

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes  
**January 6, 2020**  
**Approved - January 20, 2020**

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Chairman R. Wentworth convened the meeting at 6:04 PM and P. LaRochelle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Reuben Wentworth, Chairman  
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman  
Cydney Shapleigh, Selectwoman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman  
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman  
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Budget Committee Members present:

Patrick O'Brien, Chairman  
David Hershey, Vice-Chairman arrived at 6:18 PM  
Beth Varney, Member  
Bob Holt, Member  
John Markland, Member  
Peter Leavitt, Member, Absent

Carolyn Schaffner, Recording Secretary

**Agenda Approval**

R. Wentworth requested to amend the agenda moving Public Input I to the second Public Input being that the only agenda item is the Warrant Articles.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

P. O'Brien, Chairman of the Budget Committee requested that the Budget Committee meeting be called to order and made a motion to approve the portion of the Budget Committee agenda which follows the Board of Selectmen's agenda and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Announcements:**

None

**Public Input I** *(limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)*

Moved

**Appointments:**

None

**Old Business:**

1. 2020 Default Budget - Approval

R. Wentworth noted that the Default Budget according to the Town Administrator needed to be amended because it was requested that Town Counsel and DRA review. Legal Counsel agreed that the Police Revolving line be

reduced to \$1.00 and leaving the Fire Department Stipend line as is. L. Dionne was consulted and confirmed that the Police Revolving Fund was reduced to \$1.00. The Default Budget for 2020 is \$8,090,865.

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve the Default Budget as presented for \$8,090,865 and P. LaRochelle and C. Shapleigh simultaneously seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**New Business:**

1. 2020 Warrant Articles - Review and Recommend

**Article A: Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in 2001. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ( - ). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: This funding was established to comply with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement, which recognizes the financial liability of the town to employees when they retire or leave employment.*

The balance in the fund is \$55,763 as of November, 2019. This request was lowered from 50K to 25K which was recommended by the Finance Manager. There may be some potential retirements coming forth in the near future that will be sizeable.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article A: Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, \$25,000** and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

At this time, it was noted that the Budget Committee will not be voting on the Articles.

**Article B: Operating Budget**

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 \$8,267,897? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,090,865, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Board of Selectmen 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. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth noted that the difference between the Operating Budget and the Default Budget is approximately 9K+

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve **Article B: Operating Budget, \$8,267,897** as read and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article C: New Riverside Cemetery Engineering**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added for the purpose of engineering needed at the New Riverside Cemetery in order to lay out all required work that needs to be done to the site for expansion and usage such as a utility corridor for all utilities needed on the site, interior travel ways (roads), lay out of lots, and more. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the engineering project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee ( - ). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale:* These funds are needed to assist in the permanent layout of the New Riverside Cemetery expansion. The expansion includes an improved utility corridor for all utilities (water, electricity, etc.) to be in the same general pathway with easy accessibility if needed; Water would be used for irrigation, electricity for the existing buildings or exterior lighting, additional travel roads in the new expansion area to allow vehicles to enter the cemetery expansion area, extension of the stone wall along Route 28, engineering of the two existing wells for usage, drainage through the DOT right of way, engineering of the existing ledge areas, a second columbarium in the distant future as cremations versus burials are being done with increased frequency, etc. NH DOT has stated we may use their right of way areas for drainage. The need for the expanded use of this cemetery is high. The engineer work will identify and place the grave sites and columbarium cremation niches available for purchase, onto a physical plan. A complete and long term, inclusive engineering plan is needed for the expansion of the cemetery. The ultimate goal is to have everything neatly and correctly engineered with layouts, built and installed, for the future use of the cemetery.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article C: New Riverside Cemetery Engineering, \$50,000** as written and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article D: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended or Not Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended or Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

*Rationale:* The Fire Department staff and the CIP Committee worked diligently to create a systematic planned replacement cycle for capital equipment and vehicles. The CIP will allow for a safe and modern fleet of fire apparatus and equipment. The CIP provides for a mechanism to replace vehicles & equipment with a steady payment plan. The CIP will in the future spread out the planned replacement over many years rather than over just a few years. This capital reserve fund was established to repair/replace fire vehicles and equipment.

