaney moved the question. Seconded by Selectmen Hippler.

Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 12 will be placed on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town establish a Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of erecting, repainting and/or replacing bridges and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact= \$0.12

Vice Chairman Clow moved the article as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Vice Chairman Clow stated that in previous discussions earlier today, we have spoken about the CIP process. He said the Chairman of the CIP Committee had heard through the previous DPW Director that there were problems with the River Road bridge so we took a field trip during the summer and found that there were holes and rust on the bridge. We had the State come and inspect it; after which, the State restricted the weight limit on the bridge. We did a temporary repair that would allow that to be lifted, which should be lifted soon, so that regular trucking can take place on River Road. However, it is a temporary fix. We identified the issue with the CIP and recommended a temporary fix, which has happened. Now, the State has a bridge replacement program where they pay 80% to the Town's 20%; but, the Town has to have money in hand in order to take advantage of that. If we get approved by the State and we don't have our share, everything comes to a halt. We are looking at the River Road project being \$1,500,000 when it needs to be replaced and there are two other smaller bridge projects, one on Lull Road and one on Francestown Road. We are looking to put aside the money for our 20% over the next five years so we can take care of the two smaller projects and the replacement of the River Road bridge when that temporary repair is no longer good. It boils down to preparing in advance for expenses we know are going to be there five years down the road. Obviously, I very strongly support this article.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Three of the town's bridges, including the bridge on River Road, are in desperate need of repair. A state grant will cover 80% of the costs, but the town must have the other 20% set aside, or the state money will go to another town. The cost for repairing these bridges is estimated at \$2 million, with the town's share being \$400,000. This article will appear again in subsequent years to accumulate the remaining needed funds.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 13. Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 13 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) to be added to the previously established Chase Park Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund? It is anticipated that these funds will be utilized for the purpose of engineering and permitting necessary repairs to the boat ramp at Chase Park.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.04

Selectman Meaney moved Article 14 as read. Seconded by Selectman Hippler. Selectman Meaney stated that the boat ramp is in definite need of repair and needs to be done properly with the proper engineering company because you are dealing with water. He explained that the ramp drops off and could cause damage to boats. He said if it doesn't get fixed, it will only continue to get worse. This article is for \$36,000 to have an engineering company certified to come in here to tell us exactly what it is going to cost. This is a prudent way to do this project.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. This article would provide funds to develop engineering plans and secure permits for a new boat ramp at Chase Park but would not pay for the ramp itself. The Finance Committee believes that funds for engineering plans and permits should not be appropriated separately from funds for construction, lest the taxpayers find that they have spent money to plan a project that might never be fully funded by a later appropriation.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 14.

Bruce Filmore, Gould Road, said that this article really shouldn't be in here. He stated that the gate fees and the boat launching fees charged at Chase Park should be in a fund for Chase Park so that they can support themselves. He said it would give them a lot more oversight as to where the money goes, how they collect it and the money would be there.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on Article 14. Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 14 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 15

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 15 as read. Seconded by Vice Chairman Clow. Chairman Lacasse explained that the money in the Cy Pres Account cannot be moved without the authority of the legislative body, which is all of us here and the people who vote in March, so that the Cemetery Trustees can use these funds to make repairs. In the past, repairs have been made to stone walls, fences and markers. If the funds are not used, it goes back to the fund and would need to go through this same process.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article unanimously. These funds are used to maintain the interior of town cemeteries. This is funded through a withdrawal from the Cemetery Trust Fund and has no tax impact.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 15. Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 15 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 16

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 2017? If the proposed operating budget passes, this article be void, as this amount is already included in that budget.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

Chairman Lacasse moved Article 16 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl. Chairman Lacasse stated this article allows for toxic materials, not allowed to be brought to the Transfer Station, to be brought to the Transfer Station on a given day (one). He explained that the second part of the article is in question. It was clarified that it will be in the operating budget. Selectman Hippler said the reason it has been included in the operating budget was because the company that comes in and removes this waste for us, once they hit a certain number, they shut down and we cannot give any more money than the article states. He stated that means people would be turned away; and, by being in the operating budget, it allows more flexibility to the DPW Director to not turn people away. He said the Selectmen are in support of it being in the operating budget, as well.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. This is a recurring warrant article to fund household hazardous waste collection at the transfer station. The Selectmen have proposed to move this budget item from this recurring warrant article into the regular operating budget. The Finance Committee supports this move but recommends this article as a backup in case voters reject the proposed operating budget.

