

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

Mark Northridge, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

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

Cydney Shapleigh introduced the members representing the Town of Alton.

Cydney Shapleigh, Chairwoman
James Sessler, Town Attorney
Liz Dionne, Town Administrator
Virgil Macdonald, Selectman
John Markland, Selectman
Philip Wittmann, Selectman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk

Roger Nelson introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee.

Roger Nelson, Chairman
David Hershey, Member
Andrew Levasseur, Member
Terrence O'Rourke, Member
Peter Leavitt, School Board Representative
Rueben Wentworth, Selectmen's Representative

Mark Northridge stated that the Moderator's Rules are included in the packets that everyone received, to save on time he will not be reading these aloud. He asked everyone to review these and be aware of the rules.

Mr. Northridge then called upon Cydney Shapleigh, Select Board Chair to deliver the State of the Town message.

Cydney Shapleigh started by thanking everyone for attending the deliberative session. There is a lot to be proud of in the Town of Alton, with many accomplishments since the last deliberative session in March of 2017. The highway department completed the bay project by adding 41 parking spaces and almost 400 yards of new green space to be enjoyed by the townspeople. In addition, a group of volunteers further improved the bay with a beautiful bandstand and seating area that was spearheaded by Marty Cornelissen. The addition of the scale at the Solid Waste center has significantly increased revenues, which will be used to make future improvements to our solid waste area. The CIP committee was resurrected this year to begin the long term planning for the needs of the town.

Most people were able to see the value of their homes rise while the tax rate dropped. Which means Alton continues to have one of the lowest tax rates in the state while offering all of the major services of both elementary and high school along with fire and police all within the town lines.

Although there is much to celebrate, Alton is a growing community and we do face challenges. There was a decrease in drug related offenses and instances of driving under the influence. There has been a troubling increase in other serious crimes. Violent sex crimes doubled in 2017 from 6 to 12 and additional criminal acts such as physical assaults, domestic crimes, and threats all had an increase of 75% or more. This shows us that even though we don't hear about it, Alton is not immune to these situations and we are fortunate to have a dedicated and effective police force.

The need for emergency services in general continues to increase each year. Our volunteer fire and ambulance also saw significant increases in calls. The total fire and EMS calls increased 15% from 2016 to 2017, with the majority of the calls coming in for ambulance services. In 2017, the Alton ambulance had 317 hospital transports; 273 of these calls were from Alton residents and 44 were non-residents. These numbers do not account for the numerous calls that did not require transport or may have refused transport; situations for which the town was unable to bill for services and now must absorb the costs.

A town can simply be a place to live or it can be a community. We are fortunate to have many caring volunteers that make our town a community. Sadly, we lost four of these special people over the past year and are pleased to dedicate this year's town report to the four individuals: Ruth Messier, David Birdsey, Bob Longabaugh, and Dorothee Wentworth. Each devoted endless hours to our community and played a vital role in making Alton a better place to live.

There was a moment of silence to honor and thank the four individuals for their service to our community.

Ms. Shapleigh also took a moment to thank Mark Northridge for his service to Alton with a gift basket, as this was his last meeting as Town Moderator. Mr. Northridge has served our community as Town Moderator from 2000 – 2018 and we can all agree has done a great job.

Mr. Northridge thanked the Town, as it has been so good to him and his family making it a great place to live. It has been great to give back to this wonderful town.

Moderator Northridge, made the following declaration for the 2018 Deliberative Session and town elections:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday, the seventh (7th) day of February, in the year of Two Thousand and Eighteen (2018), beginning at six thirty (6:30) 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 13, 2018 at Saint Katharine Drexel Church, lower level, 40 Hidden Spring Road from 7:00am – 7:00pm.

Warrant Article 1 is for those running for office. Warrant Articles 2 through 11 have already been through the hearing process and cannot be amended and there will be no discussion.

Point of Order was called by Steve Miller – asked for a count of voter attendance.

Mr. Northridge asked for a count from the check in table.

Robin Lane-Douglas responded that there are 62 registered voters.

Article 12: 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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

Reuben Wentworth moved Article 12 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Mr. Wentworth stated that this article is for \$75,000 to be carried towards Harmony Park. A couple of years back Ken Roberts and Kellie Troendle were agents of this project. The money being requested now is for the completion of the project for the labor aspect. When folks went out to bid they realized they didn't have the funds, as the cost was coming in higher – thus, this project was done in two stages: one, to purchase the materials and two, award the contract to go out and do the work. Reuben does support this, as the retaining wall in Harmony Park is just falling into the lake.

No further discussion on the article.

Cydney Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 12 and Reuben Wentworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 13: 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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

Philip Wittmann moved Article 13 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

Mr. Wittmann stated that this is the same amount of money that is appropriated every year. It's like start up money for Old Home Week and always seems to work well. This event is when the town celebrates itself with a lot of great events going on.

No further discussion on the article.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 13 and R. Wentworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of contributing toward the development of an Alton-New Durham Watershed Plan with the Town of New Durham in order to apply for federal funding to help address water quality issues within the Watershed area. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2022. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 14 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Mr. Wentworth started off by referencing articles in the local newspaper this past summer about cyanobacteria. This bacteria has been found in New Durham ponds creating high phosphorous levels. These phosphorous levels are moving towards Alton. We have had some high levels of phosphorous concentration in parts of the Merrymeeting River from different testing points, done by great volunteers that go out in the summer to monitor our waters. The \$20,000 will go along with New Durham, who is pulling \$20,000 out of their Capital Reserve, as well as the \$20,000 contribution from the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. This will allow for a study of the river to find hot spots and catch basins so that Alton can apply for Federal grants. This will allow us to take part in a watershed program to help preserve our waterways all the way to Lake Winnepesaukee, which then will help preserve our property values along the lake and river.

David Hershey questioned the approach. His understanding is that the increase of the phosphorous is coming from the fish hatchery, in which Mr. Wentworth confirmed. Would it be more of a prudent approach to have the source stopped, rather than apply for grants to solve the problem? The one that generates the increase in contaminants should be the one ultimately responsible for resolving it. Rather than using Alton and New Durham's contributions, this should be a Fish & Game issue to resolve that the discharge of their wastewater is within acceptable parameters for which permit was issued.

