

**2018 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MUNUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2018**

Moderator John Foss called to the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and he asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moderator Foss recognized Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk; Jane Murchie, Deputy Town Clerk; Tom Clow, Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Frederick Hippler, Vice Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Jack Meaney, Selectman; Jon Osborne, Selectman; Jan Snyder, Selectman; Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator; Sean Kelly, Police Chief; Bob Vezina, Fire Chief; Benji Knapp, DPW Director, and Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel.

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

Chairman Tom Clow gave the State of the Town Address.

Moderator Foss proceeded onto the Warrant Articles beginning with Article 2, which he read into the record.

**ARTICLE 2**

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 Six Million Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$6,074,660)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Nine Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine Dollars (\$5,997,749), 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	\$ 21,894
B	TOWN OFFICERS' EXPENSES	\$ 38,336	\$ 37,936
C	ELECTIONS	\$ 15,075	\$ 13,975
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 78,450	\$ 78,350
E	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 123,794	\$ 123,794
F	LEGAL FEES	\$ 72,000	\$ 62,000
G	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 86,987	\$ 86,977
H	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE	\$ 129,716	\$ 130,216
I	SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	\$ 204,391	\$ 193,359
J	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
K	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 15	\$ 15
L	LAND USE	\$ 28,823	\$ 28,387
M	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 141,413	\$ 135,057

M	CEMETERIES	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
O	INSURANCE	\$ 521,545	\$ 521,545
P	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 8,006	\$ 8,006
Q	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,518,416	\$ 1,510,966
R	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 4,411	\$ 4,411
S	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 546,244	\$ 538,439
T	BLDG DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 109,505	\$ 108,327
U	FOREST FIRES	\$ 4,852	\$ 4,852
V	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,356,282	\$ 1,342,187
W	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700
X	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 379,789	\$ 375,621
Y	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 15,709	\$ 15,457
Z	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,692
AA	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 24,192	\$ 14,200
BB	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 4,991	\$ 5,231
CC	WELFARE	\$ 25,626	\$ 26,006
DD	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 57,522	\$ 52,049
EE	LIBRARY	\$ 205,164	\$ 207,697
FF	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500	\$ 500
GG	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 1,814	\$ 1,805
HH	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 50	\$ 50
II	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE FEES	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,200
JJ	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 158,630	\$ 158,630
KK	CAPITAL OUTLAY LEASE PAYMENTS	\$ 141,618	\$ 141,618
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 6,074,660	\$ 5,997,749
	LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 3,283,909	\$ 3,283,909
	TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,790,751	\$ 2,713,840
	DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$ 861,441	\$ 861,441
	ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.15

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

Chairman Clow moved Article 2 as read. Seconded. This article is our Town Budget. The increases are scattered through the list that you see, there were raises last year for the non-union personnel that were based on 9 months and now we have 12 months in the budget. There was a moderate increase of 0.6% for health insurance with changes in the Police and Highway departments from single insurance plans to family plans, as well as employees opting to take insurance. In 2017, we only had one election and we have three this year so the budget for elections increased substantially. In Assessing, we went out to bid and received bids from three companies. We stayed with our current provider with an increase of about \$15,000. In legal expenses, we added \$10,000 to that line because we have been running over every year and it covers all the departments, including Land Use. We have a new contract with the Town Administrator, which is a salary increase. Workmen's compensation insurance has also gone up but that has been offset with our liability insurance which went down. We also have a new contract with the Police Chief that's included in the increases and added full-time officers in the police department. Last year we had two things happen, first of all, because we knew we wouldn't be able to hire full staff before at least the mid part of the year, we made a deal with the Finance Committee and took it out of the budget in order to lower the budget last year and now it is back in, as well as bringing the department up to full staff. EMT coverage -



I've mentioned that we now have coverage seven days a week with people on hand to respond to an emergency from 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM. Because of a budget cut last year, it was put into effect a little later than we wanted to. So to continue that coverage, we will see an increase in that line because it would represent full year coverage at that level. Highway's budget is up for a department secretary. In the past we had a 30 hour a week position which we combined with another position during the recession. It was split between the Town Administrator's secretary and the Highway secretary. We are putting it back to the way it was in the past, as a 30 hour position for Highway. Animal Control has increased in services so we brought up that line to what we are actually spending. Debt Service reflects an increase in payments on the new highway garage because last year's payment, which was the first payment, was for six months based on when the funds were received, and will be semi-annual interest payments, thereafter, increasing the amount of the initial payment. This outlines where the raises come from in our operating budget.

Moderator Foss opened up the meeting for discussion on this article.

Lori Davis Finance Committee Chair was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. I want to make something clear to the residents here today, the Finance Committee takes their duty very seriously and we have scrutinized not only the school budgets we have also scrutinized the town budget. The proposed \$6,074,660 budget represents a 6.3% increase over the 2017 operating budget; the default budget of \$5,997,749 is a 5.1% increase. The Committee cannot support the proposed budget and feels additional cuts could have been made to reduce an undue burden on the taxpayers. In 2017, the Town operated on a budget, reduced at deliberative session, to a level below 2016. Yet, at the end of 2017, the Town has an unexpended fund balance, sufficient to propose purchasing a police cruiser and still return over \$200,000 to reduce taxes.

Lori Davis, 181 Buxton School Road It is the consensus of the Committee that budget reductions would allow taxpayers to keep their money during the year rather than the Town having it to later offset taxes without interest. I think it's important that the residents understand that this is our money, this is our Town. This year we had Selectmen that signed two contracts that did not meet having two hearings required by the 2005 advisory warrant article that passed. One was an 8% increase for the Police Chief and 18% for the Town Administrator. It is important to know that our part-time Police Chief is now making what a neighboring town's Police Chief is making for the same salary in a full-time position. We now have a Town Administrator that has a six year contract and there isn't any other Town Administrator in the State that has a six year contract. We have made a lot of obligations that have tied the hands of the residents and the future Board of Selectmen for the next six years. I think the residents need to take into account that it is very important that this is our Town and the Board of Selectmen should be listening to us on our budgets.

Frank Campano, Quaker Street, I followed quite a bit of the development of the budget. When you do the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag there are words in there that say Justice for All. My own opinion is that the Board is not doing justice for all; they are doing justice for themselves and town employees. Town employees do need some justice. I am quite concerned when the Selectmen draw up contracts that is already stated, there is an 18% increase to the tune of \$14,000 (a little bit better). This is not an 18% \$14,000 increase on someone making 30, 40, 50 thousand dollars. They are making in excess of that. We have a contract with the Police Chief where I think it's his second year in this contract that calls for a little over a \$6,000 increase the Selectmen have obligated me to. In addition to that per his contract, they gave him another \$5,500 for an insurance buy out. So that's an \$11,000 increase that the Selectmen have committed me to. I don't get a chance to say yes

or no to that. That's something that is in the budget. It is in their proposed budget and it is covered in their default budget. I think that's very irresponsible for the Selectmen to tie that obligation to me forever. Also, I just wanted to comment on two things. It was mentioned by Chairman Clow how much the town gave back to reduce taxes. The tax calculation sheet; folks here probably won't understand it. They could have actually given back in excess of almost \$400,000 to reduce taxes, not \$225,000. With that \$400,000 to reduce taxes, the town still would have stayed within a 6% retainage to reduce taxes so they could operate the town and pay the bills without having to borrow money. So they could have done more and that would have lowered the overall tax rate. I object quite a bit when I hear the statement in Tom's presentation comparing us to other towns. I don't want to be like other towns. If we have the lowest tax rate even below this \$3.80 for the town or the overall tax rate, we should be a model to other towns to emulate not for us to aspire to be what their tax rates are. Let those other towns say: "We are doing the job for less cost, what could we do?" I certainly object to the operating budget and the 6% over, 6% is extraordinary for this town. I don't know what the increase was last year percentage wise, but I know somewhat historically the budget increase was 3%, even sometimes a little less. I know we are out of the era of \$.25 a gallon gas tax and \$.25 for a loaf of bread, I certainly understand that. I get it, but still, if it was a 3% increase, it is 3% of that number so proportionately you'd get more money. So, I object to the proposed budget.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, this budget and employee salaries and benefits is tilted way out of whack. Two non-union employees together are getting better than \$26,913 increases in salary, salary-related benefits, and other added expenses. We've heard that their salary increases alone are 18% and 6%. The jobs haven't changed. Soon, we will be having an article asking for raises for Town employees. All the rest of our employees do their jobs as well. I think that making such a disparity between the two non-union contracted employees getting better than \$26,913 and the rest of the employees who will be getting 2%, and I will talk to that in Article 3, is bad management. I think it is unfair; and while people don't need to be treated the same, they need to be treated fairly. I think it is unfair to our employees, our taxpayers, and it is no way to build trust in our Select Board and morale among our employees.

Chairman Clow asked to speak to what he said previously about the tax rate. He thought that Mr. Campana misinterpreted what he said about the tax rate because he was quoting the tax rate as a compliment to the Town and then addressing what was able to be accomplished with a tax rate lower than surrounding communities. He stated he wasn't proposing to hurry up and increase it to match the other communities, quite the opposite. The tax rate is set in late October and it involves more than the raw figures presented to you today. Those of you who were at the School District meeting on Thursday night where there was a discussion of where the extra money goes. In the School District, if it isn't designated for something else in a special warrant article, it automatically goes to offset the budget for the coming year. For the Town, it is different than that. If the Town has a surplus of any kind, it goes into the Undesignated Fund Balance and is money that is not allotted to the school, county or the town. It is extra money that has been accumulated either through revenues that were higher than expected or through money being turned back by the Town at the end of the year. What we do when we set the tax rate is see what is available and what the State is suggesting as guidelines for how much we should reserve so we have the proper cash flow. If we take the figures as they were presented to the State last October, we would have seen a 7% increase but what we did was look at what was realistic for how much we could put toward reducing the tax rate, while at the same time, making sure that there is enough money there for the cash flow to run the Town, School Districts and County. We took, as a Board, \$225,000 out of the Undesignated Fund Balance, in order to bring the increase from 7% to 1%, or a \$.02 increase from the year before. We



could, as was stated, have gone with a higher amount, but in a sense it becomes misleading because we would get a lower amount in one place and the next year it has to be part of an increase. We are working toward trying to keep the tax rate more level and also making sure there is money there for the cash flow during the year. When we sit down this year, we do have funds to work with and so that increase, in all likelihood, will be more like the one we saw in 2017 and not the 6% or more. Our revenues tend to increase and, intentionally, we try to give a reasonable estimate of revenues so that come October we don't have the revenues we said we were going to have. Again, there is money turned back and that can be applied toward the next year's tax rate. That's the way it works so the sky is not falling and we are not going to have a 6 or 7% increase because we work that through when setting the tax rate in October.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, Dick presented an amendment to the operating budget. Moderator Foss read the amendment. "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 Eight Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars (\$5,888,877). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Nine Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine Dollars (\$5,997,749), 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 make up the issue of a revised operating budget only". This change represents a philosophical difference between this Board and previous Boards. Last year at the Deliberative Session there was an amendment made to the operating budget, and it reduced the operating budget by \$108,000. The reason that it was amended last year was because the default budget was not configured as it had been by previous boards. I will read from the minutes just briefly. Mr. Butt read, "Selectman Lacasse, who read that amendment, said he believes that the way the default budget should be configured is that if the default number is higher in any particular line item than the proposed budget number; in other words, the department is proposing a number smaller than what the default number is, then the default number should be reduced". That wasn't done last year and the amendment was made, approved by this Body and approved by the voters. The Selectmen have done the same thing this year. Unfortunately, it really reflects items in the budget, in some cases, that aren't even required. I will give you examples of those. One happens to be in the Clerk's office. They removed a fax machine; and in the process of removing the fax machine, they reduced the cost of the telephone service. The number proposed by the department head is \$800 and the number in the default budget is \$1300. Common sense is common sense but it doesn't appear to be applied. There are two other examples – one is in the Police Department. The Police Chief submitted a proposal for a part-time secretary, but because the need is no longer there and it is a union position, it has to remain in the budget so the cost was reduced to \$20 to keep it active. The Chief indicated the workload for the part-time secretary has gone away, but there are other factors as well. The default budget has a number of \$6,591. There is another example under the line item for body-worn cameras, which the Town of Weare is one of the first towns in New Hampshire to wear body-worn cameras. Kudo's to the Police Department for doing that. The department's proposed budget shows \$1,118 and the default budget is \$6,500. That's a philosophical difference. When I was on the Board, not that long ago, and other Board members, as well, we would go through the budget and we'd look at those items and we'd reduce the default budget. In effect, what that does is creates more separation, which means more choice between the proposed and default budgets for the taxpayers. The closer it is the less of a choice there is for voters and taxpayers. The difference between the proposed and the default this year is 1%, which isn't significant in addition to the fact of



being over 6%. Regardless of how much money they are going to give back towards reducing the taxes, that's up to them to decide, not up to us. That's money that they've collected from us, that's our money, that they decided to give it back to us, thank you. In addition to issues, philosophical issues, with the way the default budget was created, I think the default budget is too high. We can't amend the default budget at this session; we can amend the operating budget. So, in effect, what has to happen, as it did last year, is to take the proposed budget and bring it down to what the default budget should be, which would flip it by making the default budget closer to their proposed budget. It is still about a 5% increase, and it brings the amended amount down to a 3.1% increase. The other thing they did last year was they had to reduce their operating budget to match what the voters said they could spend. But, the way they did it, again this is a philosophical difference, was instead of going in and looking at the budget and taking the opportunity to maybe look at ways to save money and improve efficiency potential, what they did was just defer hiring. Most of it was with the Police Department. There were four positions within the Police Department, which we as voters have been paying for the last three years that have never been filled, two full-time officers, two part-time officers and a part-time secretary. We've been funding them and they've been more than happy to accept the money, but, unfortunately, they haven't been able to fill the positions. To meet the \$108,000 cut in the budget last year, all they did was defer hiring until May. It was staggered a little bit and it effected two other departments, not as much, but most of it came from the Police Department. They were able to reduce the budget by those line items in the Police Department budget to satisfy the \$108,000 cut. However, they put them back in for the remainder of the year and, as it turns out, they didn't hire anyone for the remainder of the year. This has been going on for years and years, but what they did when configuring this year's default budget, which is supposed to be last year's budget with some adjustments, made for contractual obligations, but they added the \$108,000 back into it as the starting number. With the default budget having \$108,000 more in it, they then crafted the default budget by making adjustments for contractual obligations, insurance costs, employee wages, collective bargaining unit changes, etc. The amended amount reflects this year's default budget minus the \$108,852, which was the amended amount last year. This is the crux of it. It is not that they are doing anything illegal. I just don't think they are following the practices that have been put in place that maybe, just maybe, is one of the reasons why we have one of the lowest tax rates in the area. It is not unusual over the past few years, I was there, that the increase in the budget was 1%, 2% or 3% and it wasn't unusual that we'd wind up with a default budget. I'll tell you one thing we never cut back on services; we always provided the services to the Town. It is no reflection on the department heads as they are doing a great job and continue to do a great job, but the way the Selectmen configures the default budget was an issue last year and is an issue this year.

Moderator Foss stated that a vote on the amendment to Article 2 would reduce the operating budget to \$5,888,877 as opposed to the set default budget of \$5,997,749. He stated he had a request for a secret ballot and asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak to the article.

Chairman Clow stated that he disagreed with the amendment. He said he opened the meeting by talking in length about safety services and those make up the bulk of our budget and any decreases here would impact those safety services in some way. He went on to say that the law was followed in preparing the budget, default budget or whatever and that's all he could say. There are disagreements and that's always going to be the case. We move ahead and provide what we feel is needed for the Town, and there's money left over at the end of the year almost every year. He went on to say that there was talk about positions that were funded but not filled, not able to be filled really, and that's what will go back to offset the tax rate in the coming year when we meet in October to do

that.

Steve Roberts, 815 Concord Stage Road, said that last year a cut was made in the budget and the Fire Department had proposed to increase the Fire//EMS coverage to extend to weekends and evening hours. Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, he stated he had a medical emergency and a 911 call was made. He said that the budget cuts by Frank Campana and Richard Butt and others who just want to cut the budget, he feels he might not be here today. He said that we are talking more than dollars and cents. It is taxpayer money and everyone deserves a say in that, but we have to look at the forest for the trees because a good deal is a good product at a fair price. We've heard a lot of criticism about town employees and he stated that they do a really good job way beyond what they are being compensated for. We owe them that and it's what we would want. Right after town meeting last year, Richard Butt came to me at a Selectmen's meeting and said that we always cut the budget in the past and we always got things done and wondered if things were going to get done. I said that at some point the answer is going to be no. He felt the Selectmen in the past several years, in an attempt to get a budget that will pass, put together a budget that provides the services that they feel we need as a Town with input from Boards and Committees and they see things maybe a little differently. If you see a large increase in an employee's salary, maybe the employee was being underpaid. I know probably a lot of people in this room that are maybe going to school nights or extra now to gain more money in their employment. Don't our town employees deserve that maybe too? We don't know exactly what the case is because we didn't negotiate that contract. I want to thank the Selectmen for the job that they've done because we do have a low tax rate. Our burden has increased because the Town is growing, even though a lot of people think it's not. It is growing and the demand for services is higher so we have to keep that in mind. We don't have to spend a dime; we could say we're not going to fix the roads anymore, but a good deal is a good product at a fair price and I think that the Town is providing a really good product for a very fair price.

