

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2017
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

Mark Northridge, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

Cydney Johnson introduced the members representing the Town of Alton.

Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk

James Sessler, Town Attorney

Liz Dionne, Town Administrator

Cydney Johnson, Chairman

Lou LaCourse, Vice-Chairman

Philip Wittmann, Selectman

Virgil Macdonald, Selectman

John Markland, Selectman

Roger Nelson introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee.

Roger Nelson, Chairman

David Hershey, Member

Greg Fuller, Vice-Chairman

Andrew Levasseur, Member

Terrence O'Rourke, Member

Michael Ball, Member

John Markland, Member

Mark Northridge called upon Cydney Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to deliver the State of the Town message. Cydney Johnson started off by thanking a few key members of the community for their work and generous donations in making Alton a better place for both residents and visitors. The Alton Garden club in conjunction with the Alton Water Department, Highway Department, and the NH DOT were able to improve and expand the green space with irrigation for those who go out to enjoy an evening concert at the bay can do so. The garden club has also placed numerous benches along the way to enjoy Alton's greatest attraction, Lake Winnepesaukee. With this being said, Cydney Johnson also thanked Marty Cornelissen for his tireless dedication to preserving Alton's history. He successfully petitioned to have the railroad trestle supports on Letter S Road added to the New Hampshire State register of historic places in 2016. Another thank you goes out to Irving Roberts and his family, as they granted the Town of Alton an easement on their property to increase parking with 25 spots at the Roberts Cove swimming area.

C. Johnson also noted in 2016 there were 42 new housing permits with 1 new subdivision, up 20 permits from the previous year. Naturally as the population and tourism grows, so do the calls for essential services. The police department responded to 862 more calls than in 2015. The trend for fire/ambulance calls was also increasing; 819 total calls in 2016, of which 228 were strictly fire calls and 304 were hospital transport calls. Which makes for all other calls a cost to the town as they are not reimbursable by insurance companies. The select board worked hard to prioritize these needs in this changing environment and are pleased with the end budget.

In closing C. Johnson stated “We are happy to be able to lower the town portion of the tax rate without using any of the fund balance to accomplish this. This helps us to maintain our reputation being a superb place to live with excellent amenities and one of the reasonable tax rates in New Hampshire. As always we appreciate your support, and on behalf of the entire select board and the employees of the Town of Alton, we thank you.”

Mark Northridge read the Moderator’s Rules into record.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Tuesday, the seventh (7th) day of February, in the year of Two Thousand and Seventeen (2017), 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 14, 2017 at 40 Hidden Spring Road, Saint Katharine Drexel Church, lower level from 7:00am – 7:00pm. Yesterday’s meeting due to weather was postponed to today the 8th day of February.

Alton resident, Jeffrey Clay, stated he is concerned about voting in a catholic church. And why are we not voting in the 28-million-dollar high school purchased for the exact purpose of holding elections? Is our government concerned about the disenfranchisement of our voters?

Moderator Northridge was involved with the group of people looking at voting places. Mr. Northridge stated that after the Presidential Primary the high school auditorium was not satisfactory, as voters were unable to enter and exit the voting location fast enough and not the whole auditorium is usable. The senior citizen center was a wonderful place that could allow voters to go through the process quicker; parking was the problem. Hopes are the catholic church will work as it addresses the problem of parking and the size of the facility. The new voting location being a catholic church, would not be an issue for voting.

Warrant Article 1 is for those running for office. Warrant Articles 2 through 17 have already been through the hearing process and cannot be amended and there will be no discussion.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to extend the current Veteran’s property Tax credit to all Veterans who have served not less than 90 days, have been honorably discharged and have established full-time residency effective April 1 of the year in which the applicant is seeking the Veteran’s Tax Credit. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) (Majority vote required).

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 18, and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

V. Macdonald stated that this credit was recently changed by Governor Hassan signing it into law. The new bill eliminates the different dates of service requirement.

Loring Carr asked what is the cost of this tax credit and how many citizens this will affect in Alton?

C. Johnson replied that they have not been informed of the number of veterans that live in town.

Raymond Howard asked if you have addressed the amount of money for the tax credit as that can be determined by the town as well. It could be anywhere from \$50 to \$500. That has always been the legislation.

V. Macdonald confirmed it is \$500 for Veteran's Credit; \$1,400 for totally disabled.

Raymond Howard reiterated that these are the maximum amounts, and will the town stay with the maximum allowance?

V. Macdonald stated the amounts will not be changed, only the dates of service and conflicts.

Raymond Howard stated that a lot of towns will adjust the amount of credit given based on how many veterans sign up for this as the credit may have a huge impact.

V. Macdonald stated that in 2015 Alton had 377 veterans with this credit.

David St. Cyr, Alton resident, thanked the Board for extending this benefit to all veteran's.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 18 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events such as the Barbershoppers, band concerts, magic shows and other forms of activities. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Old Home Week event is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required).

Philip Wittmann moved article 19 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann stated a good deal of Alton Old Home week is sponsored by businesses, the ABA, churches, civic groups that lend their time and resources. The \$2,500 works well for the Old Home Week committee.

J. Clay asked if this is a non-profit or does this money go to the recreation department; who is going to be in charge of this?

