

Board of Selectmen
Work Session
Minutes
December 13, 2021
(Approved January 19, 2022)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

V. MacDonald led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRoche, Vice-Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator
Laura Parker, Finance Manager

V. MacDonald asks if there will be any extra items added to the agenda for the night and R. Heath mentions there is one item for non-pub.

B. Mitchell motions to approve amended Agenda and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of motion.

Warrant Articles

Article # 10 Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 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. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Holt motions to approve **Article 10: Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund** and P. LaRoche seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRoche, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes

Article #11 Town 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 \$. Should this article be defeated; the Default Budget shall be \$, which is the same as last year (with the exception of the Water Budget) 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

R. Heath would like to table as final numbers for the Town Operating Budget are not available as of yet. The numbers will be presented at the meeting on December 20, 2021.

V. MacDonald motions to table **Article 11: Town Operating Budget** and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes

Article # 12 Water Works Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution system for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

R. Heath states he would like to table this budget as well until the meeting on December 20, 2021.

V. MacDonald motions to table **Article 12: Water Works Operating Budget** and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes

Article # 13 Assessing Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Assessing Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing and repairing the pick-up truck used by the Assessing Department, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,500 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: B. Mitchell after reviewing the warrant article would like to know why this is including replacing and repairing. R. Heath explains to be able to cover any major repairs not just normal maintenance. B. Mitchell wants to make sure this is for replacing in the future. B. Holt was wondering how the trucks are being fixed now and R. Heath states that L. Parker did mention that there is already a Town Equipment Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund that is being used for maintenance on town vehicles. P. LaRochelle would like for the article to state replacing only.

V. MacDonald states R. Wentworth joining at 6:15pm.

B. Holt motions we strike out the word repairing and only have replacing in **Article 13: Assessing Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund** and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, sustained

Article # 14 Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing and repairing the pick-up truck used by the Building Department, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,500 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: P. LaRochelle states that number 14 which is the Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund is the same as number 13. Should state only replacing and strike repairing. R. Wentworth if wondering if waiting another 10 years will be good for the vehicles. V. MacDonald would like to make sure that the vehicles are undercoated. P. LaRochelle states that next year or the following years the amount for the article can increase if need be.

P. LaRochelle motions for **Article 14: Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund** to state only replacing the pick-up truck and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 15 Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Clarification

To see if the Town will vote to clarify the purpose of the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously referred to as the Fire Truck Fund established in 1973, as being used for the purchase of all types of Fire Department apparatus, equipment on apparatus, equipment used by Fire employees in the operation of all apparatus at emergency scenes and repairs of apparatus and equipment. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (2/3 vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen (-).

Discussion: R. Wentworth if this article should state Fire Truck Fund because the Trustees of the Trust fund changed the name of the fund. Would like to have legal verify the title of the Capital Reserve Fund. V. MacDonald states that they would like to change the name of the Fire Truck Fund to the Fire Department Equipment CRF as it was not brought before the people before changing. R. Wentworth agrees that the intent is that they need to change the names. R. Heath states that he can bring this to town council to have them look into to see if this is something that does need to be changed or not. R. Wentworth would like to have it possibly read for the 1973 Fire Truck Fund to read Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

B. Holt motions to table **Article 15: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Clarification**
P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

Article # 16 Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: B. Mitchell states they should table this article as well since it does not actually exist. V. MacDonald would like to vote on the wording of the article. R. Wentworth would like to know if they should be adding the final amount that's in the account as of now. R. Heath would like to go to town council and DRA and have them look at the information and see what they say including the 1973 article. P. LaRochelle would like to table until they hear back from town council and DRA.

V. MacDonald moves to table. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 17 Pumper Fire Truck Pay Off

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$399,194.24 for the purpose of paying off the existing lease on the Pumper Fire Truck. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.**

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: V. MacDonald is having a problem with the wording on how this will not be affecting the taxation this year but in the long run it does. R. Wentworth is wondering why they would be paying off this lease and be asking for an additional \$450,000 in the other account. R. Heath states that the reason for this lease payoff is part of the discussion from the operating budget is to help save about \$101,000 from the final budget. R. Wentworth states that leases should be moved from the operating budget to a Capital Reserve Fund. R. Wentworth would like to know how the warrant article was written and J. Beaudoin was brought forth to explain how the article was written and that it was done as a lease and not a capital reserve.