Reuben responded that Fish & Game feels the hatchery is one of highest factors to the high levels of phosphorous and have been working on this for years to reduce that output. There could be other factors. But with the contribution from Alton and New Durham the Fish & Game Department can get some help.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 14 and John Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to 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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 15 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Ms. Shapleigh spoke in favor of the article by stating that the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund currently has a balance of \$210.79. There are two people retiring this year that the town is

aware of and one more retirement that is possible. The \$50,000 will be needed to meet the obligations.

Steve Miller inquired as to who is retiring.

Ms. Shapleigh stated there is one that is public at this time, which is the Fire Chief. The other person has given his intent to retire, but the Selectmen have not received the actual retirement letter. The third person is only a possibility.

John Markland motioned to restrict Article 15 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 16: 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 Seven Million, Six Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$7,666,283)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million, Four Hundred Eighty Thousand, Thirty One Dollars (\$7,480,031), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Board of Selectmen or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (3-2). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 16 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Cydney stated the Selectmen feel that the budget they put forward to the voters this year is a responsible one to provide all the necessary services to this town for safety and fiduciary purposes. We had a good working relationship with the Budget Committee this year and the overall difference between the two budgets is \$5,000.

Audrey Kaspriski made a motion to amend Article 16 by increasing the operating budget of \$7,666,283 by \$65,000 to \$7,731,283 and Virgil Macdonald seconded the motion.

Ms. Kaspriski stated this increase has been needed for a while as Alton does not have 24-hour coverage for fire and ambulance so that there can be a better response time at night as well as during the day.

Mr. Northridge stated the amendment would increase the operating budget to \$7,731,283.00. He then opened the floor to discussion on the amendment.

Loring Carr looked for confirmation that the budget already includes money for 24-hour coverage as per his understanding from a Budget Committee meeting he attended.

Roger Nelson confirmed that this was correct. There is a \$100,000 stipend in the budget for the fire department to allow the ambulance to have full time service. Thus, the \$65,000 would be in addition to that.

L. Carr asked what is the extra \$65,000 for if it is already covered in the Selectmen's Budget?

C. Shapleigh deferred response to the Fire Chief.

Ryan Ridley, Alton Fire Chief, responded that the figure is an add to it. Currently in the budget there is \$212,000 for daytime shift wages, which also covers training. Currently we cover 12 hours during the day 7 days a week and at night two people on call from home that only get paid \$25 a night per person, which is almost impossible to fill those shifts. The thought was to have \$100 stipend per night per person, which doesn't change the response time. If we were to add \$65,000 into the budget we could be able to staff two people at the fire station on Route 140 24-hours a day, 365 days per year. This is a lean number with not a lot of money left over at the end of the year and we would still be able to send people to classes in the year.

L. Carr understands the subsidy. But still does not answer his question of "Is this in the budget? Or, is it not?"

R. Wentworth was confused himself as there is \$91,000 in the budget for the stipend \$73,000 of that will be used this year if this budget is approved to pay for the two folks per night to be on call. The Fire Department has ambulance attendants that live in Dover and other areas and in the Chief's justification, a per diem shift was discussed. The per diem shift 7pm – 7am would be an extra \$108,000 in the ambulance line item this year. The problem the Town is facing is that the department is having a hard time finding coverage. The stipend would help encourage the attendants to stay at the station during those hours. Most of the increases from this department are from ambulance and fire fighter wages. We have been having a short fall especially with ambulance wages, as the revenues are not keeping pace with the costs. If we're talking about full time we're going to have to think about benefits. There is no money in the stipend or per-diem for benefits.

L. Carr asked would the Selectmen not recommend the increase of \$65,000?

C. Shapleigh stated this was a motion from the floor and if any of us give our opinions, we would have to remove ourselves as Selectmen and speak as individuals.

L. Carr stated that it shows you have a \$227,000 increase in your default budget. Does that mean that is because of ambulance going into the fire line item? Reuben responded, "Yes".

S. Miller asked for an explanation of how we came to the figure of \$65,000.

Mark Northridge stated we would have to ask the person who motioned the amendment.

Justin Kantar spoke on behalf of Ms. Kaspriski. \$65,000 is a rough number that was taken from an average from the current employee pay scale. We used the highest paid hourly employee and the lowest paid hourly to get an idea of what it would cost to bring the department up to the point where there are people staffing the apparatus in the fire station 365 days a year. The department doesn't currently operate this way. We're trying to progress the department to be able to help improve the response time from the station rather than from responders' homes. This amendment will increase the operating budget by \$65,000. What the Selectmen do with that money, we can only hope that it will be used for the fire department. So that we can staff the fire

department with two people in station who are certified for both fire and EMS emergencies 365 days a year to answer when the tone comes in.

S. Miller has no issues with supporting the fire department, just has a couple of questions. First, when this was presented to the Selectmen during the budget process the Selectmen turned it down. Why did you, the Selectmen turn this down? Because the \$65,000 is not in the budget.

R. Wentworth responded that the \$65,000 wasn't turned down. The Selectmen met with the Chief and according to the Chief's figures on an average of \$20/hour and went with four people, two in the morning and two at night, at \$240 times 4 it would cost \$960/day. Then multiply this amount by the 365 days in a year it would cost \$350,400 just for the salaries, which does not include the FICA or anything else. This cost also includes firefighter wages, not just ambulance, so your numbers won't be quite right as you're now combining the ambulance. The agreement that was reached, in which the Chief didn't come back to change it, is what is being brought forth to the people. Reuben can appreciate a citizen adding \$65,000 as an amendment. With that said, the amount given in the article was what was agreed upon during the budget process. Right now in the ambulance there is \$212,000 if you were going to be putting someone there all night long you wouldn't need a stipend as you would be paying them more than what the stipend would be. If you add \$91,000 you'll now have a balance of \$303,000 and will be missing \$47,000 to fund for 24-hour coverage with four people on. If you did this, then you could reduce some of the firefighter wages. The only problem is will there be enough for FICA and other similar items, as these will need to still be paid.

