

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2019
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

Robin Lane-Douglas, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Moderator Lane-Douglas welcomed 51 voters in attendance to the first session of the 2019 Town Meeting. The second session will be held in conjunction with the Town Elections, held at St. Katharine-Drexel Church located off Route 28 on March 12, 2019. At that time we will vote on the warrant articles that we discuss today to put in their final form for the ballot.

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
Troy Neff, Finance Officer

Roger Nelson introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee.

Roger Nelson, Chairman
David Hershey, Member
Patrick "Pat" O'Brien, Member
Elizabeth Varney, Member (arrived late)

Robin Lane-Douglas then introduced:
Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Moderator Lane-Douglas then called upon Cydney Shapleigh, Select Board Chair, to present her report.

Cydney Shapleigh started by thanking the Water Bandstand Committee for the outstanding work they did in restoring the bandstand to its original beauty this year. The Town is looking forward to celebrating the bandstand's revival and enjoying concerts once again from the water.

Alton continues to be a popular destination for both vacationers and for those who are looking to establish permanent residency. Alton brings so much more to the table besides the low tax rate of \$13.99 per thousand for current residents and prospective buyers. The Parks and Recreation Director has made sure there is truly something for everyone in what the Town offers to its

residents. Whether it is the Little Pesaukees preschool program, lakefront yoga, pickleball, or a snowshoe adventure it is clear that we are a community that is vested in bringing our residents together; and this is what really makes Alton special.

This year our Planning Board sponsored “All in For Alton” community profile to gather input from the townspeople as the board begins to update the master plan. The Select Board looks forward to hearing the results in the upcoming Selectmen’s meeting.

Last year Alton voters approved and funded the first CIP plan that the Town has had in a number of years. While the Select Board knew the financial impact would be significant in the first three years, the townspeople enthusiastically embraced the idea of well thought out long-term planning.

In addition, the Fire Department had asked for and was granted the ability to have 2 professionals staff the ambulance services 24 hours a day. As a result response times from tone to on scene decreased on average 3 and a half minutes. Call volumes for the department remain steady; 874 calls for service, 503 medical issues, 77 motor vehicle crashes, and 294 fire related incidents. Many of these calls were significant with 3 of them requiring medical helicopters to be brought on scene. Sadly, there were 16 calls in 2018 requiring the use of Narcan, reminding us that even as a small knit community we are not immune from the opioid crisis that our country is currently plagued by. However, on a happier note, one of our folks delivered a baby.

Our Police department saw an increase of 282 calls for services this year to a total call volume of 9,395. The majority of these were in the areas of simple assault, shoplifting, vandalism, and drug and alcohol related offenses. Narcotic drug offenses saw an increase of 34% and arrests for driving under the influence were up 35%.

Thanks to the efforts of the Highway Department and the generosity of the voters the crew rebuilt more than four and a half miles of roads and resurfaced Fernhill. In addition, road maintenance such as grading, ditching, sumping, cold patching and the cleaning of catch basins was performed on approximately 67 town roads.

In closing, Ms. Shapleigh would like to thank all the Town employees for the hard work and pride they take in keeping our town beautiful. If we take a good look around, we are blessed with great employees, an active group of volunteers, beautiful parks, and neighbors who care about one another. A place to be proud to call home.

Robin Lane-Douglas stated that the Moderator’s Rules are available at the entrance, and to save on time she will not be reading these aloud. She asked everyone to review and be aware of the rules; pointing out rules six, eight, eleven, and twelve.

Point of Order made by Mark Northridge. Mr. Northridge made a motion for the legislative body to adopt the Moderator’s rules and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Motion passed by a show of cards.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Tuesday, the fifth (5th) day of February, in the year of Two Thousand and Nineteen (2019), beginning at six

o'clock (6:00) in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote which will be held on March 12, 2019 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 6 have already been through the hearing process and cannot be amended and there will be no discussion.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in 2001. Said funds are recommended by the town auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by town employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

Reuben Wentworth moved Article 7 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

Reuben Wentworth spoke to the article. He stated this is self-explanatory; the fund was established in 2001 and we are looking to add an additional \$50,000 to replenish the fund as we had several employees leave this past year.

Jeffrey Clay asked why this article is even necessary. Why are these funds not in a person's bargaining agreement? Why are these funds not included in the operating budget as pay and salaries would be?

Reuben Wentworth responded that Alton would not have a collective bargaining agreement. This is a non-union town as voted on by the employees in the previous years. Secondly, this is a trust fund where money is built up over the years to be able to pay out employees the necessary time that was owed to them. By paying the departing employees out of this fund the town does not have to use the salary line item and there will be money left in the salary budget to pay the new hired employees.

Jeffrey Clay does not doubt there is a justifiable reason for doing this, but believes this process is not the correct way to compensate the employees based on the town's obligations in the Personnel Policy. These expenses should be included in the operating budget.

Mr. Clay motioned to amend Article 7 and was seconded by David Hershey to include the following language preceding to the recommendations by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee to read as follows: "Public employee pay and benefit should be included in the towns operating budget, and not, as done here, be contained in or contingent upon a separate warrant article."

Loring Carr asked the attorney if there needs to be a prior notice of items that come before the voters prior to the meeting. For example, from the floor we can't just add a truck to the warrants. Wouldn't this be a change of what is discussed at the public hearing?

Attorney James Sessler clarified Mr. Carr's question was meaning a significant alteration to the article, which are not allowable. In addition, the State Law requires these types of trust funds to be appropriated in separate warrant articles and not through the operating budget.