B. Holt motions to accept **Article 17: Pumper Fire Truck Pay Off** as written and B. Mitchell seconded.

Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes

B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 18 Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000 to be added to the Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve fund as previously established in 2019. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Holt motions to approve warrant **Article 18: Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes

B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 19 Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: B. Mitchell was wondering if it had changed at all and R. Heath mentions that the amount from last year to this year is different. P. LaRochelle is wondering what the difference is and L. Parker informs the board that the amount from last year was \$350,000.

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 19: Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes

B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 20 Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,165,994 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 at \$190,000. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-) (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: R. Wentworth is wondering if the \$190,000 is to offset the total amount or if the final amount is actually higher than said amount on warrant article. R. Heath explains that after talking with the Public Works Director that the amount is going to be offset so he is able to use the amount that is needed. R. Heath states that they will make sure to have it explained better in the rationale.

B. Mitchell motions to approve **Article 20: Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 21 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. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).
(Recommended by CIP)

B. Mitchell motions to approve **Article 21: Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 22 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 Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).
(Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: V. MacDonald would like the title clarified.

B. Holt motions to approve **Article 22: Highway Building Improvements/Repair Capital Reserve Fund** for \$20,000 with the clarification of the wording of the title and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 23 Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to be added to the Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2007. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) and the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: R. Wentworth would like to know what sidewalks will be getting done this upcoming year. V. MacDonald would like to know which sidewalk account this will be going into stating that there are two Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund and would like this clarified as well. R. Heath stated that some of the funds will be going towards the sidewalks down in the Bay, where at the moment it is a safety liability.

V. MacDonald motions to approve the **Article 23: Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund** as read and to have the two different sidewalk accounts researched and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 24 Highway Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Rock & Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0). (Recommended by the CIP)

Discussion: V. MacDonald is wondering if we have enough in the Fund Balance to be able to cover all of these articles that are mentioned using the Fund Balance. R. Wentworth does state that using the unassigned fund balance then the percent that we have in there will go down by a lot. R. Wentworth would like article 24 to go back into the Operating Balance through an appropriation.

R. Wentworth motions to move **Article 24: Highway Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund** to raise and appropriate a sum of \$30,000 as previously established in 2017 and B. Mitchell seconded.

Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 25 Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0). (Recommended by the CIP.)

R. Wentworth motions to approve **Article 25: Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Further Discussion: R. Wentworth would like to revisit **Article 23: Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund** and would like to reword it to be an appropriation and to come out of the operating budget and not from the unassigned fund balance.

R. Wentworth motions to reword **Article 23: Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund** to be an appropriation and V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 26 Public Works Department Excavator

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$151,900 for the purpose of purchasing an Excavator for the Public Works Department. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: V. MacDonald is wondering after doing all the work to current excavator why they would be trading it in. R. Heath states after talking with the Public Works Director that the intent is to down size of the excavator that they currently have. R. Heath states that there is a good trade in value on the one and with a savings of \$14,180 in interest. One that can still handle the work but that is more manageable for them. R. Wentworth would like for the Public Works Director to come in and speak with the Board about the Excavator.

B. Holt motions to table and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Further Discussion: P. LaRochelle is wondering if they would be able to get the Public Works Director in and R. Heath explains that the Excavator was originally in the operating budget but was determined to go to into a warrant article for the tax payers. B. Mitchell states that he does agree with it stating that he does not think they need a 320 for maintenance work and the size they are looking into will be better for that. R. Heath states that

V. MacDonald ask B. Holt if he would like to pull his motion to vote to put on the table and then they can vote and B. Holt agrees.

B. Mitchell motions to approve **Article 26: Public Works Department Excavator** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, no

Article # 27 Public Works Department Loader

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$127,600 for the purpose of purchasing a Loader for the Public Works Department. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: B. Mitchell asks R. Heath if this is the same as previous **Article 26: Public Works Department Excavator**. R. Heath says that it is.

B. Holt motions to approve **Article 27: Public Works Department Loader** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, no

Article # 28 IT Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the IT Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2020. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: R. Wentworth is wondering why there is such a large jump in the amount when the fund was originally started it was stated that it would be only little amounts. V. MacDonald states that it is to help update the Town's systems.