Point of order was declared by Desmond Douglas, as there is discussion on an amendment that hasn't even been voted on yet.

Moderator Northridge stated this relates to the number of \$65,000 that was brought forward in the amendment.

S. Miller inquired why this \$65,000 wasn't brought forward in a separate warrant article to be voted on? Unless the Selectmen did not support the \$65,000 to begin with.

Reuben replied that this amount was never brought before the board before. There was discussion before about creating a special warrant article. But there was also an opinion that it would cancel out a part of the operating budget. This is why the \$65,000 is being discussed now to be added to the operating budget, as it is an operating expense. Reuben doesn't believe in everything that is in the budget, but comes up with the same numbers the Chief presented. There is more than enough money in the budget to do what the Chief would like to do.

S. Miller stated he is not going to vote against the fire department and put one life in jeopardy. It seems that we're trying to evolve to a full-time fire department in Town. And will ultimately be unionized and turned into a \$1.5 to \$3 million number.

R. Wentworth stated he thought the same as Mr. Miller at one point. The main thing during discussions is that this is the proper and economical way without overwhelming everything is to study this for over three years, which goes along with the Chief's recommendation to the board, to look at and study for three years. We're not trying to push the department to full-time, but

sooner or later we're going to have to look into it as the Town has grown. When it comes to life and safety, we need to look at this and start somewhere.

C. Shapleigh stated as an individual citizen, full-time coverage should not be confused with a full-time fire emergency services department. Having full time EMS workers 24-hours a day per diem does not constitute full-time employment. There are two full-time employees in the fire and ambulance department: the Chief and the Secretary are the only employees eligible for benefits. Every other person who comes to your home is a volunteer no matter when they come. It is very important to have the coverage from 7pm – 7am. \$65,000, if not used, will be returned to the Town. Ms. Shapleigh recommends that we support this amendment.

Peter Bolster stated that this issue discussed tonight has been an open secret for many years. We have been trying to meet the modern times and expectations of medical coverage with a system that worked very well years ago. The age of our community plays a great deal into this because we do not have emergency personnel that work locally under 40, so we have to draw from other communities to continue to run our emergency services. We need to keep working at this important issue.

L. Carr stated again that at the budget public hearing, what the Selectmen presented to the Budget Committee said “there is going to be \$370/shift” from his notes “24/7 coverage per two persons” and now someone gets up and wants to add \$65,000. Mr. Carr doesn't want to know what good it will do for the town, but what is the \$65,000 actually going to do as it is already in the budget. And in our discussion we're aware of what the stipend is going to stay at. What is the \$65,000 going to cover?

R. Wentworth discussed the numbers again and stated this coverage was already included in the budget. Thus, the additional \$65,000 is not needed.

J. Kantar believes there is a confusion in numbers. The purest intent of the additional \$65,000 is to make sure the funding is there to have staff available in the building. The stipend is great, but it is to encourage the crew to be available. “Available” meaning that we have providers coming from home and not meaning being put in the station.

C. Shapleigh is concerned that Mr. Carr has inaccurate information and Cydney was not at the budget meeting that is being referenced. What was discussed with the Board of Selectmen was a stipend of \$100/night for two individuals to be on call from their home from 7pm -7am, and not at the station. If they were called in they would get the \$100 stipend plus their hourly rate.

S. Miller asked what was the surplus for last year? C. Shapleigh responded “about \$87,000”. Mr. Miller then asked about the surplus for the year before and if there has been a surplus the last five years in a row as a rhetorical question. Because there has been a significant surplus the last five years in a row and if this was voted down there has been enough money in the surplus to make up for the \$65,000 if you chose to use it for that reason.

V. Macdonald stated you can not set a budget based on surplus, as you do not know if there even will be a surplus or if there will be a break even.

Andrea Caruso stated a couple of years ago she checked to see how much everything affected our tax rate to generate \$100,000 of revenue and two years ago, it was 4.5 cents per thousand. Is this still accurate? Ms. Shapleigh responded that for every \$50,000 it adds 3 cents to the tax rate. Ms. Caruso continued stating it is 6 cents now. So this \$65,000 addition to the article will impact the rate about 4 cents per thousand. Making a \$200,000 home 80 cents total for this on our tax bill for the year. This quibbling for \$65,000 for 24-hour staffing of our support service should end and we should vote on the motion.

Discussion continued until Mr. Northridge brought the amendment to vote.

The amendment to Article 16 passed with a favorable vote.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 16 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund, previously established in 2000, and place all monies in this Fund into the Town's unassigned fund balance. The amount is approximately \$354,000 plus any additional accumulated interest or ambulance revenues. This article is contingent upon Article #18 passing. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

J. Markland moved Article 17 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Steve Miller called a point of order to discuss article 18 prior to this, as article 18 needs to pass in order for this to work.

Moderator Northridge responded this article has already been moved and seconded and is too late to change the order.

John Markland defers his time to the Fire Chief.

Chief Ridley stated when this fund was established it was probably a good thing then. The danger in this article is that if this does not pass every year we will have to shut the ambulance service down probably by June 1st or before. This needs to change, as this is not covered under the default budget. The DRA does not like the special revenue fund for that reason. We are trying to create a process to establish a budget, it moves forward, the board approves it and then we have a working budget without having to worry that in March it is voted down.

Moderator Northridge opened the floor to discussion.

S. Miller asked if the Budget Committee voted on this.

C. Shapleigh responded this this is not a money article.

No further discussion.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 17 and R. Wentworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 18: To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of maintaining an ambulance service with costs to include but not be limited to supplies, ambulance medical equipment, ambulance personnel medical equipment, training, ambulance fuel, ambulance maintenance, ambulance vehicle equipment, and ambulance purchases or lease/purchases. This fund will receive all forms of revenue from the ambulance service, to include but not limited to, ambulance billing revenues, activities, donations, services and other income, which will be deposited into the Ambulance Revolving Fund. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. And further, to raise and appropriate \$354,000 to deposit into this fund with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (This represents the monies that were in the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund.) This article is contingent upon article #17 passing. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required.)