Loring Carr added that making this significant change, wouldn't it make this an illegal motion?

Attorney Sessler responded that this is a ruling for the moderator to make, if she feels it is a significant change that was not presented to the voters when the warrant articles went out.

Mr. Clay stated that this amendment does not change the intent of the article. Therefore, with what the Attorney just said it must be acted upon.

Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas ruled that this amendment would need to be a petitioned article for next year. This is a trust fund which has to be a separate warrant article and not included in the operating budget.

Point of Order made by Chairwoman Shapleigh stated that the Moderator had already made a ruling on the amendment.

Mr. Clay motioned to reduce the dollar amount of Article 7 to \$1.00. There was no second to this motion.

Bob Holt asked what the current balance is on the fund.

Rueben Wentworth stated there is just under \$6,000 remaining from last year.

Mr. Holt confirmed this account is 18 years old. Then asked if the amount being requested is \$50,000 every year? Which received a response of "no".

Point of Order made by Mark Northridge – there is still a motion on the floor that has a second. Whether or not you feel it is right or not, it should still be voted on.

The Moderator read the amendment to Article 7 to include the following language preceding to the recommendations by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee to read as follows: "Public employee pay and benefit should be included in the towns operating budget, and not, as done here, be contained in or contingent upon a separate warrant article."

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 7 went to vote and failed.

Loring Carr motioned to restrict Article 7 and Cydney Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 8: 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 \$7,940,176.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,931,766.00, 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 (0-4) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

Roger Nelson moved Article 8 and was seconded by David Hershey.

Roger Nelson, the Budget Committee Chair, explained that the budget committee reviewed the budget of \$8,181,850 that was presented to them by the Selectmen. This amount would make it a 5 ½% increase from the prior year, in which that year also had a healthy increase. The committee felt that some reductions were in order and acted accordingly to reduce the budget by \$241,673 which is the amount shown on this article of \$7,940,176.

J. Clay stated the operating budget of this town is too high. The operating budget would be much less if the town didn't allow departments to do things outside of such budget and allow people to work on projects they should not be doing.

Mr. Clay motioned to amend Article 8 to include the following language be inserted immediately preceding the recommendations by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee, to read as follows "This operating budget should be considerably less than what is being proposed."

Moderator Lane-Douglas ruled the amendment is unacceptable as it is changing the subject matter. Ms. Lane-Douglas understands and accepts Mr. Clay's thoughts of the operating budget being considerably less.

Matthew Johnson stated that the budget committee cut \$241,000 from the overall budget and noted that 30% of these cuts were from the Fire Department. Why does the committee not value the work that is done by the Fire Department to ensure the safety of the townspeople?

David Hershey responded that the committee does not devalue or fail to value the services provided by the Fire Department. This was more of an issue of estimating the actual financial needs and to allocate those resources.

Matthew Johnson then asked what equipment was not important enough to purchase, as there was a \$5,250 cut to the fire personal detection equipment line.

David Hershey responded that this is a direct reflection of the allocation and warrant article that was approved last year for those items. Again, by no means do not take this for a lack of concern for the well-being of any member of the town.

J. Clay discussed the legal line of the Town's operating budget. He stated he knows for certain the town does not have a contract with outside legal counsel which would have documented how much legal counsel is being paid per hour. Would the Budget Committee need to know how much we are spending per hour on our legal counsel before finalizing the budget? With approximately \$160,000 being spent, is it more prudent of taxpayers money to hire a permanent legal counsel? The ambulance budget is being increased by \$500,000, the town purchased two ambulances for \$500,000, and now we are paying payroll for full-time employees, when will we stop spending all this money on the fire department.

Richard Macdonald motioned to amend Article 8 and was seconded by Mark Northridge to add \$50,000 into the proposed budget and would like to ask the Selectmen to earmark it for the legal expense/fees line.

L. Carr inquired as to what the amount will be increased to.

R. Wentworth responded the new amount will be \$7,990,176.

J. Clay objects this motion as it is addressing legal issues that involve himself. He stated that if laws are followed by the public officials of this town, there will never be a need to increase the budget as there wouldn't be any lawsuits.

Marc Decoff asked how much the legal fees are now.

R. Wentworth responded \$110,000.

Mr. Decoff then asked which Selectman did not vote on the budget.

Cydney Shapleigh responded that she was not present and agrees with the Selectmen's budget.

With a show of cards, the amendment to add \$50,000 to Article 8 went to vote and failed. 22 yay, 23 nay.

Adam Painchaud motioned to amend Article 8 from \$7,940,176 to \$8,181,850 as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and was seconded by Cydney Shapleigh.

A. Painchaud further stated this figure is a reasonable figure that is detailed, accurate, and well thought out by the Board of Selectmen. The budget reflects the necessary funds to ensure that dedicated, hard-working town employees are retained and compensated appropriately. The employees of this town represent some of the best our community has to offer. This proposal is in the best interest of the citizens in this town.

L. Carr stated that he was provided with a detailed list of wages at the Budget Committee's public hearing. However, it combined all the wages and did not break-down those of the department heads. Then asked for the department head wages and what the increases would be if the Selectmen's budget were adopted.

R. Wentworth stated that these numbers will also include the 2% COLA (Cost of Living) and the merit pay of 3%. On a significant level if an employee/department head does an outstanding job they are entitled to a 3% merit increase all the way down to 1%.