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 28: IT Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 29 Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$25,000 to be added to the Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2020. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 29: Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 30 Jones Field Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Jones field Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to the recreation area, park property, and parking lot, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 to be placed into this fund. With the Board of Selectmen named as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Mitchell motions to approve **Article 30: Jones Field Capital Reserve Fund** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, no P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 31 Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund DISCONTINUANCE

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. Remaining funds of \$12,205 are to be transferred to the municipality general fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: R. Heath explains to the Board that there are two accounts for the Solid Waste Department for Equipment and they are looking to merge the accounts. P. LaRochelle states that there should only be one Capital Reserve and just wants to make sure that this will be explained in the rationale.

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 31: Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund DISCONTINUANCE** as written and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 32 Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote and appropriate \$12,205 to be added into the Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised this year from taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Mitchell motions to approve **Article 32: Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 33 Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 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. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-)

B. Mitchell motions to move **Article 33: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund** and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes

B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 34 Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Recommended by CIP)

Discussion: V. MacDonald is wondering why they are not using the Clough Morrel Trust Fund. R. Wentworth explained that the Fire Marshall Office at the time states that they made this Capital Reserve Fund to be able to cover any other major maintenance issues if they are to come up.

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 34: Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund** as written and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 35 Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 35: Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund** as written and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 36 Environmental Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Environmental Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, said fund to be called the Environmental Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide the Town with funds to construct improvements to drainage systems and construct other structures or improvements necessary for the protection of the public health, welfare and safety arising from work required on Town and State property or in collaboration with private property owners in order for those properties to be in compliance with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and US EPA regulations/orders as they relate to protecting the quality of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands from excessive phosphorus levels, cyanobacteria and/or algae blooms. The Fund may also be used for expenses such as engineering, required easements, matching funds for state and federal grants, and other related expenses associated with protecting the quality of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands within the Town, and preventing contamination of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands through excessive phosphorus levels, other pollutant levels, cyanobacteria and algae blooms. Further, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000 to be placed into this fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-)

Discussion: V. MacDonald would like to see if this could be shortened up since the article is repetitive. R. Heath agrees he will talk with G. Young about the wording of article. V. MacDonald asks about tabling the article.

B. Holt motions to table **Article 36: Environmental Capital Reserve Fund** and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

Article # 37 Rescind Warrant Article # 41 - 2008

Shall the Town vote to rescind Warrant Article #41 approved on the March 11, 2008 ballot because it does not allow for lawful meetings such as site visits and site walks used by many Town boards in the regular conduct of their business, and further to replace it with the following language that complies with existing NH law: Shall the Town vote in order to promote openness in the conduct of public business, that all Town proceedings as defined by RSA 91-A, except in the event of emergency circumstances, shall be open and accessible to the public at all times in accordance with RSA 91-A. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-).

Discussion: V. MacDonald states that he is wondering if the language should be changed to include to be able to use any buildings. R. Wentworth would like this to go back to legal counsel so to make sure that the wording for this and that RSA 91-A will cover the Town to be able to hold meetings and voting events at places that are not owned by the Town.

B. Holt motions to table **Article 37: Rescind Warrant Article #41 - 2008** and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 38 Tax Impact of Warrant Articles

To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

Discussion: B. Mitchell states that he believes this will be good transparency to showing the citizens of the town what each warrant article will impact on taxes.

B. Holt motion to approve **Article 38: Tax Impact of Warrant Articles** as presented and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 39 Appointing of Town Treasurer

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e rather than electing a treasurer. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-).

Discussion: V. MacDonald states that he disagrees with this and states that this should be going to the citizens of the town to vote.

R. Wentworth motions to remove **Article 39: Appointing of Town Treasurer** and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 40 NH Lakes' Lake Host Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of supporting NH Lakes' Lake Host Program which is a program with a mission to keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy, now and in the future. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

V. MacDonald states that this program is to help with getting grants to help keep lakes clean especially when boats from outside areas come in.