The balance in the fund is \$524,931.03 as of November 27, 2019. Chief J. Beaudoin was called upon for discussion in reference to whether there would be further money expended. The new truck has not delivered, nothing more will be expended for that truck however the 2007 Polaris Ranger ATV is currently scheduled for replacement. It is unknown if it will make it through the year. On average there are roughly 20 to 25 rescues on Mt. Major per year. The vehicle is regularly used and is fairly "beat up" and is used to transport only down. In addition it is set up if needed to go off road for a forest fire. The cost to replace is just under 30K. The CIP process was mentioned.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article D: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, \$100,000** as written and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article E: Fire Department Ladder Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be used toward the purchase of a Fire Ladder Truck. Said funds to come from undesignated Fund Balance, which will not have an impact on the tax rate. This article is contingent upon receiving the award of a FEMA grant. Should the grant funding not be received this article is null and void. Recommended or Not Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended or Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

*Rationale:* This article is to enable the purchase of a \$1.1 million dollar Fire Department Ladder Truck because the current 30+ year old ladder truck is no longer able to be used for any type of an emergency. A FEMA grant is opening for applications in November. The Town will be applying for funds from the FEMA grant. The grant amount provided could be \$750,000. The Town would need to come up with the remaining \$350,000 by using \$250,000 from existing funds in the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The remaining \$100,000 (this warrant article) will be taken from the undesignated fund balance, which will result in no impact to the tax rate.

P. LaRochelle questioned the application process. The Chief responded that the grant process date has not opened yet which was supposed to be in November and has been moved to January. The application is more than ¾ complete and looked at by the grant writer; it is on the right track. The grant is viewed by three (3) tiers of people it goes through a computer process, peer review then to another professional review; it is based on need with an indication that the need is there with this type of truck being higher on the list. There are over forty (40) buildings in Town that are four (4) stories. The bigger issues are the long reaches with driveways, chimneys and metal roofs that are not safe to be on. B. Holt feels that the 350K has effected the tax rate at one time and is tax money. D. Hershey voiced his opinion and inquired about the undesignated fund; L. Dionne clarified.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article E: Fire Department Ladder Truck, \$100,000** and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article F: Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 to be added to the Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2019. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: The funds would be used to purchase replacement vehicles when needed for the Grounds and Maintenance Department, which maintains thirty-eight Town properties, including plowing building parking lots; trash removal at all Town buildings and public parks; turf management and custodial work. The Grounds and Maintenance Department is expected to replace the current F350, 2008 pickup truck which has over 109,000 miles in 2020 with a similar vehicle for approximately \$45,000. The fund currently has a balance of \$22,500.*

K. Troendle, Director was called upon for discussion. R. Wentworth questioned if another 2 to 3 years could be gotten from the current truck, which was unknown, voicing that there are other vehicles in the department which could be funded if needed and feels it is important to put the money aside. This is for planning for a replacement, the vehicle will remain usable and not traded-in. This would allow more efficiency in the department. According to the CIP plan it is to purchase a truck in 2023 and funding this would use all funds. Used vehicles are an option. The vehicle is a plow truck with dump body with the intention to replace with the same or similar. Vehicles are generally moved to departments as needed. CIP, state bid lists, leasing and safety issues were brought forth.

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve **Article F: Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, \$23,000** as read and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article G: Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to repair/replace highway vehicles and equipment. The breakdown of the requested amount is to save a designated amount each year toward the purchase of these pieces:*

- \$172,000, 6-wheel Mack Dump Truck, 12-year lifespan
- \$88,000, one-ton dump truck, 10-year lifespan

The balance in the fund is \$78,179.65 as of November, 2019. Matt Troiano, Highway Department was called upon for discussion. He was asked if any money was owed on any vehicles unfortunately he was not able to answer the question. The current 2000 Mack Truck is in rough condition. V. MacDonald voiced that during the CIP meetings it was noted it needed to be replaced; there is a lot of rot and it is the oldest in the fleet. The vehicle is a 2000. The next planned replacements would be in 2021; 2006 CAT Excavator and a 2009 International Truck with others the following year. If these are funded it would leave a balance of \$168,179. CIP amount goes down in 2024.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve **Article G: Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, \$350,000** as written and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

## Article H: Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$950,000 to be added to the Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$201,000. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to continue the road rebuilding that the town does which is a major cost savings to the town by performing this work in-house rather than hiring a contractor.*

The balance in the fund is \$553,436.50 as of November, 2019. This Article was defeated last year; we went back to maintenance opposed to reconstruction. R. Wentworth feels that some privatizing with the work on roads such as Roberts Cove and Hayes Road. If the work is done in house you get around 3 to 4 miles opposed to 1 mile if contracted out. Maintenance lacks when reconstruction takes place in-house. C. Shapleigh stated the possibility of bringing in contractors for maintenance opposed to reconstruction at a much lesser cost. B. Holt agrees the Highway Department does a fairly good job rebuilding the roads considering the available manpower however the roads are not being maintained. Costs are for materials only and does not include labor, truck rentals, fuel etc. which all adds up. He suggested that if you want to continue with reconstruction then the manpower issue needs to be addressed. He would like to see a plan. C. Shapleigh stated we do have a plan and have always had a plan and have held Public Hearings on the roads. The plan is followed unless a need arises to change it. B. Holt differed to that statement. R. Wentworth interjected that there has been conversation in regards to Roberts Cove, School and Church Street, Hayes Road and Tom Road. It is time to revisit a 5 to 10 year road plan. P. O'Brien noted that according to CIP there is over 80 miles of roadway in Town with a 20 year life span which allows for 4 miles per year so they are right where it needs to be; gravel roads will never get done.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article H: Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund, \$950,000** as presented and P. Wittmann seconded.