Troy Neff, Finance Manager, then listed the salaries:

	2019 Budget	2018
Town Treasurer/Deputy	\$ 9,503	\$ 8,652
Town Administrator	\$ 93,316	\$ 88,620
Finance Manager/HR	\$ 67,985	\$ 66,250
Assessor	\$ 75,000	*
Building Inspector	\$ 63,336	\$ 60,320
Fire Chief	\$ 84,614	\$ 80,532
Highway Manager	\$ 99,613	\$ 85,363

Information Technology	\$	64,822	\$	49,391
IT work hour change		40 hr. work week		32 hr. work week
Library Director	\$	49,821	\$	48,844
Parks & Rec. Director	\$	61,152	\$	58,240
Town Planner	\$	76,529	\$	72,884
Police Chief	\$	100,442	\$	95,695
Solid Waste Director	\$	60,060	\$	57,200
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$	65,155	\$	62,052
Water Superintendent	\$	82,000		**

* Prior Assessor retired in the beginning of 2019

** New Water Superintendent will start employment on 2/11/2019

C. Shapleigh spoke in favor of the amendment. Stating that the total amount cut from the budget was \$241,674. With \$189,052 being cut from three departments. The police budget was cut by \$39,941, a majority of these cuts came from the full-time salary line, fleet expense, and the motorcycle line. The highway department was cut by \$60,629, a majority coming from the full-time salary line. Throughout the year there were three to four open positions with the highway department making the salary line looking like it wasn't being used, but it was from the lack of being able to hire people in those positions. \$89,482 was cut from the fire budget and \$38,000 was from the ambulance wages. Ms. Shapleigh believes the ambulance wages are reimbursed from the revolving fund, which is not a taxpayer expense. The other fire items that were cut are: \$5,000 from fire training, \$4,000 from conferences, and another \$5,000 for safety apparatus.

Ms. Shapleigh was unavailable when the budget talks were happening but it is her understanding that the budget committee was using the 7-year average to come up with their recommendations. She does not feel that a 7-year historical average accurately describes the needs of the town from year to year. Some of these items cut are really necessary to run this town properly and we do a good job at budgeting. It was stated we had a significant increase in the budget last year after a significant increase the prior year. Again, this is because the CIP process has been reintroduced and it was known there was going to be a major increase for the first three years. The taxpayers overwhelmingly voted for the CIP program. Please keep in mind the 5 ½% increase is due to healthcare and our CIP.

Bob Holt stated that this amendment is to increase the budget. After hearing the review of town salaries believes the increases are a little bit heavy. People have to remember that a budget is a budget, and the town can operate within the budget – there is plenty of money. The budget committee is here to overlook the budget that is presented by the Select Board. Urges voters to not vote in favor of the amendment, there is plenty of money to operate within the budget.

M. Decoff asked how much money was taken in from ambulance revenue last year and is CIP now in the budget as he was under the thought that it is under separate warrant articles.

R. Wentworth responded that CIP would be separate warrant articles, which wouldn't affect the operating budget. Also, the ambulance is self-funded and anything that is there can purchase an ambulance but still needs to go through the CIP program.

James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, did not presently have the numbers to give a fair estimate without looking up the information.

Stanley Moulton agrees with the amendment.

J. Clay opposes this amendment. You're doing the correct thing by cutting the budget because it is reckless and has been for years.

R. Nelson stated the budget proposed by the Selectmen included a 2% COLA (cost of living) and 3% merit increase for employees. The Budget Committee felt that 2 and 3% was a little too strong for an increase and went back to 2 and 1 ½. The biggest differences are on the wage line for the town employees.

John Markland stated he does not agree with the previous statement of 1 ½ %. To Mr. Markland's knowledge this was all agreed upon by both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The increase is not a part of the increase of \$241,000. This amount to his recollection was for the cuts that were made over the 7-year average of previous years' budgets. There is not enough factual information how this was figured, such as, programs not used and staffing levels during these years.

L. Carr noted that on page 5 of 12 of the MS-737 handout the totals for the 12/13/18 appropriation period were never added so the numbers could be compared between the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Mr. Carr stated he has attended meetings with the numbers on the handouts not matching up and then there was a department head stating there is not enough money in the budget; seems to be a disconnect this year.

With no additional discussion on the amendment it was put to vote.

With a show of cards the amendment to Article 8 passed with a favorable vote.

L. Carr asked if the Selectmen could answer if there are any legal binding contracts with all of our employees.

C. Shapleigh deferred response to legal counsel.

Attorney Sessler stated the personnel policy, he considers as contractual between the employer and the employee. Some of the policies deal with how you would conduct yourself and some on the wages. The ones that deal with wages are considered a contingent contract which is always subject to appropriation by a legislative body. Things such as step increases and COLA are in the personnel policy, making it a contractual obligation between the employer and employee which are contingent on a legislative act. The budget act provides that these type of contracts if approved for one year can be included in a default budget for next year if they were previously approved the year before. This has been done since L. Carr was a Selectman, COLA has been included in the operating budget and was approved and would be in the default budget the next year. According to RSA 40:13 IX, B-C, particularly section C, it allows for this item to be included in the default budget.

M. Northridge is unsure if there is any money in the operating budget for road construction or road maintenance. Is there a change from the board, are we not wanting to work on roads anymore?