J. Markland moved Article 18 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

J. Markland defers his comments to the Fire Chief.

R. Ridley stated establishing this ambulance revolving fund will allow himself or the next Fire Chief to be able to present a budget to the Board Selectmen, they would approve it and at this point would be approved. When R. Ridley started looking into replacing ambulances two years ago, one of these ambulances was 16 years-old, and the other was approaching 11 years-old. Chief Ridley purposes purchasing an ambulance every five years, which will give the Town an ambulance not older than ten years old. An average cost ambulance right now is approximately \$180,000 to \$225,000, which is not extravagant. If you take the \$354,000 subtract last year's operating budget of \$168,000 and then purchase an ambulance, for an example of \$200,000, that wasn't going to take too many years before the fund would be depleted. Thus, in the proposal Chief Ridley suggested taking the wages out of the ambulance account and placing them into the Fire Department's budget. Going forward what we collect every year will replace necessary equipment and will allow us to replace an ambulance every five years. This would be a solvent fund unless Medicare folded and we had no revenues coming in. The fund would also ensure the long-term survivability of the ambulance service.

L. Carr asked would all lease payments have to come out of this fund or can they come out of the operating budget.

C. Shapleigh replied that the Town Administrator said, "Yes it could."

Attorney James Sessler explained that to come out of the operating budget you would have to approve the budget every year. So yes, you could in part. You can put it in both places as long as people know about it. If there is not enough money in the fund and there is a shortfall, they would have to include it in the operating budget.

R. Ridley explained that the intent is whether to purchase an ambulance out right or to lease/purchase an ambulance for it to come out of the ambulance revolving fund. There are ample funds to replace an ambulance every five years to include other equipment out of the fund we have. This money comes from revenue for transport ambulance calls.

L. Carr stated that normally a lease/purchase the voters have a say. This would be starting a lease/purchase without the voters say and then be stuck with a lease. Mr. Carr is concerned that people do not know what is in the operating budget.

Attorney Sessler explained that if there is \$100,000 in the revolving fund that came out of the revenues from the ambulance, it does not come from taxpayer dollars. They have \$100,000 that they can enter into a lease for that amount. If they have \$50,000 in the fund and the lease is still for \$100,000 then they can use the \$50,000 out of the fund the other \$50,000 they would have to go to the townspeople to raise the difference. We have always done it as a warrant, but it is up to the Selectmen and Budget Committee whether it comes out of the operating budget or a special warrant. If there is a shortfall and the townspeople do not vote to raise the amount needed for the lease, the leased vehicle will go back.

Ken Roberts stated lease/purchases come out of revolving funds. They have never been from taxation.

S. Miller wanted to clarify why the budget committee did not vote on this article. As it says “to raise, and appropriate \$354,000 to deposit into this fund...” This sounds like a money article.

V. Macdonald stated it is moving money from one account to another. Attorney Sessler also added that this is money that has already been raised and will not impact taxes.

Attorney Sessler stated that the actual warrant article has been approved by DRA (Department Revenue Administration) and does not have that language “to raise and appropriate” – it has been removed.

Mark Northridge read the article again as there was concern about the wording on the document that was distributed prior to the start of the meeting.

L. Carr motioned to amend Article 18 by removing “or lease/purchases” from the wording and was seconded by S. Miller.

Mr. Carr stated that the attorney said lease/purchases are voted on in the past. And that he is concerned with allowing the Selectmen to start making lease/purchases without the voters’ say.

C. Shapleigh stated if this amendment passes we will be unable to make a lease payment out of the revenue fund. Therefore, we will not be able to pay the next payment on the ambulance and it will go back. We are asking to discontinue the other revenue fund and bring it to this one and then return fund balances.

J. Sessler stated that the town has established revenue funds in the past with revenue to make purchases for different things. They do not come from taxpayer dollars; we do not raise taxes to pay for these things. We have done this with cruisers in the past.

Discussion continued regarding being able to make a lease/purchase without the voters' approval and this would allow the town to make payments on a lease/purchase.

Mr. Northridge put the amendment to remove "or lease purchases" from the wording to vote.

The amendment to Article 18 failed.

P. Wittmann 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 \$79,487 for the purpose of funding the ambulance supplies and equipment, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance with the said funds to come from the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund as previously established in 2000. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and **there will be no funds raised from general taxation.** This article is null and void if articles #17 and #18 are approved. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 19 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

S. Miller called point of order. The handout provided does not agree with the article read by the Moderator.

C. Shapleigh stated the difference is in the wording required by DRA. The intent is the same.

S. Miller called another point of order. Do the townspeople have the correct/exact wording of all the warrant articles to be voted on?

Moderator Northridge called for a five-minute recess to review this point of order.

Upon return of the break, Mr. Northridge noted that it was realized that the document he was reading from had a few changes from the handouts. With the discrepancies being word changes by DRA, and did not change the intent of the article. He will read the remainder of the articles from the handout that was provided to the audience.

Andy McLeod called a point of order. You are asking the townspeople to vote on wording that the DRA has not approved? The Moderator responded, "Yes. What was posted is what we will vote on. It is not that the DRA hasn't approved, it is just they made a couple of recommendations of word changes."

Attorney Sessler stated there are no implications. From what he sees, the DRA has approved both groups of the budget and has recommended some language changes, which are minor and will not affect the intent of the warrant articles. Mr. McLeod asked to verify if there is DRA approval with the text that the audience has a copy of and Attorney Sessler stated "yes".

No discussion pertaining to Article 19.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 19 and C. Shapleigh 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 \$15,500 for the purpose of purchasing a Lucas CPR Device to equip the second ambulance, with said funds to come from the Ambulance Operation Special Revenue Fund previously established in 2000. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and **there will be no funds raised from general taxation.** This article is null and void if Articles #17 and #18 are approved. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 20 and was seconded by J. Markland.

R. Ridley stated the Lucas CPR Device is a mechanical piece of equipment that is utilized for cardiac arrest. If there is only one or two people who show up at a call, it is almost impossible to do all the tasks that need to be done without this device. The first one was purchased and donated to the Town of Alton by the Lakes Region General Hospital. The goal is to equip a second ambulance with this machine.