John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, said he supports the amendment as proposed. I believe that the final bottom line at 3.1% is an adequate increase, probably even more than what is actually needed. Based on every year, we have a surplus and this year we have close to \$400,000 and this budget is 3.1% higher than last year. I believe there is plenty of money there and I don't believe it will affect anything in the EMS area. There is nothing on this budget line that I see would be affected basically on the proposed part of it. I just believe that we can do a better job of managing our money. I agree with Richard Butt in the fact that the default budget was not prepared correctly, at least in my philosophy, and I think we need to address that in the future. The difference between the \$185,000 difference in the proposed and what the amendment would mean amounts to around somewhere in the low 20 cent range on your tax rate. So, I think the 3.1% increase is more than adequate to fund the town portion.

Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Landing Rd., stated he wanted to share a concept here that some people may not be familiar with. You can look it up in Wikipedia and it's called Washington Monument Syndrome. This is a tactic used by those in charge of spending your money to discourage you from cutting their budgets and what they like to do is cut the things that are the most painful or most obvious first. This is like national parks we always hear about when the government gets shut down. They shut that down and everyone feels that or like emergency services, or like the roads. These are the critical things that they won't cut, but they will cut the extreme things. So, don't believe them when they say we're not going to have emergency services if the budget gets cut because it's not how it happens.



Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, as most of you know, I have been doing a lot of speaking on the Town for the last four years. I know this budget inside and out and I know the motivations behind every line item that goes on in this budget. First off, the emergency management stuff is not going to be hurt. What does happen is instead of the Selectmen actually cutting the specific department that is causing the biggest problem; they try to spread it out so it scares the town residents. They did that last year by demanding the cuts come from Highway and Fire, not only the Police Department, when the Police Department was the driver. This year we do not have a full compliment of police again. We have one in the pipeline and we do not have a second one. We have the salary for the second one and all the benefits that represents over \$100,000 in this budget that we will not be spending on a live person. So, this budget can be cut and it isn't. It's not just in the Police Department, but this is a consistent philosophy of this Board of Selectmen and they are using this as a weapon to scare the townspeople. That's not right. Our Fire Department has delivered even before they had the extra people on hand; they have done a beautiful job funding the new people and they are doing a great job for us. Highway has done an excellent job. Our new police officers are great. You will hear later on that we don't have coverage at a certain particular amount of time later on at night and that's going to be a bone of contention that I will speak to. This Town is second in the State for safety and I am very disgusted that we are using our budget to scare our residents about safety when our safety has been paramount. The State has recognized it and the Town is well aware of it.

Dell Rice, Pine Hill Rd., stated that he is probably as guilty as most people of not participating enough in the Town and going to meetings and things like that. I would just say that if you are not happy the way the Town is, you voted for these people; we voted for them. Don't vote for them next time. If you don't like something going on in a certain department, get them out of there. Sooner or later, when we're talking about budgets, we are going to have to pay for something in the long run. If you keep deferring it, deferring it, and deferring it, it's going to cost you more. Look at the Highway Department building. If we built that 15 years ago, it would have cost us a lot less. Generally, I think the Town runs pretty good and I also think there are places that can be improved upon, but it's up to us to try and improve them. You can dump on these guys all you want, but it's our fault as much as theirs.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, stated she wanted people to remember that the Selectmen get the bottom line. They can decide how to spend the bottom line regardless of what we say here. So, if we cut the budget, they'd still have a bottom line and they'd still have discretion as to how the Town should spend that bottom line money.

Moderator Foss said that Heleen did something that he would like everyone else to do who plans to speak and that is to speak to him as opposed to any member of the Board of Selectmen or anyone else on the stage. This is to keep the focus away from individuals so that we can conduct this meeting without concern

Jack Dearborn, Gould Rd., said he doesn't come to the Deliberative Sessions very often because it's the same old thing every year; but this year, I took an interest in it. I want to say thank you to the Select Board for running. I mean you would probably never see me up there unless there are hostages involved. That's the level which I care not to participate at that level of the Town. I do participate on the CIP Capital Improvement and ZBA and a few other things. I just want to say that I do contribute a lot of my time in the Town, not running the Town per say, but on other boards and services. One thing I want to point out is I also see the issue with the police, but I can tell you, myself



being one of the people who contributed time for the oral boards where members of the Town of Weare along with some sworn officers sit down and review candidates. When I was driving home the other day, I heard a very consistent thought that I hear in our hiring process. The U.S. Border Patrol basically says they get 133 candidates and boil it down to 1, meaning that the Town of Weare has gone two or three times a year looking for qualified candidates. We go through a sorting process of 120 or 130 candidates and end up with 1 person at the end. The Border Patrol rate of passing the polygraph is a failure rate of 60%, 40% passing, which is not inconsistent with the Town of Weare. It is very difficult to hire qualified people who can pass the test of background check and polygraph, as well. So, it isn't for lack of trying and I would recommend you do not cut the budget. Previously, we had four candidates who met the test and, unfortunately, none of them passed after going through the background check and polygraph testing. It isn't for a lack of trying, but if you cut the budget then you're doomed for the failure of not going off and being able to put somebody in if they become available. In that case sometimes there are adjacent towns that have sworn officers who are ready to start tomorrow, not always can we find that, but we have had a couple of conditions. Also, I would say that I've run large corporation budgets, I've been the person on the receiving end of the budget and I've been the person reviewing the budget and it's very difficult to sit here in advance of the year, refine everything down as tight as some people in this room argue it should be, and to come up with a zero balance at the end of the year. It's highly probable to end up with less or a negative balance at the end of the year, which is a difficult situation to put the Town in. There are so many random events that happen in this Town that are budget oriented that need some flexibility. I think handing back the \$200,000 or so money is not a bad thing. It may be taken out of my pocket briefly, but I think it's the right thing to do rather than hobble the Town on their execution. This will promote bad ideas in order to make it come out to zero dollars at the end of the year. With that, I'd like to support the proposed budget of \$6,074, 666.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, said he'd like to address some of the comments that have been made. There's no intention of cutting; there's no reference to personnel or the hiring process. It is simply a way to calculate the default budget the way it had been previously. In calculating the default budget, you are not reducing those positions. The money should be still available and just for a couple of facts for last year; they should have a surplus at the end of the year. I guess it may be ideal that you end up with zero dollars at the end of the year, but it's good that there's a surplus. I'll tell you that no matter how many default budgets we had, when I was on the Board for six years; and following Town politics for about eighteen years, there's always been money left over at the end of the year. Regardless of how much the budget was reduced as a result of getting a default budget, always money left over. Now, this year in addition to having \$107,000 approximately going into undesignated fund balance. There's a difference between undesignated fund balance, money used to reduce taxes, because that may not be because of a budget surplus, it could be monies that have come in, unexpected revenues and have been deposited into the unreserved fund balance. This year they had \$107,000 left over after it was reduced by \$108,000. They also spent at year end, knowing they were going to have a surplus, \$30,000 in items that department heads said they wanted. In addition to that, if you go through the operating budget, and I went through the operating budget at the end of October to find out how many lines in the budget were overspent and what that dollar amount was and there were 40 lines in the operating budget that were overspent. The amount of money that was overspent was about \$159,000; so when you look at a cut in the budget, last year's cut really allowed them to overspend individual line items in the budget by \$159,000, \$130,000 was left over, of which \$30,000 was spent, you are looking at close to \$300,000. I think it is more an issue with management than it is with cuts or underfunding because we heard the same story last year the week after the vote. Oh, it's Armageddon. It didn't turn out that way and I hope that the

Board would be able to manage their money a little better by not allowing departments to overspend. Maybe it's necessary, and I'm not passing judgment on it, but how often did the department head come into the Board and say I have to overspend this line and get authorization. I can't remember a case when that has happened. I think it's an issue with management and I don't think that it's a problem with a 3.1% increase in the operating budget, which is still substantial, and nothing is being cut.

Moderator Foss said that he wanted to clarify what he said earlier, which is to reduce the operating budget from \$6,074,660 to \$5,888,877. In the interest of moving the process along, I just want to make clear as to what it is that we are doing and we will be doing this in a written ballot.

Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Rd. said she has a comment and a question. My comment is that I'm gratefully retired, but for 16 years I met with my colleagues from surrounding towns in a professional situation and that statement that Weare is a model. It is a model for something. We have the most default budgets of any of the towns that have adopted SB2. My colleagues were very kindly and supportive of me but they had the attitude of, yes dear, we know you can't do the things that we are doing to improve services because of your budget. So, it is known around the communities that we need more. We do bottom line management, which is not a healthy way to manage, but what you have to do is if heating oil doesn't go up, you need it for supplies because they went up. You can't go line by line and expect anything because we are struggling so hard. My question is should this amendment pass for \$5,888,877 it would become the default budget for the coming year after, what impact would that have on the level of services we now have? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Legal Counsel answered the question stating that it would become the operating budget this year and the basis for the default budget next year. Chairman Clow said that it wasn't a question he could answer upfront now and would have to be a Board decision at the time. I'd like to give you a straight-forward answer, but I really can't do that. Chris made a motion to call the question. Seconded.

Moderator Foss asked for a vote on the motion to call the question and ending the debate on the amendment. Motion Passed. Discussion was concluded and Moderator Foss stated that the 30 minute clock for the written ballot was about to begin.

Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, asked for clarification relative to the vote. If I vote yes on the ballot, I'm voting for a 3.1% increase in the proposed budget; and if I vote No, then the current budget at 6.1% will be the one that goes forward. Is that correct? What does a Yes vote mean and what does a No vote mean?

Moderator Foss replied that the vote was on the amendment to reduce the amount of the operating budget from \$6,074,660 to an operating budget of \$5,888,877. Neal asked if I vote Yes, I'm voting for the lower number and if I vote No, I'm voting to keep the higher number. Moderator Foss said that Neal was correct after confirmation from Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel. Moderator Foss asked that voters bring their yellow card with them and you will be checked off and given a Yes and No ballot. Beginning at 10:20 AM, we have 30 minutes from now to vote at which time the polls will be closed.

Moderator Foss read the result of the written ballot. 41 Yes votes and 72 No votes. The operating budget will remain at \$6,074,660. He said that we would now discuss if there was any further discussion on the original Warrant Article of \$6,074,660 and if the article is defeated the default budg-



et will be \$5,997,749. Chairman Clow moved the question. Seconded. Motion passed.

Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, asked for clarification relative to when someone asks if the debate is still open and somebody quickly goes to close debate, isn't there a point where you have got to wait to see if someone else wants to speak and doesn't everybody get a chance to speak or do we just shut it down quickly? Moderator Foss said that it wasn't a quick shutdown. Because the motion to move the question was moved and seconded after the article was read and asked if there was any further discussion, which means there was an effort to ask the meetings opinion as to whether or not debate should be ended, which is what the vote was for.

Matt Whitlock asked for a Point of Order. Moderator Foss recognized Matt who stated that in past years, as part of the rules, you said that everyone would be allowed to speak once before the question may be called. Is that still true? Moderator Foss asked if everyone has had their first opportunity to speak. No one asked to speak.

Moderator Foss said that Article 2 would be placed on the Ballot as read. Chairman Clow moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

### ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Five Dollars (\$26,855) to be used for raises for non-union Town and Library personnel? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)  
Estimated tax impact = \$0.03

Chairman Clow moved the article as read. Seconded. Chairman Clow said that the article is self-explanatory.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The article provides merit-based pay raises, averaging 2% for non-union town and library employees. The Board of Selectmen reduced its original proposal from 3 to 2% as recommended by the Finance Committee. The Committee supports raises at a 2% level consistent with cost of living. The Committee would note that the town administrator received an 18% raise and the police chief received an 8% raise, without town approval, which is perceived by other town employees and the Committee as extremely unjust by comparison. Something else to add is that the police chief is allowed to take part of this on top of the raise that he gets and the town administrator for the next two years will not be participating in this but the last four years she will be able to.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, just to put some added numbers to what you've already heard, if a town employee is making \$30,000 a year, that employee will see an \$11.54 pay increase each paycheck or \$600 per year. That's it.

Chairman Clow moved the question. Seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss said that Article 3 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Town Clerk Maureen Bilodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.



#### ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) 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= \$0.02

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. This article pertains to the Town Office, Town Hall, Public Safety Building, the two Fire Department buildings, Stone Memorial Building and the Library.

Lori Davis, Committee Chair, said the Finance Committee recommends this article. The Committee believes \$75,000 in this fund is a well-established historical standard to fund unexpected maintenance issues in many of our aging town structures. The fund currently has \$60,000 in it. In response to the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen's original proposal for \$36,000 was reduced to \$15,000. This would bring it up to an acceptable level.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, asked what the balance was in the Government Building and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Snyder replied that there was a balance of \$66,410. Richard Butt then asked what the balance was in the Mildred Hall Fund. Selectman Snyder replied with \$16,102. He asked what the total was and Selectman Snyder stated \$82,000+. He said that there is \$82,000 available to the Board and wanted to know what this \$15,000 was going to be used for. It started at \$46,000 based on a list that was supplied to the Board by the Town Administrator that identified certain projects in all of the buildings. Then, it got dropped down to \$36,000 simply because the \$46,000 was too close to another article on the Warrant for \$46,000 so it was reduced arbitrarily to \$36,000 and then after the public hearing, there was a recommendation by one selectmen to reduce it to 0 and then it was put to \$15,000. I don't understand how you can go from \$46,000 to \$15,000 without having a plan in place because it doesn't appear that there is a plan and the money that is in the Government Building and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund should be planned in terms of its usage. I would agree that there should be \$30,000 to \$40,000 in there for an emergency that you don't touch but anything over that is usable for a particular project in any given year and what you are telling me is that there is about \$40,000 in that fund over the \$40,000 that should be kept there. You are telling me you want to use \$15,000. It would seem like you have enough money in that fund to cover whatever the \$15,000 would be used for. What is the \$15,000 going to be used for? Selectman Snyder said that there are a number of areas in the Town that need to be repaired. There is the possibility of a mold problem in one of the offices in the Town Office building that needs to be verified and repaired, a possibility of a roof problem at the Safety Complex, and a variety of other areas at the Town Hall that need to be repaired, as well, i.e. the corner boards, eaves, rot, etc. Richard Butt said there is \$80,000 in that fund and I've yet to hear an answer as to why there's a need for \$15,000 in that fund. What is going to be accomplished by putting \$15,000 into a fund that already has \$80,000 in it? Selectman Snyder stated she believes that the items listed would justify that amount. Richard Butt said he didn't consider that to be a specific enough answer to justify the \$15,000 request. I know it's a minor amount and it's more an issue of planning and putting the people in place to identify what the needs are in town. There should have been a Building Committee put in place this past summer and it was never put in place. They are reacting to things with no plan in place. It has always been a problem with this particular fund with no plan in place for what the needs are. I don't mind putting money into a fund. It is not the taxes,

it's the issue. It's how it's being spent and how it's being used. I don't see that this is being used properly and I would then like to amend that to \$0 because I haven't received a sufficient answer. Richard Butt gave the amendment to Moderator Foss.

Moderator Foss read Article 4 as amended "Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Zero Dollars (\$0) 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?" Seconded. He then asked for discussion on the amendment.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, supported the amendment. If the dollar amount seems to be correct with \$80,000 in that fund, see how far that will go and then next year come back and replace an equal amount of dollars. So, don't ask for more in anticipation of spending it because there seems to be enough in that account to accomplish several major issues. I don't have a problem with capping an account like this, and if you want to cap it at \$80,000, which I think is a lot, spend it down and then replace what you spend. To me, it's common sense.

Marjorie Burke, 47 Merrill Road, I am speaking against the amendment and I will say what I said at the School Deliberative Session the other night. Two words that stewards of public buildings never want to hear "deferred maintenance". The longer we defer maintenance on issues such as Jan mentioned the more expensive the program gets later on, so I am against this amendment.