P. Wittmann responded that he didn't believe the money goes to the recreation department. It is a separate amount of money to help organize the event such as to arrange the booklet.

J. Clay expressed concerns regarding appropriating money here that the town doesn't have a legal justification or right to do and if it's a non-profit system, sponsored by everyone you mentioned, why not leave it that way?

C. Johnson responded that the Alton Old Home Week Committee is a sub-committee of the select board. There is a member of the select board who is on the committee. That member comes back to the select board with the recommendation of the committee. The Old Home Week Committee is not an established 501(c)3.

Attorney James Sessler stated it is legal to do it this way as the money has to be spent on activities for old home week, it is monitored by the Treasurer and when the funds are expended they are kept in the town's records; so it's completely legal.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 19 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of constructing an historic gazebo on the Western side of Route 11 in the Bay which will provide historical information and show the history of Alton Bay. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the construction is completed or by December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required).

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 20 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

V. Macdonald spoke on behalf of this article, the gazebo would dress the area up and be placed in the bay to provide information on the history of this area. The gazebo will also allow people to enjoy dinners/lunches, fireworks.

Jeffrey Clay inquired if this article was petitioned by a citizen and how did the selectmen arrive at the decision to do this project?

V. Macdonald responded that there was a discussion on how to fix the parking area and make it more presentable. The town owns a lot of land in front of the campground, instead of leaving it the way it is now we can make more use out of it as we're always looking for parking areas and have a nice grass area to add picnic tables or a swing set down the road; to make that land usable.

Ken Roberts, Alton Road Agent stated the highway department is partially involved with this article.

Ken provided his knowledge of historical information on the number of people who visited the bay and modes of transportation. There is no place in town to learn about Alton Bay's history. Visitors can come here to the gazebo, look at the railroad station that is in front of them and envision the history of this area.

Roger Nelson has absolutely no problem with the gazebo. Just feels tax payers should not be paying for this project, it should be done by private donations.

Raymond Howard inquired as to how big is the gazebo going to be? And, how much will it cost annually to maintain?

K. Roberts responded the pad is going to be 18 by 18. The \$20,000 is just to bring the structure. The actual historical part of the inside will be done by donations. It will be made out of hopefully Trex material, which is hopefully little or no maintenance. This goes in conjunction with the next article we discuss, which is the bay parking project. If this is in place, we also want to make it ADA accessible.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 20 and L. LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2007. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 21 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse stated that this will be used to complete some of the sidewalks so pedestrians can walk safely from the town center to the bay.

K. Roberts stated some of the sidewalks have not been completed such as Main St. and Route 140. We will work with Fish and Game to continue a sidewalk to the beach; to prevent kids from walking in the middle of the road or cutting across lawns. Some of this money will be put to redo the sidewalks on School and Church Street in the future.

Reuben Wentworth noted that last year there was a special fund to work on the bay sidewalks, and now an additional \$20,000 is requested when all the projects were not completed last year. Are there any plans to bring concrete pavers up to level again? As this was the most safety issue we had last year with the sidewalks.

K. Roberts stated that at the selectmen's meeting the Parks & Recreation Commission came in and said the sidewalks are safe. Even though the Parks & Recreation Commission deemed these safe Ken didn't believe they were up to ADA standards.

Mr. Wentworth asked will some of these funds be used to fix the concrete pavers before somebody trips and falls, creating a possible lawsuit, as the selectmen have been made aware of a potential problem.

C. Johnson stated the project was put out to bid with no response, and that was when the decision was made to use the money to fix the sidewalks on the other side. There are still funds in the capital reserve to address the brick sidewalk problems.

Mr. Wentworth inquired why would the town put this out to bid when you have a highway department that can do special construction projects?

C. Johnson responded that the board felt this was a masonry project, and there are no masons employed in the town.

L. LaCourse motioned to restrict Article 21 and C. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$124,000 for the purpose of creating parking and sidewalk areas on the East Side of Route 11 in Alton Bay. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the construction is completed or by December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 22 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson defers remarks to Ken Roberts, as he has drawn up the plan for the business and tourist parking. It's a very nice plan to increase our green space, to watch fireworks or having a picnic and safer situation parking wise and tie into ADA handicap sidewalks.

K. Roberts expressed the great need for expanded parking in the bay.

Desmond Douglas stated the article is written as "east side", should this read on the "west side", the same side as the gazebo?

Cydney Johnson made a motion to amend the article from "east side" to "west side" and John Markland seconded the motion. The motion to amend the article passed with a favorable vote.

Jeffrey Clay expressed his disagreement with the article.

Reuben Wentworth stated that according to Mr. Roberts' handout there is roughly 32,000 square feet of green space with plans of leaving 17,000 after this project, and that by adding 30-35 parking spots, we're taxing the bay even more with visitors. The green space on the left side of the bay would be a great spot for picnic benches and swing sets for families to enjoy.

V. Macdonald stated that we're bettering the area by putting a parking lot in so that cars can get off the road and have usable lawn space for picnic tables or swings.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 22 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Steve Miller made a motion to discuss Article 34 next and was seconded by Marc Decoff due to the impending inclement weather. The motion was passed with a favorable vote to discuss Article 34 next.