Further Discussion: D. Hershey questioned the way the article was written and the dollar values and suggested changes to the verbiage; he was informed that it could not be changed. This is gross budgeting.

At this time, the motion on the table was called with all in favor of the motion. **5-0**

## Article I: Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established for the purpose of constructing a building to stockpile sand. By stockpiling the sand inside of a sand shed, structure, it places the sand product undercover and protects the sand from inclement weather thus reducing silica dust traveling elsewhere and runoff.*

The current balance in the fund is \$50,449.97 as of November, 2019. R. Wentworth feels that more money should be considered in order to protect Mill Pond. The State came in stating that this is something the Town must do and recommended that in the future should be increased in light of Cyanobacteria. In addition he feels that the Town needs to start planning for in the future, a fire safety building and a highway building which is being outgrown. P. O'Brien stated that this topic has come up repeatedly during the CIP meetings really falling into the Master Plan. D. Hershey suggested a municipal center for multiple departments.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article I: Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000** as written and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. **5-0**

It was noted that the sand has silica dust and phosphorus in it which helps feed Cyanobacteria. In addition, most corporate insurance policies have silica exclusions on them and might be something that is looked into.

**Article J: Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to save towards the 20% of the Town’s mandatory share requirement for a major repair or replacement of a bridge when the Town applies to the Bridge Aid Program, run by the NH Department of Transportation. The NH DOT pays the remaining 80% of the cost on a bridge repair or replacement. The repair or replacement of a bridge is a very costly project, usually exceeding one million dollars.*

This is to show in good faith to the State so that when the need arises we can go to them for most of the money for repairs. B. Holt inquired about red-listed bridges within the Town. There is one in the 11D area (not weight limited yet) which is the responsibility of the Town and the bridge area in the bay is the responsibility of the State.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve **Article J: Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000** as presented and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article K: Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to save funds for future improvements to the Highway Department Building.*

The balance in the fund is \$56,487.00 as of November, 2019.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article K: Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000** as presented and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article L: Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2007. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. (Majority Vote Required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to add funds for the future improvements to the sidewalks in Town.*

This is for the Town sidewalks. There are several funds for sidewalks, the Trustee of Trust Funds is looking at consolidating the accounts. L. Dionne gave the amounts in the various funds; \$39,348.51 - \$19,684.02 - \$1,164.54 and \$481.03. Some of the money would be used for the sidewalk from the beach to the Fish & Game site for the concrete. The cost per linear foot was unknown.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article L: Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund, \$10,000** as presented and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article M: Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairs and upgrades to the Alton Bay Community Center and property, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of

Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: The funds would be used to repair the roof, floors, windows, kitchen, bathrooms, decking, boardwalk, painting, and upgrade electrical and plumbing when needed.*

This will be a much needed new fund that is long overdue. The roof, deck boards and railings will be needed in a few years.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve **Article M: Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund** as presented and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

D. Hershey stated that this is a nice component to the Bay and we may be doing a disservice by underestimating the amount of money that may be required for the restorations opposed to maintaining.

#### **Article N: Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

The balance in the fund is \$43,166.50 as of November, 2019. This is an annual article which receives matching funds from the State. D. Gould, Milfoil Committee Chairman addressed the Board stating that no herbicide treatments were done this year due to the colder temperature of the lake in May and June. It is anticipated that they will begin again this year along with the DASH work in the river and marinas.

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve **Article N: Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, \$23,000** as written and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article O: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1994. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ( ). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: This fund is required by the Department of Environmental Services to fund unexpected expenses such as new contamination, testing, additional monitoring wells, removal of monitoring wells, the Annual Report for Groundwater Management required by the Department of Environmental Services. DES has lowered the Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (i.e., groundwater regulatory standards) for several PFAS and 1,4-dioxane; and is proposing to lower the groundwater regulatory standards for arsenic and manganese. These changes will increase testing and sampling requirements at the landfill.*

The balance in the fund is \$44,193.30 as of November, 2019. The engineer previously spoke to the Board regarding what was needed in the upcoming year. It was noted that this amount is down from previous years.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve **Article O: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, \$5,000** as written and R. Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article P: Solar Array Lease Agreement**