Sharon Czarnecki, 37 Newman Wilson Road, I am new to this; and if we reduce this to \$0, doesn't that mean that we aren't going to have that article on the ballot at all? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that by law the article has to appear on the ballot, but it would appear as putting \$0 in the fund. We can't just take it off the ballot.

Chairman Clow said he was speaking against the amendment. We are not just going willy nilly without any idea of what we are doing. The Board has hired a firm to look at different projects in Town and gave us plans on what to do. Team Engineering worked with us looking at the needs for ventilation and insulation in the attic of the Town Office building, no specific price on it, that's right. They also gave us a plan to stabilize the gazebo and we have one estimate on that project, plus one Board member with some help from the community got a price on replacing the gazebo. We have had multiple estimates for different areas on the Town Hall like the rot on the eaves and the corner boards, etc. We had one for the windows, which is a big expense we wouldn't be doing this year. We dragged our feet on this stuff, but we are not blind to the needs and so we have to move a long and that's got to be a charge of this Board.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, I think it is willy nilly. It started at \$46,000, or somewhere around there. They determined that number was too close to another article and it would create confusion on the part of the voters. We're confused. Then, it was reduced to \$36,000 to provide some separation strictly in the number, not because we deferred it until next year, then it was reduced to \$15,000 with no explanation of what that money would be used for. There was no consideration for the money that was already in that account, which is \$80,000. If you were proposing \$45,000 or \$50,000, I probably could accept that because I think there would be some meaning behind it, but \$15,000 isn't accomplishing anything. You can't identify what that money is going to be used for. I agree that there are buildings in town that need to be repaired. They need to have estimates and need to be itemized. They need to have people that are capable and qualified to review those and get quotes and create a plan, whether it is a two year or five year plan. There is no plan. It is willy nilly.



Moderator Foss said that if he was hearing Richard Butt correctly that the Board in the future should make a plan for the maintenance of the buildings they plan to spend the money on. Richard Butt agreed that we should start now by letting them know that we aren't going to accept this proposal because it is an insult to the voters to provide an article on the Warrant that really doesn't justify the expense.

Sharon Zarnecki, 37 Newman Wilson Road, So, just to clarify, it would have been nice to have a list of all the expenses, but the way I think of it is like this. If my husband comes home and says to me, I'm hoping we're going to get a raise and I say to him that would be nice. This is the list of the things we can get done without your raise; and if you get a raise, this is what we are going to add to the list. It's not like I can't come up with a list. I've got the list, I know all these things that need to be done and if they don't do it this year, you are going to do it next year so it strikes me as the same kind of thinking that you would use as a homeowner. Look, you got the raise, let's go ahead and do these other things, as well. I am just asking if this is the kind of thinking that is going on here?

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, I implore the Selectmen to get that Building Committee that has been talked about now for maybe a year or longer that has one or two members, Sherry Burdick among them, but doesn't have a complete committee. Go out and knock on doors and get it moving because, if we had that committee, we wouldn't be having that discussion right now to give us the information.

Moderator Foss wanted to speak to the fact that the Town has many committees and all of them could use volunteers, even if being put on a list as backup members. I encourage, I implore and I plead for the members of the Town to sign up for committees that they are interested in. It's unfortunate, if it's accurate in my understanding, that we have a Building Committee that is not functioning at the moment. This is a town-wide knocking on the door from the podium of this meeting. He then asked if there was any further discussion on the amendment.

Sherry Burdick, Deering Center Road, I was on the Building Committee for over five years and I had projected a program that went five years out. All of those items have been done. Then, we lost several of the committee members and now what we need to do is get people to serve on the committee. However, we need people who actually know something about building; because I see it all the time, you get people on the committee and they don't have a clue what they are doing. When you ask for somebody that's going to be on the committee, they should have some basic background because it doesn't do a lot of good to just have a lot of people. Keeping the seat warm is what it amounts to. Moderator Foss interjected that in some committees it is essential to have, like the Finance Committee, a quorum to start the meeting and at least function as a committee. Sherry said that there are only two members signed up, myself and one other person. Moderator Foss asked if the committee could function with just two members. Sherry said they could definitely function because the stuff that we were doing, only two out of the five on the previous committee, were doing anything anyway. The other thing is that the Board, or some of the Board members for sure know, that there are a tremendous amount of problems on some of these buildings. The \$15,000 isn't going to make a drop in the bucket I can tell you that when you get into it. You have rakes on the Town Hall that are all rotted out, as well as corner boards, you have windows that need to be cleaned down and repainted and painted, the bell tower has got to be done; and, I believe there is something in one of the articles for that bell tower. There is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done and just the mold remediation issue over at the Town Office, I'm not sure what that's going to cost. They keep talking about that engineering company, but, believe me, there are



ways to go out and have somebody come in that has a background in that stuff and we used one at the Stone Memorial Building. I think they would give the solution at no cost for that problem and fix it. It may be \$10,000 more to fix that and I don't know if they have anything in the budget for that or not. I wish that we could get this going again and get a group of items together that has to be done and get some costing done. It's a lot of work, but somebody needs to do some research here. I think what I've seen so far without the Building Committee no research gets done and we hire people to come in and do a job, a horrendous job, and then we end up having to redo it again. I don't want to pay two or three times for a job to be done.

Selectman Hippler said three years ago the Board met over at the Town Hall to go over a list of repairs with some contractors and what it needed. We received an estimate from one of those contractors for bell tower work, roof trim, corner board replacement, window replacement and gazebo repairs. The bell tower is culled out in another warrant article because last year the input from the voters was we needed to have itemized projects on the ballot, so we did that. With the remaining money that's in that Government Buildings and Maintenance Fund, the plan was this year is to do the rot repair on the corner boards and trim to try and get on the other side of the rot. Unfortunately, it's hard to know how much rot you have at face value. You can pull that off and find that there are other issues behind that or more that we didn't account for. Initially, that's why that fund line item was at over \$40,000, which was pulled out because of the fact we have \$55,000 in that account. With that said, we still have buildings that are going to need maintenance. One particular item that I bring up at the meetings is South Weare Fire Station, which was built in 1991. I've been involved in the Fire Department for over 15 years and the boiler that's upstairs, the heater, is the original one I remember being up there. Not knowing, and not holding a crystal ball when these items are going to fail, is why we decided to put at least something in that account - \$15,000 in this item. We do have intentions for that money. It's not like we just put it in there as a rainy day fund. The plan is to utilize that, and again because of the rot it's hard to put a solid number on that project so that's why we are going to use that fund as we can to make that repair to the Town Hall. And, again, we do have other buildings, as stated, that we need to maintain as well. There is \$16,000 in the Mildred Hall Fund designated for the Town Hall. She was gracious enough to leave us with a good sum of money between the Town Hall and Clinton Grove Academy. Again, the Town Hall fund has \$16,000 in it.

Selectman Hippler moved the question on Article 4. Seconded. Moderator Foss advised the voters that the question has been moved and seconded on Article 4 and that voting was on moving the question. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss read the amendment and said that voting would now be for the amendment. Vote on the amendment failed.

Moderator Foss read Article 4 as written. He asked if there was further discussion. Seeing none, Article 4 will appear on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Dollars (\$44,571) for the purchase of one (1) fully equipped marked police cruiser; and to authorize Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Dollars (\$44,571) to be withdrawn from the unre-

served fund balance for this purpose? This will replace an existing cruiser. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.00

Selectman Meaney moved the article as read. Seconded. This is a replacement for the existing fleet as we are trying to get on a regular rotation of one for one to try and cut down on the maintenance item for some of the, I guess for a less delicate term, of junk that they're driving around in. Eventually, it will reduce our maintenance budget. In the past, it was \$70,000 for cruiser repair. We are down to just \$20,000 and that'll reduce even more as we replace the cars on a yearly basis, one for one.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Three cruisers were purchased last year. The capital improvement plan originally called for two additional cruisers this year. The Committee agrees with the Board of Selectmen's decision to drop to one additional cruiser to meet the demand of current operations and make further progress on replacing an aging fleet. The Police Chief has stated this cruiser would be used in support of daily operations and not used by the Chief or any officer for commuting purposes.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, Article 5 will appear on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$41,544) representing the cost of adding one (1) additional full time Police Officer to the existing Police Department? This represents the wages and benefits for six (6) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.05

Chairman, Tom Clow moved the article as written. Seconded. This Article would allow us to have a schedule that has Police Officers on duty 24 hours a day, which we don't now. That's the plan. It will be tight with only one new officer. The Police Chief feels there is the possibility of doing that with one additional officer. In order to have this hiring take place, we have to plan on it well in advance. Right now and I'm sure it's going to be discussed here today that we are down two officers now. Hopefully, as of Monday, we'll be down to one officer because we do have a candidate coming before the Board. The timing here is the important thing; because once it is approved, it's probably 18 months off before the person is on the job. This is due to the timing of the Police Academy for training and the amount of the on-the-job training that's required. So, if it is put off for another year, then really we are putting it off for two years or 2 ½ years. The Board is in favor of this because we want to return to that level of service of having officers on duty 24 hours a day.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. The Committee does not support adding a Police Officer position. The Town has two positions open, one is supposed to be coming through Monday and the other position will still be open. It is the consensus of the Committee that these positions should be filled first. When we have a full complement of officers at current approved levels, operational demands can be reassessed and recommendations can be made. The Police Chief informed the Committee that



Weare is the second safest Town in the State of New Hampshire. Going on that and giving more background on the Finance Committees discussion, first off, we need a full compliment of police and that has been backed up by both the Chief and we've discussed it at the Board of Selectmen level, as well as the Finance Committee level. Putting a person in for this Warrant Article is not going to solve that problem. Secondly, we are the second safest Town in the State. We have the State Sheriff's Department, State Troopers; if you call, they will come. I know because I have been on the phone with them all week. I have talked with surrounding towns and I gave the example if something happens and I have a shootout at the O K Corral at my house, somebody will show up. And, once again, we are doing the let's scare the Town residents. The Finance Committee does not recommend this.

Travis Corcoran, Quaker Street, First, I have a question. The final sentence is, if this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget. I presume from context that this refers to \$41,500 a year. In fact, what would become part of the annual budget is 12 months of that so not \$41,500 but \$83,000. Is that correct? Moderator Foss replied yes. We have a clarification that this is actually talking about increasing spending by \$83,000 a year so the tax impact for the first year is \$0.05 per thousand; but in all future years, it is \$0.10 per thousand. Is that also correct? Moderator Foss replied yes. Additionally, we have a contract already signed with the Police Department that provides for annual raises. What is the raise that this hypothetical future hire would receive after one year on the job? Chairman Clow said that he didn't have the contract here. Travis Corcoran said he thought it was 3 or 4% and asked Chairman Clow if it was in the rate range. Chairman Clow said it probably was. So, it's not that we are looking at \$83,000; we are looking at \$85,000 or \$86,000 and then there are also benefits and retirement accounts, etc. with this position. Is this correct? Chairman Clow replied yes. I know there are various individual safety items, tasers, body cameras, tactical rifles and shields that would be requested so we would, additionally for this position, have to fully equipped this officer. Do we have a round number for how much equipping an additional officer takes? Is \$10,000 in the right range? Moderator Foss replied it was between \$5,000 and \$7,500. Chairman Clow said that the \$41,500 includes salary, benefits and anything else related to it that's a labor cost. Travis Corcoran said that both in the discussion of Police spending and earlier when we were talking about EMS spending, there was the absolutely correct framing of it's not just a cost, it's a cost per benefit, and that is, I am a fiscal conservative, but I absolutely acknowledge that. So when I do look at this I don't say my taxes are going up, I do, in fact, wonder okay there's the benefit. Right now, I've tried to find our crime statistics and I know that the Town doesn't have a police blotter. I have spoken to the Chief saying he's not against all spending and that he can be convinced if there are some statistics saying we've got 43 property disruptions and 7 thefts, etc. Well, perhaps another officer would help that. My understanding is that we do not have a police blotter and that it is not a Police Department priority to get one. Last week, we don't know how many crimes there were and next week we won't know how many crimes there were. We have some data suggesting that we are the second safest Town in the State. Given all of that, it's not like I hear all of the muggings going on. Will more police lower the chance that I am going to have stuff stolen out of my barn? We are already extraordinarily safe. We have established that the additional spending is \$83,000 a year plus mandatory increases year after year because of the contract. Therefore, I do not believe that this is wise spending.

Chairman Clow said he could clarify the expense a little more. Unfortunately, our Finance Administrator couldn't be here today; however, she did leave some information behind for us. The total yearly cost would be \$89,656 all inclusive of wages, retirement, health insurance, payroll taxes and

the equipping of the officer – ballistic vest, uniform, radio, dry cleaning and training. That would mean that the \$89,656 yearly cost would be all inclusive of all of the things that were mentioned.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, I wanted to amend that article, but there seems to be a conflict of dollar amounts. Chairman Clow interjected with a correction that the \$89,656 includes the wages, retirement, health insurance, and payroll taxes, but it does not include the other things I listed for equipment. That's an additional amount. Frank Campana appreciated the correction and said that it's not simple to just double the \$41,500 and I don't think that's in dispute because of other expenses in there. I spoke to the Finance Administrator, because I wanted to be relatively sure on the dollar amount and she gave me actually a little over \$100,000. I believe some of it was timing of having to pay benefits or something. I wish she was here because she could explain it much better than I can. I would like to amend the article at the end of the last sentence "with the estimated sum increase to \$100,000 for a full 12 months". Seconded. I expected the Town Counsel to get up. There is precedence relative to this type of change referring to Article 20 back in 2016 that I offered an amendment again at the end of the last sentence. Moderator Foss said that the amendment made today is not in dispute. Frank stated that he just needed to say that there was precedence here. A couple of things about the officer. I heard several times today that Weare is the second safest Town in the State. I think that last year or the year before we were like the fifth. I think that's great, but I have not heard anything to tell me that we are the second safest because of the Weare Police Department, specifically. I'm not discrediting the Police Department by any means; it could just be a matter of luck. We don't have a lot of bars, I guess. We don't have a lot of house parties that would cause people to go out and be perpetrators. We probably don't have a lot of house breaks, but I don't know where to get that information. I haven't heard anything to substantiate to me that we are the second safest because of the Weare Police Department. If I heard from the Police Department that we are the safest because we have a cop on every corner, that would substantiate it to me a little bit better. I am in agreement with the Finance Committee and would like to see a full complement of officers before we start hiring other people. My last comment on my amendment and more to the point. I sit in at a lot of the Selectmen's meetings and I hear the word transparency thrown out by the Board Members on a number of occasions. This amendment, to me, would lend to transparency. What I will keep an eye on when I see the vote for this, I will look at the 6 people up at the table in front of me and I will see if they are true to their word and that they are advocating transparency because a 12 month cost, \$100,000, is transparent. There may be some people here that heard me at the last couple of school meetings whereby you don't enter into an obligation without knowing what the total amount is. You buy a refrigerator or a large appliance and it has a yellow sticker on it with an estimate of what you are going to pay for a year. It's plain and simple. Again, I will keep an eye on the Board and see if they're transparent. If they don't vote for the amendment, then I hope I don't have to go to a Selectmen's meeting and listen to them promote how transparent they may be.

Vice Chairman Hippler said he wasn't going to do this Washington Monument Syndrome thing, but I've lived the real world without having the 24 hour coverage. Being on the ambulance, I know and some of the other members have voiced it to me as well, is that those hours from 3:00-7:00 A.M., we go to a somewhat questionable EMS call that needs to have the Police Department there. We have to stand by, sometimes 45 minutes plus waiting for the State Police to show up to an incident. We risk our lives with the fire side of it, but we aren't going to go into a hostile environment in the ambulance and waiting 45 minutes make you question what's going on down at the call. What are we going to be walking into that possibly could have been prevented by an officer showing up 5 minutes away. The other thing, too, is and it could happen. I know we've had one hit this year. As a possible example, one of our plow trucks gets hit by an out-of-control vehicle going down the road,



they're going to wait 45 minutes to file a police report and take them off the road 45 more minutes. I don't know, it could happen because they are out 24/7 plowing and we get a lot of snow or bad conditions and now the road isn't plowed. Again, I am in support of this but, I can see both sides of this coin. I would like to see the full 11 staff to have a real number. Unfortunately and fortunately, with our vetting process, we're getting quality officers and it takes a lot of time to fill those spots.

Moderator Foss advised that we are talking right now about the amendment to Article 6 which is putting the estimated sum increase for a full 12 months of \$100,000 at the end of the article.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, said he didn't want to be critical of Vice Chairman Hippler, but what he said is an example of muddying the waters for the need of the cop and I would ask the Moderator to tell me that his comment is germane to the amendment. I was only talking about the dollar amount; I wasn't talking about the need, whys, and wherefores. Moderator Foss replied that we should be focusing on the amendment of \$100,000. Vice Chairman Hippler apologized to Frank. Vice Chairman Hippler said that he just wants to make sure that the \$100,000 number is correct because we have heard three different amounts. Moderator Foss said the \$100,000 is what the amendment states and speaks for itself, and he can't speak to its accuracy.