R. Wentworth stated there is a maintenance budget, which allows for the maintenance of roads, such as ditches, culverts, and pot holes. It was never in the operating budget for road reconstruction.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 8 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-1) and by the Budget Committee (5-0-1) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

P. Wittmann moved Article 9 and was seconded by J. Markland.

P. Wittmann stated that this capital reserve fund was established to repair and replace fire vehicles. This article is self-explanatory, we're working with the CIP committee to create a systematic plan to replace these types of equipment and vehicles.

J. Clay stated this disproves the notion that we do not support the fire department. As we can see that every year the fire department comes back and asks for hundreds of thousands of dollars, if they're asking for this amount every year we must have over \$4 million in there by now if it was established in 1973. Mr. Clay stated that these capital reserve funds are supposed to be used for a specific purpose. After some research Mr. Clay found that back in 1973 the voters approved this capital reserve fund to purchase a fire truck – one fire truck, not plural. Then asked, if we have not purchased a fire truck since 1973. Because if we had purchased one this fund should have been closed. We can't keep it open just to put money into it after you've completed the purpose for fund.

C. Shapleigh declined to answer if a fire truck has been purchased since 1973.

D. Hershey stated with the CIP committee there is some emphasis with a goal to establish an aging list of equipment. With expectation the amount of funds necessary for future purpose is set aside. It is not the intent to raise the funds this year for the purchase of the truck next year. If the vehicle has a 10-year useful life (not knowing what the actual useful life is) then money would continue to be set aside for those ten years, and when the tenth year came we would have close to the necessary amount of money needed to replace the vehicle.

Ray Johnson asked what the current balance of this fund is prior to the article passing.

C. Johnson replied \$489,289 and believes there is a sheet at the front of the room with all of the capital reserve fund balances listed.

V. Macdonald added that these accounts are set up so that we don't have a huge increase on taxes. If we need to replace an item, at least we will be able to save up money and be able to pay for it keeping taxes level.

J. Markland pointed out that the CIP committee had an initial request of \$250,000. We have another committee looking out for the best interest of the residents believing \$100,000 was appropriate for the warrant this year.

R. Wentworth added that the Board of Selectmen also recommended to decrease the amount to \$100,000.

Point of Order made by J. Clay of the legality of the budget committee meetings prior to finalizing the budget.

The Moderator declared the point of order not relevant to the warrant article.

L. Carr motioned to restrict Article 9 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing vehicles for the Grounds and Maintenance Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500.00 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 (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

J. Markland moved Article 10 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

J. Markland stated this article is similar to Article 9, in which capital reserve funds have been set aside for Grounds & Maintenance vehicles down the road.

B. Holt verified that this is a new article as it establishes a fund. Then asked how many vehicles does this department have and does this article include any equipment.

R. Wentworth stated this department has two vehicles and the cemetery department has one vehicle. The purpose of this fund is just for vehicles. Right now the funds the CIP has established for this year is to purchase a vehicle in 2020.

Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director, added there are three vehicles in the department; 2007 Dodge Caravan with 121,000 miles, 2016 F-250 with 50,000 miles, 2008 F-350 1 ton pickup truck with 105,000 miles. The 2008 F-350 is set to be replaced in 2020 as stated by Selectmen Wentworth and has a cost of approximately \$45,000.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 10 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000.00 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

V. Macdonald moved Article 11 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

V. Macdonald stated that this is part of the CIP program to replace equipment at the town barn. The equipment we have now is all set, but it is starting to age and will need to be replaced.

No additional discussion pertaining to this warrant article.

M. Decoff motioned to restrict Article 11 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

D. Hershey, in the interest of time and no disrespect, motioned to not have each article spoken to unless specifically asked by those in attendance and was seconded by Marc Decoff.

With a show of cards the motion passed with a favorable vote.

Point of Order made by Andy McLeod asking if this was changing the Moderator's Rules.

Moderator approved this motion to save on time.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 12 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 12.

No discussion.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 12 and D. Hershey 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 \$20,000.00 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

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

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 13.

No discussion.

D. Hershey motioned to restrict Article 13 and V. Macdonald 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 \$50,000.00 to be added to the Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 14 and was seconded by J. Markland.

L. Carr inquired on the Rationale "...to use rocks, gravel, and recycled materials during road reconstruction..." We normally take this material to a pit and they do the crushing and mixing of this material. What changed?

V. Macdonald deferred remarks to the Highway Agent, Ken Roberts.

K. Roberts stated about ten or twelve years ago, we started to recycle as much material they dig through road construction or any other construction done throughout the town. We take it to our town pit on Rines Road and recycle rocks, gravel, and loam, whatever it may be. Last year we crushed over 5,000 yards and have approximately 500 yards in the pit; we've utilized almost everything we crushed last year. Plus spent the entire gravel operating budget last year. We're trying to recycle at a really low cost for the taxpayers and take as much as we can to the pit so we're paying \$6/yard rather than \$11/yard.

L. Carr asked why we are taking it to another pit if we have the ability to do this.

R. Wentworth stated that they come and crush the material for us, we contract that out. Such as the cemetery on 28 South, we had them in there to crush stone from the all the rock and gravel that was taken out when we were trying to level off the new cemetery. Mr. Roberts is saving money by not having the material hauled out to another pit to be recycled and hauled back.

B. Holt asked if this goes out to bid annually. Because if it does, he has not seen any advertisements.

V. Macdonald responded yes we do.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 14 and V. Macdonald 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 \$10,000.00 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

J. Markland moved Article 15 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

B. Holt asked what the time frame is to build the shed. Contamination problem of salt and sand, the idea of this fund is to alleviate this problem. What are the plans for getting this built?