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with New England Solar Garden for the purpose of allowing the construction and operation of a solar panel array on top of the Town's capped landfill located at 61 Hurd Hill Road, Map 15 Lot 87, and further to negotiate terms and conditions of said lease. This article does not involve any taxation. There will be no impact to the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale:* This lease will enable the capped landfill site to be used for another purpose which will involve three streams of revenue to the Town. New England Solar Garden (NESG) will construct the solar array. The solar array equipment will be owned and maintained by NESG. NESG will maintain the land area underneath and around the solar array such as mowing, fencing, etc. This project will enable the Town to receive three streams of revenue from NESG. 1) An annual lease payment for use of the land on top of the capped landfill. 2) NESG will be taxed by the Town for their equipment on the site. This taxation method is called a PILOT program (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes = PILOT). 3) The Town will receive an annual rebate check at the end of each year, for NH Electric Coop electricity used and saved through NESG. All revenues will be placed into the General Fund. NESG is a Portsmouth, NH based company and had been working with NH municipalities and now is working with municipalities and non-municipalities in New England. The Board of Selectmen feel this is a very good use of vacant land and will be a win-win situation for the taxpayers of Alton.

R. Wentworth voiced concerns on this by naming the first company that made a proposal; he feels that the article should not name a specific company and should read “a solar company”, C. Shapleigh agreed and doesn’t think a timeframe should be named either. P. LaRochelle questioned what happens after the 25 year period, who is responsible, do we release or do we become responsible for the maintenance and repairs. This would all need to be written into the lease. A lot more investigation needs to be done to see who is going to give the best benefit for the taxpayers of the community. L. Dionne believes that with a multi-year lease agreement that goes onto a warrant article it must name the number of years on it per DRA and suggested you put something there that can always be negotiated.

C. Shapleigh re-wrote the article as follows:

*To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a maximum 25-year lease agreement with a company for the purpose of allowing the construction and operation of a solar panel array on top of the Town’s capped landfill located at 61 Hurd Hill Road, Map 15 Lot 87, and further to negotiate terms and conditions of said lease. This article does not involve any taxation. There will be no impact to the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)*

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article P: Solar Array Lease Agreement as amended** and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article Q: Master Plan Consultant**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of hiring a Master Plan consultant that specializes in municipal Master Plan guidance and to work with the Planning Board and staff to assist and address the Master Plan needs and process in the Town of Alton. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Master Plan consulting services are completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Recommended by the CIP Committee. Majority vote required.

*Rationale:* The Master Plan consultant would provide assistance to the Planning Board in how to proceed in identifying the demographics, engaging the community in the Master Plan process, how to conduct surveys with larger results, identifying and creating appropriate chapters in a proposed Master Plan, and how to get people involved. The consultant would show the Planning Board how to represent the Town and ways of participation for well-rounded results. The goal is to identify the appropriate demographics, and assign those demographics into the Master Plan. The Master Plan is a flexible Plan which evolves and changes year to year. The Master Plan portrays guidance in how to promote and control growth in the Town, in appropriate areas, with appropriate means. The Master Plan forms the basis for all decisions made by the Planning Board, its Committees, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0).

This is something that needs to be started in order to have some direction as to where the Town is going with a Master Plan. It was 2005 when the Master Plan was updated; the Board feels that this is a good idea. R. Sample, Planning Board Chairman was called to the table for discussion stating that the Planning Board feels it is a great idea, the last Mater Plan that was done didn’t really suit the Town that well. The idea behind a consultant is to

give the Town someone to work with in order to get the process done properly. The Town needs some Zoning changes. B. Regan, CIP member for three (3) years and Planning Board member stated each year the Mater Plan has been discussed and it hasn't happened yet. The most difficult thing is to get it started and this would give the push to get it off the ground. It is unknown if the 25K will be sufficient but it will get it moving. P. Bolster, CIP member for three (3) years, the mandate is to use the Master Plan as a basis for making decisions as well as the conversations with department heads and Selectmen. We are a mature enough Town and want to maintain what is good for the Town while being open to new development. Most importantly, we need to get the Town's people involved. The Town Planner did not have anything to add.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve **Article Q: Master Plan Consultant, \$25,000** as written and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article R: Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

*Rationale: These funds will be used for improvements to the Town Hall building and property. The current project these funds are being sought for is a sprinkler system for the Town Hall. The building has a smoke detector system, which is aged, but no sprinkler system which places the Town in violation of State of New Hampshire Fire Safety Codes for occupancy limits in the upstairs meeting room as well as the hallways, and building exits.*

The balance in the fund is \$19,220.23 as of November, 2019. This fund was started to meet the requirements of the NH Fire Marshal for a Fire Suppression System at the Town Hall which has a cost of 150K. It was noted that money could be requested from the Trusts of Trust Funds from the Clough-Morrill Trust Fund which allows only the interest to be spent. The Clough-Morrill fund currently has \$863,139.81.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article R: Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$14,000** as written and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article S: Town Hall Second Floor Lift**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of replacing the first floor lift which provides access to the second floor. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the lift replacement is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Majority vote required.