Article 34: 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 \$7,131,959. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,124,908, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Board of Selectmen or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised

operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 34 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

P. Wittmann commented that both the Budget Committee and the Selectmen agree that this amount is what is needed to run the town.

Marc Decoff asked which Selectman did not vote for this as it reads “recommended by the Selectmen 4-0”.

C. Johnson responded that someone was not present for that meeting for the final numbers; thus, never having the opportunity to vote. This is the reasoning behind the Selectmen recommendations of 4-0 for all articles.

Mr. Miller is concerned with the practice of leasing vehicles versus purchasing and stated we are forced to lease a number of vehicles at the same time. The older vehicles used to be handed down to other departments and feels leasing is a poor financial strategy.

Police Chief Ryan Heath stated he would like to clarify any misconceptions on a municipal lease as it is not the same as an individual lease that most citizens are aware of. There are no buy outs at the end of a lease agreement, the Town owns the vehicle at the time – there is an investment at the end of the lease.

J. Markland clarified to Marc Decoff that he was absent from the meeting when the Selectmen voted on the articles. However, he was present for the Budget Committee as you can see there is a vote of 7-0 which includes Mr. Markland’s vote.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 34 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1995. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 23 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland stated that this reserve fund allows Alton to participate in the State’s bridge aid program by having funds available so that the state will cover 80% of the costs and the town will only have to cover 20%.

K. Roberts commented that as long as Alton has funds in this capital reserve, then we can apply for the aid right away without waiting for the next town meeting for repairs.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 23 and P. Wittmann seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1994. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 24 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann stated that these funds are mandated by NHDES in order for the town to be in compliance with 2017 testing/engineering landfill contamination.

J. Clay inquired to the current state of contamination and if there is excessive contamination that is requiring the additional \$35,000.

The Solid Waste Director, Scott Simonds responded to Mr. Clay's question. Every year the landfill is monitored by the State, which they can tell the town wells need to be updated. We need to have funds for when the State orders us to fix something.

Mr. Clay asked since this is an ongoing item, why is the \$35,000 in a warrant article rather than the operating budget?

S. Simonds replied that the only thing in the operating budget is the regular monitoring test they do every year.

L. Carr asked if he was correct in understanding that there is currently \$20,000 in this account. With this appropriation, it would bring the reserve to \$55,000.

C. Johnson responded that there was \$20,057 and the average drilling would be approximately \$40,000. Based on a recent test done by the engineer we're guessing that the town may be asked to do two more wells.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 24 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2001. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 25 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

V. Macdonald stated that this is money that is added into the solid waste equipment fund in case repairs are needed to keep it functioning.

J. Clay stated that these funds should be put into the operating budget as it is used for maintenance similar to an individual's household budget.

V. Macdonald responded that we put a little money away in reserves every year so the town won't be hit with a big bill when it comes time to replace the equipment - not maintaining the equipment.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 25 and L. LaCourse seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established in 2001. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved article 26 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse reported that 9 people retired this past year and others are reaching retirement soon. We had to spend \$55,600 in 2016 bringing this fund down significantly. After reviewing 2017's request with the Finance Manager \$30,000 would not be enough to pay out benefits.

Lou LaCourse motioned to increase the sum from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

S. Miller asked if this is what the surplus is for as you should be able to budget this and not need a special warrant article.

L. LaCourse responded that the current reserve balance is \$20 and two people are anticipated to retire in 2017.

C. Johnson stated the town is not allowed to take from the general fund balance without a vote from town meeting and are unable to use the surplus without prior approval from DRA.

Marc Decoff mentioned \$55,000 was spent last year, taking some money out of the operating budget last year, why can that not be done again this year?

Per C. Johnson this is a bottom line budget which means a cut was needed somewhere else.

At 8:34pm, M. Northridge declared a 5-minute break to allow the change of the video tape.

At 8:40pm M. Northridge called the meeting to order, reviewed the discussion that was taking place prior to the break and asked the audience if there was any discussion on amending the article; no further discussion.

The motion to amend the article passed with a favorable vote.

L. LaCourse motioned to restrict Article 26 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the Transfer Station, as previously established in 2005, which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 27 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson stated that this is part of a long range plan for the transfer station and introduced Alton's Solid Waste Director.

S. Simonds stated the plan is to create a drive-through building for the recycling materials. The state is recommending this to be done.

J. Clay asked why the board can't wait to bring this cost before the voters when it needs to be built rather than piecemeal the cost of the structure?

S. Simonds replied that it would be a huge cost to the taxpayers if we waited.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 27 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 28 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland explained that this program is set up to keep our lakes and streams clean from milfoil.

J. Clay asked why this article is not a part of the Parks and Recreation ongoing budget. This is showing that our operating budget is grossly underfunded.

R. Nelson stated he did not know how to answer this question.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 28 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of upgrading the Alton Bay restrooms (east and west) to provide handicap accessibility. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the upgrades are completed or by December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 29 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann stated that these funds would be used to bring the public restrooms up to ADA compliance.

J. Clay inquired how much was spent last year on these restrooms and how long have these restrooms existed not being in compliance? What is the plan to make these restrooms up to compliance with these funds?