R. Wentworth deferred to Ken Roberts.

K. Roberts stated that sand sheds are everywhere throughout the state. DES had discussion with the town about building a salt shed due to the silica dust. We proposed this with an original amount of \$300,000. The good faith effort decided by the town is to put \$10,000 aside every year until there is enough money to fund the salt/sand shed.

M. Decoff stated New Durham has a salt shed and asked if we could use theirs until we can build one.

R. Wentworth added that before the town start thinking about building a salt shed we should be looking at a new place for the highway department to go. There is not enough land down there for a salt and sand shed, you would need to transport it back and forth between sheds. The highway department has outgrown the property they sit on. This was originally the town dump in the 1920's and 30's. A planning process would need to be done for the building of the salt shed. As for being able to use New Durham's salt shed, this would be an accounting nightmare for Mr. Roberts and Mr. Neff.

Andy McLeod stated the gross capital cost of this, according to the CIP sheet, is \$350,000 and we currently have a balance of \$39,744; this will take 31 years to fund the building. Not sure if this is a good faith effort or if those who look at this will think this amount is a good faith effort. Is there an alternate plan?

R. Wentworth responded right now, no. There is motivation for everything in this community, but we have to look at our priorities and figure out which ones are the most important. There is faith effort between Planning and Selectmen to figure out what is important for our community to move forward.

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

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000.00 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

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

Gene Young read the comment at the bottom of the Capital Reserve form "should be using milfoil grant monies before using capital reserve" and noted that \$35,000 was withdrawn from this fund. What does this editorial comment mean?

C. Shapleigh stated that every year we apply for a milfoil grant where the state issues a certain amount of money and we are responsible for the remainder. We just voted for next year's grant at the Selectmen's meeting last night. This money will go towards the portion we are responsible for and this is what was done last year as well.

D. Hershey asked if total milfoil cost would be \$29,000 plus \$35,000 or, is this a fronting of the money and then is reimbursed by the state.

C. Shapleigh responded no, there are two parts to the grant; herbicide and diverse dash program. Each of these have a different grant amount and an amount of what the town is responsible for. Ms. Shapleigh does not have the number for the cost of the milfoil program for last year available.

D. Hershey verified the concept is adding the two numbers together, the amount collected by the town plus the amount that is granted by the state.

R. Nelson responded yes.

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

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a LiveScan fingerprinting system and three years of service and warranty for the Police Department. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 17 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

M. Decoff asked what the cost of the equipment is and how much is the service that will be added to the budget after 3 years.

C. Shapleigh deferred to the Police Chief.

Ryan Heath, Police Chief, apologized as he did not have a dollar amount for the equipment. The service is a per year item not a total of 3 years. We had the option to do one year of full service warranty or buy additional years of warranty. The warranty itself is about \$1,400 a year. Opted to do three years as this was realistic for us; it covers parts, labor and they have 24-hour service. There is no service/warranty after those 3 years.

B. Holt asked what the life span is of this system.

Chief Heath replied, the life span is approximately 7 – 10 years.

D. Hershey motioned to amend Article 17 to substitute the word “And” on line 2 with “including”, which was seconded by A. McLeod. For the reason that it would cause a person to believe that you’re spending \$25,000 on the equipment and then purchasing outside of this a 3-year service and warranty.

G. Young asked if someone could explain what the system is.

R. Heath explained that currently the station is still operating under the old fingerprinting system. Which is where we hand roll out the finger prints through ink and physically press the prints onto a series of five cards. Once that is complete, we then type information on the cards and mail into the automated fingerprinting identification system. A lot of departments/agencies have evolved to the LiveScan system. It is a self-contained scanning system where the operator can use foot pedals and place the suspect or job applicant on the automated system. It will then scan the fingerprint in its entirety and automatically upload then sends the prints electronically to the

state. There are no more delays in receiving a response for hits or wants on an individual. With our current system we wouldn't know of any hits or wants because we still mail the prints in and wait for a response, which takes several weeks.

D. Hershey asked if once the state gets the data, will that then be shared with other states or is that only shared within the State of New Hampshire.

R. Heath responded no, the Avis system is linked to other states.

Moderator, Robin Lane-Douglas, brought the housekeeping amendment to vote.

With a show of cards, the amendment to article 17 passed with a favorable vote.

Andy McLeod asked if the access to the database was free.

R. Heath responded yes, the access to the database was free for the life of the system.

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

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1994. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 18 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 18.

No discussion.

J. Markland 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 \$14,000.00 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (Recommended by CIP)

P. Wittmann moved Article 19 and was seconded by J. Markland.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 19.

No discussion.

C. Shapleigh 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: Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Board of Water Commissioners as established under RSA 38:18 and delegate the construction, management, control, and direction

of the Water Department to the Board of Selectmen? If approved, this article is to go into effect 90 days following the date of the 2019 annual meeting. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Recommended by the Water Commission (3-0). (Majority vote required)

J. Markland moved Article 20 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

M. Decoff would like to know the reasoning of this article.

R. Wentworth stated that both he and V. Macdonald wore two hats, Selectmen and Water Commissioner. They were both appointed to the Water Commissioners last February as three members were going to resign at a special meeting with DES. One decided to stay on until the election, the other decided to resign, and the other is a vacant position. Following the revenue trail from 2009 to 2017 Mr. Wentworth noticed the revenues and expenditures just were not adding up to exact revenues. The water users of this community lost \$170,000 to the taxpayers of Alton. The water department never had a revenue fund, which according to state law should have had one for years. So, all of the money from revenues went into the general fund, stayed there, and the Commissioner's never asked for their unexpended revenues, they lost the money to the surplus. This year a revenue fund was established and the water department was able to get \$160,000 by invoicing the town. The rules and regulations by the federal and state government have changed so much that only three Commissioners cannot run this system adequately. There is money for grants, but we have not gone after those. It is time for the Selectmen to oversee this and the Superintendent will work under the direction of the Selectmen. When Commissioners resign you cannot make decisions or even appoint others with only one member.