*Rationale: These funds will cover the cost of a new lift to be installed on the first floor of the Town Hall. The lift is used to gain access to the second floor for those who cannot use the stairs. The current lift is approximately 30 years old and has surpassed its' normal life expectancy. In 2018 the company representative advised this particular lift had a normal lifetime of 25 years and would only last one to three years longer. Replacement parts are no longer made for this lift. The cost of a new lift is \$50,000. The old lift would be traded for a slight discount on a new purchase. The requested amount in the warrant article would be needed immediately should the lift break down. We would not be able to wait an additional year to submit a warrant article because once the lift breaks down, the Town would be in violation of ADA standards. This is because "reasonable accommodation" would not be provided if a meeting were being held on the second floor. Currently the Town Hall employees on the second floor provide reasonable accommodation during the day to residents on the first floor, when needed. Reasonable accommodation would be when the second floor employees go downstairs to the first floor and meet with someone. If the lift breaks and someone is not able to get to the second floor to attend a meeting, we would be in violation of ADA requirements because the meeting would not be moved to the first floor. The Town wants to be pro-active on this lift issue. RSA 32:7,VI allows us a maximum*

*of five years to use the funds. Further, using money from the unassigned fund balance means there is NO IMPACT on the tax rate. This is a win-win situation for all.*

A controversial discussion took place between some of the Board of Selectmen members whether to use the fund balance or to use the Clough-Morrill funds. L. Dionne has not asked the Trustee of Trust Funds as she doesn't believe there is enough money to do so. L. Dionne stated that several companies were contacted with only the company that the amount is based on responding, others did not even respond. The lift is outdated and if it breaks down meetings will no longer have the ability to be held on the second floor due to ADA accessibility. Money has already been used from Clough-Morrill this year of just under \$2,800. It is V. MacDonald's feeling that it should come from Clough-Morrill. The Board suggested he re-write the article.

V. MacDonald made a motion to amend the article as follows:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be used from the Clough-Morrill Trust Fund for the stair lift at the Town Hall.*

It was noted that this would not need to go on the ballot if we use the Clough-Morrill Trust Fund. L. Dionne suggested to approve this as written contingent upon her finding out from the Chairman of the Trustees of Trust Funds if there is \$50K in interest in the fund. C. Shapleigh stated it could be put to a vote as it is written and see if it passes. Let the people decide. Keep in mind you might not want to draw down the interest for a known expense opposed to an unanticipated expense which is what this is really there for. It was decided to leave it as it is.

Noted; there was no second to V. MacDonald's motion.

Further discussion: J. Markland asked for clarification wanting to know if the Budget Committee will vote on this. D. Hershey asked how the dollar value was determined which was explained it is the company that does the repairs to the current lift. It is a reasonable number.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve **Article S: Town Hall Second Floor Lift, \$50,000** as written and C. Shapleigh seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, V. MacDonald. 4-1

#### **Article T: IT (Internet Technology) Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an IT Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding larger-scale IT needs and projects. This would include system upgrades, new hardware equipment, servers, computer and network software, GIS, security systems, audio/video systems, and emergencies. Further, to raise and appropriate \$6,346 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Majority vote required.

*Rationale: This fund supports the Town in purchasing, replacing, upgrading aging computer systems, servers, software, security, and network equipment. Replacing, upgrading IT equipment is an essential arrangement that supports every Town department in working and communicating effectively. This also reduces cyber risk, IT management and supports overhead associated with running hardware and software beyond manufacturer supported lifecycles. IT needs and projects are expensive but needed. Multi-year planning and budgeting is recommended. This Capital Reserve Fund will assist with that.*

J. Markland questioned the dollar amount in the article. J. Monaco was not in attendance to explain the reasoning for the request. D. Hershey interjected stating that this amount was less than in the original amount proposed due to the new server being funded from the extra revenue received from the State.

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve **Article T: IT (Internet Technology) Capital Reserve Fund** as written and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article U: GIS (Geographical Information System) Expense**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of installing the first phase of a GIS system for utilization by all Town Departments. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the first phase is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Majority vote required.