No further discussion pertaining to Article 20.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 20 and P. Wittmann 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 authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$215,000 for the purpose of leasing a new ambulance and equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 47,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and **there will be no funds raised from general taxation.** Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 21 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

R. Ridley stated the intent is to purchase another ambulance this year and replace the 2005 Freightliner. The current ambulance is not reliable; it has had a fair amount of out-of-service time this year due to ABS brake issues and other problems. We are trying to upgrade the fleet and have two ambulances running.

S. Miller asked why we are not purchasing an ambulance out right versus a lease payment that has interest and other costs associated with it.

R. Wentworth responded he would love to see the Town buy it outright from the Ambulance Revolving Fund that will hopefully get passed. However, if we did there wouldn't be any money left to purchase anything for the ambulance such as materials or supplies. This is one reason why we are doing the revolving fund, which is only coming from revenues.

D. Hershey is always in favor of comparing the final numbers of lease versus purchase. Generally speaking a lease is better because the salvage value of the vehicle is deducted from the purchase price and the lease is spread out over the remaining period of time. Mr. Hershey's real question on this article is, with the passing of Article 18 (the Ambulance Revolving Fund) with

giving the Selectmen the choice to enter into and pay a lease does that mean we will never see an article such as Article 21?

J. Sessler responded under provisions of the revolving fund you don't have to bring a vote in the future.

D. Hershey stated the issue with Article 18 was never seeing the decision going into Article 21. The initial decision to purchase a piece of equipment and that is the part that would go before the taxpayer. Then in Article 21 the taxpayer would give the authority to the board to make the purchase and all subsequent lease payments, which will then go into the operating budget. He also stated that if you know you are going to have an expense over time it should go into the operating budget rather than a warrant article.

L. Carr called a point of order. We discussed this previously as his proposed amendment was voted down.

Moderator Northridge stated the Selectmen are asking the voters if they want to lease a new ambulance.

D. Hershey is still wondering if going forward will we see articles such as 21 on the ballot?

V. Macdonald stated it is the faith in the people who are elected to the Board of Selectmen to bring it forward for townspeople to vote.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 21 and C. Shapleigh 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 authorize the Selectmen to enter into a ten-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$600,000 for the purpose of leasing a leasing/purchasing a new pumping fire truck and equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,245 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 22 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

R. Ridley stated the intent is to replace the fire engine at the East Alton station on Quarry Road. We're looking for \$600,000, but the price of the truck will not be \$600,000. We need to replace radios and equipment as well. This is a 1991 Beck fire truck. The process takes about six months to spec the truck and then about a year to get the vehicle. The current truck has had extensive repairs this year. We need to start replacing the vehicles on 20-year intervals and we have two pieces of equipment reaching 30 years of age.

Gene Young asked what is the escape clause?

C. Shapleigh replied this is a non-appropriation clause. Thus, if next year the voters vote down the next lease payment, the truck goes back. Attorney Sessler also added that there are no financial penalties, the truck just goes back.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 22 and C. Shapleigh 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 authorize the selectmen to enter into a ten-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$900,000 for the purpose of leasing a new aerial ladder fire truck and equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,368 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-2) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 23 and was seconded by J. Markland.

R. Ridley stated the intent of this article is to replace the current 1989 ladder truck. It will take more than a year for this vehicle to arrive. The fire pump on this truck is out of service as it is beyond repair. The torque box, where the aerial portion of the truck transfers into the frame, is extensively rotted. According to the company who certifies the truck every year we are one test away from it going out of service permanently. The purchase price also includes equipment.

S. Miller stated the fire department is asking for almost \$2.5 million in warrant articles, which is 30% of the Town's operating budget. This amount does not include the fire department's operating budget. Where was the planning and the CIP on this article? The planning and forethought of this article is what Mr. Miller is questioning, as this is a lot of money at one time.

C. Shapleigh responded CIP was resurrected this year. We can't go back to previous years. The Town can correct this going forward. There is a great CIP plan which copies should be available upfront. This is a lot of money in the beginning but it is where we need to be so we do not have this problem ten years from now. You are seeing such an increase now because we have neglected the fire department for so many years.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 23 and J. Markland 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 \$336,808 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0, 1 abstention) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

J. Markland moved Article 24 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

J. Markland stated this is a CIP recommended article and is deferring any additional comments to the Fire Chief.

L. Carr asked why the odd number of \$336,808? And, how much is in the fund currently?

C. Shapleigh stated all of the numbers are listed on the CIP sheet. The current balance is \$218,730.32.

L. Carr confirmed that this article will make the capital reserve have a balance of half a million dollars in capital reserve.

R. Ridley responded he was asked by the CIP committee to put together a list of every durable piece of equipment, vehicles, hydraulic tools, air bags, all of the equipment and planned it out for purposeful replacement for down the road. This is an effort to modernize the Town fleet to where it should be.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 24 and P. Wittmann 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 \$429,642 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0, 1 abstention) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 25 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

V. Macdonald motioned to amend the article by reducing the dollar amount from \$429,642 to \$300,000 and was seconded by Ken Roberts.

Ken Roberts stated he would use what is in the capital reserve fund and bring this down to \$300,000. He is going to reevaluate and work with the CIP committee next year to help spread the amount for this fund over the next five to six years.

M. Northridge put the amendment to vote.

The amendment to Article 25 passed with a favorable vote.

No further discussion on the article.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 25 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 26: 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 \$195,000. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-2) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

J. Markland moved Article 26 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

J. Markland stated this is the yearly funding for the highway reconstruction. This has just changed from the previous amount of \$750,000 to \$950,000.

No further discussion.

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

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 27 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

K. Roberts stated the highway department has been stockpiling rock and asphalt and that last year they crushed about 5,000 yards, which will be used on roads this year. There is approximately 7,000 yards still on the ground that still need to be crushed. This will help reduce the money that we have in the operating fund and we need to recycle the material as much as possible.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 27 and C. Shapleigh 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 \$5,000 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 28 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

K. Roberts stated when sand is exposed it starts drying out and blowing (it blows soot and dust). The EPA and other people do not like the soot and dust floating around. We are making an attempt to put money away so the Town will be ready to build a shed when told to do so, the cost of a shed is approximately \$300,000.