Kellie Troendle the Parks and Recreation director responded to Mr. Clay that the upgrades would include the elimination of barriers to access the building. The detailed plans consisted of reconfiguring space to meet mobility requirements, adding doors, ramps, appropriate size and type toilets, sinks and hand dryers.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 29 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Recreation/Grounds Maintenance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2003. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 30 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

V. Macdonald stated that skid steer will be used for the sidewalk plowing. The current account balance is \$13,219; the Kubota has a trade-in value of \$8,500 which will be used to offset the cost.

J. Clay was curious as to the current equipment; has it been rendered unserviceable and how long have we been using this piece of equipment.

K. Troendle stated there are 5.1 miles of sidewalks that are maintained by the Parks & Rec. Department. New sidewalks are being added to the town, and they need to be maintained in the winter with snow removal per RSA 231:59; RSA 231:62.

The current machine to remove snow on the sidewalks is a 2002 Transpro Stiga TP54, a machine from Sweden and is not commonly used in New England. The machine needs to be replaced and is not able to consistently clear sidewalks because it is constantly breaking down and under repair with no parts available; as a result, the sidewalks are not cleared routinely after each snow storm.

K. Troendle continued that in the last 5 years the town has spent \$13,010 in labor, \$5,363 in parts with a total of \$18,373; making an average of \$3,675 per year (2012-2016). This year, since January 1, 2017, the town has spent \$2,320 in labor, \$270 in parts averaging to \$518 per week.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 30 and was seconded by L. LaCourse. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to establish an A.V.A.S. Public Park Building Property Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of improvements and repairs to the A.V.A.S. Public Park Building property (Parks and Recreation- Grounds and Maintenance Department Building and property) and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 31 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse stated that this building is small and in need of repair in the near future. The purpose of this article is to set aside funds for when repairs are needed.

J. Clay asked if someone could explain why the agents are listed on this warrant article and not others?

M. Northridge, explained that this is a requirement when a new fund is set up. Whereas, other articles are having money added to an existing fund.

L. LaCourse motioned to restrict Article 31 and was seconded by C. Johnson. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Mount Major Community Center Property Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of improvements, maintenance and repairs to the Mount Major Community Center property (known as the West Alton Community Center), and further to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in said account and to designate the Board of Selectmen as the agents to expend. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 32 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson spoke about how this property was donated to the Town of Alton for the use by townspeople through a trust; this building wasn't maintained very well prior to the town acquiring the property and the town has assumed that responsibility.

J. Clay inquired as to if the building can be sold.

C. Johnson's response was that the trust's terms did not allow for the property to be sold.

David St. Cyr, Trustee of Trust Funds, stated the property was deeded to the Trustee of Trust Funds and they do not have money to repair or maintain town property.

R. Howard inquired as to if there was enough parking for a town event? We shouldn't be putting money into something that may never be used.

C. Johnson replied that there are no issues the board is aware of. This property is not something the board wanted.

L. LaCourse stated that this building was originally used for functions and was told a parking area could be built out back.

J. Clay inquired as to whether these properties are in the Town of Alton's name or if they are in the trustee's name as he is unsure of how this is supposed to work.

Attorney James Sessler responded that the deed is in the name of the Town of Alton and managed by the board of trustees on behalf of the Alton public.

J. Clay appreciated the explanation and still disagrees with this article.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 32 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 33: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$51,520 for the purpose of leasing and or purchasing one vehicle for the Building Department and one vehicle for the Assessing Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$11,866) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 33 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland stated that the Assessor's 2005 Ford Crown Victoria and the Building Department's 4-wheel drive Ford Ranger pick-up truck are either questionable and costly to pass inspection or will not pass inspection altogether.

S. Miller stated that he agrees that it is time to get rid of these vehicles. This is essentially the case he was talking about when the town would take an old police cruiser then pass it down to the Assessing and Building Department. When you take the \$51,000 for these two new cars it is an additional cost to the other 5 police cars, as you can't hand them down anymore.

J. Clay stated that this is not good business to purchase a new vehicle when you only have 95,000 miles on the current one. To save the \$51,000 his suggestion is to have one vehicle for the two departments.

John Dever, Alton Building Inspector, stated that the vehicles we have will not pass inspection. The 14-year-old truck's rear part of the frame is rusting away and is not economical to fix. Both the Building and Assessing Departments go places in the town that only police and fire ever go, the vehicles must be able to go on construction sites. If both departments need to share one vehicle and it is being used, the other person will need to use their own personal vehicle to provide a town service.

J. Clay stated that the town is not a business, it is the government and must make do with what they have. If someone has looked at the rotted out frame, and agrees that this would be a safety hazard and should not be operated. J. Clay asks that the town maintain the vehicles properly and deal with hardships as an individual would.

Chief Heath wanted to add a few additional facts to the conversation: with the talk of the police department turning a police vehicle over to another department the town is just shifting costs – the money still comes out of the operating budget from one line to another. The other important issue to consider is liability; when employees use vehicles that are hazardous the worker's comp premiums increase and the taxpayers will have to pay that increase.