Chairman Clow said he had a more specific number of \$100,656. Frank Campana agreed to the change to the amendment to this amount, Seconded.

Moderator Foss said that the amendment has been amended to \$100,656 and said there would be a vote on this amendment. Moderator Foss read the article with this amendment: "Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$41,544) representing the cost of adding one (1) additional full time Police Officer to the existing Police Department? This represents the wages and benefits for six (6) months. If this article is approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget with the estimated sum increase for a full 12 months of \$100,656". Moderator Foss advised that there would now be a vote on this amendment. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss stated that we are now back to Article 6 with the amendment.

Sherry Burdick, Deering Center Road, said she had a question on this amendment because she has heard the Chief make the comment more than once that he needs two people per shift minimum so I don't know what that is going to buy us if he has one person on this article. He has said this at least two or three times this year. I'd like to know if he could speak to that. Chief Kelly thanked Sherry for asking for clarification. The current authorized strength of 11 officers, that 11<sup>th</sup> position would go towards covering that 24/7. The 12<sup>th</sup> position, which is Article 6, would enable the two officers per shift so this is the addition needed for two officers per shift 24 hours 7 days. Sherry said that we would then be shy one less officer on first or second shift. Chief Kelly said, if I understood your question, you asked we'd be short on another shift. Sherry said what she was saying is that we would be short on third shift because you are only asking for one officer. Chief Kelly replied yes it would because this article adds the second officer needed for that shift. This 12<sup>th</sup> officer would provide enough police officers for 24 hours a day 7 days a week with two people on shift. Sherry Burdick said then we don't need those two officers on first shift that you've been looking to fill. We have two positions open for first or second shift so you don't need them then. If you are going to take one of them off and deal with just third shift, you're telling me you have enough police officers if this passes. Chief Kelly said he doesn't have nearly enough police officers. If you look at the sta-

tistical data, size of the Town, population of the Town, we are significantly understaffed. Going to two officers per shift is the absolute dead minimum necessary to cover patrol shifts. That is almost no preventive patrols; that is no specialized investigator, that is purely a response minimum.

Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, wanted the record to reflect that there is a dispute as to how many officers are authorized. Some folks think that the number of authorized officers includes the Chief and others do not. I believe that is still a matter of dispute. Moderator Foss said it was so noted.

Travis Corcoran, Quaker Street, wanted to question the Chief where he said that according to statistics the Town is significantly understaffed with police officers. My question is if we were staffed up to the levels the statistics suggest, where in the New Hampshire crime rankings do you think Weare would rate instead of being #2, would it be better than that?

Jim Leary, 189 Gould Road, said he wanted to get a clarification on the amendment. It's now going to read that it's \$100,000 for 12 months, but that the tax impact is going to remain at \$0.05. That's going to actually not be correct because the tax impact for the actual 12 months will be \$0.10 or thereabouts. Moderator Foss said that the article reads for 6 months. Jim Leary said that it is for 6 months, but then it's saying for 12 months. People are going to read the article through and then they are going to read that the annual operating budget and then it says for 12 months at \$100,000, but it's still stating the tax impact is \$0.05, which would make people think that the tax impact would be for the \$100,000, as well. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, answered that people may think that, but the purpose of putting the estimated tax impact on the Ballot and on the Warrant is to show the tax impact for this year. Jim Leary asked if there was a way to amend the amendment to put a tax impact for the following year after that? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel replied certainly if you want to offer such an amendment, the Body can consider it. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel interrupted the meeting to advise Jim that the tax impact doesn't show on the Ballot; it only shows in the mailer and it can be explained in the mailer.

Marjorie Burke, 47 Merrill Road, said earlier in the discussion around the budget, you heard eloquently from Jack Dearborn about how difficult it is to hire highly qualified police officers for this Town. I serve with Jack on the oral boards sometimes and I know how thorough the hiring process is and you heard from Vice Chairman Hippler about the need for officers when an ambulance call happens. What happens if there's a call in the middle of the night when we don't have an officer on duty and the ambulance goes and it's a domestic violence situation where somebody's being beaten up and little children are there witnessing all of this? We talk about the dollar amount of this article. I'm in favor of hiring an additional officer so that we have 24/7 coverage. I want to ask you, is a life worth more or less than the amount of money that we are talking about? I believe you cannot put a price on a life so I support this article.

Bill Anderson, 137 East Road, I want to speak to the fact that we haven't been successful in filling the two vacancies we have; we may be filling one, but we still have another vacancy. If we establish this position now with the track record we've been on, it's going to establish another position and a cost of now over \$100,000 on an annual basis that will be filtered back into the default budget and the proposed budget for next year that is going to add to that and you are going to have that cost filtered in when those budgets are established with no benefit because the position will be unfilled. That's why I would like to see the positions filled that we currently have before we take this step.



Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, said there are several things to address. The first is the question Neal Kurk brought up of complement of officers. This was voted in several years ago and the Town asked for 12 officers and that included a Police Chief. We currently have a part-time Police Chief, not a full-time Police Chief. When this was done, we had a full-time Police Chief so we are at half a Police Chief now. We don't have a full complement because we don't have a number 11 in the pipeline for officers and the Police Chief is part time so we are operating at short strength. To Mr. Anderson's point, yes we are going to be overloading the line because we are going to be adding a person and, and if it's not filled, it's just going to keep filling there. The other thing people are not keeping track of is we will now this year have \$106,000 for a police person in the regular line of 12 that is not hired and that's going to be carried over, which means that the Police Department, if this one isn't filled too, will have a comfortable \$212,000 to spend in their operating budget. It will be spent because they do it every year. It's going to be carried over to next year.

Chairman Clow wanted to reiterate what Marge Burke said because it's not really the number of calls; it's the severity of them. You need the officer there when it happens. I understand everything about the budgeting factors here and I can't really disagree with that. But, the timeline on hiring an officer is so extended because we're having problems filling these positions that if we put this off and put the same article on next year, we've moved it down the road to about 18 months to get to that level. The other thing is it isn't the number of calls that you have in the wee hours of the morning, it's whether or not the officer is needed and how far away they are. I am in favor of this, otherwise, we wouldn't have it on the Ballot, but that's my reasoning for that.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, wanted to know if there was any way to put on this Warrant Article if the position isn't filled that the money cannot be expended for anything else. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that it couldn't at this point. To make this so that the money can't be spent on something else, it would need to be designated a Special Warrant Article and that needs to be done when it's warned. It can't be amended to make it a Special Warrant Article. Heleen Kurk asked if we have 12 officers, is that then a guarantee that we'll have 24 hour coverage? I bring that up because I felt that in a statement that was made we might have 24 hour coverage and I'd like to make clear that we would or we might. Maybe, the Police Chief can make that clear. Moderator Foss said that barring any extenuating circumstances, such as illness or whatever, that would provide us with 24 hour 2 person coverage. Heleen Kurk asked if the Chief or Chair would also confirm that. Chief Kelly said that this 12<sup>th</sup> position is a conditional guarantee. The reason I say it like that is this. As Tom pointed out, for sake of discussion or argument, the money was approved at this moment, we wouldn't hire the person until the hiring process was complete, and then they have to go through a training period. During that period, while they're getting their basic police officer certification, they wouldn't be available for those 24 hours. Once they're certified, once we have them into the role, yes, you would have 24 hour coverage.

Chairman Clow moved the question to end debate. Seconded.

Moderator Foss said that it has been moved and seconded to end the debate. Motion passed. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss asked for a sense of the Body to stop for a lunch break or go right through. The Body chose to go right through.

## ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town change the name and purpose of the Weare Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue Fund (established by Warrant Article 41 of the 1999 Town Meeting), to allow for the purchase of equipment in addition to the existing purpose of purchasing vehicles. The new name of the fund will be the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund? (2/3 Vote Required) (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.00

Vice Chairman Hippler moved the article as read. Seconded. Vice Chairman Hippler recognized Fire Chief Vezina to speak to this article. Chief Vezina said that he couldn't add anything to the Finance Committee's written explanation to the Legislative Body, which will be read by the Finance Committee Chair. He said it's a tool that we could use in the future and I would agree that there's sufficient checks and balances in place to prevent any mismanagement of that fund. Also, we would need approval from the voters to withdraw from that fund.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. This level of funding allows the Town to build a reserve for the purchase of major fire apparatus. The increase in annual ambulance reimbursements to the Town allows flexibility to expand the use of this fund for equipment. This will reduce the tax impact for such purposes. The voters will still have to approve by Warrant Article withdrawal from the fund. Sufficient checks and balances are in place with the Board of Fire Wards, Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee to ensure sufficient funds are kept in reserve for the purchase of major apparatus. The Finance Committee would like to commend the Fire Department for the great work they have done coming forward in the past years of building this department up and being such great stewards of their finances and our equipment.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, asked for clarification on this article. It states in the article that in addition to the existing purpose of purchasing vehicles. The existing purpose of the current special revenue fund is for the replacement of vehicles; yet, when you read the name of the new name, it's the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund. I would like to have some clarification because when it says in addition to the existing purpose of the existing fund, the purpose of that fund is for replacement vehicles. You are changing it to not only for purchases of equipment but you are now also changing it to allow for the purchase of additional vehicles. In my mind, it's not worded correctly as the existing purpose of the existing fund is replacement and they are changing the title to include additional vehicles. Moderator Foss stated that he did not see that. Richard Butt replied that where it says the name of the fund will be the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund the existing fund says replacement. They are not only changing the title; they are changing the purpose. The original purpose was to replace the vehicles, which is the way to control the size of government and this is allowing for the purchase of additional vehicles to the fleet. To me, the two definitions as to the titles don't agree with each other. Moderator Foss asked Dick if he would like someone to address that and Dick said he would. I don't want to offer an amendment because I'm 0 to 2 and I don't want to go 0 for 3, but it's kind of a friendly request, not that it's unfriendly. Chairman Clow said that you are correct it does change the fund so that it's not strictly replacement. And so, for example, if some time in the future the Town needed a third ambulance that it would be able to purchase a third ambulance without trading in an ambulance in its place. You are absolutely right that this renaming the fund does open that door, but as emphasized in the Finance Committee's response, as well as in our discussions on this, it's a special revenue fund which means that nothing can be spent out of it without the people voting on that. It has to be put on the Warrant as an article for that purpose, it can't be spent like a capital reserve fund where whether it's the Selectmen or some other body that's designated to spend out of it, and this



must go before the voters. There's that safeguard there, but you are right it is not strictly a replacement fund anymore according to the wording of this article. Richard Butt asked if the article could be changed to reflect that. Moderator Foss asked if he would like to amend it. Dick replied that he was hoping the Board would amend it. He spoke about where it should change starting with to allow for the purchase of equipment in addition to the existing purpose. The existing purpose, again, is replacement so something needs to change. The purchase of equipment in addition to allowing the purchase of additional vehicles. Moderator Foss asked Dick if he was making the amendment and Dick replied he was offering the opportunity for the Board to make the amendment. If not, he would make the amendment. Chairman Clow asked Richard Butt if this change would be acceptable? "To allow the purchase of equipment, as well as the purchasing of vehicles". Dick stated that it would be acceptable as long as the word existing is removed because the existing purpose is replacement. He said he didn't care how the Board does it. Chairman Clow moved the amendment to now read " Shall the Town change the name and purpose of the Weare Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Special Revenue Fund (established by Warrant Article 41 of the 1999 Town Meeting), to allow for the purchase of equipment in addition to the purpose of purchasing vehicles? The new name of the fund will be the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund". Richard Butt said as long as you remove the word existing because the existing purpose is replacement. Seconded.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any discussion on the amendment. Seeing none, then we are going to vote on it. Motion passed.

Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, wanted the Board to confirm that what he is about to say is the effect of this article. Right now, if the Fire Department wants additional equipment, they would put in a Warrant Article, if it weren't in the operating budget, and we would see the tax impact. In the future, should this article pass and the Fire Department wants to take money out of that fund and use it for equipment, that would be an article in the Warrant and we would see zero tax impact because the money is coming out of the fund. The effect of this means that the fund will be smaller in the future because we've spent the money on equipment and when it comes time to replace vehicles, we will have to expend a larger amount of money than if we didn't make the change in this article. Is that a fair statement of the effect of this Warrant Article? Chairman Clow said that it could be, but that's not the intent. And, again, I'd like to go back to the fact that it's a Special Revenue Fund so everything taken out must be voted on by the voters. The prudent management of the account by the Fire Department, Board of Fire Wards and the Board of Selectmen, as far as what to bring forward would, of course, be important here. Technically, what you are saying, Neal is correct but it does remain in the voter's hands. Steve Roberts, 815 Concord Stage Road, advised that he serves as Chairman of the Board of Fire Wards currently and we, with the Chief, and with the Finance Committee and Selectmen's support put this forward and it's to go along with our plan that we've been working on for years. We've evaluated what our equipment needs are and apparatus and so there may be changes to that. We actually dropped a pumper truck from our fleet a year or two ago that, in our opinion, was no longer worth keeping on the fleet due to maintenance and cost of it. We'd like to have the flexibility to be able to work that plan and see what the needs of the Town are. Also, equipment, being the cost that it is, like last year we replaced air packs for close to \$100,000 that technically isn't a vehicle, but it is a very large expense. Working with the CIP Committee, Finance Committee and the Selectmen to try and kind of even out some of those purchases and plan for long range, this will help us to do that.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none, Article 7 will appear on the Ballot as amended. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 8

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 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= \$0.21

Selectman Osborne moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Osborne went on to say that the article is pretty self explanatory. The total cost of the vehicle will be \$215,000 and we are taking \$30,000 out of the existing Highway Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, which drops the cost down to \$185,000. It will be used to replace one of the 2004 trucks that we have that is getting to the end of its life span.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The Committee sees a continuing need to replace the town's plow truck fleet. Ten of the 13 dump trucks are 10 or more years old. This article will replace a 2002 6-wheeler with a 10-wheeler; the increased capacity will make winter plowing operations more efficient. The capital reserve fund has \$30,000 in it to help offset the cost.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any discussion on this article.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, had a curiosity question. It seems like they are replacing 6-wheel trucks with 10-wheel trucks and I understand the rationale behind that, but is this going to be an on-going way of doing things so that we end up with a total fleet of 10-wheel trucks? Benji Knapp, DPW Director, said that was his plan. Frank Campana said that was fine but with 10-wheel trucks, which probably won't end up being a lot of money, there is certainly an increase in maintenance and upkeep. Instead of buying tires for a 6-wheel dump truck, you now are buying an extra set of 4. I don't know what else, but there has to be more maintenance. Director Knapp said that with the exception of tires, that would be the only thing that's an addition. We have a lot fewer broken wheels and broken springs and things of that nature for our 10-wheelers. They're a shorter 10-wheeler and I have two big 10-wheelers. These are really a very short 10-wheeler so we can still get around in our turnarounds. It's just that it holds them up a lot more to make a difference when we are salting and sanding and we've really noticed a drastic difference in the amount of broken springs and wheels. It is very hard to overload these little 10-wheelers. They have 12 foot bodies on them and a 6-wheeler is overloaded almost empty. That's my reason for doing it. Frank said he has heard that from Benji many times and he appreciated that he was telling everybody. I am just concerned with an increase in maintenance cost with a full fleet of 10-wheelers.

Moderator Foss asked if there were any other comments.

Tim Matheson, River Road, said he could not support this article because of what happened last year. We had a front line truck that we paid \$3,400 for and that turned into \$215,000. I'd like to see the \$30,000 go to the backhoe. The other thing, too, is Benji's idea of replacing all the 6-wheelers



with 10-wheelers. Most of the municipalities are now plowing with 6-wheelers or Ford F550's, a 2 ½ ton chassis vehicle. Dwayne Dupres, Mountain Road, I am speaking as myself and not as a DPW worker. I drive this truck we are talking about replacing. It is, to me, a health issue. The amount of CO I get throughout the night plowing for 20 hours. I do what I have to do because of the Town. I don't mind doing it because I enjoy the job, I enjoy working here and I enjoy working for the people. Some of these trucks, we're throwing good money after bad. The trucks are down constantly and they need to be replaced. I'm sure that if anybody wanted to come down to the garage and take a look at some of them, I'm sure that Director Knapp wouldn't have an issue. You'd be able to see exactly what you're going to replace. With that said, I don't think I can add anything else. If you have any questions, feel free to come down and take a look at them and you'll see what we're talking about.

Moederator Foss asked for other comments.