No further discussion.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 28 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. 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 \$10,000 to be added to the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 29 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

K. Roberts stated the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund was established so that we have enough money set aside for when a bridge is red listed by the State of New Hampshire. By having enough money to take advantage of the 20/80 program (20% from Town and 80% from the State), we can apply immediately for help from the State should they red list any of our bridges tomorrow; the program is out until 2026.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 29 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. 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 \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 30 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

K. Roberts stated that this is a two-fold warrant article. First, you have to repair the existing building today and you need to put enough money away every year to put an addition on it later. The addition is needed, but it will take time to put the money aside.

No further discussion

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 30 and P. Wittmann seconded the motion. 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 a Parks and Recreation Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing vehicles for the Parks and Recreation Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 31 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the fund will be used to purchase vehicles when needed for the grounds and maintenance division, which maintains thirty-eight Town properties. This includes plowing building parking lots, trash removal at all Town buildings and public parks, turf management, and custodial work. The Parks and Recreation Department is expecting to replace the current 2008 F-350, which has over 100,000 miles, in 2019 with a similar vehicle for approximately \$45,000.

S. Miller stated in the past when the Town purchased police vehicles, we would pass down the vehicles no longer being used to other Town departments. Going to a lease/purchase the unintended consequence is we have to go and purchase vehicles as those have to be given back to the dealer rather than giving to departments as we have done in the past. Is this correct?

K. Troendle stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has not ever received an F-350 from the police department, we have received a vehicle that the custodian can use.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 31 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the ballot as written.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the A.V.A.S. Public Park Building Property Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2017. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 32 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

K. Troendle stated these funds would be used to make permanent improvements to the building resulting from tree damage in 2016 and increasing the size of the building workspace from 16 by 20 feet to 16 by 28 feet. There is a current balance of \$15,000 in the capital reserve fund. The estimated project cost is \$30,000.

No further discussion.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 32 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the ballot as written.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Mount Major Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2017. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) and the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 33 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

K. Troendle stated the funds would be used to repair the roof, floors, windows, kitchen, and bathrooms. There is a current balance of \$10,000 in the fund.

D. Hershey asked what is the long-term plan and frequency of use for this facility. In the absence of any long-term plans, would it make more sense to turn the \$10,000 into demolition cost and avoid future expenses for a building that may be under-utilized?

V. Macdonald stated this building was under a trust to the Town. The West Alton residents use to use this facility, as it is a Town owned building. It is in need of repairs as the roof is leaking.

K. Troendle stated because of the condition of the building it is not currently being used; it is not safe.

R. Nelson asked when the last time the building was used?

K. Troendle was unable to answer this question as the building was under the jurisdiction of another owner and was given to the Town through a trust.

C. Shapleigh added that there is a public hearing scheduled in May to ask the townspeople what they would like the future of the building to be.

L. Carr inquired to the cost of the roof as his understanding was the \$10,000 that was asked for last year was to do the roof.

C. Shapleigh stated that the \$10,000 last year was used to establish the fund for repairs. We're not putting this project out to bid until we have money.

K. Troendle stated that with the Capital Improvement Plan \$10,000 was recommended for last year, \$10,000 for this year, and \$5,000 for next year.

R. Nelson asked if there is going to be a public hearing in May, why are we funding additional money now?

C. Shapleigh responded that if the decision is made that the building can't be salvaged we will have demolition costs.

P. Bolster stated that he believes this is a situation that we have been gifted something. We don't want it but we can't refuse it. We are obligated by this gift to maintain the building and if we don't, could be in violation.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 33 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of making improvements, and undertaking maintenance and repairs to the Alton Bay Lake Side Retaining Walls, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 34 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

K. Troendle stated the retaining rock wall from the public boat dock to the swim area needs repair. The retaining wall is deteriorating at the water level due to age and wave action. The Town had previously approved funds in 2016 for the repair work and the selected contractor was not able to complete the wall repair by December 31st, 2017 due to cold weather; the funds were non-lapsing with an expiration date of December 31, 2017. The Town has an approved permit to repair the wall from NH DES until 2020.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 34 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,000 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 35 and was seconded by J. Markland.

P. Wittmann stated the Milfoil Committee in Alton does a terrific job compared to other towns along the area. They do the job for the same amount of money every year and is worth the \$22,000 being asked for in this article.

L. Carr inquired to the balance in the account being \$13,658.71.

C. Shapleigh responded that is correct.

L. Carr also inquired on why we are asking for the same amount if it did not cost so much last year.

K. Troendle stated the total cost was \$30,276 last year and the DES grant was \$9,604 that was reimbursed to the Town. The Town does like to have the funds in the account so that we can apply for additional grant funds.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 35 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Police Detail Revolving Fund, previously established in 2016, from being used for Police detail payroll and overhead, to being used for Police detail payroll, overhead, fleet maintenance, fleet equipment purchases, all fleet vehicle and boat purchases or lease/purchases. This account is funded by Police detail revenue and **there will be no funds raised from general taxation.** Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (2/3 vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 36 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

Ryan Heath, Police Chief, explained that when the Police Detail Revolving Fund was established it was to cover all the overhead expenses for private detail so that it wasn't done through the operating budget. Money is building up in the fund and there is no mechanism to allow the governing board to expend these funds. This will allow the board to use this money for certain expenses without needing to be added to the operating budget.

D. Hershey asked would the fleet maintenance and equipment purchases be a reduction of the budget someplace else that is not currently going to the operating budget?

R. Heath replied that yes, in the future what we're hoping to do is to offset some of the expenses for these unforeseen maintenance costs, fleet purchases, and anything associated with that. This doesn't offset the current proposal in the operating budget, as we are unsure if this article will pass or not. And if this does pass it will be an offset to the operating budget for these two items.

L. Carr asked if the Selectmen are going to be the ones who spend it? And this includes boat purchases? As the article mentions boat purchases.