J. Clay suggested the town purchase a used vehicle rather than a new one.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 33 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$168,149 and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$168,149 from the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund as previously established under RSA 31:95c for the purpose of funding the ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies and 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 Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 35 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

V. Macdonald stated these funds are used for the ambulance operation budget which has been set up since the town took over the ambulance service; the current fund balance is \$315,000.

Alton resident Audrey Kaspriski questioned why the ambulance operation isn't set up similar to the Fire Department's pm shift and was it brought up by the head of the department? She is concerned that if someone needed help the service would be minimized on the pm shift as there is not a 24-hour shift rotation.

Ryan Ridley, Alton Fire Chief, currently staff with two people 7am – 7pm night shift on Fire Department and 7pm-7am there are two people on call; purposed to have 24-hour coverage with 2017 budget which was not approved. The ambulance crew is currently on call.

Audrey Kaspriski asked if there was an advantage for having 24-hour coverage.

Chief Ridley responded that the advantage is if you're not breathing or have a heart attack/stroke the response team can get there faster.

Discussion ensued between Chief Ridley and Audrey Kaspriski.

Point of Order was called by Greg Fuller, the conversation is off track of the article.

J. Clay stated the town must absolutely have a full time ambulance service through the operating budget; we should vote "no" on this article. The town purchased the ambulance, thus, if we need service we shouldn't have to be billed extra for it.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 35 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Alton Fire Department Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2005. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 36 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse stated this article is specifically for maintaining our 4 current buildings and for future improvements. As of right now there are no plans for spending outside of the maintenance.

S. Miller inquired about the \$50,000 request in an upcoming warrant article for a large fire truck, his understanding is that the fire truck will not fit in the building. Is this correct?

Chief Ridley responded we're not going to purchase a ladder truck that will not fit in a building.

Loring Carr asked if it was correct that last year the town put \$25,000 into this account. And he was told "yes". Then asked why are we going from \$25,000 to \$50,000?

V. Macdonald responded that some of our fire stations need repair – such as the West Alton fire station and the Central fire station.

C. Johnson stated the West Alton fire station needs significant repairs which includes fire safety doors.

L. Carr reiterated that this was not just for the main station.

J. Clay asked why the West Alton fire station hasn't been sold or closed by now, what use has this station provided outside of insurance premiums, and how many calls does this fire station respond to.

Discussion ensued between C. Johnson, J. Clay and R. Ridley in regards to the facility not being needed and the staffing of West Alton station.

D. St. Cyr called a Point of Order – This is a funding article in regards to building improvement, not response time or whether station is needed or not to provide service.

Roger Nelson, resident, inquired about the \$359,000 balance in the fire department's building improvement capital reserve fund, last year \$25,000 was asked for and never used and now an additional \$50,000 is being asked for this year. If these buildings need repair, why were they not done last year?

R. Ridley replied that the purpose for this fund was to renovate the central fire station by adding two bays, we are many years into this and have not completed the work. The reasoning for this was to add the needed space. Currently there is less than 3 feet from the back of the truck to the wall of the fire station. The East Alton fire station is in need of many repairs such as replacing doors & windows, installing a diesel extraction system to remove cancer causing agents, a generator and a fire alarm system is needed. The West Alton station needs extensive work.

J. Clay called a point of order – this is not even relevant to the article.

R. Ridley responded that he is answering the previous question as to the repairs needed.

Justin Kantar explained this fund means a lot to the fire department, and at the taxpayer level \$50,000 is a small amount. This fund is to help support the fire department repair the 4 stations; if not now in years to come. The purpose is to prepare ourselves for when the day comes to make repairs; otherwise, when the day comes and we are not prepared it will be an increased tax burden on the taxpayers.

M. Northridge stated that with the number of warrant articles we still have to discuss he is going to amend the Moderator's rules: a speaker is not allowed to speak more than 2 times on any article going forward.

Patrick O'Brien, resident of Alton and the President of the Fireman's Association, stated that there is a \$5,500 renovation project at the central fire station totally funded by donations and by the Fireman's Association.

D. Hershey stated that he has no objection to the overall concept of a need to invest and maintain the structures of the fire department. He is concerned with the amount of money that is going into the central fire station when it is located in a class A flood zone. A thought to keep in mind is that at some point we want to look to relocate this station or with the construction being done to this structure be done in recognition of a flood plan with those being elevated.

J. Clay stated he would like to make a motion to override the Moderator's previous ruling of only speaking twice to an article. No second on this motion.

J. Clay stated he would also like to motion to sanction the Moderator for inappropriate and unprofessional conduct this evening. No second on this motion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 36 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 37 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson is going to defer to the Chief as this is a recommendation for the fire equipment capital reserve, he knows better than anyone about the equipment needed.

Chief Ridley stated that there is a balance of \$293,000 in this account. We were forced to purchase a new ambulance this past fall with one being 16 years old and the other 11 years' old which we have spent over \$20,000 repairing in the last two years. Last spring there were no ambulances in service for two days as they were both being repaired. Moving forward the East Alton engine is 27 years old, which will need replacing in 3 years and we have a 2002 Forestry engine needing extensive repairs or replacement; the next vehicle is slated for 2024. When you're looking at a half-million dollars for a fire truck we need to start putting away for the future.