Bob Richards, Forest Road, (State Highway employee) said that he can always tell when hazardous waste day is and the people have been shut off because people leave what they weren't allowed to drop off at the Transfer Station on the state roads. Frank Campana said that he has always been in favor of the article, but his issue is with moving it into the operating budget. He said he is sympathetic with the people being turned away, as well as Bob Richards but, not sympathetic with the Board. He stated his concern is that by putting it into the operating budget it gives more flexibility to the Board, especially if less than \$7,000 is used. He said that last year was the first year he'd heard of people being turned away. Vice Chairman Clow said that in the past he had received phone calls from people that were turned away. He stated that once the funds were used, people were turned away because there were no funds available to cover the cost above the amount of the appropriation. Frank suggested increasing the amount in this article instead of putting it into the operating budget. Frank wanted to amend the article to the way it has previously appeared. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan stated that because he was making a change to a special warrant article that wasn't warned on this year's Warrant, DRA would not allow it. She said that she is looking out for the Town. Frank said that the Selectmen now have another line in the budget they can manipulate. Chairman Lacasse said that the Selectmen have no idea how many people are going to show up on hazardous waste disposal day and said he was sympathetic with the people who go down to the Transfer Station and end up getting turned away. He said that it would make this line in the budget

more transparent because the dollar amount spent would be there. Heleen Kurk wanted clarification relative to this \$7,000 now in the budget if it passes so does it mean that in future years this warrant article will not appear on the Warrant and that this year there is only \$7,000 for this hazardous waste day. Chairman Lacasse said that if the operating budget fails and this article passes that would be true. She asked if both pass you will have \$7,000 to spend on this; however, if it costs more than this amount, another line can be used to cover the additional cost. Chairman Lacasse confirmed her understanding of this action and explained that the expenditure would be in the budget, as well. Heleen asked how it would be handled in the default budget. Chairman Lacasse said if it passed this year, then next year it would be \$7,000 no matter what we are spending. Helen wanted to know if it is \$8,000 next year and \$6,000 the year after that, would that figure be reflected in the default budget or would the default budget go with the higher amount. Chairman Lacasse said he couldn't answer that because as we saw what happened on the default budget presented here today it depends on who is on the Board. Moderator Meaney recognized DPW Director Knapp to answer a question. Director Knapp said that he wanted to clarify that he does keep track, but he didn't have the numbers here today. He stated that when he has worked this waste day, people have been turned away. Director Knapp said that there will be a list of materials that will be accepted.

Selectman Hippler moved the question. Seconded by Naomi Bolton.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 16 will be placed on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for the 2017 Weare Patriotic Celebration?

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

Selectman Bohl moved Article 17 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. Selectman Bohl said that this article is for the purpose of raising \$6,000 for fireworks for the 2017 Patriotic Celebration.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. Providing fireworks is not a critical function of the town. It would be more appropriate to fund this option through private fundraising.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 17. Jon Osborne, South Stark Highway, stated he is one of the eight members on the committee. It is the one thing in town that we do; actually, the only thing in town that is done. It is something that everyone comes out to and enjoys. The center of Town is packed and it is a good time. Chris Hague wanted to know if the fireworks are needed in order for the Carnival to come. Jon answered that Chris is correct. Heleen Kurt said she is not against fireworks, but that Old Home Day is a town event.

Moderator Meaney asked if there is any further discussion on Article 17.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 17 will be placed on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 18

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

Vice Chairman Clow moved Article 18 as read. Seconded by Naomi Bolton Vice Chairman Clow said it is really self-explanatory and is placed on the Warrant each year. There's a lot of acreage in town that is dedicated to the Town Forest and it is harvested on a regular basis. But in order to do that and do it appropriately, there has to be a plan so that by hiring a licensed forester the Conservation Commission has an appropriate plan in place for harvesting the forest. Any funds from this article that are not used will remain in the Town Forest Account, which is for the funds received from the harvest itself.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. 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.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any discussion on Article 18.

Seeing no discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 18 will be placed on the ballot as read.

Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the 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 Hippler moved Article 19 as read. Seconded by Selectman Bohl. Selectman Hippler said that the \$125,000 would come out of the Town Forest Account if land is available for purchase in 2017. If there is no land available, the funds will stay in that account.

Moderator Meaney recognized Lori Davis, Finance Committee Co-Chairman. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The Finance Committee believes that having funds available to purchase land to add to the town forest helps to foster the rural character of our community. This article has no tax impact.

Moderator Meaney asked if there is any discussion on Article 19.

John Lawton spoke against this article. He wanted to see a moratorium placed on land being purchased, not that he's against the town purchasing land, as the Town owns roughly 15,000 acres put

out of service by State, Federal and local government and very little of it has been made available for people to access and utilize. As a moratorium, he would like to see more of the land we already have made available for people to access and utilize. He said that by that he means trails with signs like other surrounding towns i.e. New Boston. He would like this to put pressure on the Conservation Commission to not be able to purchase land without making the land we already have more available for the people of the town.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on Article 19.

Jon Osborne stated that what he was asking was more of a legal question regarding the wording in the article about the purchase of new town forest land. He wanted to know if that meant only the purchase of forested land. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, replied that it is for the purchase of land to be added to the Town Forest, which presumably is forest, forested, or both. Jon made an amendment to add the words open land. Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, said that the Town Forest Account cannot be used to purchase open land; however, the Conservation Commission Account can be used for that purpose. The Town Forest Account is for town forest land. Jon withdrew his amendment.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any further discussion on Article 19.

Seeing no further discussion, Moderator Meaney stated that Article 19 will be placed on the ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded by Naomi Bolton. All in favor.

ARTICLE 20

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

Moderator Meaney recognized Vice Chairman Clow to speak under Article 20, other business. Vice Chairman Clow said that while the job of Selectman can be time-consuming and whether you voted for the fireworks or not, you can get them for nothing here. Our Chairman, Keith Lacasse, is retiring this year from his position as Selectman after spending nine years involved in these fireworks. I think that deserves a lot of praise and a lot recognition. As you could probably guess from today's meeting, we don't agree 100% on things, but I think we worked together well and respected each other's positions over the years. With that said, he presented Chairman Lacasse with a plaque in appreciation of his nine years of service as a member of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Lacasse said that it was his pleasure to serve the Town of Weare and that he hoped to serve in some other capacity sometime in the future. Right now, with four kids, two in high school and two moving up, I think I should spend a little more time at home with them. Again, it has been a pleasure and thank you very much.

As a representative of the Finance Committee, Lori Davis said she cannot drive home hard enough that the residents who are here or watching this need to spend more time watching how the process goes in both their town and their schools. Our taxes are going up this year at a very large percentage and they are majorly hit by the schools. The taxpayers need to be a lot more aware of what you are voting in and what the impacts are. Last year a contract was passed for the Para-professionals and it brought the school budget up \$300,000 this year. You have to think what you are giving to people because the average person in this town who works does not get those kinds of raises. The average people in the town do not have those kind of medical benefits and you need to start doing your homework to understand your tax impact. It is not the Town; it is the Schools.

Marjorie Burke advised that the contract that was passed last year was for our professionals for our teaching staff and I believe it added \$200,000, not \$300,000 to the budget, and most of it has to do with mandated drivers – health insurance, FICA, Federal, retirement, etc. and that is the way it is. The voters approved it last year and so that's what happens and what is on the budget this year. We will be deliberating the budget Tuesday night, February 7, right here at 7:00 PM.

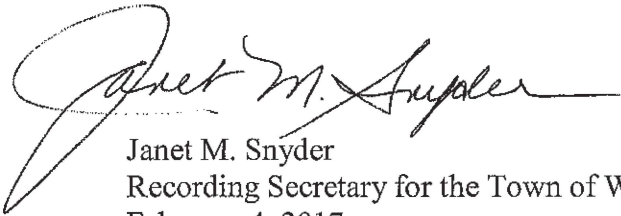
Helen Kurk told Madam Moderator that she deserves a round of applause.

Rose Gilman, Old Town Road, stated she was one of the Para-professionals. She said that this was a negotiated contract and that they are now being trained to be Facilitators instead of what this contract was for and that their salary is only \$15,000. Many have two jobs because they aren't able to make it on their salary.

Vice Chairman Clow stated that in October when the tax rate is set the Town does what it can to keep the rate flat.

Moderator Meaney asked if there was any other business. Vice Chairman Clow moved to adjourn.

Moderator Meaney thanked everyone for their patience today and thanked her son for sitting patiently in the front of the room – 6 hours. Moderator Meaney adjourned the meeting.



Janet M. Snyder
Recording Secretary for the Town of Weare
February 4, 2017

A True Record



Maureen Billodeau
Town Clerk