V. Macdonald responded the wording will allow the lease to come out of the revolving fund rather than through taxation.

R. Wentworth responded to boat purchases by stating that the Chief informed the Selectmen that there is quite a bit of rot to the police boat and couldn't be used. Then found out at this point the revolving fund couldn't be used for boats and other certain items; thus, had to create this article. This will allow anything in the fleet to be purchased from this fund, which is money raised from detail work. If this passes, we can either get a new boat or repair the boat without needing to raise money from the taxpayers.

J. Sessler stated that a lease/purchase will have to come out of the revolving fund. If it doesn't come out of the revolving fund then they have to bring it before the voters to raise the money and if there is a shortfall they will need to raise the money. Voters have the option to say yes or no.

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

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1994. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 37 and was seconded by J. Markland.

V. Macdonald stated this money is used to see if contamination is traveling into the wells that have been drilled at the Transfer Station and to be in compliance with the State.

No further discussion.

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

Article 38: 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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 38 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

C. Shapleigh stated this is continuing to increase the balance in the Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, which is currently \$23,687.62.

No further discussion.

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

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Transfer Station Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2005, which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 39 and was seconded by J. Markland.

V. Macdonald stated the capital reserve has a balance of \$128,764.94, which is used for storm water management at the Transfer Station.

D. Hershey suggested this article should be broken down as to what is an option and what is not an option. It appears the article is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. A portion of this will include the EPA storm water management requirement and the other portion is to add to the reserve fund.

V. Macdonald responded that we don't know what the State will say for the storm water requirements.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 39 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

J. Markland moved Article 40 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

J. Markland explained the current balance in the fund is \$173.48. \$5,000 will begin the process through CIP recommendations to look into a sprinkler system for the town hall.

No further discussion on the article.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 40 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 41: Shall the Town accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that the Town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Water Commission to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 41 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

S. Miller asked if the Water Department is managed separately from the Town and why this article necessary.

R. Wentworth responded that it is. This article is needed as it is still a function of the Town and all departments/commissions of the Town must have this provision in it to accept gifts or grants. If this doesn't pass and something comes up with the Water Department where they can receive a grant to help fix a water main or improve the quality of Town water, they would not be able to accept it.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 41 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Library Elevator Capital Reserve Fund created in 2002. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0).

J. Markland moved Article 42 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

J. Markland stated Articles 42, 43, and 44 are all housekeeping items. This fund currently has a balance of \$1.

No further discussion.

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

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 2001. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0).

J. Markland moved Article 43 and was seconded by P Wittmann.

No further discussion.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 43 and P. Wittmann seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund created in 2012. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0).

J. Markland moved Article 44 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

No further discussion.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 44 and R. Wentworth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 45: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish Class A or Class B trails over any land previously acquired by the Town, including any land acquired by the conservation Commission pursuant to RSA 36-A:4 or as a town forest pursuant to RSA 31:110. Shall the Town also authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire any Class A or Class B trail in the name of the Town pursuant to the terms of RSA 231-A:5 I – III. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 45 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

S. Miller stated he did not understand this article.

K. Roberts responded this article came about when a gentleman wanted to donate a piece of land for recreational parking so that people can use the back trails up Mount Major. In order to do this we need to be able to create trails to allow for acceptance of the land.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 45 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

M. Northridge called a 10-minute break.

Article 46: Shall the Town vote to reclassify that portion of Alton Mountain Road that is currently a Class VI highway as a Class A Municipal Trail pursuant to RSA 231-A:2. The Class VI portion of Alton Mountain Road begins at the home of MaryLou Banker and John Geleas and extends to the Gilmanton Town line at property of the Boy Scouts of America. All owners of abutting properties shall have all existing rights of use as provided for in RSA 231-A:1 I. (Recommended by Selectmen (5-0)) (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 46 and was seconded by J. Markland.

Russ Wilder spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission. This would allow a trailhead to be established at the end of Alton Mountain Rd. and would also allow the town to plow an area for a parking lot. Currently the town has to plow to the end then back out. Ken Roberts has visited the site and said this would allow for a place for the plow driver to turn around. The Mount Major Snowmobile Club did have a concern about this as they maintain a snowmobile trail here. They did meet on site and a way has been worked out with trail 22 running through this trailhead and allowing room for the groomer to pass through.

L Carr asked if this article would bind the town legally to maintain the trail similar to sidewalks and having to plow them.

Attorney Sessler responded there is no legal obligation. There is municipal immunity if someone gets hurt on the trail.

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

Article 47: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose. Prior to the acceptance of a gift valued at over \$5,000 the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. Recommended by the Selectmen (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 47 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

C. Shapleigh stated this is a housekeeping item similar to the Water Commission article voted on earlier.

No further discussion.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 47 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. 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 \$10,000 for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance and Women, Infants & Children food assistance program (WIC). This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 48 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

There was no discussion on this article.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 48 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 49: 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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 49 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 50 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

There was no discussion on this article.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 50 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 51: 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 is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 51 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

P. Bolster stated this is important for us to remember that our long term director, Dorothye Wentworth, who passed away a few months ago had been the director for 17 of the 19 years of the existence of Alton Community Services. This is a unique organization that pulls together the banks, businesses, Welfare Department, the Churches, and individual citizens to work together to help those in need.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 51 and was seconded by P. Wittmann. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 52: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$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 is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 52 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

There was no discussion on this article.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 52 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 53: 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 is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 53 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Article 54: 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 is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 54 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Article 55: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 55 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

There was no discussion on this article.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 55 and was seconded by V. Macdonald. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 56: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 56 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Article 57: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 57 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Article 58: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$50,000 to upgrade and expand the existing facilities at the Jones Field Recreation Area for such things as installation of irrigation, adding additional parking, replace and relocate the snack shack and add lighting for the ball field and other projects, similar in scope and purpose. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-2). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2). (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

C. Shapleigh moved Article 58 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Derek Pappaceno, a teacher and a coach in town for 15 years, spoke in favor of the article. He stated there is great potential for the field here in Alton at Little Fenway but our facilities are lacking. Mr. Pappaceno has had discussions with people in town who have been willing to donate their time and/or material to help. He also compared Little Fenway to Wolfeboro's Nick and Rochester's Allen Park which most of these facilities have donated time and materials from local businesses. As a member of a new substance abuse prevention coalition, this is another great resource for family events on nights and weekends. He believes we will see some of that money come back as the field is not used as often as it should be.