R. Wentworth commends the Selectmen and the Fire Chief for coming up with a way to purchase the ambulance. Discussion ensued on how to repay and put the funds into the capital reserve fund out of the ambulance revenues.

J. Clay stated the town needs to have some restraint in spending as people are being forced out of town. These funds requested are in addition to the operating budget.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 37 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 38: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a ten-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$850,000 for the purpose of leasing and or purchasing a new aerial ladder fire truck and equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3-1)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 38 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland stated that the current ladder truck is 28 years old and received NH DOT inspection warnings, annual ladder testing is of concerns and the fire pump has been placed out of service due to the extensive repairs being done. If this article passes this truck will be traded toward the new lease purchase.

J. Clay asked if the new vehicle is working why would the town enter into a 10-year lease to replace it and is the fire department maintaining the truck to prevent it from going into a state of disrepair. Maintain what we have, if it fails inspection fix it to make it last.

L. Carr asked if the money we just added on article 37 "Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund" will be applied to the purchase of this truck.

R. Ridley responded that the \$850,000 will be used to purchase the vehicle and the equipment out of this warrant article, not the previous one.

S. Miller made a motion to move the article for 2/3 vote to go to the next article and was seconded by Marc Decoff. By a show of cards, the motion to move on to the next article passes.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 38 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 39: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$127,122 for the purpose of leasing and or purchasing fifteen sets of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units which include face pieces, spare cylinders, and two RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) packs and appropriate the sum of \$37,616 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 39 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann explained that these funds would be used for a lease-purchase for new breathing apparatus; the current breathing apparatus will expire on December 31, 2017 and will no longer be allowed for usage. Breathing equipment is essential for firefighters in dealing with hazardous incidents.

J. Clay inquired as to whether or not this will go out to bid and will you select the lowest bidder.

R. Ridley responded the equipment will go out to bid and we will select the most appropriate equipment for his staff and the people of the community.

R. Howard asked for an explanation of a Rapid Intervention Team pack.

Chief Ridley explained the pack is used if they go to a fire and need to give an emergency air supply to somebody who runs out of air that's a pack we take in and plug into. Currently we don't have one and are required to have them.

R. Howard recommended to add wording after "Self Contained Breathing Apparatus" to include for "fire fighter purposes" to clarify that this is not for scuba diving.

R. Howard made the motion to amend the article to read "for fire fighter purposes" after "Self Contained Breathing Apparatus" and was seconded by Patrick O'Brien.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 39 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as amended.

M. Northridge called for a 5-minute break to change the video tape.

The meeting continued at 10:23pm.

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,000 and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$52,000 from the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund as previously established under RSA 31:95c for the purpose of Two (2) Cardiac Monitors. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will replace the current Cardiac Monitors utilized in each ambulance. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 40 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

L. LaCourse deferred comments in favor of the article to the Fire Chief, Ryan Ridley.

R. Ridley stated that this piece of equipment is used on every call; monitors heart rate, blood pressure through non-invasive monitoring, monitors oxygen saturation, has a defibrillator and monitors internal carbon dioxide. This is a requirement to have a monitor on each ambulance and the monitors that we have are over eight years old. We would like to upgrade the equipment to have current technology on our everyday calls we go on.

J. Clay asked if they're still functional and technology upgrade is the only reason to purchase new monitors why would we want to spend \$52,000 on something that currently works.

R. Ridley responded that we are trying to be proactive to replace a piece of equipment that we use every day. If it is not on the vehicle, the vehicle is not licensed it will not go out on a call.

J. Clay asked if it is compliant right now with state law as we should replace it when it is not working and what the life expectancy is.

R. Ridley replied that if the machine stops working tomorrow, we will be out of service until the next town election. The life expectancy of a new machine is about 7-9 years.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 40 and was seconded by L. LaCourse. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,500 and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$14,500 from the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purchase of Two (2) Medication Infusion Pump(s). This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will replace the current Intravenous Infusion Pumps with Intravenous/Medication Infusion Pumps). (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 41 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse deferred comments in favor of the article to Fire Chief Ryan Ridley.

R. Ridley stated we currently have two very old I.V. infusion pumps; we have to send them in annually for flow testing. This is in the best interest of the Chief, the town, and the patient that a math error is not made in the calculation of medicine dosage; rather than calculating manually the Chief enters in the parameters, dose, time frame and this infusion machine calculates the correct dose amount without any errors. Of the meds that are I.V. infusion we are required by NH EMS to have an I.V. infusion pump.

L. LaCourse motioned to restrict Article 41 and was seconded by C. Johnson. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of contracting with a vendor who has a crusher to crush Town owned recyclable materials and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 42 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson stated that these funds will allow the town to contract with a vendor who has a crusher to allow the town to crush town owned materials (i.e.: boulders, rocks, asphalt, etc.) turning into crushed gravel for use in annual road construction projects and other town uses. This will be a cost savings to the town as we will not need to purchase gravel.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 42 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981.

(Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 43 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland mentioned the article states what the fund is for; it's a reserve fund to enable purchases as they are needed.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 43 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$950,000 to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$191,000. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 44 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann stated these funds will enable the 2017 road upgrade reconstruction projects within the town. Mr. Wittmann deferred to Ken Roberts to add any additional information.