George Beaudette, Etta Lane, I proudly work for a company that sells replacement parts for fleet vehicles like this. By actually voting for this, in my industry, we always go for used vehicles. We do a lot of part sales for used vehicles. By buying this vehicle, they won't put as many parts in these vehicles because they won't have many man-hours in them. This will free up the mechanic for other repairs and other work. I can't go for this because my business won't profit from that. However, thank you Director Knapp for your work. Gregg McDowell, Sugar Hill Road, said by doubling the capacity of the body, you are almost doubling the capacity in cubic yards of material that that truck will carry over a 6-wheeler. If you are running 20 miles from one end of Town to get to the shed to reload and back again, you have eliminated one trip so that's going to eliminate tire wear so it's not a big maintenance issue. Tires wear out. So let's face it, a lot of that is the way it's driven. If you get stuck, and you keep trying to dig and dig instead of getting chains, that's what happens. Capacity wise it is much more efficient to run a 10-wheeler just on the volume of cubic yards of material you can carry.

Benji Knapp, DPW Director, wanted to speak to other towns not running 10-wheelers. They also have much more hired equipment than we do. We don't have any right at the moment. One town, in particular, I can think of that runs lots of 550's and 6-wheelers is Bedford and they are on a strict rotation. I'm not sure what that year is and I don't want to give false information, but 5 or 6 years is what I've heard. I have to try and spec a truck as heavy as possible because I'm going to have to run it until it doesn't run anymore, unfortunately. My goal, while I'm the Director, is to get us on an eleven year rotation, which means a new truck every 11 years. I do understand when times get tough it's hard for folks to support things like that because every so often, like this year, I also have to throw in a piece of equipment with that, the backhoe which is the next article. I do have two 4500's; they're Chevrolet, not Ford. They are nearly \$60,000 for a cab and chassis; so just doubling that, I get a big truck. That's why I go with 10-wheelers. Feel free to come down and look at them. I have a 1999 Mack that is a 10-wheeler and, although it needs to be replaced soon, it has held up much better than the 6-wheelers have.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, had a question for Director Knapp. Will these trucks be used on all Town roads and I, specifically, am concerned with some of the dirt roads because when the trucks plow they really nick the trees? At present, some of the trees are going to go down because they've nicked them so completely. I just wondered if a truck like this on Maplewold, for example, will do the job and get it over with or will it not go on that road and maybe the driver will be more careful? Director Knapp replied that it'll be able to go on any of the Town roads, if I'm understand-

ing you correctly. The trucks are all the same width and are equipped with an 11 foot head plow and an 11 foot wing. That doesn't mean that they are covering 22 feet, but they are all the same width. It's just the length that's a little different. We try not to damage things. Unfortunately, lots of these roads were put in in the 1700's. Heleen suggested that she and Director Knapp go on a drive again.

Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator, moved the question. Seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss stated that Article 8 will go on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$95,320) 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 purchasing the backhoe that is currently being rented by the Public Works Department. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.11

Selectman Osborne moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Osborne said this is another one that is self explanatory. The total cost is \$127,768. We have been renting that backhoe now for about a year and the dealer is going to credit us with 80% of our rental, which is \$32,448 that's being taken off the price of the vehicle bringing it down to the \$95,320. I can attest to the backhoe we now have because I used it for almost 15 years of its life. It is a piece of junk and isn't worth anything as a trade-in That's why Director Knapp is going to keep it at the Transfer Station for whatever life it has left in it. It's unfit for the road and you just can't use it off site.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The backhoe owned by the town is 18 years old and is not roadworthy; it is suitable only for crushing operations at the transfer station. The town rented a new backhoe to service road and culvert needs last year using road maintenance funds. The need is not going away. The town has the opportunity to purchase the rented unit with 80% of last year's rental fees being applied to the purchase. The Committee supports this article as a more cost effective means of meeting the town need. The other thing people should know is the warranty for this backhoe doesn't start until we purchase it, which is a really good deal.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any discussion on this article. Seeing none, Article 9 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 10

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 Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$278,320) 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= \$0.23



Selectman Meaney moved the article as written. Seconded. Selectmen Meaney deferred this article to DPW Director, Benji Knapp.

Benji Knapp, DPW Director, stated that this article has been on the ballot every year since I can remember. We increase it a little bit every once and awhile just to try to do a little more, but we all know things go up and we just keep going further and further behind. This money is for rebuilding your roads and we do about a mile or a mile and a half each year, but out of that also comes purchases of the culverts, renting of the backhoe, crushing of the gravel that goes on your dirt roads, pretty much every maintenance item, with the exception of winter maintenance that we do to your roads, comes out of this \$480,000 so it doesn't go too far. I hope all of you received our handout with our general numbers, don't hold me to the penny, and so you can see it doesn't go too far. We picked \$480,000 because we feel that's a palatable number that folks might vote on. There isn't much more I can say on it, I guess. We are going to continue to build a mile or mile and a half of road and a little overlaying this year, as well as all the other things we do normally.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this recurring article funding maintenance and repair of the town's roads. State funding helps reduce the cost to taxpayers. Even with this level of funding, we continue to fall behind maintaining the roads. There was a handout today, as you come in to register; and if what it says is true, we have over 105 miles of roads, both gravel and paved. That's a lot of roads and I think our Highway Department does an excellent job with it, but they need this money and it's important.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone wanted to speak to this article.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, said that the tax impact is \$0.23. There are two dollar amounts here \$480,000 and \$278,320. I think I remember how to figure out the tax impact and I did it for each of those numbers and I didn't come up with \$0.23 using each of those numbers. This is not really a trick question, but if somebody would like to respond to that. What is the \$0.23 based on? Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator, explained that you take the \$480,000 and subtract the \$278,320 anticipated from the State and you come up with a sum of money. Then, you divide that sum of money by the net assessed valuation of \$861,441 and you get \$0.23. Frank Campana handed Moderator Foss with an amendment to this article. This is the second of a continuing effort to offer or get transparency so I'll be looking at the five members in front of me. My amendment is towards the last sentence after pursuant to RSA 325, "the remaining balance of \$201,680 to be raised by taxation". That amendment of the \$201,680 that is what the \$0.23 is.

Moderator Foss stated that there's a motion for this amendment and it has been seconded. Moderator Foss read the amendment "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 Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$278,320) anticipated to be received from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant (pursuant to RSA 235) and the remaining balance of \$201,680 to be raised by taxation?" Chairman Clow explained that there is a problem with that because the numbers changes a little bit because that is an estimate of anticipated funds to be received from the State and may come in slightly differently as the year goes on and it might not match up that way if we put the number in that Frank added. It is the remainder after the State funds and it could be a little different than that and not exactly on like the amendment implies. Frank Campana stated that you have committed to the \$0.23. Moderator Foss pointed out that it is

an estimated tax impact. Frank made a request to Moderator Foss that he be allowed to insert estimated in front of the word balance. Moderator Foss said that he could accept that and that there's now an amendment to the amendment reading "and the remaining estimated balance of \$201,680 to be raised by taxation".

Moderator Foss said that there is a now going to be a vote on the amended amendment. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any further discussion on this article. Seeing none, Article 10 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$6,300) representing the cost of recruiting and hiring a part-time truck driver for the Public Works Department? This represents the wages for 9 months (390 hours). If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.01

Selectman Osborne moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Osborne referred to Benji Knapp, DPW Director. Director Knapp explained that the intent of this position is to put someone in my other 4500 truck during snow events to take the full-time plow route away from my mechanic. If he's not working on something, he'll still be out there helping. As it stands right now, he has a route of very small roads and all the town buildings, for that matter. When a truck goes down and he has to go fix it, I have two routes not getting done. The last snowstorm we had I had four trucks down and he was working on them so that was five routes that were not being tended to and that means the rest of the guys have to make that up. That's the intent for this. If for some reason I had an easy winter and we were short handed and I wanted him to come in to haul gravel or flag in the summer, I suppose we could. The full intent is to have enough hours to give him a plow route. This represents an average of 10 hours per week, which, as you know, snowstorms are 20-30 hours long so one snowstorm could suck up three weeks of his salary. It's definitely not intended for an extra person year round.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. It allows the Public Works Director flexibility during peak demand periods for truck operations. In winter the truck mechanic currently has a designated plow route. With an aging fleet, he is often taken off his route to keep other trucks operational making plowing less efficient. This would allow the part time operator to cover a plow route while allowing the heavy equipment mechanic to focus on keeping the trucks on the road.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone wanted to speak to this article.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, asked if full-time employees of the Highway Department get a stipend. It used to be \$360 for being on call in the winter time. DPW Director Knapp said they get \$300. Frank Campana wanted to know if even though this person is part time, is that person going to be eligible for that seeing that you primarily want this person in the winter time and on call? Director Knapp replied that he hadn't thought about that and said it never crossed his mind. I don't know as that person will come in for every event. Last night we went out salting and sanding and I



probably wouldn't waste his hours to come in. I never thought of it. Frank Campana asked if he could get a sense, if this person would receive an on-call bonus, from the Board through the Moderator. Moderator Foss asked Chairman Clow who said that it would be a Board decision, but it has not been discussed. Frank asked what Director Knapp's expectation was relative to this person going full time. Director Knapp said none. Frank Campana offered an amendment to this article to the Moderator. Frank made a motion for an amendment that would be added to the end of the article after annual budget with a full 12 months. Moderator Foss said he didn't see the pertinence to the change to this article. Frank Campana said that Director Knapp stated that he might use this person as a flagger in the summertime. Moderator Foss pointed out that the position is for 390 hours. Frank asked how he would know that the 390 hours is only for 9 months. Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator, said that it represents 10 hours a week for 39 weeks. Frank Campana said if this person gets approved and starts next January and he works January and February, what's the limiting factor here, 390 hours or 9 months? Moderator Foss sought clarification from the Board. Frank withdrew the request for clarification and said it was too complicated, I guess. Moderator Foss said that the amendment has been withdrawn.

Chuck Metcalf, General Stark Highway, if we go back to Article 6, it basically says that the dollar value presented in the article represents 6 months worth of funding. We all agreed that the following year that was going to be a little bit more than double as a dollar value to get to 12 months. So, if we take a look at the way this article is written, it talks about representing wages for 9 months. It's not clear to me that in the following year if it gets increased to come up to 12 months or is it capped at 9 months at 390 hours. If you follow the way we did Article 6, you could see the logic that next year this is going to be increased from that value. Chuck asked for clarification. Moderator Foss replied that Director Knapp stated earlier that it wasn't his intent to increase this to a full-time employee. Chuck said 10 hours per week at 12 months is still not a full-time employee. Director Knapp replied that it was possible that next year he would be asking for 10 hours per week for 12 months. He said this is the first time with a part timer and I'll have to see if this is sufficient. Chuck said I guess my question is not so much as to whether next year you would come back and ask for it, but if it is automatic the way the other articles kind of automatically go up. So, maybe my question through the Moderator to the Board is, is that the intent or is the intent to cap it at 390 hours until the voting body changes that? Moderator Foss said it's his understanding that this year would be 390 hours at 9 months; and next year if it became necessary to request the full 12 month position at 10 hours a week, it would be brought up at next year's Deliberative Session.

Dell Rice, Pine Hill Road, asked if we couldn't just strike the 9 months and put down 390 hours per year. He stepped away to go and write the amendment.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, said while waiting for the amendment, I wonder if I could just say something about hazardous waste because it's in the same realm as Highway. We use to have a separate article for hazardous waste; I noticed there wasn't one this year so I did some looking back. People need to know that we are still having Hazardous Waste Day. It's in the budget at \$7,000. DPW Director Knapp will be giving us plenty of notice when that is going to happen.

David Erikson, Poor Farm Road, asked if this part-time person would save any money on overtime from the other drivers. DPW Director, Benji Knapp, said he didn't think so. It would just make it so we wouldn't have routes that got left unattended for such a long period of time. Right now, as it stands, if we are all running and everything is working like clockwork, it averages 3 hours per route. So if it's snowing 2 inches an hour and your road is the first one, it is going to have 6 inches before

we get back around. The answer to your question would be no because no one will be getting home any earlier. Hopefully, it will help relieve 7 and 8 hours between the times you see us each time on certain roads. I want to be able to have these hours 12 months a year because it can snow 6 of those months and, if I got in a jam in the summer, I could use that person. I am not the best person in the room with wording, but I want to make sure we don't word it as tying my hands at the time of the year when I can use him.

Dell Rice, Pine Hill Road, made an amendment to this article. Moderator Foss read Article 11 as amended "Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$6,300) representing the cost of recruiting and hiring a part-time truck driver for the Public Works Department? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget. This represents the wages for 390 hours per year. If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget". Seconded. Chairman Clow said that from what the DPW Director just said he doesn't think that this amendment meets what he really wants maybe we should go back to where Frank Campana was going with his amendment. From what the DPW Director said that he would really want this person available for 12 months so I think we would need an amendment closer to what the original one was. Even as it stands, it doesn't need to be revolted on because it says this is for 9 months at \$6,300. The assumption is, as with other articles similar to this, that next year it would be a different amount for 12 months. If we want to have it in there, then we are going to have to put it in there. The 12 month cost or 520 hours, which would be \$8,400. Chairman Clow said he was speaking against this amendment because it really isn't what he is asking for. Moderator Foss asked if everyone understood what Chairman Clow was saying because he didn't.

Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, asked the Moderator if it was the DPW Director's intention to have this on-going position on a full year basis at \$8,400 or is the purpose of this at a full year basis at \$6,300? Benji Knapp, DPW, Director, replied the first one, \$8,400 for a full year. Neal said that the article should be left as it reads but add at the end "if approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget at \$8,400". Moderator Foss said that he needed to have the amendment currently on the floor in writing. Neal did not put this amendment in writing.

Dell Rice, Pine Hill Road, withdrew his amendment.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, asked the Moderator if Mr. Kurk's amendment was duplicating his original amendment because it sounds like it is. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said it was. Mr. Campana asked the Moderator if he would ask Mr. Kurk if he would accept my amendment. Neal Kurk acknowledged that he was okay with that. Frank said that he never thought this was going to be so complicated and that he apologizes to everyone here.

Moderator Foss advised that he was reinstating Frank's original amendment to read as follows: "Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$6,300) representing the cost of recruiting and hiring a part-time truck driver for the Public Works Department? This represents the wages for 9 months (390 hours). If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget with an estimated sum increase to \$8,400 for a full 12 months". The amendment to Frank Campana's original amendment was seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss asked if there was new information for discussion.



Frank Campana, Quaker Street, said he didn't have new information, but that he wanted to thank Chairman Clow for his input.

Moderator Foss stated that Article 11, as amended, would be placed on the Ballot. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000) to be added to the previously established Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of erecting, repairing and/or replacing bridges? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)  
Estimated tax impact= \$0.12

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. There are three bridges in Town that are in need of major repair, River Road, Lull Road and Francestown Road. They are also red listed by the State of New Hampshire. The \$105,000 will be added to the Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund to be put toward the Town's 20% portion of the overall cost.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Three of the town's bridges are in need of major repair; they are River Road bridge and Lull and Francestown Road culverts. 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 projects in other towns. The town's cost share for these projects is expected to be \$400,000. This will be the second of four year's funding for these projects.

Moderator Foss asked if there was anyone wishing to speak to this article. Seeing none, Moderator Foss said that Article 12 would be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the purpose of constructing two (2) pavilions at the Francis Arthur Bolton Sr. Memorial Park? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.07

Chairman Clow moved the article as read. Seconded. Chairman Clow said that it is pretty self explanatory. There would be one pavilion added to the playground area and the other one someplace in that park so that they would be available for family gatherings or picnics, etc. Too often, when we meet here, we don't take into account the other dimension of people's lives which includes recreation and family events. We focus on the true needs, which are Police, Fire and Highway, etc; however, it seems that everything that comes forward from Parks and Recreation has had a tough time. So, the Board does support this and I am sure that there are people from Parks and Recreation that can elaborate on it more than me.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article. There have been various proposals for improving Bolton Park over the years. These have included parking, field expansion and leveling and now pavilions. The Commit-

tee feels Parks and Rec should provide a long range plan for the future of Bolton Park. Individual projects could then be evaluated consistent with such a plan.

Moderator Foss asked for those who wish to speak to this article.