Desmond Douglas asked with the elections last March were the Commissioners ever sworn in.

R. Wentworth responded that Patrick O'Brien was elected to the three year position and was sworn in. At the time the Selectmen were appointed last year, it was too late to put names on the ballots for the two open positions.

D. Douglas stated there were several other people running for Water Commissioner last year. And also stated, the article states Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and by the Water Commission (3-0) this gives a false impression to the voters where 2 of the Selectmen are voting also as Water Commissioners.

R. Wentworth responded that Mr. Douglas was absolutely correct with the voting of Selectmen and Water Commission. Mr. Wentworth added that DES has recommended this change. After tonight's meeting we will have to change the vote the two Selectmen who are also Commissioners will have to step away for that vote.

B. Holt agreed with Mr. Wentworth about only having three Water Commissioners does not run this system adequately; there should be five. This would alleviate the problem as it would be similar to the Board of Selectmen. The water department should be kept separate from the town. There isn't an issue with people interested in the Commissioner's positions, there are three people running for the election this year.

R. Wentworth added that the infrastructure of the water department is in sad shape with only band aids done over the years. Last June we spent almost 10 hours in the bay fixing the water

line that had a band aid put on two years ago then having to replace the pipe. The system is antiquated and the department would have to expend all the funds they had as they never saved up for future issues. When they tried to save money for such expenses the water users and the town would tell the department they couldn't do that as they are not to be making money. Now that there is money in the water department DRA is stating they can't have it back from the town. Possibly next year we can ask the voters for forgiveness and get the money back to put into capital reserves. The treatment of water and everything that goes along with it has changed and evolved over time. Having a different department is not the way it should be. The water users will still be paying for the water department through the fees, this will allow better backing. Last year the Water Commissioners were going to come before the voters and ask for a \$250,000 revolving loan.

Patrick O'Brien, Water Commissioner, stated when he heard this proposal he was against this. After being involved with the water department he agrees with this article.

B. Holt noted his concern for the dissolving of the Water Commission as they are currently funded by users' fees but nothing says it can't eventually change to be funded by taxation.

R. Wentworth stated that the townspeople would have to vote to approve the change at town meeting, it cannot be decided by the Selectmen.

L. Carr stated he has no problem with the Selectmen filling the positions. His understanding that these vacancies Mr. Wentworth spoke about were never advertised in local newspapers. He thought it was policy when there is a vacant position to place an ad asking for people to apply and if nobody applied then appoint the two Selectmen.

J. Sessler stated we couldn't by law advertise these positions as the time period to file had went by and the ballots were being prepared.

R. Wentworth clarified that Mr. Carr was asking as if in the middle of the year a person resigned from their position the town would then put out an ad looking for a new member.

J. Sessler responded that in this case we couldn't as one member couldn't appoint other commissioners. Ultimately it does fall on the Selectmen to appoint new Water Commissioners, but we did not have the time to do that, making this an emergency situation. In which, the two Selectmen who are commissioners agreed to help for a year until at that time they have new members. Water Department doesn't have the time to wait to find the right person, they have to make sure water is clean and safe.

L. Carr then asked about the water department using town equipment, how will you separate the hours of using the excavator between what the taxpayers are responsible for and what the rate payers are responsible for.

R. Wentworth stated this will be between the department heads and the Selectmen (if Commission is dissolved). Another issue being raised is there is no water meter on the highway shed. In previous years each department would help each other out, this is going to have to change a little. The town water usage is up, now is that all the highway department? There could be leaks out there.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 20 and J. Markland 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 \$1,000.00 to be added to the Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2014.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 21 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 21.

No discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 21 and J. Markland 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 \$10,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-1) and the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 22 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

B. Holt asked if this \$10,000 is a repeat article from last year and how much of these funds are spent in Alton.

R. Wentworth responded last year \$15,000 was requested, they came in for less money this year.

Diane Eagles, Alton Community Services member, restated that \$15,000 was requested last year and \$10,000 is being requested. Unfortunately didn't have the treasurer's report to answer the question of how much was spent of the \$15,000 requested. She did state one of the requirements of Alton Community Services is that they must be an Alton resident.

B. Holt asked if only \$2,000 was used of the \$15,000 last year, why are we asking for \$10,000 this year. The Board of Selectmen need to see the books of all these non-profits to see what is spent for the year in Alton.

D. Hershey stated that not everyone on the Budget Committee approved this.

R. Wentworth, as a resident, added for 20 years he watched his mother run the Alton Community Services where they would spend \$55,000 to \$75,000 per year for those in need in our community. Sometimes people were laid off and needed help with rent or fuel. He saw this woman some years even give her own money to some people who came to her door, didn't want to turn them away. This agency is one that he can personally say that money is never squandered or wasted. This year they requested less money as they have received more donations for their services.

D. Hershey added he heard by charter 100% of the money collected in Alton is spent within their fiscal year on services in Alton.