B. Holt motions to approve **Article 40: NH Lakes' Lake Host Program** as written and V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 41 Alton Community Service Nonprofit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 41: Alton Community Service Nonprofit** as presented and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 42 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

V. MacDonald motions to accept **Article 42: American Red Cross Nonprofit** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, no R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 43 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Mitchell motions to move **Article 43: CAP Nonprofit** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 44 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 44: Caregivers of Southern Carrol County & Vicinity Nonprofit** as written and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 45 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Mitchell motions to move **Article 45: CASA Nonprofit** as written and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 46 Granite VNA fka 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 Granite VNA fka 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 46: Granite VNA fka Central NH VNA & Hospice Nonprofit** as written and presented and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, no P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 47 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-)

R. Wentworth motions to move **Article 47: Lakes Region Mental Health Nonprofit** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, no P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 48 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

P. LaRochelle motions to approve **Article 48: L.I.F.E. Ministries Nonprofit** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 49 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-).

B. Mitchell motions to move **Article 49: New Beginnings Nonprofit** as written and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 50 Waypoint Nonprofit

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

R. Wentworth motion to moves **Article 50: Waypoint Nonprofit** and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Article # 51

To hear reports of any committees, boards, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerns of voters; and vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Discussion: Was read and no decision is needed by the board since this is a previous petition article that was approved prior.

V. MacDonald has a warrant article that he is possibly looking to add to the warrant about the improvement of the Town Hall Building. R. Wentworth explains that they would have to ask the Trustees of the Trust Fund. The board does agree to have this discussed on the outside at a future meeting.

P. LaRochelle mentions taking a break at 8:05 PM.
V. MacDonald states back to order at 8:13 PM.

Operating Budget Discussion

R. Heath states that the paper that the Board Members have in front of them is a breakdown of the Operating Budget. The leases from the Highway Department have been removed and are added as warrant articles. R. Heath states the Operating Budget has gone from \$8,984,669 to \$8,691,586 which is now a 5.86% increase instead of the 9.43% increase that it was. R. Heath also states that he and the Water Superintendent have had meetings and was able to reduce the budget by removing the two projects in the Water Department which was able to come out of this year’s budget instead of the 2022 budget. These projects were the Levy Park Well Cleaning and the Water Testing. This was able to help save an additional savings from 14% to 9.66% increase.

Benefit Budget

B. Holt motion to approve the new Benefit Budget of \$2,195,578 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Grounds & Maintenance Department Budget

B. Holt motion to approve the reduction of the Grounds & Maintenance from \$288,298 to \$271,501 and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Fire Department Budget

B. Holt motions to approve the new Fire Department Budget at \$994,586 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Highway Department Budget

B. Holt motions to approve the new Highway Department Budget at \$1,323,901 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Patriotic Services

B. Holt motions to approve the Patriotic Services Budget at \$1,191 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Water Department Budget

B. Holt motions to approve the new Water Department Budget at \$520,072 and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

R. Heath states that the Water Department would like to see if the Board of Selectmen would approve with the moving forward of the two projects. One is the Premier Pump and Supply which is for the Levy Park Cleaning which will be for \$15,950. Second project is with Tata and Howard Inc. which will be for hydraulic testing and hydrant flow for \$9,400.

P. LaRochelle motions to approve Water Department Pump and Supply for \$15,950 and hydraulic testing for \$9,400 and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, no

Insurance Request

V. MacDonald reads memo which is stating to see if the Board of Selectmen in reference to Health Insurance option request NH Interlocal Trust reached out to see if the Town of Alton is willing to accept Town of Alton retirees who are still active part time employees to be able to participate in the new HSA Health plan, these employees currently pay for premiums in full and would only be allowed to receive the 50% portion of the allotted HSA. Approval is needed as it is a payroll deduction and employees would have to at least work 20 hours. Board is requesting for clarification.

L. Parker states that all retirees pay the premium as the same as the Towns rate and NH Interlocal Trust is wondering if we want to offer this plan as well to the retired employees. R. Heath states that it is the insurance company that is looking for clarification.

R. Wentworth motions to approve and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:
V. MacDonald, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
B. Holt, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Other Business

V. MacDonald motions to move into Non Public at 8:30 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll Call Vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

B. Mitchell moved at 9:36 pm to exit nonpublic session. V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle – yes R. Wentworth – yes
R. Holt – yes B. Mitchell – yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

R. Wentworth moved to 'not divulge' the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle – yes R. Wentworth – yes
R. Holt – yes B. Mitchell – yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

V. MacDonald moved at 9:40 pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon L. Hart
Recording Secretary