*Rationale: This fund supports the Town in its efforts to produce and utilize a working GIS system in a phased approach. GIS (Geographic Information System) is a computer-based system used to capture, analyze, manipulate, and present geographic and spatial data. A tool like GIS is used in most towns in New Hampshire to answer complex questions and automate essential tasks associated with geographic information. The first phase of production involves digitizing our tax maps. For years, these maps have been edited via image editing software; a deprecated method that by 2021 will no longer be supported by the Town’s current mapping vendor. Once these maps are inevitably digitized for use in GIS, the initial tax map layer can be built off of to create additional layers for use by taxpayers, town departments, and third parties seeking accurate geographical information associated with the town.*

L. Dionne explained that the company that the Assessing Department uses for the Town’s tax maps are requiring all of their customers to go digital by 2022 which must be done through the GIS System. If this is not done they will not update our tax maps if this is not done. The requested money is only a partial amount with a full system being several thousand dollars. C. Shapleigh noted that GIS has been a topic of conversation for many years and will include all departments.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article U: GIS (Geographical Information System) Expense, \$80,000** as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**\*Note:** Articles V, W and X were discussed and voted together. (see article X for discussion and vote)

**Article V : Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Extension Capital Reserve Fund  
DISCONTINUANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Extension Capital Reserve Fund, created in 1997. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, estimated to be approximately \$25,000 plus any additional accumulated interest, are to be transferred to the Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund. **This article is contingent upon Article # X passing.** No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: This fund is for water line extensions only. It is prohibitive and limiting to the variety of needed work on water lines because these funds can only be used for a water line extension. These funds cannot be used for any other type of a water line expense such as the repair of a leak or the need to replace a corroded line. If this article passes, this account will be closed and the funds in this account will be placed into the Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund on this warrant (Article # X). The action of closing this account would help to streamline the existing Water Works Capital Reserve accounts. Warrant article # X must pass in order for this to happen. No impact on the tax rate.*

**Article W: Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Replacement Capital Reserve Fund  
DISCONTINUANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, created in 1997. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, estimated to be approximately \$30,000 plus any additional accumulated interest, are to be transferred to the Water Main Expense

Capital Reserve Fund. **This article is contingent upon Article # X passing.** No impact on the tax rate.  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale:* This fund is for water line replacements only. It is prohibitive and limiting to the variety of needed work on water lines because these funds can only be used for a water line replacement. These funds cannot be used for any other type of a water line expense such as the repair of a leak or the need to extend a line. If this article passes, this account will be closed and the funds in this account will be placed into the Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund on this warrant (Article # X). The action of closing this account would help to streamline the existing Water Works Capital Reserve accounts. Warrant article # X must pass in order for this to happen. No impact on the tax rate.

#### **Article X: Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of paying for expenses incurred during any creation of a water main or main to stop, the installation, repair, upgrade, removal, location change, and replacement of same, and to raise and appropriate \$1.00 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale:* The Selectmen are looking to consolidate the number of Water Works Capital Reserve Funds. This is the first step in that process. This step involves the creation of this fund for all expenses associated with a water “main” and a “main to stop”. A water main is the main line that travels around the Water Works area. A “main to stop” is a smaller line that extends off of the main to each individual property for hooking up to the water system. The property owner would not attach to the main, but in order to hook up to the water system the property owner would be responsible for a water line from the residence to the “main to stop”.

The three (3) funds were read two (2) funds are to discontinue the fund accounts and one (1) is to establish a fund account, moving the monies to the newly established fund. This is to be able to do any needed work without taking it out of revenues. These three (3) articles go hand-in-hand to each other.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve all three (3) **Article V: Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Extension Capital Reserve Fund DISCONTINUANCE**, **Article W: Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Replacement Capital Reserve Fund DISCONTINUANCE**, **Article X: Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund** as written and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article Y: Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 to be added to the Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale:* During the winter of 2018/2019, there was significant underwater damage done to the cribbing support timbers from lake ice movement. The Water Bandstand Committee and Board of Selectmen felt it appropriate and necessary to make the cribbing repairs in 2020. An estimate was obtained from a local marine repair company at approximately \$4,380.31. Due to the “unseen” or “unknown”, the amount has been rounded up to \$5,500.

The balance in the fund is \$2,832.74 as of November.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article Y: Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund, \$5,500** as presented and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

#### **Article Z: Bay dock work**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,400 for the purpose of replacing the existing dock attached to the restaurant known as Shibley’s on the Pier; to allow the public to dock at the new dock; add

one or two boat fingers as space will allow to the new dock area; fix the eroding banking behind the dock; and attach this new dock to the public “Town” docks using an extension of the existing board walk. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the repairs and renovations are completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). Majority vote required.