C. Shapleigh 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 written.

R. Wentworth made a motion to combine Articles 23 through 31 to stand as written unless there are any amendments or objections. This was seconded by A. McLeod.

With a show of cards the motion passed with a favorable vote.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 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 (3-1) and the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 23 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

B. Holt stated that again, we have no idea how much the Red Cross spent in the Town of Alton. The article reads it is “Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (3-3).”

R. Nelson added this is not recommended by the Budget Committee 3 to 3 vote. There is a typographical error on this.

The Moderator was informed that this will be corrected as “not recommended”.

J. Sessler stated we recognize your point on the tie vote and you are correct. The Boards will change those recommendations after this meeting. A 3-3 vote will appear as a non-vote as there are no recommendations, you need to have a majority either for or against the recommendation.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 23 and R. Wentworth 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 \$10,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance and Women, Infants & Children food assistance program (WIC). This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 24 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 24.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the purpose of supporting Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc. (includes Alton) which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance

with all these services provided by volunteers. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 25 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 25.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 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 (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 26 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 26.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 27 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 27.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services of NH. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 28 and seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 28.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,750.00 for the purpose of supporting Lakes Region Mental Health Center which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 29 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 29.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries, Inc. which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of

Selectmen (2-1-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 30 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Diane Eagles motioned to amend Article 30 to reduce the amount to \$1.00 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

D. Eagles stated that this is a redundancy and an injustice to the taxpayers of Alton as they are already supporting Alton Community Services through their tax dollars. We do not need to be giving our tax dollars to an outside agency that does the same thing as Alton Community Services does.

Moderator R. Lane-Douglas asked for further discussion on the amendment to Article 30.

D. Eagles then continued to point out that 2018 was the first year L.I.F.E. Ministries asked the taxpayers of Alton to support their program. They requested \$2,000 last year, and are requesting 50% more this year when the Alton Community Services program lowered their request by 33%. This is asking taxpayers to pay a redundancy; pay Alton Community Services and L.I.F.E. Ministries out of Wolfeboro, both food pantries.

With a show of cards the amendment to Article 30 passed with a favorable vote.

R. Wentworth moved Article 30 as amended and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,575.00 for the purpose of supporting New Beginnings which provides 24-hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 31 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No discussion on Article 31.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Articles 24 through 31 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and Articles 24 – 29, 31 will go to the official ballot as written. Article 30 will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to upgrade and expand safety netting and fencing at the Jones Field Recreation Area. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

R. Wentworth moved Article 32 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked if there was any discussion on article 32.

No discussion.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 32 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 33: We, the undersigned voters ask that the Town of Alton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$950,000.00 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 \$198,000.00. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2-2). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote is required) **This is a petition article.**

R. Wentworth moved Article 33 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

P. O'Brien stated that voters have been passionate about this fund since it was established. We're getting a good value and Mr. O'Brien understands the concerns of maintenance. The problem is the budget we have been presented with has the expectation that road reconstruction is going to happen. That money has been spent out of the maintenance fund with road reconstruction. Now we go into this year with a sum of money for maintenance when you're supposed to be doing road reconstruction. There is no way that same amount of money is going to carry the town through the summer. This should be in the budget, we have the infrastructure to maintain.

V. Macdonald stated that when we first started this road reconstruction we had a deal that we were going to be able to do the maintenance and road reconstruction and now we have roads that we have paid millions of dollars to do and are going to need to be redone again as they have not been maintained. Instead of taking taxpayers' money and putting into a bank account we need to do maintenance; we need to ditch them, fix the pavement and the pot holes. If we don't do the maintenance we're going to lose the roads we spent all this money to do.

M. Northridge stated that for years we have been told we're behind on rebuilding our old roads as to where we should be. Mr. Northridge's understanding is we have beefed up our highway department with new equipment, new trucks, and personnel to do this. What will we do with all our trucks and personnel on the highway department when we don't follow through on this? Will we need to let go half of the staff? Sell some of the trucks? You can't do \$1 million worth of work on a \$200,000 budget. We will have to do this.

K. Roberts stated he works under the direction of the Selectmen. Everything that has happened was completely under the Selectmen's direction. Going back to maintenance issues and the lack of personnel, they have the direction to work on special projects; bay project, senior citizen center, cemetery. The last one was a grant of \$165,000 from the State of NH; the grant expired in 2018. In order to complete the project it had to be directed by the Board of Selectmen. When this special project came up the Board of Selectmen was made aware that there will be a lack of maintenance on roadways.

R. Wentworth stated when the budget process started he made a motion to the Board of Selectmen, we brought it up for discussion, road reconstruction \$950,000. Mr. Wentworth said

he would vote for the \$950,000 if the Selectmen would say that they will hold off on road reconstruction for two years. Suggests for two years we putting \$950,000 away. In 2019 we do the top coat on Drew Hill Road, Alton Shores Road near Stephanie Drive, and Gilmans Corner Road. After that no more road reconstruction to be spent for two years and would go back to do maintenance. All R.Wentworth asked for was a little maintenance. If the Selectmen held off doing this for two years, we could be going in on the third year with \$950,000 more with over \$3 million in the budget. M. Northridge mentioned \$1.5 million because we're behind, we'd be taking two years off and getting our roads back in the conditions that they should be. On the third year go and hit road reconstruction hard and heavy. For two years we've been short-handed, the Road Agent does work at the will of the Selectmen. The Road Agent has a \$1,217,133 budget, if that is not a maintenance budget Mr. Wentworth is not sure what is. The other problem with road reconstruction we have in our town for twenty years is the money that is paid for all the salaries, fuel for trucks is part of the road reconstruction and we don't really know what road reconstruction costs this community. We have no true cost of what our road reconstruction costs because we use our operating budget to fund it for all but \$950,000. R. Wentworth would like to see what our actual road reconstruction costs are. The overtime in here isn't just for plowing, it was from the road reconstruction last summer.