K. Roberts stated that the current balance in the account is \$29,167 out of the \$950,000 that was appropriated last year.

R. Nelson asked if this fund should be reduced given the fact that the highway department has been rebuilding new sidewalks and bringing the parking lot in the bay, when would they have time for all this construction.

C. Johnson stated at this week's meeting we went over the planned schedule for the road reconstruction and road maintenance this year and they will have plenty of time to do both as they did last year and the year before.

K. Roberts stated that the reconstruction stopped last year because we ran out of money.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 44 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2003. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 45 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

V. Macdonald stated that these funds will enable the town to continue saving towards the construction of a sand shed. DES has informed the town due to the winds a shed is needed to be built in order to be in compliance with them.

L. Carr inquired on how much more are we needing until we're finally going to do this project as the current balance in the account is \$34,548 and you're asking for \$10,000 more.

C. Johnson stated that this is going to be approximately a \$350,000 project.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 45 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Highway Garage Expansion Capital Reserve Fund created in 1998. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Alton general fund. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 46 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

L. LaCourse stated the reasoning for the discontinuing of the capital reserve is that the highway garage expansion is complete.

S. Miller inquired into the balance of the account.

L. LaCourse responded that the balance was \$780.

L. LaCourse motioned to restrict Article 46 and was seconded by C. Johnson. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Buildings Improvement/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund previous established in 2014. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 47 and was seconded by John Markland.

C. Johnson stated that the funds are used toward future building improvements or repairs needed for any of the highway buildings. It is different from the last capital reserve fund as that was specifically for the expansion of the highway shed.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 47 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 48: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Gilman Library Improvement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2013. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (7-0)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 48 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

J. Markland stated that over the past number of years the town has been very supportive of the Gilman Library, another jewel of the town. The Library Trustees have done a great job of doing repairs to the building and we just ask you to continue the support. The Library Trustees do give

a detailed list; there are handouts at the front table which explains what the funds will be used for.

J. Clay stated that in his opinion the Gilman Library is the most utilized building in the town; it's a wonderful resource for everyone. If we're going to squander millions of dollars from other issues in this town, why not spend more for the Gilman Library? Why not increase it to \$100,000 or \$50,000?

J. Clay motions to increase the amount from \$5,000 to \$500,000 for the library improvement/repair capital reserve fund. R. Nelson seconded the motion.

S. Miller asked how much will this \$500,000 cost the taxpayers.

R. Nelson replied that it would be approximately \$1.50

M. Northridge asked if there was any additional discussion on the amendment and if everyone understood it. **With a show of cards, the amendment fails.**

D. Hershey commented that the \$5,000 request came from the head librarian. The \$5,000 that is being requested is mostly for repairs (minor electrical, improvements, etc.) and is an appropriate amount to fulfill the library needs of the town.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 48 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 49: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be added to the Town Beach/Park Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2005. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 49 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

V. Macdonald stated that this article was written so that we could fix the retaining wall at the end by Harmony Park as it has been caving in. It will match the block around the beach.

K. Roberts stated that we brought in a repair crew, authorized by Board of Selectmen, to repair the existing wall that is falling apart with DES approval. First appropriation is for a 3-year project to tie everything together down there.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 49 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

M. Northridge stated that articles 50-61 are all non-profit organizations asking for town assistance. Most of these have been seen in previous years and from experience has not been discussed. What we will do is go through them and if anyone would like to discuss the article then we will read and go through it. If there is no discussion, we will just move the article to the ballot.

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,900 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 special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

J. Clay inquired on the legalities of including a non-profit into a warrant article.

Attorney James Sessler stated that it is legal and done regularly. You can spend money for public purposes if the people determine that CAP, a non-profit organization, supplies services to the people in the community, they can expend money for it.

J. Clay believes this is illegal to do and asked how was the random amount of \$8,900 determined; is there an itemized expenditure.

M. Northridge read the entire article.

J. Clay asked how the budget committee came up with \$8,900.

Greg Fuller stated the budget committee didn't come up with it, it is a petition that is submitted to the selectmen; it is not a petitioned warrant article, these organizations have to write a letter to the selectmen and request a certain amount.

M. Northridge confirmed it is not a petitioned warrant article.

V. Macdonald stated it is the amount of money spent on Alton residents.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 50 and was seconded by L. LaCourse. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 51: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

J. Clay inquired on the legality of the article.

Point of order called by Desmond Douglas not relevant to the article.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 51 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Anna Griffin questioned the order of the warrant articles in the documents that were handed out; not sure if something was skipped or missed. On page 32 the bold header refers to Article 50 for CAP, the paragraph notes Article 51. Then the next one the bold header reads Article 51 while the paragraph reads Article 52 and so on for the remainder of the packet. Looking for clarification to make sure this is not just a typo and that we're discussing the correct articles.

M. Northridge clarified that the Bold Article header is the correct one, the other is just a typographical error.

J. Clay called a Point of Order stated that this document is not legal. This error disqualifies everything we're voting on tonight.

