

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2013
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mark Northridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

All in attendance rose to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

E. Russell Bailey introduced the members representing the Town of Alton.

Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk
James Sessler, Town Attorney
David Hussey, Chairman
R. Loring Carr, Vice Chairman
Marc DeCoff, Selectman
Cydney Johnson, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Mary K. Jarvis, Recording Secretary

Andy McLeod introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee

Andy McLeod, Chairman
John Markland, Vice-Chairman
Krista Argiropolis, School Board Representative
Barbara Howard, Member
Marc DeCoff, Selectmen's Representative

Greg Fuller was absent due to health issues.

Mark Northridge read the Moderator's Rules.

Mark Northridge called upon David Hussey, Chairman, Board of Selectmen to deliver the State of the Town message; he welcomed and thanked all in attendance for their support throughout the year. An overview of achieved goals and objectives for 2012 was presented.

WARRANT ARTICLES

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday, the Sixth (6th) day of February in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen (2013), beginning at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote which will be held on March 12, 2013 at the Prospect Mountain High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm:

(Warrant Articles 1 through 10 had no motions or discussion)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to move Article 43 to after Article 22. The motion was seconded by Peter Bolster. There will be a need to discuss the article due to a proposed amendment being needed as this is not a legal article.

Krista Argiropolis questioned if this was under the advisement of the Town Attorney to move this Article; Marc DeCoff responded "yes".

The motion passed with a favorable vote.

The Moderator called upon R. Loring Carr who wanted to bring his concerns forward on Article 10. Marc Northridge stated that there could be no amendments to the Planning Articles but he could be over written; there can be a motion to take this for a vote. This can be discussed but there can be no changes made on this tonight. R. Loring Carr decided to wait until the end of the meeting to bring this forward.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be placed in the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This vehicle will be equipped with an in car audio/video system. This sum (\$40,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from new taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (3-1-1). (A majority vote is required)]

David Hussey moved Article 11 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 11 stating that this Article is to replace a vehicle and it would be in the best interest of the town at this time to equip it with a video system. The vehicle would be a Ford Expedition and that the vehicle is white. This would be replacing two vehicles with mileage of 148K and 175K.

Discussion:

Timothy MacDonald questioned the number of vehicles the Police Department has at this time.

R. Loring Carr responded to the question with 10 vehicles and the Hummer and 11 Officers including the Chief.

Ray Howard questioned if he could make a motion to amend this article as he doesn't agree that there is a need for audio/visual for a vehicle.

Discussion continued while Ray Howard prepared the amendment.

Steve Miller asked why an Expedition and not an Explorer and questioned the amount of vehicle needs in the summer months opposed to the winter months.

R. Loring Carr supported the Expedition opposed to a smaller Taurus which doesn't have the necessary space needed and also stated that we already have an Expedition therefore the maintenance would be the same for all vehicles.

Chief Ryan Heath addressed the needed space and size of vehicles as well as the clearance of the chassis and concerns with weather conditions for officers to carry out their daily missions.

Ray Howard made a motion to amend Article 11 and seconded by Barbara Howard.

Proposed Amendment:

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be placed in the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This sum (\$40,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Further Discussion:

Charles Weston addressed issues of ground clearance and chassis of the vehicles. There should be recording equipment for the protection of the Town and the officers and the public in at least one vehicle to limit lawsuits.

Loring Carr agreed that even one lawsuit would more than cover the cost of the video devices.

Cydney Johnson also spoke against the amendment; \$4,000.00 is a small price to pay to for the safety of the officer and anyone who might be stopped.

Anna Griffin was against the amendment stating that the Chief know the needs of the Department that the wording should remain the same with no amount coming from new taxation.

Russ Bailey only the voters can move the money into the Capital Reserve.

Peter Bolster inquired as to how many 1st line active vehicles are there?

Chief Ryan responded with 5-6 front line vehicles.

Moderator, Marc Northridge called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment failed.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 11 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)** to be placed into the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 12 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 12 stating that the money is for continuing to make improvements to the Town Hall building but there is still more work that needs to be completed such as roof shingles, window molding and gables that are rotted, rug in the meeting room, some refurbishing of the basement for storage and the accessibility lift.

Steve Miller stated he was in favor of the improvements and questioned the long term dollar amount to bring the Town Hall up to standards.

R. Loring Carr didn't have an exact figure but believed that this amount would address most of the issues with the major one being the rotted trim on the gables.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 12 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to the Sidewalk Capital reserve Fund as previously established for the upgrade and maintenance of existing sidewalks. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 13 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke on behalf of Article 13 stating that the work got behind in previous years. This is an ongoing plan for upgrading all the sidewalks in the Village working on the sidewalks north of Monument Square.

Steve Miller questioned the long term plan for the sidewalk project, where the sidewalks will run to and from and what will the total cost be?

Russ Bailey, Town Administrator commented that this is a continuous program similar to the road reconstruction program; it will be a maintenance program.

Steve Miller inquired about taking \$120,000.00 out of the General Fund with Russ Bailey stating that there is approximately two million dollars in that fund. There is only so much work that can be done in a year with other projects that need to be done.

Tim MacDonald voiced concerns that if all is completed in one year then all the repairs would need to be done at the same time.

Barbara Howard mentioned that the sidewalks need meet ADA specifications and be cleared of snow all winter.

Kathy Obleans requested at the beginning of each Article the amount of money is in each of these capital funds.

Russ Bailey, Town Administrator announced there is \$5,100.00 remaining in the sidewalk fund.

David Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 13 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 14 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 14 stating that the Article was self-explanatory for a continuation of monitoring the landfill. Installation of 2-4 wells needs to be done in order to see which direction the plume is going.

R. Loring Carr announced there is \$17,073.00 remaining in this fund.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 14 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. 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. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 15 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 15 stating that this Article is to continue our normal practice for adding money to the expendable fund for the pay out of accrued benefits for retiring employees. There is one long term employee scheduled for retirement this year.

Cydney Johnson announced that there is \$13,054.00 in this fund.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 15 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)** to be added to the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the Transfer Station which also includes the EPA storm water management

implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

David Hussey moved Article 16 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 16 stating continue on improving the Transfer Station. The next stage is the Recyclable area and to finish the Demolition area.

R. Loring Carr announced that there is \$20,614.00 in this fund.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 16 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$27,500.00)** to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 17 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke on behalf of Article 17 stating Milfoil prevention and removal will be with us for many years. The lake is the most important thing to the town. We are eligible for State funding coming from boat registrations. Last year \$32,000.00 was spent on Milfoil removal. The lower end of the Merrymeeting River cannot be treated with the herbicide due to the proximity to the town well. We had a good meeting with the State DES, Water Department and the Selectmen determining that we needed to have more money this year for more pulling to be done.

Steve Miller questioned what areas were treated last year, what areas will be treated next year and what about enforcement on other water bodies?

Peter Bolster answered pulling in the Merrymeeting River was done, working on the lower end of the Bay, Half Moon Lake and other lakes are working very hard to keep things controlled most importantly is prevention.

Peter Bolster announced that there is \$00.00 in this fund.

R. Loring Carr didn't agree that the meeting with the State DES was so good and that the State should do more for the Town

Barbara Howard was the one negative vote and has concerns of chemicals in the water.

Robert Daniels questioned who owns the lakes and if it is the State need to go after them for more money?

Russ Bailey, Town Administrator responded that the State owns all water bodies.

Peter Bolster stated that the only way the State would come up with more money to fund the Towns would be to raise boat registrations fees.

Kellie Troendle wanted to clarify that this fund is not just for chemicals but also for DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) which is the hand pulling which has been determined it is needed and for the chemical treatment.

Ray Howard commented that this would not be a tax increase but a user fee.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 17 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** to be added to the Senior Center Pearson Road Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 18 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke on behalf of Article 18 stating that Phase I is finished making a viable building for citizens at a beautiful location. There is approximately \$8,000.00 in the reserve fund plus money in the private donation fund. There was one really big donation of \$40,000.00 from a foundation and a couple of banks donated. It has been agreed that Kingswood Vocational Tech will build a modular 24x24 addition to the back of the building. The next phase is a 36x36 addition to the present open room which will be on a foundation. Expanded parking will take place. There have been 150 donors of money and 75 workers/contractors that have donated time and labor.

Robert Longabaugh is all for the Senior Center. Let's get it done fast with more public money opposed to private money. He would like to see it done fast and would like to see it become the voting place.

David Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 18 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million Four Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$6,457,356.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Four Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars (\$6,423,603.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton 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. [Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and Budget Committee (4-1).

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 19 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 19 stating that the budget was raised this year by \$287,548.00 the bulk of it was \$101,970.00 for the Police and \$114,835.00 for retirement

benefits and the Town reviewed the Health Insurance coverage and was able to save over \$80,000.00 by changing the policy. The Public Access Channel increased by \$1,342.00, a new Solid Waste Contract is \$14,560.00; money was added to the Water Department for new lines; Workman's Compensation is up by \$16,591.00 and computer maintenance is increased by \$11,714.00.

Robert Longabaugh proposed an amendment to this Article to increase the line by \$2,000.00 for honorarium non-officio members of the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Krista Argiropolis.

Proposed Amendment reads as follows:

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Six Million Four Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$6,459,356.00) of this amount \$2,000.00 will be allocated to pay "Honorariums" to the Non-Officio members of the Budget Committee, such amounts to be determined by the number of committee meetings they attended with payment to be made at the end of March each year. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Four Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars (\$6,423,603.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton 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. [Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and Budget Committee (4-1).

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Steve Miller requested that James Sessler, Town Attorney answer the question if this was legal to the RSA to have money allocated to a specific line on the budget?

James Sessler responded that one can try to do it but it does not have to be adhered to, the Selectmen do not have to abide by the allocation. Has a serious question as to whether the Budget Committee can be paid anything.

Ruth Messier stated that as far as she knew it was never been legal to pay the Budget Committee members and sees it as a conflict due to making decisions on monetary line items regarding the Town.

Tim MacDonald made note that we shouldn't even be considering this until we know it is legal.

Russell Bailey, Town Administrator commented that it was the belief that the Budget Committee members cannot legally be paid, that this Article is statutory and only read the way it is.

James Sessler, Town Attorney was pretty sure that this would be illegal but did not research this prior to tonight's meeting.

Jeffrey St. Cyr remarked that there was a similar vote years previous and he believed that you could move forward with a vote.

The Amendment failed.

Krista Argiropolis proposed an amendment to the Article to increase the Article by \$82,000.00 to add a second School Resource Officer. The motion was seconded by Robert Longabaugh.

Proposed Amendment reads as follows:

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$6,539,356.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Four Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars (\$6,423,603.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton 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. [Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and Budget Committee (4-1).

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

After a lengthy discussion with concerned arguments by several residents and officials, both for and against the amendment the Moderator called for a vote on the Amendment.

The amendment failed.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 19 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$139,000.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$139,000.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of funding the ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies & equipment, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 20 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 20 stating that this Article is self-explanatory. The amount of this Article does not come from taxation. Last year's expenditure was \$110,705.30 with a current fund balance of \$261,720.55.

Mike Viscariello, Captain, Alton Fire Department remarked the he doesn't believe that the people voting "no" on the Article understand what they are voting for, therefore your tax dollars will have to be used to pay for ambulance services. The Fire Department budget is not big enough to pay for both the Fire Department and Ambulance budgets.

Barbara Howard suggested that a letter to the editor should be written just prior to the election to inform people.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 20 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

David Hussey moved Article 21 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 21 stating that the building improvements this year were \$14,154.00 with a remaining balance in the fund is \$186,394.39

Krista Argiropolis inquired if the West Alton Fire Station was included?

Marc DeCoff replied with West Alton, East Alton, and Central stations.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 21 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)** to be added to the Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This capital reserve was established to repair/replace the fire vehicles one which is 38 years old, engine number 5 which was built in 1975. A portion of this sum (\$50,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and \$50,000.00 to be raised from new taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 22 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 22 stating the board took a look at the vehicle; the rails are starting to separate and it probably will not pass inspection again. Also a ladder truck will be needed down the road. The fund balance is \$46,887.41 and we are expecting, possibly to purchase a used truck next year.

Mike Viscariello proposed an amendment to this Article to change the amount to \$430,000.00. The amendment was seconded by Deanna Viscariello.

Proposed amendment reads as follows:

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$430,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pumper/engine fire truck. This capital reserve was established to repair/replace the fire vehicles one which is 38 years old, engine number 5 which was built in 1975. A portion of this sum

(\$50,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and \$380,000.00 to be raised from new taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Discussion:

R. Loring Carr wanted it known that the Fire Department Chief only asked for \$50,000.00 during the budget season and the Board felt it wasn't enough so we added the additional \$50,000.00.

Dave Hussey mentioned that the Fire Chief only requested a 2nd hand vehicle.

Barbara Howard inquired, does the Chief know that the Fire Department was requesting this money and that the fund balance was \$186,394.00.

Marc Northridge, Moderator voiced concerns that it appeared that this amendment is not a legal Warrant Article you cannot take an article to put money into a fund then purchase a vehicle with the money. We will let the Town Attorney address this issue.

James Sessler, Town Attorney had good and bad news that you could amend the article for the amount but the money would have to be put into the fund then expended out of the fund in order to purchase a vehicle.

The Amendment to be amended, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$430,000.00) to be added to the Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This capital reserve was established to repair/replace the fire vehicles one which is 38 years old, engine number 5 which was built in 1975. A portion of this sum (\$50,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and \$380,000.00 to be raised from taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

A lengthy discussion took place between concerned residents, Board members, Fire Department members and the Budget Committee members to support the amended change.

Shirley Bishop motioned to call for a vote on the amendment.

Marc Northridge, Moderator called for a vote on the Amendment.

The Amendment failed.

Further discussion took place regarding this matter.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 22 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

A motion to move Article 43 before Article 23 was made by Marc DeCoff and was seconded by Peter Bolster earlier in the meeting.

Note: See Article 43 for discussion.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 23 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

David Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 23 stating replenish the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund which has been depleted pretty heavily in the last couple of years by replacing Places Mill Bridge and Reed Road. The State gives us 80% of funds but the Town must match the other 20%. There is \$45,000.00 left in this fund with the last bridge costing over half million and we need to be sure that we have money in that account for emergencies, if there is no money in the account we don't get state money.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 23 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 24 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

David Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 24 stating that this Article was self-explanatory with a lot of heavy equipment and unexpected major repairs, this is used for major repairs or replacing equipment.

Marc DeCoff stated that the current balance in this account was \$41,747.73.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 24 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Highway Shed Capital Reserve Fund, said funds with accumulated interest to be transferred to the general fund and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Dollars (\$11,452.00)** to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund said sums to come from the general fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is require)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 25 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 25 stating that we don't need this fund any longer; this is to move the money to the Capital Reserve Fund and to close out this account.

Ruth Messier questioned if this highway shed was ever built?

R. Loring Carr said it was the Highway Maintenance shed.

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator confirmed that this is the shed at the B&M Park is now located.

Steve Miller inquired about the amount of money being transferred.

E. Russell Bailey stated the amount is \$11,452.00 and that the DRA required that it be done this way.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 25 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$160,968.28 an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is require)

David Hussey moved Article 26 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

David Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 26 stating self-explanatory based on the amount of work that the Highway department has done this year; roads are a never ending battle, many years ago they were not built to Town specs and they are falling apart. They have a heavy schedule and done on time keeping within budget with another 60-70 miles to do, we need to support this in order not to fall behind with many other roads ahead.

Steve Miller questioned why the same amount, \$750,000.00 is requested over the last several years and was all the money used this year?

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator stated the balance is approximately \$192,000.00 in the Capital Reserve and 1.4 million dollars was spent; there was a carryover from the prior year due to construction schedule and maintenance issues.

Peter Bolster made mention of the rising cost of asphalt therefore the amount is not buying nearly what it has bought previously. One coat is done with another the following year.

Ken Roberts, Highway Agent the amount is \$934,000.00 taken for a 2 inch binder then next year a 1 inch topcoat has to be put on so divide the amount in half so \$450,000.00 of the money raised is used for the topcoat so it doesn't leave a lot of money going into the construction season.

Steve Miller voiced concerns if there could be more done if there was significantly more money; and if this was sub-contracted out.

Ken Roberts stated that if we had more money, more miles could be done.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 26 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of making necessary improvements and/or repairs to the Gilman Library in accordance to the master plan established by the Gilman Library Board of Trustees and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be placed into the Fund. Also to vote to appoint the Gilman Library Board of Trustees as agents to expend from the Gilman Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is require)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 27 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 27 stating there is currently no capital reserve fund for improvements or repairs and it is used by many people in town along with a beautiful addition and asked for everyone's support.

Anna Griffin mentioned that there was recently a major leak in the roof and is the amount of money going to be enough to cover this.

Holly Brown, Library Director addressed the issues; there were frozen drain lines which caused some water damage but this is now under control and it is covered by insurance with a \$1,000.00 deductible. The original portion of the Library is 61 years old and the addition is 16 years old so there are areas that are showing wear and tear, and are going to need addressing. Commend the Grounds and Maintenance Department for all their efforts for limiting the damage. This fund is for long range plan for maintenance and preventive care.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 27 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$8,456.00)** 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 will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 28 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

Ruth Messier is in favor but wants to know why all these Articles are not listed as one Article as they have in the past.

R. Loring Carr stated that it was the preference of the Budget Committee.

James Sessler, Town Attorney voiced his opinion.

Peter Bolster stated that these Articles being listed individually, allows people to vote their own conscience on each one.

Cydney Johnson commented that it wasn't that the Budget Committee's preference but that they were opposed to one of the non-profits last year; this way it is done to be fair to all.

Barbara Howard stated it was her personal likeness to have them separate so that the people have a choice.

David Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 28 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)** 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 will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 29 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

Sylvia Countway spoke on behalf of this Article stating that the money is to help support uncompensated funds.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 29 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 30 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 30 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** 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 will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

David Hussey moved Article 31 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 31 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$275.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not-for-profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 32 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 32 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** 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 will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 33 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

David Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 33 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,250.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (3-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 34 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 34 as a Board member for Genesis not as a Selectman stating they have had a huge increase in Alton of 19% this year. There is currently a therapist at the Alton Central School and a functional support service person who provides significant services on a weekly basis. A therapist has just recently been instituted at Prospect Mountain High School. She requested the support for this agency.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 34 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 35 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

MaryBee Longabaugh spoke on behalf of Article 35 stating that the money is to help all the volunteers to be reimbursed for services provided.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 35 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

David Hussey moved Article 36 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 36 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00)** for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 37 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

Dave Lynch, Executive Director wanted to thank the Town for their continued support which makes a meaningful difference to the lives of the children.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 37 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 38 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on this Article.

David Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 38 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the town will vote to approve the conveyance of a permanent drainage easement on property located at the intersection of Stockbridge Corner Road and Route 28 to New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the purpose of improvements to the intersection. (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 39 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke on behalf of Article 39 stating that this is a very simple drainage easement which we need to grant to DOT to realign the triangle for DOT.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 39 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the deeding of a small parcel of land to Paul Richardson. The Town attempted to take the property by tax deed in 1995. The Town's title to the property is in question. Based on the Town Attorney's title examination, title to the property cannot be confirmed to have been properly conveyed to the Town. Title to the property appears to belong to Paul Richardson. (A majority vote is required)

R. Loring Carr moved Article 40 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

David Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 40 stating this Article was self-explanatory; we don't really own the land and can't support it; the land is 2600 square feet which is not worth anything and we need to support this Article.

James Sessler, Town Attorney cannot confirm title of the property so it is far better to settle the case and give it back to Mr. Richardson, he will pay all costs associated with the deeding back to him. This will be the wisest thing to do under the circumstances.

Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 40 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to establish a noise ordinance as allowed under RSA 31:391(n). (A majority vote is required) A copy of the entire ordinance is available at the Town Clerk's Office and at the polling place.

David Hussey moved Article 41 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.

David Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 41 stating this is to give us a Noise Ordinance; at this time we do not have one and without it if there is a need to go into court there would be no leg to stand on.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 41 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to grant an easement for the benefit of property owned by Patti-Ann Collins and Brian Norris to construct and maintain a septic system to the area of land known as 66 & 68 Spring Street between the edge of the improved and traveled roadway and the property of said Norris. The Selectmen are authorized to reserve such public rights in the easement area as they determine necessary. (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff moved Article 42 and David Hussey seconded the motion.

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 42 stating that this is a simple matter with the size of the parcel which is not large enough to accommodate what is needed; there is a need to deed a portion of land and the Selectmen have no problem with granting this easement.

R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 42 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

Note: Discussion on Article 43 took place before Article 23 by a motion and vote earlier in the meeting.

ARTICLE 43: We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Alton – and supported by the Alton Firemen Inc & West Alton Firemen Inc – hereby petition the Alton Board of Selectmen to place a warrant article on the 2013 Town ballot to return to the election of Firewards as the Governing Body of the Alton Fire/Rescue Department, as follows:

The Town shall hereby elect Firewards as the Governing Body of the Alton Fire/Rescue Department pursuant to RSA 154:1.I. (d). Three Firewards will initially be elected for staggered terms of 1, 2, and 3 years with subsequent terms of 3 years each, no term limits shall apply.

Firewards would replace the Board of Selectmen as the Governing Body of the Alton Fire/Rescue Department. Said election of Firewards will take place at the time of the 2014 Town Meeting. (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff stated that the Article as it was written was not a legal Article so it was re-written.

Amended Article to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to reorganize the Fire Department to the form set forth in RSA 154:1, I(d). There shall be established a board of firewards with three members, to be elected in accordance with RSA 669:17 commencing in 2014. They shall serve staggered terms of 1, 2, and 3 years with subsequent terms of 3 years each. The board of firewards shall have such powers as are granted by RSA 154:2, and the power to appoint the fire chief. (A majority vote is required)

The Moderator called for a backup, the original Article 43 needed to have a motion to be moved before Article 23.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to move Article 43 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to amend Article 43 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 43 regarding it not being a legal Article as written.

Nick Kalfas was representing the Alton Fire Association and the Article was written word for word from an Article written 5 years ago that changed the governing body from Firewards to Selectmen and they wanted to show their appreciation.

Marc DeCoff stated that there is only one governing body and that is the Selectmen.

Steve Miller questioned what is the Selectmen's position was for why we don't need firewards and the Fire Department's reasoning as to why we do need firewards.

Nick Kalfas spoke regarding this issue; the rationale was to save \$4,000.00 a year. The association has recognized that the Selectmen have a very, very full plate and the fire service is very unique hybrid organization and they don't communicate very well to the Selectmen as evidenced earlier in this evening's discussion. The firewards would deal with only that department and no other making it much more efficient and cost effective.

Jeffrey St. Cyr voiced his concerns of the need of governing bodies over the various departments.

Ken Roberts, Highway Agent speaking as former chairman of the firewards wanted to clarify that the firewards are for following SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) to see that things are done for the benefit of the Town.

Steve Miller again asked the Selectmen to state their case on the reasons for not having firewards without pay.

R. Loring Carr responded that he doesn't see an advantage and there is no communication problem, if there is a communication problem it is not with the Selectmen it is within themselves. I will not amend or change a petition article.

Tim MacDonald just wants the department head to do the research and recommend to the Selectmen, and do their jobs.

Mike Viscariello wanted to clarify a few things; regarding the last Article, it was me speaking as a taxpayer and it is not right that you hold Chief Williams responsible like you would hold any other department head.

Tim MacDonald stated that if you want a job in Alton and you are spending our tax dollars, you need to do your job and you should be responsible.

David Hussey stated that the Selectmen have fiduciary power but have no power with reprimands or decisions among the Fire Department.

Barbara Howard talked about a discussion regarding a need for a capital improvement program for your trucks.

Robert Daniels questioned the legal wording of the amendment.

Marc Northridge, Moderator stated that he had the amendment here and that has been "cleaned up" and read the amendment.

To see if the Town will vote to reorganize the Fire Department to the form set forth in RSA 154:1, I(d). There shall be established a board of firewards with three members, to be elected in accordance with RSA 669:17 commencing in 2014. They shall serve staggered terms of 1, 2, and 3 years with subsequent terms of 3 years each. The board of firewards shall have such powers as are granted by RSA 154:2, and the power to appoint the fire chief. (A majority vote is required)

The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment passed by a favorable vote.

Krista Argiropolis questioned what the budget impact would be?

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator stated that it was none, if the Article passes and the board is established, the question would be raised to establish a salary for the firewards in the 2014 budget.

Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 43 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 44: To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Marc Northridge, Moderator called upon Andy McLeod, Budget Committee Chairman he formally thanked Barbara Howard for her services as this will be her last meeting.

R. Loring Carr addressed Article 10, the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance; I hope that the voters really read this Article. It makes a lot of changes with subdivisions some areas are called common lands or cluster housing. There are a lot of changes with this and the people ought to know what they are voting for with this Article.

Ruth Messier congratulated everyone on going home early.

Bob Russell asked that the Articles be put on the website for people to see and read.

Dave Hussey thanked Peter Bolster for his due diligence while serving his two (2) terms in office as Selectman, as he is not returning this year.

Phil Whitman voiced concerns that the public needs to have more input to planning and zoning decisions under the purview of Article 21 which is shocking.

Steve Miller, Zoning Board member stated that there was a public hearing on these items some people show up and some don't.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis

Recording Secretary