C. Shapleigh, as a resident, believed voters had asked for the road reconstruction and they asked for the big project to be done; and the voters overrule the Select Board. Ms. Shapleigh has a list of more than 67 roads that received maintenance last year in this town. There were roads that were graded, roads that were raked, calcium chloride put on roads, trees cut, chipped brush...and many other items that were done in this town. Somebody decided a road got the amount of maintenance that it should have so we took the vote away from the townspeople by declining to allow this warrant article to move forward. This is not how this is supposed to work. If the townspeople feel that they are not getting their monies worth we need to allow them to vote the article down. Don't take the ability to vote away from them, this is not the intent of having this open voting process.

B. Holt stated it doesn't make a difference to keep discussing this here tonight in a room with a handful of voters. Mr. Wentworth's point of putting money away is probably the right one. Look at other towns, just by reading the newspaper, they put road reconstruction projects out to bid.

L. Carr attended both Selectmen's meetings when this came up as a reconsideration vote. At that time all five members of the board said we are behind on maintenance, and all were in agreement. Then one of the members stated this is a management issue. Mr. Carr asked if this is a management issue, what is going to change.

C. Shapleigh responded that she was the Selectman from what Mr. Carr is describing as the one who stated this is a management issue. Ms. Shapleigh stated she was not subscribing to the fact that she felt it was a management issue, she was saying that if you think the roads are not being done in the proper order it needs to be managed that way. It does not need to be taken out of the hands of the voters. Her comment was taken out of context when in reality it was meant to not say no just because you don't feel it is being managed properly and to leave it to the voters.

R. Wentworth stated that we need to do maintenance. We need to sit down with the department head and decide what we're going to do to get the maintenance done and have a plan set forward.

L. Carr stated it will be hard to support this article if you're not going to start doing the management.

Andy McLeod stated that he sat on the Budget Committee for four years, and watched the amount increase from \$750,000 to \$950,000 for a good reason. He watched the Road Agent and his team rebuild Alton Mountain Road and Avery Hill Road in front of his house back in 2005, and they are still in pretty good shape. They do good work for what they get paid and the amount of people they have to work. If we want our roads to be really good we will have twice as many people and twice as much money pumping into it. If you're ready to go out of town and hire a third party to rebuild, you better be ready to have \$3 million to \$4 million dollars rather than the \$950,000.

D. Hershey offered that in concept the cost differential for doing the project in-house versus subbing it out. Which for an organization who doesn't have any experience to do the project, subbing it out would make sense. But, as far as road reconstruction goes the capital improvements for the capital equipment is necessary for this and those resources are in-house, granted staffing is another issue, if you look to sub this out you're subject to profit and overhead over and above what the cost of the project is, those are 2 significant line items that are saved by doing the project in-house.

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 pursuant to RSA 72:28 I, to increase the Veterans Property Tax credit from \$500 annually to \$750. No taxpayer funds are requested for this article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

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

M. Northridge inquired as to what this number means in terms of how much we give veterans now and what it would go to.

R. Nelson replied this is a \$100,000 difference. He's a veteran and he voted against it.

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

Article 35: We, the residents of the Town of Alton, petition the Town to pave Hayes Rd. This road is in poor condition; normal travel is difficult. Every year the cost to maintain this road in a safe condition gets higher. Lack of maintenance has caused this road to be in a deplorable state and unsafe for public travel. This has cost the town and its taxpayers great deal of time and money over the course of the last 10 years. If the condition of the road is not addressed the costs will continue. We appeal that the Selectmen have the Town pave Hayes Rd as soon as possible. (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

R. Wentworth moved Article 35 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Desmond Douglas directed his question to the Road Agent; On Hayes Road where it is so bad, is this more to be reconstructed and paved over then in five years we're going to have to repave again.

K. Roberts provided a little history of the road. This came to a public hearing it was supposed to be a paved project when it came before the town. The residents of this roadway requested it not to be paved. We can grade the road which brings a lot of the rock back up to the surface, but we do not have a roller behind the grader all the time. Because we don't have the roller behind the grader all the time, that was the issue of the people on the roadway. The roadway is actually in better shape than most graveled roads in Alton.

V. Macdonald 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 hear reports of any committees, boards, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerns of voters; and vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting. (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

R. Wentworth moved Article 36 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

D. Hershey asked if somebody can speak to this article; what is the goal of this article.

R. Wentworth responded he believes this is an article that was in the town warrant for years and was removed when the town went to SB2.

L. Carr stated that we always had this article for years as you look at the school warrant articles at the end, we have the ability to talk at the end. For some reason they took it out and asked to put this back in.

David Cummings stated that when the organization he belongs to has their annual meeting all the reports from all the committees are available to read. To accept this article to be able to do these things you're going to have an all-night meeting. If this article passes, the town should be prepared for some pretty good printing cost to print out all of these reports.

L. Carr responded that he is not worried about the printing costs. It was more concerned citizens.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 36 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 9:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Collins
Recording Secretary