M. Northridge stated we have the ability to correct those errors with an amendment.

A motion by R. Nelson to correct the numbering on the following remaining articles to as follows: CAP Nonprofit Article 50, Central NH VNA Article 51, American Red Cross is Article 52, Alton Community Services is Article 53, Medication Bridge will be Article 54, New Beginnings will be Article 55, Genesis will be Article 56, Caregivers will be Article 57, CASA will be Article 58, Appalachian Mountain will be Article 59, Child Family Services will be Article 60, and L.I.F.E. Ministries will be Article 61. The motion to correct was seconded by D. Hershey.

J. Clay stated he is not an attorney, people throughout Alton have been provided this document and is now improperly posted.

M. Northridge responded that our job here at the Deliberative is to make these warrant articles presentable for the election. We can correct typos; we can amend these motions.

With a show of cards, the amendment to correct the typographical errors was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 52: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 52 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

J. Clay asked if there was ever a discussion on this and where the money would go. Then asked is there a quid-pro-quo on this.

V. Macdonald said this has been discussed for a few years, it is put out to the people to make the decision to give the money to the non-profits not the selectmen.

Point of Order called by Desmond Douglas, we're voting on the sum not the procedure of how this is put on as a warrant article.

M. Northridge responded this is a correct point of order as we can discuss the agency, American Red Cross, and/or the dollar amount of the article.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 52 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 53 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 53 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

P. Wittmann stated that after attending a meeting to understand what they are all about he feels that this is truly one of the best organizations in this town.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 53 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 54: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$224 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 special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2-1)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 54 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

D. Hershey stated that this is a non-profit organization that is intended to not be an alternative to financing prescriptions it is to provide short term (a day, two or three) prescription coverage, generally at discharge, until the individual receives Medicare/Medicaid or prescription assistance from the manufacturer.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 54 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 55: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Dollars \$1,530 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 special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 55 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

There was no additional discussion relating directly to this article.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 55 and was seconded by L.LaCourse. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 56 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,750 for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Cydney Johnson moved Article 56 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

There was no additional discussion relating directly to this article.

C. Johnson motioned to restrict Article 56 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 57: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting Caregivers of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity, Inc. (includes Alton) which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

John Markland moved Article 57 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

J. Clay stated that the Alton taxpayers are funding another county.

Anna Griffin responded to previous comments that we're sending money to Southern Carroll County; the Caregivers of Southern Carroll County cover the town of Alton. She had volunteered to drive people in the past in Alton through this organization. They cover anyone who needs a ride from the elderly, single parent without a vehicle, someone needs a ride to get to work – these services are not solely Carroll County.

D. Hershey stated that this is not giving money to Carroll County. It is just the name of the organization.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 57 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 58: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which provides advocacy for abused and; neglected children. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2-1)) (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 58 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

J. Clay stated that the State of New Hampshire has programs already paid for with tax dollars exactly like this.

Jen Douglas asked if we are the only town who is petitioned by these people for money and then asked if we are the only town that goes about it in bringing it to the voters this way.

Select board member answered “No” to both questions.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 58 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 59: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400 for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 59 and was seconded by Lou LaCourse.

J. Clay asked what will prevent this organization misusing the money.

D. Hershey stated there is actually something in place to prevent the misuse of money through the tax code; as a non-profit they are approved annually for their status.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 59 and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 60: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the program is completed or by December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-3)) (Majority vote required)

Lou LaCourse moved Article 60 and was seconded by John Markland.

There was no additional discussion relating directly to this article.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 60 and was seconded by C. Johnson. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 61: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Dollar (\$3,000) for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. This is a petition article. (Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-2)) (Majority vote required)

M. Northridge stressed that this is a petitioned warrant article.

John Markland moved Article 61 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson.

Kent Cromwell, President of L.I.F.E. Ministries NH, discussed that the food pantry is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was established 31 years ago and is governed by a board of directors with a vision of supplying food to qualified people in need. The vetting process is extensive and

is done annually as they verify residency, need, look for copies of documents from government agencies to verify current assistance received, and proof of income.

Mr. Clay called a Point of Order as Kent Cromwell is not a resident of Alton and he must have permission of the voters to speak as stated in the “Moderator’s Rules”.

M. Northridge responded that the gentleman can speak as he is an expert. Mr. Northridge then went on to ask the audience to vote with a show cards if they would like to allow Mr. Cromwell to speak. With a majority vote, Mr. Cromwell was granted permission to speak.

Kent Cromwell continued to discuss the organization and stated that they provide a person with 9 meals per week. The food pantry distributed 142,000 meals in 2015, and in 2016 they distributed a little more than 143,000 meals. They averaged providing 11,923 meals per month in 2016. This relates to Alton as there are 51 families that use their service, with 111 individuals that go to the food pantry. There are 31 children under 18, 31 seniors over 60, and 49 between the ages of 19 and 59. These individuals came to the pantry 1,818 times in 2016, each person received 9 meals; which is 11% of their total meals distributed. The food budget is \$156,000 and we’re asking for Alton’s assistance of \$3,000; which is less than 1% of our funding. This organization is staffed strictly on non-paid volunteers. Monetary donations also come from Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, and Ossipee. In addition, supplies are brought in from local gardens, local schools, the NH Food Bank, the USDA and Hannaford’s.

J. Clay is opposed to this as it does not need to be included as a warrant article.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 61 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

J. Markland motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Collins
Recording Secretary