L. Carr asked if the townspeople vote for this and all the other articles presented, what would be the percent increase this year compared to last year?

Mr. Northridge clarified if he was asking about the non-profit request or the whole thing. Since his request is on the whole thing it doesn't pertain to this specific warrant article.

Mr. Hershey responded we didn't do that calculation.

Mr. Pappaceno stated it is difficult to put an amount when someone is going to donate a certain amount of time and material. And that is unknown at this time. But this isn't \$50,000 that is going to be spent at one time. This is something that the town would put out to bid over the years. Safety is a concern at the field, especially in the parking.

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

Article 59: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Nineteen Dollars (\$7,619.00) for the purpose of paying membership dues in the Lakes Region Planning Commission for FY2019. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-2). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0, 2 abstentions). (Majority vote required)
This is a petition article.

C. Shapleigh moved Article 59 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Peter Bolster, Chairman of the Alton Planning Board, stated the Planning Board voted unanimously to support this article. There is a lot of misinformation on this council. The Lakes Region Planning Council is made up of 38 towns, which on a volunteer basis come together and talk about issues that deal with common concerns. It is also an organization that provides the town to share information with other members. With our staff and members of our boards we should be really proud of what we have to offer to other towns. What do we get from being a member town? We get the opportunity for our representation to have a say with the L.R. Planning Commission on topics on the agenda. We are not told what to do by the Planning Commission – we can choose what to do with what we hear from the meeting, we are not restricted. The other aspect is that this is a money-saving article. LRPC has put together an electrical buying consortium of a large number of towns in this area. Alton cannot participate in this program, because we do not pay our dues. Because we do not pay our dues, we have given up saving \$21,000 in this electric buying consortium. Between the elementary school, the town, and the high school 1.6 million kilowatt hours are used per year. We would save 1.5 cents per kilowatt, which is significant. \$5,000 of this would go to Barnstead as we share the high school with them. Being a part of this Commission, it would help give us other opportunities for bus companies with our schools and help with the solid waste center.

R. Wilder spoke on the value of being a member of the Planning Commission. He wanted to share the following points that Nic Strong, the Alton Planning Director, had previously presented to the Selectmen. The Lakes Region Planning Commission does not reduce or eliminate any of the duties on the planning board for the individual municipalities. Another point is, that being a member of this Commission helps Alton know what is going on with other towns. In the transportation planning, if we join the Commission we can be a part of the conversation of what is in the transportation improvement plan, which includes the roads and state roads in Alton. Some of the items she would use these for are: Plan systems, map preparation, traffic and volume comps, corridor studies and she'll have the ability to pick up the phone and call the technical folks to answer questions. This will be a resource in the upcoming update of the Master Plan.

P. Wittmann stated this is not necessary for us to be a part of the Lakes Region Planning Commission. This is an organization that claims to be advisory only. It's a little more than advisory as they can help arrange performance from federal agencies such as HUD, in which we can apply as a town for our own federal funds. They claim to be looking out for our roads and transportation. They're supposedly looking after the scenic by way, which in Alton has rumble strips that they are not doing anything about. The Commission provided Nic Strong and the town a list of items that they have done for the town. One of the items on that list was that they provided trail maps – they haven't as of yet and have added an extra \$500 in addition to the dues. They automatically become abutters if one town wants to build a development on the border of another town. So if a town wants to do the development they have to send all the reports to this commission, therefore they're a little more than advisory. Mr. Wittmann believes that our town does not need the expense of the dues.

William French stated he looked into what the Lakes Region Planning Commission does and found out that it is really comprised of six people and about a half-dozen interns. He sees the commission as a conduit for the federal government just the way they are linked to the Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry, EPA, and HUD. Essentially their mission in effect is to get grants of federal money to impose emission on municipalities such as Alton. Mr. French believes it is pretty high handed to say that we don't have access to data of other towns as we also provide data. We have a planning board for a purpose to do these duties.

W. French made a motion to amend the article to change the amount of \$7,619.00 to \$1.00 and was seconded by R. Nelson.

M. Northridge opened the floor to discussion of the amendment.

L. Carr believed back in 1982 this was voted on by the town to participate in the commission. Is this legal for the Selectmen to dismiss the vote of the people?

Attorney Sessler stated every year we appropriate to vote to fund it. The Selectmen are the governing body.

Discussion ensued on putting this article out to the voters to decide whether to join the Commission or not.

M. Northridge put the amendment to vote.

The amendment to Article 59 failed.

L. Carr asked whether or not the Selectmen need to fund it? They can still say no?

C. Shapleigh stated that this just brings it forward to the voters.

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

Article 60: Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town of Alton? Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

V. Macdonald moved Article 60 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

There was no discussion on this article.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 60 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go on the official ballot as written.

Article 61: To see if the Town will vote to direct the Selectmen to proceed with maintenance and repairs to the Water Bandstand as allocated in Article 16 of the 2014 Warrant. (In 2014, the voters appropriated \$20,000.00 for the purpose of repairs and maintenance. \$13,540.00 remains in the Capital Reserve Fund after completion of a new roof in 2017). Also, to vote to expedite: to organize a Committee of volunteers by April 15, 2018, to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on how to proceed, with a completion date for the repairs on or before July 31, 2018. No taxpayer funds are requested for this Article. **This is a petition Article.** Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 61 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

Nancy Merrill spoke in favor of this article. Nancy Merrill stated this is a historical landmark which will be 90 years old this year. The amount of money remaining will pay for the leveling of the deck, cleaning, sealing it, painting, upgrading the lighting, replacing vinyl siding, covering the seal of new material, and replacing the old flag pole.

P. Wittmann stated the article quotes a figure that we apparently have enough money to complete the project. If there is money in the fund and we can save it, he would definitely be in favor of that.

D. Hershey inquired as if this was the floating bandstand or the one by the water. In which, Nancy Merrill responded that it is the floating bandstand. The only thing he would hope is with the interest of being a historic structure is to reconsider the vinyl siding.

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

C. Shapleigh motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by J. Markland.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Collins
Recording Secretary