*Rationale: This plan is to allow for a larger public dock in the bay. It will also allow for a longer pedestrian boardwalk for foot traffic along the docks.*

*The plan is to remove the existing restaurant dock and underwater support structure. The current dock is in poor condition with valid safety concerns. The dock will be replaced with a new dock, pilings and everything required. This new dock will allow Shibley’s at the Pier, Inc., to have continued access to their basement from the dock and their upper level storage area from the dock. The public will continue to have access to the restaurant dining deck from the dock if they choose. The existing ten-foot curtilage area around the restaurant will remain as is, in the lease with the Town. This dock will become Town-owned and Town-maintained. Shibley’s on the Pier, Inc. will be responsible for costs associated with upkeep and maintenance of the dock and underwater structure within the ten-foot curtilage area listed in the existing lease. The restaurant owners will no longer be taxed on the entire length of the existing restaurant dock, but only on the ten feet within the curtilage of the dock. The public will be allowed to dock at the restaurant dock for access to other bay businesses. The steeply inclined banking beside the restaurant will be repaired using DES approved erosion control methods such as fill, rocks, plantings, a fabric mesh covering for stabilization, etc. This will prevent further erosion into Lake Winnepesaukee. All requirements by the DES will be adhered to. This new dock will then be connected to the Town’s existing public docks complete with an extension of the pedestrian boardwalk thus creating one large public docking area. The addition of one or two dock fingers will be installed onto the newer end of the structure nearest the restaurant and as space allows, or a dock for larger sized boats that will not fit into the existing public docks.*

*By working together with the restaurant owners (Mr. and Mrs. David Shibley), the Town and the Shibley’s feel this is a win-win situation for everyone. The results of this renovation will improve the appearance of the area, improve the safety of the existing restaurant dock, and improve the land/banking on site.*

<i>Main project:</i>	<i>\$30,400</i>
<i>Shibley’s portion:</i>	<i>\$ 4,500</i>
<i>Additional finger if room allows:</i>	<i>\$10,500</i>
<i>DES permitting cost:</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>
<i>Product cost for banking:</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$80,400</i>
<i>Shibley’s portion</i>	<i>-\$ 4,500</i>
<i>Total cost to taxpayers</i>	<i>\$80,400</i>

R. Wentworth read the cost breakout of expenses.

B. Holt stated he was reading the backup which had a lot of stipulations. There will a new written agreement between the Town and Shibley’s once it is established. There is one (1) dock that is in disrepair. It was explained that there is one (1) side that will be used exclusively by Shibley’s which is closest to the deck facing Shibley’s Restaurant directly in front of the 10’ that he is responsible for. The other portions of the docks will be open to the public. It is possible that two (2) finger docks will not be possible, it might be only one which is the reason for the wording the way it is.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve **Article Z: Bay dock work, \$80,400** as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded.

Further discussion: R. Wentworth voiced concern about the wall needs to be addressed and is an area in the Bay that needs to be fixed and been neglected over the years by adding the extra money for the finger docks will allow more residents to dock on a weekend. P. LaRochelle noted that there will be phases to this work through the years; this will be phase 1 which is to do the dock and the connection between the two (2) docks and to stabilize

the bank then possibly doing the handicap accessibility ramps and work to the retaining wall for the full length of the dock area.

At this time, the motion on the table was called with all in favor of the motion. 5-0

**Article AA: OLD HOME WEEK**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events such as the Barbershoppers, band concerts, magic shows and other forms of activities. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann brought forth that no \$2,500 appropriation was granted as in previous years. The committee lost \$1,900 on the event. R. Sample, Chairman of Old Home Week was called upon for discussion which is why the increase to 3K. Donations are received noting that all that money gets donated to the 68 Hours of Hunger program which leaves no money coming back. The only money they get is from the appropriation. Last year they had enough money but now their resources are depleted. He informed the Board that the money does not go towards the Barbershoppers that is separate and funded through Park and Recreation. Barbershoppers needs to be removed from the warrant article. P. O'Brien suggested that this be funded through the budget process.

Amended Article reads as follows:

**Article AA: OLD HOME WEEK**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of 3,000 for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events such as band concerts, magic shows and other forms of activities. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)*

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve **Article AA: OLD HOME WEEK \$3,000** deleting the word Barbershoppers and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Article BB: Coffin Brook Road Property Sale**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell a parcel of Town owned land located on Coffin Brook Road, Map 43 Lot 5, known as the old burn dump. Said parcel to be put up for auction. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Majority vote required.

*Rationale: This property was the former Town Dump site in which all refuse was burned and buried in layers of sand and dirt. The land is described as 4.62 acres. The topography is level and wet. This is not a tax-deeded property. This property was purchased by the Town in 1982 from Robert and Jeffrey Moody. Records cannot be found as to why it was purchased by the Town, but those that can remember, have indicated it was for the Town burn dump. There is a strong probability that this property is contaminated by the debris that was burned and buried such as garbage, demolition, and more. There is an interest in purchasing the parcel by a nearby landowner. The Selectmen desire to sell the parcel, publically, at auction, with a clear understanding to all who may be interested, that there is a strong likelihood that the land is contaminated by unknown contaminants from years' worth of burning and burying the burned garbage, demolition, furniture, appliances, plastics, and more unknowns. The NH DES (Department of Environmental Services) has it listed on their website as an abandoned dump. Water and soil testing would need to be done by the new owner.*

