

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 4, 2020
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

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

Moderator Lane-Douglas welcomed 79 voters in attendance to the first session of the 2020 Town Meeting and asked all those who are not registered voters for a show of hands.

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

Reuben Wentworth introduced the members representing the Town of Alton.

Reuben Wentworth, Chairman
Virgil Macdonald, Selectman
Cydney Shapleigh, Selectwoman
Phil Wittmann, Selectman
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman
Laura Parker, Finance Officer
Liz Dionne, Town Administrator
James Sessler, Town Attorney

Patrick O'Brien, Budget Committee Chairman introduced the members representing the Alton Budget Committee.

Patrick O'Brien, Chairman
Bob Holt, Member
Peter Leavitt, Member
John Markland, Member

Budget Committee Members not present:
Elizabeth Varney
David Hershey

Robin Lane-Douglas then introduced:

Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk
Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk

Moderator Lane-Douglas then read the "Moderator's Rules" that were supplied upon entering the auditorium.

The 2020 warrant was read by Moderator Lane-Douglas:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Tuesday, the fourth day of February in the year of Two Thousand and Twenty, beginning at 6 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to

approve the warrant articles by ballot vote which will be held on March 10, 2020 at St. Katharine-Drexel Church (lower level), 40 Hidden Spring Road from 7 am to 7 pm.

Article 1, to choose all necessary offices for which there are vacancies for such terms as may be permitted by law. To elect two Selectmen for three years, one Trustee of Trust Funds for three years, one Trustee of Trust Funds for two years, two Library Trustees for three years, one Library Trustee for two years, one Town Moderator for two years, one Budget Committee Member for three years, two Planning Board Members for three years, one Supervisor of the Checklist for six years, two Zoning Board Members for three years, and one Zoning Board Member for two years.

Articles 2 through 11 are Zoning Articles and have been out for public input and placed on the warrant. Therefore, will not be open to further discussion this evening.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 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 (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

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

Reuben Wentworth stated that this is something that goes in every year, the fund currently only has \$5,000 left with employees leaving last year. This is put in every year because we need to pay town employees when they retire.

No further discussion on Article 12.

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

Article 13: 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 \$8,267,897? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,090,865, 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

Virgil Macdonald moved Article 13 and was seconded by Cydney Shapleigh.

Reuben Wentworth stated the Budget Committee and Selectmen came to a very close operating budget, only a \$9,000 difference between the two, and the Selectmen chose not to request that extra \$9,000 as we feel we can work within this budget. The department heads this year had a

task to come in under 5%. All the department heads should be congratulated for the budget that the Selectmen are presenting to the town tonight, as they worked diligently and hard for this budget to pass by both the Budget Committee and Selectmen.

Joe Gray, resident on Linwood Drive, is concerned about the Highway budget. Is there money in the budget to fix some of the roads?

Mr. Wentworth responded that there is enough money in the Highway Department budget to maintain our roads. Last year, road reconstruction money was not approved at town election. There is a warrant article again this year for \$950,000, hopefully approved at election.

Mr. Gray highly hopes the council will fix this.

Loring Carr asked for the department head wages. As they were not included again on the budget sheets this year.

Selectmen Wentworth read the Proposed 2020 Salaries:

Town Administrator	\$97,786
Finance Manager	\$58,510
Assessor	\$75,068
Building Inspector	\$64,954
Fire Chief	\$82,893
Highway Agent	\$91,919
Information Technology	\$67,430
Parks & Rec Director	\$62,714
Town Planner	\$68,648
Police Chief	\$103,007
Solid Waste Director	\$61,594
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$66,496
Water Superintendent	\$79,179

Cydney Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 13 and Phil Wittmann 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 for the purpose of engineering needed at the New Riverside Cemetery in order to lay out all required work that needs to be done to the site for expansion and usage such as a utility corridor for all utilities needed on the site, interior travel ways (roads), lay out of lots, and more. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the engineering project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

Cydney Shapleigh moved Article 14 and was seconded by Phil Wittmann.

Virgil Macdonald stated this article is created so that we can have a layout of the new part of the New Riverside Cemetery. Plot the electric lines, the water corridor going into it, have all the gravesites and drainage mapped out. That way the town can start selling lots in the cemetery.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 14 and Cydney Shapleigh 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 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

Phil Wittmann moved Article 15 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Cydney Shapleigh stated this article is part of the ongoing CIP program where the fire department worked closely with the CIP committee to determine what the schedule for CIP would be. There is currently a balance in this fund of \$496,741.94. Ms. Shapleigh deferred any specific questions to the fire chief.

Loring Carr asked if this \$100,000 could be used toward the ladder truck in the next article which is asking to raise and appropriate the same dollar amount.