Melissa Drury, Oak Hill Road, Vice Chair of Parks and Recreation, said she would like to quickly speak to this article. Parks and Recreation plans to place one pavilion up on the playground area, which is the smaller one, just to provide shade because it is the largest complaint we receive from the parents. If you've ever been to the park, there is no shade. On hot summer days, it's nice to have a place to get out of the sun. The second pavilion would be down near the soccer field. Currently, there are no snack sheds or other buildings near the soccer field so any children playing soccer, moms and dads, have to sit out in the rain or they can't really sell snacks or anything near the soccer field. This would allow them to do that. Another purpose for these, as was stated, is an opportunity for families, regardless of age, to use these for perhaps family reunions because you would have the playground and fields to play on. These kinds of events could occur now at Bolton Field because you would have a place to hold a picnic, and such. To speak to the Finance Committee relative to a plan, we do have a five-year plan. Phase 1 was not approved by the voters, which was for parking and leveling of the fields, etc.; therefore, we never could go to Phase 2, 3, 4 or 5. We decided to, since Phase 1 was on the Ballot for three years and was never approved, that we should skip Phase 1 and move onto another phase so that's why we have proposed pavilions at Bolton Field. If anybody has any questions, we invite you to come to our meeting this Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices. We'd be happy to go over our plan, if you would like to see that, or you can ask any questions of me.

Moderator Foss asked if there was anyone else that wanted to speak to this article. Seeing none and having no amendments, this article will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion Passed.

#### ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$49,660) to be added to the previously established Government Building & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing the necessary repairs to the Bell Tower at the Town Hall? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.06

Chairman, Tom Clow moved the article as read. Seconded. Chairman Clow said that this is another building project. To me, every time I drive by the Town Hall I am embarrassed by its appearance. The spires fell off one at a time and fortunately they didn't hit anybody. We had the remains that were still stuck to the roof of the tower removed with the help of the Fire Department, and a crane came in and took the others down. We took photos of what was up there. Initially, after meeting three years ago, as Selectman Hippler said, we got one estimate on that and didn't move forward on it at that time. Last summer, Sherry Burdick and I met with the contractor that rebuilt and reroofed the tower at the Clinton Grove Academy and were given an estimate from him, as well, which was considerably less. That's the number we are using. The Town Administrator did contact that contractor to see what percentage needed to be added for it to hold true into the coming year. So, this represents 5% above and beyond what our original estimate was. This is a solid estimate. It would still have to go out to bid because we would be required to with the amount. This would be a bottom line; we could get it done for this amount by somebody who has already proven themselves by their



work in the community.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak to this article. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The Committee believes maintaining the Old Town Hall is important in preserving the historical character of the town. A similar article failed last year for lack of specific repairs to be made. The Board of Selectmen has now identified a necessary specific project the Committee can support. This project will be the first step in preserving the building.

Moderator Foss asked for those who wished to speak. Seeing none, Article 14 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town establish a Library Space Planning/Engineering Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding the planning and engineering needs and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Library Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.03

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Snyder deferred to Library Trustee, Robert Pare, to speak to the article.

Robert Pare, Cram Road, stated he was Chairman of the Library Trustees. During the February meeting of the Library Trustees, this CIP Warrant Article was discussed as to how it would appear at the Town Deliberative Session. This article was amended from the original draft. The Department of Revenue Administration changed the proposed article that was sent to the Selectmen and after a discussion at the February Trustees meeting, we voted to withdraw the Warrant Article, which we found out we cannot do. So, we want to make an amendment to the dollar amount to zero dollars (\$0).

Moderator Foss said that it was moved that Article 15 be amended to raise and appropriate the amount of zero dollars (\$0) to be placed in this fund. Seconded.

Robert Pare said that the reason it was voted this way was because the Master Plan hasn't been updated since 2005 so we felt how we'd have to move forward is to see maybe a revision of the Master Plan, configuring of children and elderly on what the expansion and what we would need for the future. Moderator Foss asked what the Master Plan would like and who would be developing it? Robert Pare said it hasn't been done since 2005 and he didn't think it would be him. Chairman Clow said that is the responsibility of the Planning Board and it has been discussed recently. They've asked for help from the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission as to what their role would be, what it would cost us, etc. It hasn't been moved on yet, but that is where the responsibility lies. I notice that the Vice Chair is standing there and might want to expand on that.

Bruce Filmore, Gould Road, Vice Chairman of the Planning Board, I am going to reiterate what Chairman Clow just said. It is on our radar to update the Master Plan and hasn't determined what subjects we are going to attack yet; but if the Library Trustees could request that we address their portion, that would be helpful. Moderator Foss said that the Planning Board is awaiting a request in

writing from the Library Trustees. The Library Trustees will move ahead and provide a request to the Planning Board on that issue.

Moderator Foss stated that Article 15 has been zeroed out. Vice Chairman Hippler advised Moderator Foss that this is an amendment. Moderator Foss said that this article has been amended to zero dollars (\$0) and we are voting on the amendment. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss said that Article 15 as amended would be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 16

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 and fences around the cemeteries? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact= \$0.01

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. Moderator Foss said that it was moved and seconded. Selectmen Snyder stated that it would be for the repairs to the stone walls and fences around the cemeteries, which would be the outside perimeter.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The Committee supports this supplemental funding to be used to maintain perimeter fencing and walls around town cemeteries. Cemetery Trust Fund accounts can only be used for interior maintenance, so perimeter repairs must be made using tax funding.

Moderator Foss asked for others wishing to speak to this article. Seeing none, Moderator Foss said this article will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 17

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

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Snyder said that the Finance Committee explanation is the same as she would say.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. These funds are used to maintain the interior of town cemeteries. This is funded through the withdrawal from the Cemetery Trust Fund and has no tax impact.

Moderator Foss asked if there was anyone wanting to speak to this article. Seeing none, Article 17 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion Passed.



## ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for the 2018 Weare Patriotic Celebration? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact = \$0.01

Selectman Osborne moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Osborne said that he was on this committee. The request has been upped this year to give a little better display; and, as in previous years, if this article fails, the celebration is cancelled because the carnival will not come into Town without the fireworks being present.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee is somewhat split on this, but it does not recommend this article. Providing fireworks is not a critical function in support of town operations. The Committee believes it would be more appropriate to fund this through private fundraising.

Moderator Foss asked if there were others that wished to speak to this article. Seeing none, Article 18 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) 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 Hippler moved the article as read. Seconded. Vice Chairman Hippler said the article, as stated, would allow the Conservation Commission to withdraw \$30,000 from the Town Forest Account to pay for the services of a licensed forester to make plans and oversee management of the Town's forest lands. Any and all profits that are made by the management and logging of these Town forests goes into the Town Forest Account where such funds cannot be spent without voter approval. The current balance in this account is \$165,858.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The 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.

Bruce Filmore, Gould Road, the way that this article is written it appears to circumvent the bidding process for other licensed foresters to bid on the creating of the management plan. He offered an amendment to strike "with the Town's Licensed Forester" and replace it "with a Licensed Forester" so that they can put it out to bid. Seconded. Moderator Foss said that an amendment has been presented and seconded.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone wished to speak to the amendment.

Tim Matheson, River Road, asked about the 20% increase on this item. What does the revenue weigh against the forester per year? The revenue of forest products taken from the forest lands. Vice Chairman Hippler said he could give the balances for the last five years of revenue. Tim said he wanted a yearly average of what that forester does. Vice Chairman Hippler replied that he couldn't tell him. He said he could tell him what was deposited into that fund via foresting. Tim asked what the total was. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that the total in the account was \$165,858. Tim said it appears that it would be upside down every year. A 20% increase just doesn't make sense. It would be nice to know what the annual harvest was. I've asked for this information twice now from the Select Board. You must have a yearly average and you must know what the annual harvest rate is. Vice Chairman Hippler wanted to know if he meant revenue collected. Tim said revenue per year weighing against his salary. Vice Chairman Hippler said he couldn't say what his salary was, but that he could tell him what was taken in each year as revenue from harvesting. Tim said he'd like to know that information. Vice Chairman Hippler gave the following numbers: 2017 it was \$1,995; 2016 was \$11,506; 2015 was \$60,714; 2014 was \$30,141 and 2013 was \$98,282. Tim said so you gave this guy a 20% increase based on those volumes. Vice Chairman Hippler advised that this recommendation comes from the Conservation Commission, not from the Board, as far as dealing with the number. Tim replied okay.

Moderator Foss asked for others who wished to speak to the amendment of this article. Moderator Foss stated the amendment was replacing "with the Town's Licensed Forester" to "with a Licensed Forester". Moderator Foss said he was taking a vote on the amendment. Motion passed.

Sherry Burdick, Deering Center Road, my issue with this is I keep seeing people getting 18% increases, which are kind of unheard of, and now this is a 20% increase. Have you ever seen a 20% increase or an 18% increase in a year? Moderator Foss replied never. I just don't understand why this is happening. Sherry said she worked for about 40 years in engineering and management and I never received an 18 or 20% increase. I think it needs to get changed. Moderator Foss advised that he was moving on to vote on the amendment. Sherry said that she is working on an amendment to the amendment in writing. Sherry moved to amend the amended article from \$30,000 to \$25,000 Seconded.

Moderator Foss stated that there is a motion and a second to amend the amendment and asked if anyone wished to speak to it. Chairman Clow said we don't know, as we don't have anyone here from the Conservation Commission, so we don't know whether there is a larger area to do planning in or what it is this is meant for. I am not speaking for or against, but we are really lacking the information for making the change or not making the change. Moderator Foss said it was unfortunate that they are not here; however, they had the opportunity to be here. Frank Campana, Quaker Street, said in light of what Chairman Clow said I would agree and I support the amendment because I would rather go with a known figure of \$25,000 as opposed to what the extra \$5,000 will buy. Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Landing Road, I would also support the amendment and I wonder if this article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen why they don't know what the increase is attributed to.

Moderator Foss said we are now moving ahead and voting on the amendment from \$30,000 to \$25,000. "Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to allow the Conservation Commission to secure contracted services with a Licensed Forester to prepare forest management plans; secure contracted services for the Town Forest maintenance, to fund this appropriation by



authorizing the withdrawal that sum of money from the Town Forest Account?" It has been moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss said Article 19 will be placed on the Ballot as amended and read. Maureen Bilodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) 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

Vice Chairman Hippler moved the article as read. Seconded. Vice Chairman Hippler, said, as in years past, this article allows the Conservation Commission to withdraw up to \$150,000 for the purpose of purchasing new town forest land. The money would only be utilized if land becomes available in 2018 to purchase. If no forest land becomes available for the purchase, the money stays in the Town Forest Account. Any purchases of forest land must be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. The Committee believes that having funds available to purchase land to add to the town forests helps to foster the rural character of our community. This article is funded out of the Town Forest Account and has no tax impact.

John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, as I always do on this particular article, I would like to know if there is any land that they have in mind to purchase at this time. Vice Chairman Hippler stated, as of right now, I don't believe so, but, again, we don't have the information from the Conservation Commission for that. John requested the amount of money in the Town Forest Account right now. Vice Chairman Hippler said \$165,858. John said just to be clear, the last article is taking money out of this account and this article is asking for money out of this account and it looks like it would add up to more than what is in the account at the present time. How much do you put in there each year? Do you have any idea? Chairman Clow replied that it depends on what is harvested in a given year. It varies from \$2,000 to \$98,000. It varies considerably from year to year based on what project is being harvested. John said it appears that you could zero out that fund if something were to come up at this point. Chairman Clow said the article does read up to and they can't spend what isn't there. John said his only question in this whole thing is the Town of Weare has currently several thousand acres of forested land that's under Conservation through either the Town or other different outfits and a very little amount of that land has been made accessible to the residents of Weare to go. There was some kind of study done or a movement afoot to do one possible piece of land, I believe up on Eastman Hill. They're working to do something to that. We have many other parcels in town that have yet to be trailed to allow people to go out there and utilize. I tend to be against purchasing any more land until we make available the land we already have so people can go out and use them. I am not against conserving land, don't get me wrong, I just feel we need to put some emphasis on the fact that we need to make the land we already have available to the people of the town to go out and utilize.

Moderator Foss asked if there were others who wished to speak to this article.

Nancy Filmore, Gould Road, Chairman Clow said up to the sum of, that's not what's written in the article. Moderator Foss said it is \$150,000, which essentially means the same because they can spend only up to \$150,000 and not required to spend \$150,000. Nancy said it doesn't really mean the same. Chuck Metcalf, John Stark Highway, asked if he could ask a question while Nancy prepared an amendment. Moderator Foss replied yes. Chuck said that isn't it true if we spend up to \$150,000 and take land out of private ownership and we put it into town land, that there are no taxes to be paid on that? So, wouldn't that have an indirect impact, somewhat gets to be a little deceiving when we put a \$0 tax impact on this article or do I misunderstand how that works? Vice Chairman Hippler stated it says no tax impact because to make that appropriation there's no tax revenue generated. The money is already there in the account up to that amount. I understand your question that we are going to lose tax revenue in the future on that land potentially; but to raise this number that is in the article, there's no tax impact.

David Erikson, Poor Farm Road, when I was on the Planning Board, things that I read generally indicated that putting land into conversation was a tax benefit to the town because residential development creates more expense in school costs and other services than having the land set aside.

Moderator Foss asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak.

Gary Hopper, Buxton School Road, asked what percentage of Weare does the town own currently? Chairman Clow said that there is a listing of town property in the Annual Town Report; however, it doesn't given an answer to your question, Gary. Moderator Foss said he was sure the question will generate interest in making that happen.

Moderator Foss said there is an amendment that adds "up to". This is the amendment we are going to be voted on. Seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss asked if there was further discussion. Seeing none, Article 20 will appear on the Ballot as amended. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town vote to discontinue a 50' x 50' portion of Pine Hill Road abutting the property located at 253 Pine Hill Road (Tax Map 402, Lot 31), and to convey that property to the owner of 253 Pine Hill Road (presently TKG Properties, Inc.)? The portion of the road that is to be discontinued was designed as a turnaround for one of the phases of the Pine Hill Road development and is no longer necessary. (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Meaney moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Meaney said this is an article that was brought by petition and it was to revert a former hammerhead turnaround that was on that road during the construction phase. It will go back to the property owner and will go back to the tax revenue for the town.

Moderator Foss asked if there was anyone wishing to speak to this article.

Tim Matheson, River Road, is there any impact to the DPW Director or the Fire Chief? Moderator Foss advised that the answers were no. John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, asked if the portion of Pine



Hill Road that you're referring to, is it the end of the road. Selectman Meaney said no it's not. John asked if it effected the turnaround as it is now. Selectman Meaney said no it doesn't.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone else wishes to speak to this article. Seeing none, Article 21 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion Passed.

## ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town allow the operation of KENO games within the town pursuant to NH RSA 284:41 through 51?

Chairman Tom Clow moved the article as read. Seconded. Chairman Clow advised that the legislature, in an effort to support funds for all day public kindergarten, introduced a bill that would supply some funding toward that through the KENO game, which I understand is kind of a cross between scratch tickets and bingo, but it is electronic and can only be used in establishments that have a liquor license. Voting for this would allow KENO to be used in our local establishments who have a liquor license. It's on here in order to give the voters a choice as to whether or not they want KENO to be allowed in town.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee does not weigh in on this. Lori said she was speaking as a resident, Buxton School Road. Just to clarify to the residents, while KENO can be used to assist the funding of all-day kindergarten; it isn't going to touch the cost of all day kindergarten. So, nobody should be under the misguided fund process that KENO is going to foot the bill for the whole thing because it won't touch it.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, I just need to be educated so I can be an informed voter. Is there any type of percentage that comes back to the town in any shape or form? Chairman Clow said the way he understands it is there is no direct connection between whether or not a town approves KENO and whether they are funded for all day kindergarten. It goes into one pot and is used to offset the cost. It doesn't require the town to have an all day kindergarten; but if, in fact, the town has an all day kindergarten program, then their amount per student for the all day program is compensated more than the half day program and some of the funding comes through this KENO. There is no direct connection - you don't have KENO, you don't get the money or you do have KENO, you do get the money. It goes into a general pot. Frank said he understood that. He wondered if we have an establishment that has KENO in it, the establishment gets a portion of that money, a larger portion goes to the State for education; but is there any type of percentage or portion that goes to the town directly? Chairman Clow said no. It would be like the sale of scratch tickets in the grocery store. The store gets some compensation for handling the process, but there is nothing that goes directly to the local town.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone else wishes to speak.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, I wonder if the Select Board has heard from any of the businesses that would qualify for this, if they are interested. Chairman Clow replied no we haven't spoken to any of the businesses.

Moderator Foss asked if any others wished to speak to this article. Seeing none, Article 22 will ap-

pear on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of all tax deeded property by public auction or sealed bid, regardless of its size? The authority granted in 1994 limited the selectmen's authority to sell tax deeded property to properties of less than 5 acres (land only) or 10 acres (if developed with a residence). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Selectman Osborne moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Osborne said that this is another article that is self explanatory. We have been limited on the size that we can auction off or bid off, or however we decide to do it. Right now, the Town has just over \$2 million dollars of tax deeded properties being held, which is to my mind, outrageous. We have been working on a list for two to three months now and hopefully we can get that list together and sell some of these properties this summer.

Bruce Filmore, Gould Road, it says dispose of all tax deeded property. Will that mean that if there's a tax deeded property it wants to keep, they can't? Selectman Osborne said he believes it's up to the Board's discretion. There are some properties that are on the list that we can't sell. There is a three year timeframe before we can instigate the selling of them.

Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, there's an old adage, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. This was put in place so that the residents had control of the property in town. Yes, we have property that the town needs to take care of. We currently do not have anything over 10 acres because the Selectmen have had three meetings and have confirmed that. More importantly, by nature, people are not watching the Board of Selectmen's meetings. They don't get a handwritten note of everything that's going on so they do not know what they are doing on a weekly basis. You could very easily have a parcel of 50 acres that the Board decides to now sell because they want that power. You could end up having a subdivision next to you and you wouldn't know how it got there because you didn't think you had to pay attention. The whole point of this is to make sure that the residents keep control of their town and have a right to decide how their land is used. The Board of Selectmen constantly changes every year. You never know who is going to get on, and you always say, we elected them, but there's always a percentage that didn't elect the people that are on that Board currently. And, not everybody is represented. It is very important that the residents keep control of their town instead of putting it into the hands of five people that change consistently.

Selectman Snyder said that on the listing of tax deeded properties we are looking at right now to sell, there's one property with a home that's at 10.70 acres. Keith Erf asked why are you looking to do this then if there's only one piece of property that has over the 10 acres? Selectman Snyder interrupted by Keith Erf who said so, that means that every property other than that one can already be sold by you guys. This is for less than 5 or 10 acres. Why are you proposing this for one piece of property? Selectman Snyder said there are a couple of lots and I believe the biggest one is 20 acres. I have a copy of all the assessment cards here so anyone can see what these pieces of property are.

Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, proposed an amendment to this article that was read by Moderator Foss as follows: "Shall the town vote not to authorize all tax deeded property by public auction



or sealed bid regardless of size. The authority granted in 1994 will continue limiting the Selectmen's authority to sell tax deeded property to properties of less than five acres (land only) or ten acres (if developed with a residence)? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, gave a word of warning that there is Superior Court case law that says inserting a not and thereby negating the purpose of the article is not a proper amendment. It has not been decided by the Supreme Court, but it's out there by the Superior Court and it's a possibility that if someone were to challenge this, it would be deemed an illegal amendment. Neal said the purpose for the amendment was to make the article such that it doesn't matter whether it passes or fails that we keep things as they are. I think this is an overreach by the Selectmen and I thought comments by Lori Davis were well taken. We want to control what happens to large parcels and we don't want to give that power to the Selectmen. If you favor that position, I hope you will vote yes on this amendment.

Donna Osborne, 1387 South Stark Highway, I am against the amendment and I'd like to address this to Town Counsel. I am really concerned as to what liability we stand by holding all this property. Laura Spector-Morgan said there is no liability from holding the property. If the property is developed as a residence and it is occupied by someone, there's potential liability if someone is on the property and gets injured. So those issues are out there. But, just the mere fact that the town owns the property; there's no liability from that. Donna expressed that her concern was someone going in there and camping out on the property owned by the town, what's going to happen to the injuries or the fire, the liabilities? Laura Spector-Morgan said these are different levels of liability as to whether they are permitted to be there, whether they are trespassing, but it's out there.

Chairman Clow said it was his understanding and asked Selectman Snyder to confirm that there's one piece of property that wouldn't qualify for us to sell that is 10.70 acres with a residence on it. In this case in particular, it's a troublesome one that we've had various litigation with, etc. it would allow us to go ahead and sell that. We are not asking for major change here and I understand the person who says that we don't want you to sell 50 acres of land for a subdivision, because that shouldn't be just the choice of this Board. We do have situations, like this unique one here, where we want to be able to sell anyone's property. It comes down to that, oftentimes, and we have to. This particular case we'd like to move on from a difficult situation that we've had for quite some time.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, Is there any other way that property can be sold? Can it be put on as a Warrant Article? I don't know enough about this component, but it seems to me that if we don't give permission over to the Selectmen, there must be another way to dispose of this property. I'd like to know what other way can be disposed of. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, if the Selectmen don't have the authority to dispose of the property by tax deed or public auction, then yes each property would then have to go on the Warrant as a Warrant Article to get authorization from the Town Meeting to sell it. The property could still be sold, but it would have to come to the meeting like this and the Selectmen would put that on the Warrant.

Selectman Snyder stated that she had said that there was a lot that was 20 acres, well it is 22 acres and it's on a Class VI road. Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, said she had great respect for having this Warrant Article changed. I agree with the change that is being proposed. I cannot understand why the Board of Selectmen will not choose to allow the residents to make the decisions on their town. It seems unusual that they want control of something that since 1994 has been just fine. I understand that there is now a property over 20 acres. Last week there was none. It's fascinating that the information changes from week to week coming from this Board and I sincerely hope the resi-

dents work to retain their control as opposed to giving it away. David Erikson, Poor Farm Road, wondered if Town Counsel could advise us if we can reword this Warrant Article to state that "Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of one 10.70 acre tax deeded property by public auction, etc.?" Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said no that wasn't warned. Chairman Clow said, that in defense we aren't trying to grab power here, we are trying resolve an issue and if it goes the other way, I don't think any Board member would object to, if there was a large tract of land, to putting it to the voters as to whether it should be sold, that's not the point here in any way. Frank Campana, Quaker Street, I am just curious to know about this piece of property here that you are talking about, how long has that been an issue? Selectman Snyder asked if it was the one with the building? Frank Campana said it was the one we are discussing here, yes. Selectman Snyder replied 2012. Frank said well that's not too long ago. By all means, I'm not being critical of the Board, it's too bad that somehow you didn't have that information as Town Counsel said tonight about putting it on the Warrant without a full-blown plan like this. Frank Campana said he was in support of the amendment. Maybe, you might have to keep the liability until next March and put it on the Ballot.

Heleen Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, I just have a question, how do citizens in Town know that a deeded property is up for sale? How does that work? I understand if it comes to the Deliberative Session and gets voted on people can read it and inquire; but if it's held at the Board, how does anyone outside the Board circle know that? Selectman Osborne said that right now what we're trying to do is put almost \$1 million dollars of this property back on the tax rolls. We are looking into hiring an auctioneer company who will advertise it in newspapers, wherever they do, that it'll be going out to bid. Heleen Kurk said we went from 10 acres to... Selectman Osborne interjected that the 10 acres is only one parcel. We have almost two dozen or more. Heleen said of over 10 acres. Selectman Osborne showed the list that's reported yearly in the Town Report of tax deeded property we own. We are trying to eliminate probably half of it. I just can't fathom why the Town of Weare is holding \$2.2 million dollars off the tax rolls. Heleen Kurk said that she appreciated that but my question is how does the public know that these things are up for grabs, if you will? How does one know about these things? Selectman Osborne said that you'll just have to read the newspaper or wherever the auctioneer company advertises it. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, asked if Heleen wanted to know how the Town knows that they've taken the tax deeded property and that it's sitting there or are you asking how do they know it's going to be sold. Heleen replied both I guess. The sold I'm thinking of because people might be interested beyond a small circle of people. I'm not sure in today's world if having it in a paper is the sole way that people find out about it. Most millenians don't even read the paper so that cuts that segment out. I'm just trying to get a handle on it. I appreciate what Jon is saying and I certainly would support that because I don't want that being held, but I want to know how one knows. I sat on the Board and I don't know that this ever came up for discussion and I am not aware so I thought I'd like to be educated and maybe some other people would, as well. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that if the Town is going to use an auctioneer, they are very skilled at advertising what is going to be up for sale. It'll be in the paper in the Classified Section of houses up for auction, sometimes it is on the Town website, and then it would get advertised in the normal way you would ever see that a house is up for auction. The same as with the sealed bid that would go on the Town website, in the newspaper and people would be invited to submit bids for certain properties. Selectman Snyder addressed Heleen's question and said that looking back on these, some go back to 1995, not buildings on them, but land.

Robert Pare, Cram Road, said that the Town, before he moved here, would always list the properties



that were repossessed in the Town Report that would come out. Selectman Snyder showed the list the Selectmen are working from. Robert Pare said, like that, to what Selectman Snyder was holding up. The residents could go and meet with the Selectmen and ask about a particular property. They wouldn't all of the sudden decide to sell it without you knowing about it. I think that's the correct way to do it is in the Town Report because everybody gets the Town Report. Selectman Snyder said that the list she was holding up was from the Town Report and it is what they are working from. Moderator Foss said that the comment that was made that everybody gets it; I don't know that everybody gets a Town Report. He directed a question to the Board as to whether it is mailed to the residents. The answer was no and he advised that it's available at the Town Officers and other sites around Town. It is also available on voting day.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, wanted to ask Town Counsel, through the Moderator, if the same scenario of selling this 10.70 acres by virtue of a Town vote, the same would apply to raw land. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, replied that any property that the Selectman aren't authorized by the 1994 Town vote to sell would have to go on the Town Warrant to be sold. Frank said he would suggest for next year, and it's getting kind of late from 1997, but start chipping away at that on the Warrant next year. For somebody like me, I wouldn't address it so I wouldn't be up here speaking to it. I wouldn't take up that amount of time as it probably wouldn't be for too many other people. A brief explanation why you are getting rid of it, what it is, where it is. That would be my suggestion.

Moderator Foss said he is proposing that there be a vote on the amendment to the article by Neal Kurk. He read the article as amended, "Shall the Town vote not to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of all tax deeded property by public auction or sealed bid regardless of its size. The authority granted in 1994 will continue limiting the Selectmen's authority to sell tax deeded property to properties of less than five acres (land only) or ten acres (if developed with a residence)?"

Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Road, it has been said that this is before the court. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, interjected the Superior Court has decided in a different Town and a different Superior Court, Rockingham Superior Court, that by inserting the word not in an article you basically render that article annulled because, as Mr. Kurk said, it doesn't matter which way you vote, nothing happens. The Superior Court, in that case, held that in that case it was an illegal amendment. That case didn't go to the Supreme Court and I'm not aware that the Supreme Court has ruled on that particular issue, but we do have that Superior Court guidance that suggests that this would be an illegal amendment. Chris asked if that were upheld, is the rest of the article null and void? If we amend to add not, does it then deny the permission to sell anything? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel replied no. The 1994 authority remains in place. Gary Hopper, Buxton School Road, asked if the Warrant Article that went to the Court was by petition or by the Selectmen? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that if she is not mistaken, it was a petitioned Warrant Article, but the fact that it was a petitioned article didn't come into the Court's analysis. Moderator Foss said he would like to move on the amendment that he's read twice unless there is someone who has pertinent information for the meeting to hear. We are voting on the amendment that I've read twice. Moderator Foss said the vote was 24 yes and 28 no. Motion failed.

Keith Erf asked if there are only two properties, which have been stated, affected by this proposal, a land piece of property and a building piece of property that tells me there is a lot of property. Two plus million dollars minus those two pieces, there's a lot of other property that's worth \$2 million dollars. So, what I'm trying to understand is, if you've been so anxious to sell this property, why

haven't you sold the \$2 million dollars worth you are currently allowed to do rather than put this forward now? What is it you are waiting for? Chairman Clow said that we are trying to boil this down to something simpler than what it is. I think that's the answer to your question. It's not like the Board just decided not to sell any of this property and let it set there in various stages after the deeding. We are at a point where we have to advertise, hire an auctioneer, as Jon said, and move on with some of these pieces. Our goal, whenever possible, is to create some kind of a plan whereby people can pay down their taxes, and they don't lose their property. I don't have the information on all the individual pieces and where they stand, but it isn't just a simple cut and dry, here's the list, let's get rid of that property. Each one is an individual piece and we'd have to make a decision on which ones that would be appropriate to put up for auction and which ones not and at what point in time and that may or may not satisfy what you're asking, that's the way it is. Keith said my point is that you put this Warrant Article forward and it only applies to two pieces of property and it sounds like you have about fifty pieces in that stack and I'm just wondering why all of a sudden it's so urgent to get this done, and why hasn't it been chipped away at over the last 25 years?

Eileen Meaney, Quaker Street, you refer to two pieces of property that are over ten acres that you are looking at selling or one with a structure on it. Are there a bunch under five acres that also fall under the current wording that you are unable to sell? Selectman Snyder replied yes. I think, to clarify your question, it's over ten acres and under five that's limited or am I not understanding. It's less than five acres (land only) or ten acres (if developed with a residence). I'm looking at the wording. Eileen asked if the Board could sell less than five acres. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said yes. If it's only land, the Selectmen can sell parcels of up to five acres; and if it has a house on it, the Selectmen can sell up to ten acres. Eileen asked if there are more that fall into that category on your list, then we are talking about two pieces of land. Moderator Foss said that he had an amendment given to him by Bill Alleman to read "Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of all tax deeded property by public auction or sealed bid of less than five acres (land only) or ten acres (if developed with a residence)?" He explained that regardless of its size and the sentence beginning with the authority and ending with properties has been stricken. Neal Kurk asked if Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, would tell us the affect if this amendment is adopted. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that should you adopt it, it would have the same effect as the 1994 article. Neal said and that's without the problematic not. Laura replied yes it is. John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, asked what would happen if it doesn't pass and where would that leave us? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said if it doesn't pass, she thought it would go back to the 1994 article; and if it does pass, it goes back to the 1994 article.

Moderator Foss said we are voting on the amendment striking words out of the article as read. 34 yes; 17 no. Motion passed. Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Land Road, if this is indeed a unique situation, and then next year maybe we can have a specific warrant article naming the properties to be sold. Moderator Foss thanked Matt for that suggestion.

Moderator Foss stated that Article 23 is going on the Ballot as amended. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town vote to amend the Finance Committee Ordinance to require that committee to televise its meetings live from the town conference room? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)



Chairman Clow moved the article as read. Seconded. Chairman Clow said that even as we sit here today I think everyone can see the importance of the decisions made by the Finance Committee and the power that those decisions have as they come forward. So, this is just an article that would ask that those meetings be televised the same as the Selectmen's meetings are televised. We're both recommending on the same basic articles that come before the voters.

Brenda Lashway, Buxton School Road, I just don't know if that would prohibit meetings at times when there's a problem. Is there ever a time when there is a problem with conflicting room space where a televised room isn't available or any other conflicting reasons why that would become a problem. Chairman Clow said that as long as there is a scheduled time it shouldn't be a problem. For example, this year the Finance Committee has been meeting primarily on Wednesday nights and the room is available on Wednesday nights. Sherry Burdick, Deering Center Road, I think if you are going to have one of the committee's televised, then all of the committees should be televised. Why pick and choose one or two? If they are all done, then it makes it fair for everybody. Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Landing Road, directed his question to the Moderator for Town Counsel, and asked, what would happen if the Finance Committee did not abide by this requirement? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that if it is adopted and the Finance Committee did not abide by it, then someone, probably the Selectmen, could bring a lawsuit and get an order from the court requiring the Finance Committee to abide by the ordinance. Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, I have several things to say. First off, I have one for Town Counsel. Currently, none of the groups are required to be on camera. It is highly recommended, but it not required. If this were to go through on the Finance Committee level, it would, if I am correct in having checked with counsel outside of the Town, allow somebody to do a discrimination suit against the Town because you are fingering one specific committee and group of people versus the rest of the Town committees and boards. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, disagreed with the opinion of counsel that you've received. The reason is because the Finance Committee is a creation of Town Meeting and Town Meeting is the only Body with the authority to amend the Finance Committee ordinance. The Selectmen, for example, have no authority to require the Zoning Board to be televised because the Selectmen have no authority over the Zoning Board. Likewise, the Selectmen have no authority over the Finance Committee, which is why it has to come to this Body. Certainly, someone else, next year, could bring an article requiring all boards and committees be televised, that would be a fair article but this is the one that was put on for this year and I don't think it gives anyone a discrimination lawsuit. Lori Davis said she checked with the State and I disagree and that's alright to disagree. However, we have yet another problem. Unlike the rest of the boards, particularly the Board of Selectmen, we have over nine members. We have a fascinating schedule in that we deal with three different groups. We are schools, which is the middle school and elementary school, the high school and we then deal with the Board of Selectmen. We are stuck with a quandary because we can never get the meetings balanced easily. We have to balance nine people's schedules, usually eleven is where we aim for. Second to that, we have to try and get the balances of the different committees, if you will, the schools and the Board of Selectmen dialed in because everybody waits until the last minute to meet. But, more importantly, the Board of Selectmen has no authority over the schools and the schools meetings are not televised. Every time we are at a school meeting, whether it's a School Board meeting or a Deliberative Session or a budget workshop, we are there in entirety, a minimum of a quorum, and you do not have the legal authority to demand that the schools go on camera and you cannot make us bring a camera to tape us. So, when you are proposing something like this, and I've already tackled the Board of Selectmen on this twice, and their statement was we hadn't thought of that and we hadn't thought of this. This is going to cause some legal problems. The only thing that tripped this is that we went against them last year and we took the budget upside down

and we have been scrutinizing them relentlessly and there's a reason for that. It has been shown today and continues to be shown. I can say if the idea is to push the Finance Committee off; we will push forward to make a Budget Committee, which will take the authority from the Board of Selectmen on their final budget. That's way more powerful than the Finance Committee. If this is the whole structure of what you are doing, that is a power grab on you and shame on you and we can change that. But, more importantly, the residents need to understand that there is an issue going on far greater than getting information and it is about a power struggle.

Moderator Foss said I want to address that because I was one of the people very enthusiastic about this article and worked on this a number of sessions and felt that the reason I was doing it or asking for it is that I believe it provides clarification and transparency, if you will. I know that may be an ugly word but the transparency about the functions of government. If you were to ask me if all committees should be asked to be required to televise their proceedings, I am in favor of that and I would work towards that occurring, even if it meant the expenditures of funds for adding cameras or the like.

Marge Burke, 47 Merrill Road, there is a correction to one of the things that Lori said. The Weare School Board meetings are televised on Channel 17, the Town's educational channel.

Frederick W. Hippler, South Stark Highway, went to the floor to take the microphone to speak as a citizen, and not as a member of the Board of Selectmen. Ricky Hippler moved to make an amendment to this article. "Shall the Town vote to amend that all Town Boards and Committees broadcast and/or record its meetings unless a conflict of facilities or availability or daily operations interactions does not allow for that recording to happen?" Seconded. Moderator Foss read this amendment. Moderator Foss acknowledged that this amendment was moved and seconded. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, modified the amendment from the word amend to require. Moderator Foss asked if anyone wished to speak to the amendment. Chairman Clow had a question for Town Counsel on the amendment as he thought it is a different article altogether. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that she questioned whether the topic was warned because the topic that was warned was televising the Finance Committee meetings and not televising all Board and Committee meetings. I know I told you that you could go ahead and make the amendment, but I didn't really think it through. You certainly had the right to make the amendment, but I would question whether or not it is a legal amendment. Moderator Foss asked for clarification because he didn't know whether we were voting on a legal or illegal amendment. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, told Ricky Hippler that she thought it was an illegal amendment and that if he wanted to withdraw it, the Body would probably be open to that. Neal Kurk, Mount Dearborn Road, said that if you just changed it from all Town Boards and Committees to the Finance Committee, I think this would modify the amendment so that it takes care of the situations that Lori Davis was talking about. If it only applies to the Finance Committee, it certainly would be legitimate, is that not the case? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, replied yes. If it were to say, "Shall the Town require that the Finance Committee broadcast and record its meetings unless a conflict of facilities, availability or daily operations/interactions do not allow for that recording to occur?" That would have been warned. Seconded. Neal Kurk said that it would take into account the problems that the Finance Committee has because it deals with three boards. Ricky Hippler said that the reasoning for the ending of the sentence was I was thinking of the Finance Committee and because of the Board of Fire Wards. Richard Butt, Old Town Road, asked the Moderator to read the amendment relative to conflicts. Moderator Foss read unless a conflict of facilities, availability or daily operations/interactions do not allow this to occur. Dick Butt asked the Moderator to explain how this would apply to the Finance



Committee, in terms of the conflict of facilities. Does that mean that the Selectmen's Conference Room is not available; therefore, they can go ahead and have a meeting in another area? What if the Finance Committee decides to go and meet over at the Library, does that obviate the need for them to broadcast because there is no capability to broadcast? Moderator Foss said it is his understanding that just because another facility is available, it doesn't mean that if the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room is available that the Finance Committee could choose to go to the Library rather than use the facilities to record that are present. Dick Butt said that if they decide to have their meeting on a night when there is a conflict with the conference room, which is where the facilities are set up for broadcasting, they have to then record their meeting at another facility. And, if they are recording their meeting at another facility, what equipment are they using to do that and how much is the cost of that equipment to do that? Who is going to set up the equipment to do that? The Board has not even discussed this with the Cable Committee and they didn't even ask for our input. I think it has been presumptuous of them to establish requirements on a volunteer committee that isn't even aware of this request. What is the cost that's going to be associated with this in terms of equipment? That's all! Chairman Clow said he has to respond to comments that Lori Davis made because I feel that all our interactions between the Board and the Finance Committee, at least what I have been present for, and I've been present for the presentations of our Department Heads, have been very professional and above board. I don't see this as a power struggle at all. I see it as a need because the background information, the discussions at the Finance Committee level, are just as important when it comes to these warrant articles as those that take place at the Board of Selectmen meetings. To equalize that, because truly, in a sense, this committee holds veto power over decisions of the Board of Selectmen. Again, it may be an exaggeration, but, in fact, it carries a lot of weight. The Finance Committee recommends or doesn't recommend. I think the public should be privy to the discussions that lead up to that, as well as the final decisions. And, that's what this is all about and not I gotcha kind of thing at all.

Lori Davis, Buxton School Road, I've been on the Finance Committee for four years and up until two years ago this was not an issue. I find that fascinating because they happily went through their business. You didn't have any issues and nobody was having a fit about them being on camera. I am a firm believer in transparency and we all know that. However, volunteerism in this town for committees, boards, etc. is not exactly something we do particularly well. There is a quirk of the people that sit on most boards and committees and you can track them. There are people who are on at least two committees. It's very small. If you look at the number of people here for the Finance Committee today, we have seven. We are supposed to have a committee of eleven. Moderator Foss said a minimum of nine. We have one on vacation and one in the hospital. You want people to participate. And, if you say that things are pleasant, they've had this discussion both with Moderator Foss. John and I have been very clear, I like transparency, but it was a very clear discussion at one of our meetings and I've locked horns with you guys on it. We have one person who is not on camera, which is fine. They are still part of the committee, but you are asking people who are volunteers, to literally jump through hoops. We cannot consistently get the same night, we manage to do Wednesdays most times this year. Last year, we were hopping through Wednesdays and Thursdays. We had a couple of Tuesday meetings and we've done a Monday meeting. We are at the high school and they are not on camera. When we get people on this committee, I cannot guarantee you it's going to be on a Wednesday night. I can't guarantee you that we are going to be able to find a night that is convenient for us that will not conflict with the Planning Board, Zoning Board, or the Board of Selectmen. How you plan to handle it has not been thought out yet. The expense to it, as it has been brought up, is going to be fascinating, but more importantly, you cannot expect any of the volunteers here to lug around equipment and set up a studio to make you happy. More importantly, we

would love to have more people come to our meetings. We don't see them. I've asked how many people watch this on You Tube or on our Channel that the town has and very few do. While it's nice to have us on, and I really appreciate the amendment, I hope that it goes through if we are stuck with an amendment. But, then I would expect nothing less from the Board of Selectmen next year to propose and expect every board and committee to be on. And, if that doesn't happen, I can promise you that there will be repercussions from me as a resident and I have the powers to bring attorneys in and to do whatever I have to do.

Moderator Foss said that he is not prepared to deal with threats so we might as well move on.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, asked if the word recording is still part of the amendment. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel replied it was broadcast and/or record. Frank said that whatever fashion this passes in either the original or the amendment, would you give me an opinion as to whether this would be considered advisory or mandated. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, advised that it would be mandated. Frank explained that the only reason he asked that was borne from an article which I petitioned back a number of years ago in regards to, and I'm not comparing apples to apples here, the word advisory. It was for two municipal contracts having to have two public hearings and there was a comment made only by one person that said that this would be an advisory. That person, I don't know if he was a Selectman at the time, but he was certainly not an attorney. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, said that the article was advisory because contracting power is vested with the Board of Selectmen. However, the reason this one would be binding is because the Finance Committee is a creature of this Body. So, if this Body voted to require them to broadcast and record, Laura thought it would be binding. Chris Hague, Abijah Bridge Road, said that we have a lot of voters and they have a lot of opinions and I'd like to let them vote on this proposal as it is. The word on the street, whether it's fact or opinion is that the Finance Committee can be politicized and the only way to make that clear that it is or it isn't would be to put this article on the Warrant, let people vote on it, and if they approve the article, they will see for themselves if this is a fair committee then they can't say that it isn't. I think we should let the voters decide that. John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, asked if the amendment could be read again. Moderator Foss read the amendment "Shall the Town require the Finance Committee broadcast/record its meetings unless a conflict of facilities, availability or daily operations/interactions do not allow for this to occur. John said that he has a problem with the word record. Being on the Cable Committee, when you record, what's the intent of how long do you want that recording retained? What are you going to do with recording because right now you really don't have a retention policy so I don't know how long you want to retain these meetings. I don't know who made the amendment. Ricky Hippler said he made the amendment from the floor and my intention was to record it for later broadcast. John asked how much later? Like I say, we don't have a lot of space, so how long would you want to retain that? Ricky said he didn't know, but if it can't be live, 30 or 60 days. John said if it was held in the Conference Room, it would be live. If it's going to be held outside of that area, who is going to record it? Ricky said he didn't know. Tin Matheson, River Road, asked to strike the article all together until the Selectmen reach an agreement with the Cable Committee. Moderator Foss said that could not be done at this point. It can be amended, but it can't be stricken.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone else wished to speak to the amendment. Melissa Drury, Oak Hill Road, last year there was a similar article to this for all town committees and we got around it by changing the word require to request so I am assuming we can do the same today by requesting that they televise when possible. If someone would like to make that amendment, go for it. Chairman Clow said that we already did that and it was passed last year or the year before and we added the



word committee to a previous article and it was a recommend type of article so that already exists. Clearly, the intent, and I don't disguise it a bit, is to get the Finance Committee to televise their meetings on a regular basis. We don't need the suggested amendment because we already have it. Donna Osborne, South Stark Highway, I was on the Board in 2005 with Heleen Kurk and we talked about communication, communication, communication and I think it's very important that we have these two pieces of paper in our hands and we can see what the Board of Selectmen has to say and what the Finance Committee has to say. Having it on and recording this, whatever they decide to do to show that communication is important to these townspeople. Greg McDowell, Sugar Hill Road, they preach transparency and they talk about open communication. After being involved with the Police Department for many years, the way you grow the department is you get statistics and that's what you use in your presentations to get the people to say, this is up, this is up and that's what you use to get more officers, or whatever. We had to go to a Right to Know Request to get statistics from the Police Chief. I raised the question about the number plates on his cruiser or car, it's really not a marked cruiser. That also took a Right to Know Request, as well. What it came back was a problem with him traveling all over the six New England States with a regular MP plate. That's not transparent and it's not open communication when we have to go get public information with the Right to Know Request. Why are they hammering us when we can't get information to make a better decision?

Chairman Clow moved the question, Seconded.

Moderator Foss read the amendment to this article being voted on. "Shall the Town require that the Finance Committee broadcast or record its meetings unless a conflict of facilities, availability or town operations or interactions do not allow for this to occur?" Motion passed.

Moderator Foss said that Article 24 as amended will appear on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billoreau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Landing Road, There is a distinction, Mr. Moderator, that you mentioned earlier you like transparency in government, and I do, too. The Finance Committee is not a governmental body; it's a citizen's body and we are not under the purview of the Select Board. We are actually appointed by you and represent the Town. One other thing I do want to mention. The reason we pushed back so hard on this, which hasn't been mentioned at this meeting yet, although it has in past meetings, it's that we feel that certain conversation that we have could not be as frank as if it were publicized widely and some of us think that this leads us to better conclusions than if we have conversations that we are going to have our words thrown back at us.

## ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purchase of fitness equipment for the Fire Department and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the Buxton Bequest Fire Rescue Trust Fund? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen) Estimated tax impact = \$0.00

Selectman Hippler moved the article as read. Seconded. Selectman Hippler said that in 2016, the Weare Rescue Squad and Weare Fire Department were named as beneficiaries in the George and Joan Buxton Estate. Approximately, \$57,875 was donated and placed in an account to be known as the Buxton Bequest Fire and Rescue Trust Fund. This article would allow the Fire Department to

use up to \$10,000 to purchase exercise equipment for Fire Department members to use. This article has no tax impact.

Lori Davis, Finance Committee Chair, was recognized to speak. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Purchase would be made out of a private bequest trust fund. There is no tax impact, and it is supported by the fire department.

Moderator Foss asked if anyone wished to speak to this article.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, I attended a Library Seminar last Thursday that was a question and answer program. The Fire Chief mentioned at that public gathering that he was looking for this equipment and there happened to be someone there that happened to have a treadmill and something else to donate. He said that the treadmill had less than a mile on it. I'm curious to know if the Fire Chief has looked into that. He indicated that he would look into that and I wonder if that happened and I'd like to know the result. Perhaps, it would save \$10,000 to put to something really medical. Fire Chief Vezina said that as he stated that day we would definitely take a look at his equipment. He has not made contact with us again to schedule that.

Seeing there was no one wishing to speak to this article, Article 25 will be placed on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

## **ARTICLE 26**

To see if the Town will vote to remove the hammerhead from property address 253 Pine Hill Road Map 402, Lot 31, owned by TKG Properties, Inc.? (By Petition)

Selectman Snyder moved the article as read. Seconded. Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, this was a petitioned warrant article that the town received. Because of the way it's written, it really didn't do what it intended to do. What it was intended to do, was to discontinue that part of the road and convey the property back to the property owners, which is why you see Article 21. So, if Article 21 and Article 26 look similar, it's because they are. The only way to get a petitioned warrant article off the ballot is to have everyone who signed the petitioned warrant article in the first place, sign a petition to take it off and they couldn't make that happen. So, it had to appear on the ballot, but because it is basically ineffectual, we rewrote it and it is in there as Article 21 and this one, no matter how you vote on it, it doesn't do anything. The substantive article for this is Article 21.

Mike Meyer, Gould Road, a question for Town Counsel. What's the effect if Article 26 passes and the other doesn't? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, it doesn't matter what happens with Article 26 at all.

Matt Whitlock, 55 Collins Landing Road, what happens if it gets a no vote? Don't we get a no means no so the Town cannot remove the hammerhead? Laura Spector-Morgan, Town Counsel, No means no only applies to money articles so it wouldn't affect it.

Moderator Foss said that Article 26 will appear on the Ballot as read. Maureen Billodeau moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion Passed.

## **ARTICLE 27**



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

Moderator Foss recognized Brenda Cannon.

Brenda Cannon, Grandview Drive, To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee of no less than ten and no more than twenty persons to assist in the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission's "Becoming Age Friendly" assessment, should Weare be chosen as a pilot community, and if not, to begin the information gathering process necessary for a long overdue revision of the town's Master Plan, including demographic, economic, environmental, and public opinion data? The committee shall be comprised of representatives of town government, of business persons, of social and service organizations within Weare, and of the broad demographics in Weare. The committee shall be appointed by May 1, 2018 and produce a report on its findings to be delivered to the Board by February 1, 2019, shared by the Board with the Planning Board, and made available to the community at large.

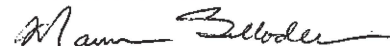
Moderator Foss advised that this is an advisory article just so it is clear. The article was Seconded. Moderator Foss if anyone wished to speak to the article. Seeing none, Article 27 will be placed on the Ballot as an advisory article. Maureen Billodeau, Town Clerk, moved to restrict reconsideration. Seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator Foss asked if there was any other business to come before this meeting. Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator, advised that there are three people running for the two seats for the Board of Selectmen and six people running for two seats for the Weare School District. There will be a joint Candidates Night on Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00 P.M. here at the Weare Middle School cafeteria. It will be a split show, half of the time for the Town and swap seats for other half of the time for the School District. This way people can see and be able to ask questions. It will be limited for time. Secondly, Naomi stated that there is going to be an Open House for the new DPW Garage, which is going to be either Saturday, March 3 or Saturday, March 10. We are waiting to see which day is going to snow. So, we will let you know on that. At that time, you will be able to come down and view it. It will be on a Saturday and you can see what the new building looks like and what the equipment looks like.

Moderator Foss thanked everyone in attendance from the beginning to now. He appreciated their patience with him and the process. Neal Kurk thanked the Moderator for his service. Moderator Foss suspended this portion of the meeting to the second portion of the meeting to March 13, which is the vote.

Janet M. Snyder  
Recording Secretary for the Town of Weare  
February 10, 2018

A True Record

  
Maureen Billodeau  
Town Clerk