R. Wentworth stated he is against this sale knowing that there is possible contamination and it might come back to haunt the Town later down the line. P. LaRochelle was informed that this property has never been tested. It would be made known and contingent that it would be on the purchaser to have the property tested for contamination. L. Dionne stated that the person that would like to purchase the property came before the Board month's ago and is well aware of the possibility of contamination. Legal Counsel was consulted and as long as you are forthcoming when you put it up for sale, you can sell. The liability will fall on the current owner of the property and an air

tight purchase and sale agreement could be written. This is similar and compared to a DES violation; it falls on the new owner, they assume the liability as long as it is disclosed.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve **Article BB: Coffin Brook Road Property Sale** as written and V. MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, R. Wentworth. 4-1

**\*Note:** Articles CC through LL were discussed and voted together. (see article LL for discussion and vote)

**Article CC: Alton Community Services Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article DD: American Red Cross Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article EE: CAP Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance and Women, Infants & Children food assistance program (WIC). This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article FF: Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc. (includes Alton) which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article GG: CASA Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article HH: Central NH VNA & Hospice Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article II: Child & Family Services of NH Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services of NH. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article JJ: Lakes Region Mental Health Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,750 for the purpose of supporting Lakes Region Mental Health Center which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article KK: L.I.F.E. Ministries Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries, Inc. which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

**Article LL: New Beginnings Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,575 for the purpose of supporting New Beginnings which provides 24-hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth spoke of the Non Profit articles, it was noted that there are no new articles. He requested that they all be listed under one (1) Article CC (read the amounts of each) - listed out separately and if someone at Deliberative Session wants to change a figure they have that ability. C. Shapleigh voiced that this was put to the voters approximately five (5) years ago to combine and they overwhelmingly said no because there are some that they approve and some that they do not approve. Voting this way can only be done at Deliberative Session not on the ballot. It was confirmed that letters were submitted by each organization to support the appropriation requests. It is too late to change the process for this year. P. O'Brien voiced he went to a Budget Workshop Conference it was strongly suggested that there be no sweep articles that approve several things in one (1) article. R. Wentworth's voiced his opinion on Article KK: L.I.F.E. Ministries, 3K he hopes that the Town funds this article as there are over thirty (30) families who utilize their services; there are some families that have their pride and do not want to go to the local community pantry. For the amount of money that they support for the Town of Alton it is well worth funding. Last year, it was embarrassing that this was the only article that was brought down to \$1 appropriation.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve all **Non-Profit Articles CC through LL as written.**

Further Discussion: J. Markland feels that it has been his experience that most of these articles if not all were approved in the past with the exception of one (1) or two (2) over the years, he personally feels that they should be included into an operating part of the Selectmen's Budget to spend as they wish, holding Public Hearings so that the decisions can be made. He feels the Board are competent enough to make the decisions as to what to fund, limiting the agencies that apply per year and it would save a lot of time at Deliberative Session and on the ballot. The totals for all is \$62,325. He believes there should be an application process with justification of the money spent in Alton. B. Holt wanted to reaffirm what these Non-Profits contribute to the Town of Alton. There a couple that he is aware of and cannot vote on all and is used to having a cover letter from each one explaining their services. D. Hershey asked for clarification from J. Markland who explained there would be a Non-Profit line under the Selectmen's budget. B. Varney doesn't know if legally money could be given if the people didn't vote on the amounts individually for each of the Non-Profits. In the beginning these were petitions but now they are grandfathered. P. O'Brien would like to see justifications from the organizations. D. Hershey voiced being prepared for these questions ahead of time to prevent issues, as in the past. L. Dionne informed the Board that they are invited to attend the Deliberative Session. J. Markland asked if there were any other Towns that put the warrant article into their Town budgets; the answer was "yes".

At this time, the vote on the table was called. V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion. 5-0 (all non-profits).

**Selectmen Reports**

None

**Town Administrator Report**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

None

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

None

**Public Input I & II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)**

David Hershey voiced concerns on Article Q: Master Plan Consultant. He feels that this is critical and is the backbone for the Town to where the Town is and should be going. He suggested that 25K is not enough, grossly underestimated and would be an area to go out on a limb and make it a commitment. It might be better to have this be 100K and do it from start to finish for a qualified plan that everybody can look at. They will come back to the Town for funding once the initial setup takes place. In addition, he referenced Article BB Coffin Brook Property Sale noting that there is insurance coverage for insolvency readily available and specifically designed for this type of sale/issue; it can be required as part of the sale.

Loring Carr asked for clarification on the Bay Project numbers. V. MacDonald provided the breakdown of the expenses.

The Budget Committee was thanked.

**Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments** (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

None

**Non-Public Session:**

None

**Adjournment:**

At 8:24 PM, C. Shapleigh made a motion to adjourn and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

In addition, the Budget Committee adjourned their meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary