

**TOWN OF ALTON  
DELIBERATIVE SESSION  
FEBRUARY 4, 2015  
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mark Northridge, Town Moderator, 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.

R. Loring Carr introduced the members representing the Town of Alton.

Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk  
Peggy Hawksley, Recording Secretary  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator  
James Sessler, Town Attorney  
Lou LaCourse, Selectman  
Cydney Johnson, Selectman  
Marc DeCoff, Vice-Chairman  
R. Loring Carr, Chairman  
David Hussey, Selectman

A. McLeod introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee.

Andy McLeod, Chairman  
Steve Miller, School Board Representative  
Roger Nelson, Vice Chairman  
Terence O'Rourke, Member  
John Markland, Member

Ruth Messier, Member, was absent

Alton resident Jeffrey Clay requested a legal clarification opinion as to Alton Board of Selectman Mr. David Hussey's legal standing as a member of the Board of Selectmen prior to moving forward with this meeting.

Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion as we are here this evening to discuss warrant articles.

Marc DeCoff read the announcement and informed all in attendance of the passing of K-9 Zeke.

Mark Northridge read the Moderator's Rules into the record.

Mark Northridge called upon R. Loring Carr, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to deliver the State of the Town message. R. Loring Carr provided an overview of achieved goals and objectives for 2014 and thanked the Town Administrator, staff, department heads and employees for providing excellent customer service to Alton residents and also the volunteers who served on various committees and commissions. R. Loring Carr recognized Anne Kroeger's many years of service to the town from 1987 to 2015 and wishes her well in her upcoming retirement.

## **WARRANT ARTICLES**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday, the Fourth (4th) day of February in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen (2015), 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 10, 2015 at the Prospect Mountain High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**Warrant Articles 1 through 10 have already been through the hearing process and cannot be amended and there will be no discussion.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00)** for road reconstruction, such sum to be raised through the issuance of not more than **Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00)** of bonds or notes accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon and to take all other actions necessary or convenient to carry out this vote; and to further appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** for the payment of bond counsel and other financing costs, such sum to be raised by taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1-1)] (Three-Fifths (3/5) ballot vote required)

**Cydney Johnson moved Article 11 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 11 stating the Board of Selectmen is recommending a road reconstruction bond for \$2,000,000.00 for the March 2015 Town Meeting. The purpose would be to increase our road improvements as the \$750,000.00 each year does not provide enough funding to meet the road improvement needs. The cost of asphalt each year has steadily increased but our funding has remained level. We have provided a list of roads scheduled for upgrades for the years 2015 through 2019. This list is our objective with the understanding that changes could be made based on new information or road failures. A 2008 road study was done projecting a cost of \$11,200,000.00 to repair and upgrade the town roads. Since 2008 we have invested \$4,500,000.00. The increase in asphalt has reduced the normal \$750,000.00 in 2008 dollars to just \$600,000.00 dollars in 2014. We also acknowledge as of 2005 we have added seven new class V roads to be maintained by the town. The \$2,000,000.00 bond plus the \$750,000.00 each year will allow us to get ahead of the road improvement curve and allow for more timely improvements.

Jeffrey Clay asked has the Alton Board of Selectmen ever met during one of their two posted meetings to discuss issues of this article.

Cydney Johnson responded yes.

Mr. Clay continued and asked has any consideration been given to what the impact this will have on the senior citizens who are having a difficult time paying their property taxes and reducing the amount of time they may need or money to put gas in their tanks to drive on these roads.

Cydney Johnson responded that a public hearing was held on the bond and they had only positive feedback.

**Mr. Clay made a motion to delete the entire article.**

Mark Northridge responded that he will not accept the motion as you cannot delete an article.

**Jeffrey Clay made a motion to reduce the article to \$1.00 and the motion was seconded by Ray Howard.**

R. Loring Carr referred the audience to the handout that was provided showing a chart comparing the proposed bond with the \$750,000.00 and the number of roads that can be addressed. It also shows how the roads start to go further back into the schedule and that the Town is getting further behind. He noted that the Board held off during the recession and we are at the point where we are going to have to pay a lot more to fix the roads if we don't start to work on them.

Ken Roberts, Alton Highway Department, told the audience that they have stretched it as far as they can and they are falling behind. The Selectmen have come up with the bond issue to try and get ahead. The \$2,000,000.00 is very optimistic but he is unsure that will even be enough. He assured the audience that they will do the best they can with what is given to them. The Board of Selectmen has worked hard on the bond and he recommends it.

Steve Miller believes the bond is the wrong way to do it and that we should add \$500,000.00 to the \$750,000.00 in the current budget. He stated bring it down to \$1.00 or zero and propose to add \$500,000.00 to the operating budget for Highway Improvement. He urges everyone not to vote for the \$2,000,000.00 bond but vote for \$2,000,000.00 over the next 4 years, at \$500,000.00 per year.

Cydney Johnson responded to Steve Miller's comments and stated one of the reasons we asked for a \$2,000,000.00 bond vs. putting in an additional \$500,000.00 per year is that the \$2,000,000.00 allows us to do multi-year funding and sign a long term contract and lock in pricing at today's prices. We would not be able to do that with contractors who are unsure whether a \$1,250,000.00 warrant article would pass each year. Every year there is the chance that it will fail and that is the reality of having public voting on this. I would ask that you vote against an amendment to take this down to \$1.00 or zero it out. She does not believe that 35-40 people in attendance have the ability to vote on a \$2,000,000.00 bond. It takes a 3/5 vote in order for this to pass. Let's let the voters in town tell us if they want us to approach it this way. Not 40 people sitting in the room tonight. I respectfully ask that you not approve this.

Barbara Howard stated she is in favor of the amendment and she would like to ask if it was ever a consideration to find the money by taking a hard look and making some cuts.

Jeffrey Clay stated four people on the Board of Selectmen decided to put this on the Warrant article and now we are being told by one of the Selectmen that us, we are the legislatures here, this is our meeting we can vote any way we want. The problem with this is in difficult times you should be cutting the budget by 10% across the board. You have to set priorities. Priorities should not be pavement of road when people cannot afford to eat, heat their homes or drive on those roads that you want to pave.

Raymond Howard asked how much was spent on the study that was done.

Russ Bailey responded the study completed in 2008 was about \$10,000.00.

Ray Howard continued since 2008 the Police Budget has grown by about a half million dollars. Instead of growing the police budget maybe the Select Board should have concentrated on what the study revealed and put that into new roads.

R. Loring Carr believes Steve Miller's argument that you should vote for the amendment because we can put in \$500,000.00 added on to the \$750,000.00.

Steve Miller stated you can either put \$1.00 on the warrant article and put the \$500,000.00 in the Operating Budget or put \$500,000.00 in this article and then put out a \$500,000.00 warrant article for the next 3 years.

L. Carr responded if we put \$500,000.00 on top of the \$750,000.00 and it doesn't pass then we have no money to maintain the roads. We have discussed this and the problem is the voters are only going to see

dollar amounts and they are going to come into the ballot and they are going to see that the budget has gone up a half million dollars, and the default is a half million dollars less. That is part of the process that we have to go through and the Board did not feel that it was going to be an option that was going to pass. People are going to see a high number and not know what it is about so we rejected that idea. This has been discussed by the Board numerous times during our budget workshops.

Steve Miller disagreed and believed if it was explained and marketed properly that the townspeople are smart enough to understand that the extra \$500,000.00 in the Operating Budget is for something that is really needed and the operating budget will pass. If the operating budget does not pass and you go to default you still have the town's surplus to use. He believes the Board is underestimating the Town people and they will pass the operating budget.

Sally Harvey, Lily Pond Road, she welcomes everyone to come drive down her road. She has watched the town try to repair and maintain the road as it washes away and leaves four foot ditches. The Board has realized they are behind the eight ball and they are trying to be proactive in the future and maybe save money on interest by locking in the \$2,000,000.00.

There was a request for a secret ballot.

Jeffrey Clay called for a point of order and asked who requested the secret ballot. Mark Northridge responded, Cydney Johnson, Marc DeCoff, Robert Carr, David Hussey and Lou LaCourse.

Jeffrey Clay called for a point of order and stated the right to know law provides that these people are in a public session that everything they say and do has to be audible and discernible for all of us here in the audience and they can't communicate to each other like they have been during this meeting.

Mark Northridge stated they are voters in the town and he accepts their request for a secret ballot.

Steve Miller requested a point of order with a request to repeat the amendment.

Mark Northridge stated the amendment is to reduce the dollar amount of Article 11 to \$1.00.

Mr. Clay called for a point of order to see if anyone was monitoring the process.

Mark Northridge stated yes and pointed to one of the workers.

**The results of the secret ballot were: 11 in favor and 35 opposed  
The amendment fails.**

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 11 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events Barbershoppers, band concerts, magic show and other forms of activities. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 12 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 12 and stated this is to fund some of the Old Home Week events. The event has wilted in the past few years and the Alton Business Association has taken it upon

themselves to revive it. The Barbershoppers will now be appearing. This would fund some of the activities and events that will happen during the Old Home Week.

Jeffrey Clay asked if the Board ever discussed this during one of their two regular sessions of the Alton Board of Selectmen.

R. Loring Carr responded yes.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to delete the entire article.  
Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and was seconded by Barbara Howard.

Raymond Howard spoke and asked why this was not taken out of the Parks and Rec Department.

Moderator Mark Northridge called for a vote on the amendment.

The Amendment failed.

Marybee Longabaugh stated that this be put to a vote in March to let the whole town decide whether they want these things to happen.

Discussion ensued on the lack of voters who attend the deliberative session.

**Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 12 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)** for the purpose of funding the repair and upgrade of the sidewalks in Alton bay. This would include the sidewalks along the water and paved sidewalks along Route 11. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (4-1) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 13 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

Dave Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 13 and stated this is to appropriate \$35,000.00 for the purpose of the funding, re-grade and upgrade of sidewalks along Alton Bay. This would include sidewalks along the water and paved sidewalks along Route 11. This would go along with what we have already done in Town and the merchants are very happy that we have done it. People were falling down from the un-even concrete and tar that was being kicked up. One lawsuit would take care of the \$35,000.00 that we are asking for today. The sidewalks have become un-even from trucks driving on them, bricks are coming out and we are waiting for an accident to happen.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to delete the entire article.  
Moderator Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and was seconded by Barbara Howard.

Barbara Howard spoke and stated she does not support the \$35,000.00 because the town voted for a dollar amount last year for sidewalk improvements and superseded that amount by \$8,000.00 by adding more sidewalks to the project and how do we know they are going to hold to this budget.

Jeffrey Clay asked how you arrived at \$35,000.00.

David Hussey responded that it was figured out by the Town Administrator, price per foot for granite, price per foot for pavement, etc. We are not talking about new sidewalks we are talking about fixing the ones that we have today that could cause us trouble in the future.

Jeffrey Clay responded did you consider cutting anything in order to pay the \$35,000.00.

Jeffrey Clay called for a point of order and stated it is quite apparent that the Moderator is trying to shut him down on this issue that we vote to disallow the Moderator's rules pertaining to shutting down the honest opinion of the legislators. He is voicing his opinion and he is asking for you to shut down the code and allow him to speak his mind.

R. Loring Carr asked for clarification of which exact rule and Mr. Clay responded I make a motion that we disallow all the moderator's rules tonight and allow the legislatures to decide.

Mark Northridge interjected and stated that we already have a motion on the floor.

R. Loring Carr called for a point of order and stated it is just plain disruptive.

Ken Roberts stated he believes Mr. Hussey stated it perfectly. One accident costs you hundreds of thousands of dollars. The deterioration is an open liability. This Board has looked at it and asked how we cannot, if that situation happens since it has already been brought to our attention. It needs to be fixed.

R. Loring Carr stated other articles have been cut to address this situation.

Moderator Mark Northridge called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment failed.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 13 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be placed into the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This would be used for upgrading the HVAC, the handicap lift and other needed repairs to the town hall. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 14 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 14 and gave an overview of the improvements made to date and stated we are looking into possibly doing a heat pump system for pre-winter heating to save on fuel costs and with a heat pump to do air conditioning. The handicap lift continues to have an issue and it is an older model that we can't get parts for.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to delete the entire article.

Moderator Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and the motion was not seconded.

**Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 14 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 15:** 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 (5-2)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 15 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

Lou LaCourse spoke on behalf of Article 15 and stated that this Article in the amount of \$20,000.00 is to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund for continued repair and upkeep of the sidewalks in town. Last year we used money to rebuild the sidewalks along Main Street and would like to continue to do that through the main part of town for the safety of our citizens.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to delete the entire article.  
Moderator Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and the motion was not seconded.

Steve Miller asked if Article 13 does not pass, and you cannot do the sidewalks by the Bay can they use money from Article 15 to fix sidewalks by the bay.

Russ Bailey stated Article 15 is a Capital Reserve and can be used on any sidewalk in the town.

Steve Miller stated if the Bay Article fails that means the Town does not want you to use that money to fix the sidewalks by the Bay.

Russ Bailey stated we checked with the DRA and it would not apply here because of the way the articles are set up.

S. Miller stated then he won't vote for it.

R. Loring Carr stated that the intention of the Board was that Article 15 continues with the phases that we have put forth before and that is our intent. The one for the Bay is only going to be used for the bay and that is the Boards intention. If the Bay Article fails we don't put in sidewalks with that money.

Steve Miller stated if the Board respects that then I would vote for it.

Barbara Howard asked if there is a current balance on the reserve fund.

Russ Bailey responded that it is zero.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 15 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)** 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 (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Cydney Johnson moved Article 16 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 16 and stated this is to keep up with the state mandate to monitor the seepage from our landfill. We put in a couple of new wells last year to see if the seepage was

spreading. It is used as our yearly expenses to cover engineering and testing and if the state mandates us to put in any more wells.

There was no discussion.

**Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 16 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** 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 (6-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 17 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 17 and stated currently the trust has a balance of \$7,794.00. We have one long term employee retiring this year and will have a large balance due as a result. There are others that are certainly eligible for retirement and who could choose to leave employment and we would need to pay those benefits out to them. So this would be to cover those expenses per our employment agreement.

Jeffrey Clay asked if the Board of Selectmen considered reducing or cutting the current staffing levels to pay for this.

Cydney Johnson responded no.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to delete the entire article.  
Moderator Mark Northridge stated he will not accept the motion.

Jeffrey Clay motioned to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and the motion was not seconded.

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 17 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed with 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 Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the Transfer Station, as previously established, which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 18 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

Dave Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 18 and stated this is for building and house compactors to improve recycling their faucets and cardboard and increases the recycle funds and lower the transport cost. They are also keeping within the requirements of the EPA water implication.

There was no discussion.

**Dave Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 18 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$23,500.00)** to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established as recommended by the Milfoil Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 19 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion.**

Lou LaCourse spoke on behalf of Article 19 for the continued control of the milfoil in the bay and other areas of the lake. The milfoil is here and we need to do our best to control it.

There was no discussion.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 19 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Cemetery Building Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established as recommended by the Cemetery Trustees. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 20 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

Cydney Johnson spoke on behalf of Article 20 and stated the current balance in the fund is currently \$1,170.00. They are looking to replace the water tank, the hot water tank, the shed doors on Main Street, to put in energy efficient windows in the new cemetery building and update the lighting and painting of the new cemetery. Last year they did a roof, two doors and the floors.

John Bishop gave an over view of the current issues with the cemetery buildings and the proposed work to be completed.

Barbara Howard asked if the Highway Department was still digging graves for the Cemetery and is Parks and Rec. still doing the lawn care and helping out.

Russ Bailey responded that unless there is an unusual event the Cemetery staff is handling that.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 20 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**A five minute break was taken.**

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be added to the Senior Center Pearson Road Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Cydney Johnson moved Article 21 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 21 and stated this is to keep up the addition that was completed and to finish up the interior and exterior. We expensed out \$59,857.00 as of December 31, 2014 and there is \$3,398.79 left.

**Bob Longabaugh stated he would like to amend the amount from \$25,000 to \$125,000.00 and was seconded by Marybee Longabaugh**

Bob Longabaugh stated he spoke with the Town Planner and asked him if this would finish up the Community Center and the Town Planner stated no, the current estimate is about \$125,000.00. That is why I would like to change it to \$125,000.00. I would like to see the Community Center become the voting place. It is more centrally located and would work better as the voting place. He would like the Community Center completed next year instead of 5 years so he can go there before he dies.

Duane Hammond said he concurs with the amendment and he would like to get it done with today's dollars. Five years from now it will cost a lot more and the town needs a central focal point so we don't necessarily have to do everything at the high school. It is a perfect place, an ideal building to have town meetings, take the initiative and get the job done.

Ray Howard stated it is more than just the residents of our town that use the Senior Center. I don't see why we can't go to these other towns and say can you support the senior center seeing how your seniors use it. Maybe we should consider that.

S. Miller asked what have we spent over the past 10 years and what is the square footage. You could build a brand new house for \$125.00 a square foot.

Duane Hammond replied that it is about 4,000 square feet. A lot of volunteer's time and effort and energy have gone into the building who wants to see this happen. We need it for the Town, a place for people to meet.

John Markland asked if there was suitable parking for voting day.

Russ Bailey stated he can't give an exact number but it could probably handle 70-80 cars easily not counting parking that might be on the roadway.

**The vote taken for the amendment was tied at 22 in favor and 22 opposed.**

**A re-vote was taken and the amendment passed 23 in favor and 21 opposed.**

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 21 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 22:** 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 Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Five Dollars (\$6,712,905.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Six Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,699,486.00), 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 (5-0) and Budget Committee (7-0).]

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

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 22 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 22 and stated the Selectmen concede to the Budget Committee proposed operating budget amount.

Bob Longabaugh asked for clarification if the operating budget allowed for the \$14,000.00 for the LRPA membership.

Russ Bailey replied in reference to the Public Channel there is only \$5,000.00 in the budget not \$14,000.00.

Bob Longabaugh asked if it could be shifted from another line item.

Russ Bailey stated the Board of Selectmen has that right by law to move between lines and maintain the bottom line but he can't speak for the Board.

**Jeffrey Clay made a motion to raise the budget 10% and then there won't be 30 or 40 articles to vote on for appropriations they will be in the budget. Raise it by 10%.**

Mark Northridge stated that there was an amendment to increase the dollar amount of \$6,712,905.00 by 10% to \$7,384,195.00

Roger Nelson seconded the motion.

Barbara Howard asked for clarification if the \$125,000.00 for the Senior Center passes and this amendment passes do we supersede the 10% rule on the budget.

Russ Bailey responded no we can go up to \$1,000,000.00 so we won't be over.

Ray Howard asked if this amendment passes will it affect the default budget as well.

Russ Bailey responded for next year not for this year. The one that would be on the ballot for this year would not change.

**A vote was taken and the amendment failed.**

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 22 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$150,000.00 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 (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 23 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

Dave Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 23 and stated this is self-explanatory and is self-funded from the Ambulance Operations Fund and all payments are raised from that and no general taxation is used.

There was no discussion.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 23 and seconded by Dave Hussey. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)** 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 (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 24 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion.**

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 24 and stated that the fund for the building improvement we've put in \$50,000.00 to bring it up to \$287,526.21. This year we dropped it down to \$45,000.00 so we could fund the sidewalks by the Bay. We will increase the fund down the road if we need to build a new station or add on.

There was no discussion.

**Dave Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 24 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00)** 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; engine number 5 which was built in 1975 is 39 years old. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 25 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

Marc DeCoff spoke on behalf of Article 25 and stated this is another article we dropped down from \$100,000.00. Last year \$100,000.00 was appropriated so the fund right now for the equipment is \$247,202.49. We are asking for \$95,000.00. The engine is now 39 years old and we are holding off as long as it keeps passing inspection so we can fully fund it.

Jeffrey Clay asked if the 39 year old vehicle was in service.

Marc DeCoff responded yes.

Jeffrey Clay continued is it operating fine and asked what is the cost of a new fire engine.

Marc DeCoff responded this fire engine is in the West Alton station and you would have to get a low engine. It will be in excess of \$450,000.00 and right now we only have \$247,000.00 to purchase it.

Jeffrey Clay asked how often the fire station actually goes into service, how often is it used, how many calls has it been on.

Marc DeCoff responded that the station is very active. We will have to look into the call line.

Ryan Ridley, Captain of the Fire Department, stated it could go out once a day or once a week.

Jeffrey Clay asked is it being utilized or is it something that we can close.

Ryan Ridley responded if you live in West Alton and you have an emergency it would be my assumption that you would like a fire truck to respond. On a good day it is a 10 minute drive from the central station. A fire doubles in size every two minutes.

There was a discussion on recent fires in the area.

Jeffrey Clay stated if it is not being utilized and it is just sitting there and costing hundreds of thousands of dollars and there is a 10 minute difference, perhaps it is time to close that fire station and take the money and give it back to the tax payers.

Ryan Ridley responded in my personal opinion as a career fire fighter for over 30 years if you want to wait for a vehicle to come from town and that is assuming there are people there to staff it, there are 6 or 7 people who live within a mile of that station. If they have to drive from there to the Central Station to get the fire apparatus that is not efficient.

Dave Hussey commented that has been discussed by the Selectmen several times and we received feedback from the Chief and that would mean that most of West Alton's insurance payments would go up and would not be fair to do that. So we have explored it.

Bob Longabaugh commented we like our services in Alton.

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 25 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 26 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 26 and stated this is for the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. We currently have \$134,027.00 in the fund. We have a 1999 loader, the 1988 grader, we have a 2009 International truck, a 2001 MAC, a 2000 MAC, 1997 MAC, a 2003 MAC, a 1989 sweeper and a 1985 roller. A 6 wheeler is approximately \$140,000.00; a 10 wheeler is \$170,000.00. This was dropped from \$100,000.00 to \$95,000.00 to help pay for the sidewalks down by the bay. The equipment is old and costly and we are still following the philosophy of the Board to build up the capital reserve on these items in steps.

Barbara Howard stated she recalls from attending past meetings that it was actually the Board of Selectmen who found the bargain equipment that is now so old that we need the money. Is the \$95,000.00 in anticipation of the \$2,000,000.00 bond passing?

R. Loring Carr stated no. The equipment for the highway department is not part of the \$2,000,000.00. The trucks you spoke about were government surplus trucks that we paid nothing for and are used for snow plowing and for road reconstruction hauling.

Jeffrey Clay made a motion to reduce the article to \$1.00

There was no second.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 26 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 27:** 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 Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 27 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

Dave Hussey spoke on behalf of Article 27 and stated we have about \$40,000.00 in there now and we have roof repairs and we have to add insulation.

Ken Roberts, Highway Agent, stated the building is loaded with buckets to catch all the water that falls when it is raining. The roof was sealed once about 14 years ago and that worked for some time. It needs to be replaced and the insulation is just about gone. I burn about 6,000 gallons a year.

Jeffrey Clay stated is it feasible.

Dave Hussey responded that the building is secure, it is the roof that is bad.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 27 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 28:** 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 \$162,966. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 28 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 28 and stated this is the article that we spoke about before with the \$2,000,000.00 and I believe we have covered it. This is the current yearly amount that we put in. I think we can call it the losing ground maintenance request because we are losing ground with this.

Jeffrey Clay stated it is probably one of the last things he wants to hear is that you want to appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars and we are losing ground. I believe that is inappropriate for a selectman to say. He asked which member of the Budget Committee voted against it.

Roger Nelson voted against it.

Jeffrey Clay thanked him and in discussing this article we can see where it is going and it is not going to make a difference and he hopes the people at home listening vote against it and every one of the articles presented tonight. We can't afford it, we should talk about cutting back everywhere across the board. I think responsible leadership dictates, mandates and requires that you take care of the citizens. He hopes that the citizens vote it all down.

R. Loring Carr stated I grew up in this town and we had the worst roads in the area. When you went from New Durham into Alton you almost had to stop. The roads were full of pot holes and you couldn't go more than 20-30 miles an hour on the main roads. The argument that we can't afford it we are going back to that era where people had to repair their vehicles constantly. We used to have kingpins in the cars instead of ball joints. It wasn't unusual to put kingpins in the vehicles two times a year. Ken Roberts has brought it up time and time again that the roads are deteriorating. Take a ride down Bay Hill Road. The

Selectmen walked over a dozen roads this year to address these issues. It was that which brought us to the \$2,000,000.00 and to continue with the \$750,000.00

Barbara Howard stated my road was paved a couple of years ago and since then my road is a speedway. She further stated she has offered to let an officer sit in her driveway to monitor the traffic. Her cats have been hit by cars and children are in danger on the street. The speed limit is 20 to 30 miles per hour on all of these roads; people should be going that slow. If it takes pot holes to get it done I say go for it.

R. Loring Carr stated if people want pot holes, mud and want to have the roads like that then they should certainly vote against it.

Mark DiVito spoke and stated I attended the hearing for the road bond. I live on one of those roads and I have a repair estimate for the front end of my car for \$700.00 that I now have to come up. The Highway Department can't do anything to the road. We need to do something.

Jeffrey Clay stated point of interest there are a lot of people who enjoy living on their gravel or dirt roads and they don't want them paved. It takes away from the rustic scenery, the country way of life.

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

**ARTICLE 29:** 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 Library Building Improvement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established as recommended by the Library Trustees. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 29 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

R. Loring Carr spoke on behalf of Article 29 and stated unfortunately the Library Trustees couldn't be here tonight. The current balance is \$995.00. The original building is 62 years old and the new addition is 17 years old. The money will be used for painting the sides and the back, they have some rot problems in the front entry way and they also want to repair the front steps.

There was no discussion.

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

**ARTICLE 30:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 30 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

**R. Loring Carr made a motion to amend Article 30 to add language after December 31, 2015 "furthermore to establish a committee of, two Board of Selectmen, two Budget Committee Members and the Town Moderator charged to develop a plan or process with a goal of reducing the**

**number of non-profit and community service articles in the town warrant. This Committee will present this plan for consideration in the 2016 warrant.”**

**The motion was seconded by Dave Hussey.**

R. Loring Carr added the public is well aware that we have a number of non-profit and community service warrants every year. We are up to over 40 articles. I hope we can start a committee that will eliminate having so many articles, combine or come up with a process where we don't have to have so many articles. It is getting to be a burden on the public to have to go through all of these and I would like to have that studied and presented for next year's warrant.

Steve Miller asked the town attorney Mr. Sessler if that is a legal amendment to the article.

Mr. Sessler responded that it doesn't change the purpose of the article but it does add an additional element to it. I understand why Mr. Carr is doing it but it is not true main to the article it really should be a motion at the end of the meeting to get a sense of what the meeting wants us to do, but it is not a valid amendment to the article.

R. Loring Carr asked if he should withdraw the motion.

Mr. Sessler stated if you withdraw the motion and maybe you can make it at the end of the meeting if the Moderator will entertain, to get a sense of the meeting if that is what they want you to do. I think with the amendment, you are seeking a sense of the meeting that they want you to do this. If they give it to you at the end when we do the reports I think that would be a good idea. Then we don't have to worry about the legality of amending this article.

R. Loring Carr withdrew the amendment and Dave Hussey withdrew his second.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 30 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 31:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Cydney Johnson moved Article 31 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

There was no discussion.

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 31 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$2,369.00)** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-3)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 32 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

**Andy McLeod would like to amend to \$1.00 and was seconded by Ray Howard.**

Steve Miller asked what the percentage was for the administration costs and Duane Hammond asked what percentage of the money they collect goes to the causes to help.

Andy McLeod stated they claim it is 9%. They state that 91% of the money goes out to the causes and their accountants said they don't specifically know what the number is yet and I have not seen the final report so I don't have an exact number.

**Amendment passed with a vote of 17 in favor and 13 opposed.**

**The dollar amount is reduced to \$1.00.**

**Roger Nelson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 32 and Andy McLeod seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 33:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 33 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

There was no discussion.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 33 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 34:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$246.00)** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 34 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion.**

There was no discussion.

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 34 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 35:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,530.00)** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 35 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

Steve Miller asked if New Beginnings was one of the charities that have not picked up their check yet from last year.

Russ Bailey responded that everyone has picked up their payments.

Barbara Howard was wondering if there was any investigation by anyone on the Board or the Budget Committee of the mandatory health care for everyone and how many of these services for these non-profits are now covered under Obama Care.

Cydney Johnson stated that she did only pertaining to an article that she could speak to as a citizen not a selectman. So far that agency has not seen any increase in payment for their services due to Obama Care.

Barbara Howard stated she looked into a lot of these agencies and they all have multiple revenue sources and most of the revenue sources are tax based. We are generating taxes to contribute to all these non-profits that are already getting our federal, state, county federal grants and how many times can we pay taxes for one agency.

Cydney Johnson responded that she can't speak to the one in question. I can only speak to the one I looked into.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 35 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 36:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$15,750.00)** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 36 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.**

Ray Howard believes Mr. Carr has a good idea to put a panel together to look at these outside agencies. Genesis collects in Belknap County over \$11,000,000.00 annually. Some of the towns don't support it. They only serve 705 people in the entire county. That works out to about \$15,000.00 per client. These outside agencies all overlap in services. The CAP program, meals on wheels, and pre-natal programs overlap of services and I think at the end of the meeting we should put a committee together to look at this not to combine them, but to figure out which ones are overlapping and get rid of them.

**R. Loring Carr motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 36 and David Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 37:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 37 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

Marybee Longabaugh stated that she has been doing this for many years. The money is used strictly for the phone system that is set up in Wolfeboro and for gas money for those people that may be on welfare but want to help people and therefore after a certain amount of miles can ask for gas money. For Alton people who need the transportation it is provided by Alton people and they don't go to Wolfeboro to provide transportation for them. We serve strictly Alton people and if there aren't enough of us then Wolfeboro will step in. I ask for the support of this because it is a good program making sure people can get to their doctor's appointments.

Raymond Howard stated I am not against transportation for people who need it but we already pay for this service through our Belknap county taxes and they service three of the towns in Belknap County. We have to go to Wolfeboro so we are paying twice to get one service.

**Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 37 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 38:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)] (A majority vote is required)

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 38 and Dave Hussey seconded the motion.**

There was no discussion.

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

**ARTICLE 39:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)] (A majority vote is required)

**Dave Hussey moved Article 39 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion.**

Steve Miller asked how many kids in Alton participated last year.

Cydney Johnson stated there is no representative here.

**Dave Hussey motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 39 and Lou LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 40:** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

**Lou LaCourse moved Article 40 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion.**

Pat Williams would like to thank everyone for supporting Child & Family Services for the past number of years. Ms. Williams provided the following information on the number of families that have been helped, adolescent substance abuse treatment, one individual for four hours; children's enrichment activities, four; family counseling for four families for 9 hours and parent aid for two individuals for 33 hours. This is a total of eleven individuals and 67 hours of services. She also stated they not only support children and families in Alton but we also have a camp program and several children from Alton have gone through the camping program.

**Lou LaCourse motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 40 and Cydney Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 41:** The undersigned Alton registered voters and/or abutting landowners do hereby request the Town of Alton to designate Rines Road in East Alton, NH a scenic road compliant with the standards and objectives of New Hampshire RSA 231:157 and 158 in regard to the preservation of trees and stone walls along town roads. Rines Road extends from Route 28 to the New Durham town line. [Article not recommended by the Selectmen (5-0)] (A majority vote is required).

**Sandra Hammond moved Article 41 and was seconded by Duane Hammond.**

Sandra Hammond spoke in favor of Article 41 and stated that she supports the article for the designation of Rines Road as scenic road and no money from taxation is needed for this warrant article. A scenic road designation in no way limits the rights of the municipality to remove nuisance trees threatening properties or safety. Presently the road agents must obtain written permission from the towns Board of Selectmen before removing nuisance trees. Scenic road definition does not change that. Towns are already required to give prior notice to abutters before cutting trees on any public highway not just scenic roads. If work is to be done on a scenic road by the state, town or utility company permission must be granted by the town Planning Board if the work involves the cutting of trees or removal of stone walls. Before granting that permission the Planning Board must place a notice two times in a newspaper circulated in the area stating the times, place and date of the meeting. The last notice is to be at least 7 days prior to that meeting. Scenic road status does not affect the rights of any land owners doing work on his or her property except for the removal of stone walls, especially boundary walls. There are many historic properties along this road as well as conservation properties. While walking along Rines Road I have met many people from other parts of Alton and other towns as well who come here specifically to enjoy a trek along this road. The Conservation Commission supports this article. The residents of Rines Road have no intention to nit pic the removal of every tree along the roadway. We are concerned of the inevitable re-build of Rines Road that every tree and stone wall within a 60-80 foot width of a new road way need not be destroyed. We feel that if it is absolutely necessary to remove a stone wall and that it be rebuilt and restored to its new location. I know this has been done before in Alton but not everywhere. We want all applicable procedures followed with regards to public notifications, hearings and communication with home owners in accordance with scenic road status. I want this article included on the 2015 town ballot and let the voters decide its merit.

R. Loring Carr would like to state the Board of Selectmen's objection for this and it will be the same for the next three. Most selectmen voted not to support the scenic road petition for the following reasons; it restricts ability of the town from maintaining the roads; it requires a public hearing before any work can be done; inhibits the proper road maintenance through borders of trees and stone wall maintenance; interferes with the property owners ability to have tree work done along the right of way. We received a letter from Michael Nezar and Lynn Nezar of 139 Gilman's Corner Road. The following quote from the letter explains the Board of Selectmen's position. "There are no obvious benefits to the town to have

designated scenic roads. Inappropriate development is already addressed by the Planning Board. Town maintenance of its road may be encumbered and certainly delayed with the additional administrative burden of obtaining Planning Board consent to work on designated roads. This additional administrative burden on the Highway Department will certainly increase the Town's cost of doing business and ultimately affect property taxes within the town. Value the Planning Board to protect trees and walls on designated roads or accidental disturbance to trees and walls in the conduct of a proven work of designated roads could also result in costly litigation and restoration expense to the Town. There is no obvious benefits to residents of designated scenic roads in fact there is only added burden to the land owners normal maintenance of the property. I am advised by the Town Planner that typically in the Town of Alton there is a fifty foot right of way on all town roads, twenty-five feet in either direction from the center of the road. In the Town of Alton the landowner on a designated scenic road would be restricted from conducting normal maintenance such as pruning and cutting trees or repairing stone walls on property within that right of way under penalty of law and subject to liability and damages without obtaining prior written consent of the Planning Board. Not only is this a burden to the property owners but an added administrative burden on the Town of Alton handling." This comment will apply to all three warrant articles.

Sandy Hammond responded the Planning Board would have to give permission whether it happens in Alton she doesn't know. According to the RSA the Planning Board is involved if the trees are going to be cut particularly if they are going to be nuisance trees. We are not going to nit pic. This is just something we would like to be able to communicate with the Town and the Town road agent what we believe is best for our neighborhood. It is not affecting anyone else in any other way; it should not cost the town any more money than it already does to have a meeting. It doesn't have to be a special meeting just part of a regular meeting it is just a matter of planning.

Steven Paul 114 Rines Road, asked it was mentioned by Mr. Carr that when the road gets re-done then it because the center of the road to be how far out?

R. Loring Carr stated he was quoting out of the letter that the Selectmen received. We had a public hearing on this and that was quoted out of the letter that was read. This is the only input we have on this issue.

Steven Paul stated on my standpoint this proposal that has been put forward here, my house is very close to the road I don't know if it is, I'm going to meet with Ken, but if we were to go and make the road that wide that road would be on my porch. That is why I am asking that question hearing that now.

Ken Roberts stated he was asked about it prior to the petitions coming through. We just finished Bowman road and re-built sections of stone walls there and the owners seemed to be very happy with it. As far as extending the road beyond what is the town right of way we don't know until it is surveyed, and by rule of thumb is 50 feet wide. The road was never going to be 50 feet wide. Rines Road is one of those special roads; there is no drainage that is why it is falling apart. In discussion some of the trees are directly on top of the roadway. If I start putting drainage in I'm going to start ruining the root system and if I start ruining the root system I can leave the tree there and it may die. I did it on Old Wolfeboro Road I tried to leave the tree; the tree fell in the opposite direction and not on someone's house. That is what I'm afraid of with some of these trees if we cut the root system off. Stonewalls stay where they are at. We try to rebuild where we can. I don't think there is any stone wall that we ever moved. In the state of NH stone walls are everything. We actually try to uncover them so people can see them. We have a project coming up on Places Mills Road and we have done the first section and we moved all the dirt away so we could see the stone walls. We are trying to preserve the stone walls. We won't be entering anyone's property or put the road up on the front yard. Existing pavement is probably the pavement that is going to go back there. The drainage is the issue. As far as any road work that we do we have a public hearing all persons come in and talk. I have had residents that come in and ask me to remove extra trees and I have some residents that want to keep trees. If you look at it there are seven RSA's for cutting trees on the roads. We don't have a forester that deals with that but most of them are fruit trees. Where does the hazard tree come

up, right next to your house and there is an enormous limb that hangs across the road. That would have to come out because it is a liability issue. Sooner or later it is going to split and come down in the roadway. I am supposed to write letters to the landowners on any dead tree that may reach a roadway. If you have a 70 foot pine tree in your back yard I can actually write you a letter and tell you that you need to remove it because it is a hazard to the roadway. I try to work with everybody. On the corner of Gilman Road and Cory Road we rebuilt a whole section of stone wall on the corner and put in a planter. We try and work with the residents as much as possible, we are not trying to destroy it. I believe it is 2017 when it is scheduled to be rebuilt and I think if we all work together and have it rebuilt and revisit this at this time.

Sandy Hammond stated I get the feeling that you are afraid of this becoming a scenic road if you have been doing all this stuff all along. Why are you so afraid of this article being in effect? Why would this be a different issue for you?

Ken Roberts responded I deal with the Board of Selectmen and the public. I don't deal with the Planning Board on anything. Different opinions come up in different ways. It is not that I am afraid of it but it does restrict on how we do the road.

Sandy Hammond stated I have really no problem with you having to put in drainage if you have to do it. But get around the tree or not get around the tree because we have to take it down because of the root system is going to be affected and the tree will eventually fall down anyway. This is the stuff that can be worked out. I really think this should be in place to protect the land owners.

Ken Roberts stated we are going to work with all the landowners so what difference does it make if it is a scenic road or one that we maintain normally. I understand your point you're creating a title to something. A title to something that makes a whole lot of different work.

Mark DiVito stated this goes to the property owner as well from the gentlemen who just stated his porch is right on top of the road. The Scenic byway goes 60 feet from the center of the road if it is in the middle of his porch he can't work on his porch without permission from the Planning Board.

Dave Hussey stated he is confused about why are they asking permission from the Planning Board. Ken works with the Selectmen not the Planning Board.

Sandy Hammond stated it is not the fact that he is working for one or the other it is part of the RSA that it goes through this procedure.

Susan John, 142 Hayes Road, I also abut Rines Road and all three of these roads that are under question here are sparsely populated areas with lots of bordering conservation land, beautiful to drive through. We have had an increase in traffic lately due to the activities of the New Durham ATV club and that has had a big impact on Rines Road especially the condition of the road as it has deteriorated even further with vehicles hauling trailers and so forth along the way. I would hate to see the whole rural nature of our community **(inaudible)** and most of us who live in those particular roads do so because of the natural beauty and we would like to see that preserved.

R. Loring Carr stated we had a couple of hearings about this and did not have anyone come to speak, we only got this letter.

Sandy Hammond stated there was no notice of that and R. Loring Carr responded that it was posted.

R. Loring Carr continued I don't understand why you think there is going to be any different going to the Planning Board. The Planning Board is probably going to ask the Road Agent what we should do. I think you have this idea that the Planning Board is going to have a different agenda. He is the expert and they are going to add a burden that isn't going to materialize.

An Alton resident on 84 Rines Rd. owns a quarter of mile of stone wall and much of it has been undermined by the drainage project I would like assurance that in the future that we would positively be directly contacted before any of the work is done.

Ken Roberts stated that was something that was done to increase drainage. If drainage was put in properly as a re-build most of that would be underground and none of that would happen.

The Alton resident asked if his stone wall would be preserved.

Ken Roberts responded yes. A good example of that is on Trask Side Road you will see a good example of that drainage and what it does today.

Andy McLeod stated he lives up on Avery Hill Road that Ken completed in 2005 and a lot of those stone walls were cut back and taken care of very well for almost 8 years now. They have been perfectly stable and he did a fine job.

**Cydney Johnson motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 41 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 42:** The undersigned Alton registered voters and/or abutting landowners do hereby request the Town of Alton to designate Gilman's Corner Road in East Alton, NH a scenic road compliant with the standards and objectives of New Hampshire RSA 231:157 and 158 in regard to the preservation of trees and stone walls along town roads. Gilman's Corner Road extends from Route 28 to Drew Hill Road at Gilman's Corner. [Article not recommended by the Selectmen (5-0)] (A majority vote is required).

**Marc DeCoff moved Article 42 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion.**

Sandy Hammond stated the person who was going to speak is not here this evening. The same comments stated for Article 41 apply to this article as well.

**Marc DeCoff motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 42 and R. Loring Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote.**

**ARTICLE 43:** The undersigned Alton registered voters and/or abutting landowners do hereby request the Town of Alton to designate Drew Hill Road in East Alton, NH a scenic road compliant with the standards and objectives of New Hampshire RSA 231:157 and 158 in regard to the preservation of trees and stone walls along town roads. Drew Hill Road extends from Route 28 to the New Durham town line. [Article not recommended by the Selectmen (5-0)] (A majority vote is required).

**R. Loring Carr moved Article 43 and David Hussey seconded the motion.**

Sandy Hammond stated the same comments stated for Article 41 apply to this article as well.

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

**R. Loring Carr motioned to establish a committee consisting of 2 Selectmen, 2 Budget Committee Members and the Town Moderator charged with developing a plan/process of reducing the number of non-profit and community service articles in the town warrant. This Committee will present this plan for consideration in the 2018 warrant.**

The motion was seconded by David Hussey

A question was asked would it be appropriate to have one or two members of the community on that Committee.

Cydney Johnson stated that vote really does not meaning anything because we can't add this to the warrant articles. Wouldn't it have more appropriate to be taken up at a Selectmen's meeting and have a public hearing?

R. Loring Carr stated I think it is time we have some input from the public. We have gone over this with the Budget Committee. We just spent about an hour on the last ten. It may or may not be binding but I certainly think it would give the flavor that we would now finally do something. One of the members said to combine, not combining the dollars; maybe we can make an article that the articles can be combined into one article with no money.

Mark Northridge provided details on how the town of Wolfeboro handles their non-profit requests.

All in favor of the motion – motion passed.

**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.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.