James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, stated that the next article is looking for matching funds to go with a \$750,000 grant we're applying for. The cost of a ladder truck right now is \$1.1 million; this money going into the capital reserve and with money coming from the fund balance, if the next article passes and if we receive the grant, we still have \$150,000 deficit.

Loring Carr asked for confirmation to what he just heard was that the \$100,000 could be used to make up the difference if article 16 isn't enough money.

R. Wentworth confirmed that was correct.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 15 and Paul LaRochelle 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 \$100,000 to be used toward the purchase of a Fire Ladder Truck. Said funds to come from undesignated Fund Balance, which will not have an impact on the tax rate. This special article is contingent upon receiving the award of a FEMA grant. Should the grant funding not be received this article is null and void. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

Paul LaRochelle moved Article 16 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Cydney Shapleigh reiterated what the fire chief just explained, this is a matching grant article. We have an opportunity to raise as much as \$750,000 through a FEMA grant. Our current ladder truck is more than 30 years old and is out of service at this time. We have over 40 buildings in town that are more than three stories and require the ladder truck. In addition we have many buildings that are on a steep incline, where it is not the height we need with the ladder, but the reach. Right now when there is a fire in town that requires a ladder truck we are dependent on mutual aid for this to happen. The chief has had discussions with FEMA regarding the severity of the situation that we have in town and the lack of a ladder truck. Based on the feedback we have received, it seems that we are in very good position to receive these funds. As the article is written, should the grant application not be honored this would be null and void.

Loring Carr is wondering why we are not putting the \$100,000 into the fire department equipment fund to begin with from the undesignated balance. Why would we need a special article contingent on receiving this award?

Ms. Shapleigh responded that this is what the previous article was doing, putting \$100,000 towards that. If we receive the grant we would need the \$350,000 plus the \$250,000 and this would go to replenish the capital reserve fund, which would leave the balance she believes at \$150,000.

L. Carr is concerned that if we don't get the grant we will be short the \$100,000. Before Mr. Carr proposes an amendment he wants to know why we are putting the money away out of the undesignated funds. Right now the way this is worded if we don't get the funds we are going to have to make up the \$100,000 at the end.

R. Wentworth stated if this article fails and the grant came through we could not buy it. The town cannot use these funds for the ladder truck.

L. Carr suggested to cut out the wording "This special article is contingent upon receiving the award of a FEMA grant." We will raise \$100,000 for the undesignated fund. Then we will have money available to buy the fire truck next year. This way if we don't get the funding we will not have the money, correct?

R. Wentworth responded that it would stay in the undesignated fund.

L. Carr stated that if we need a ladder truck we should be putting the money away now.

C. Shapleigh confirmed that we are short money and that this article has come before the people in different shape and forms over the years and has been consistently voted down. We are trying to find a more creative way to fund this. Hence, the chief going to find this potential grant for \$750,000. We will still be short \$750,000 if we don't receive the grant. We're not confident that we will receive \$200,000 for the fire department equipment fund.

L. Carr motioned an amendment to strike out the phrase "This special article is contingent upon receiving the award of a FEMA grant. Should the grant funding not be received this article is null and void."

R. Wentworth responded that when you put that \$100,000 into the capital reserve fund and if something else comes up that money can be used from this reserve fund for something else in the fire department.

Moderator Lane-Douglas stated that this amendment would change the subject of this article. We cannot do this as it is illegal to change this article.

Andy McLeod inquired to the maximum amount of the grant of \$750,000, could there be a possibility of receiving less than the maximum amount.

C. Shapleigh responded correct.

Mr. McLeod then asked what the actions are if we only get \$622,000. Will the \$100,000 article be null and void if the grant we receive is less than \$750,000.

Chief Beaudoin responded that this is a legal question that he is unable to answer.

R. Wentworth asked if the grant he applied for was \$750,000. In which Chief Beaudoin confirmed. And, do they award amounts lower than what is asked for. With Chief Beaudoin responding they can. Usually that would be based on what the market price of the vehicle is. For example they wouldn't lower it to \$300,000 it could be \$700,000 for example.

Mr. Wentworth stated that the fire department capital reserve has a current balance of \$496,000 with the \$100,000 warrant article it would bring it up to \$525,814 with expenses. If you add another \$100,000 brings us to almost \$600,000 and we receive \$300,000 from the grant we would be right at the breaking point leaving a zero balance in the account.

Andy McLeod raised his concern of raising \$200,000 in these warrant articles we will also get the \$750,000 grant. If we don't get the \$750,000 grant we're only raising \$100,000 bringing it up to \$525,000. Mr. McLeod is curious how much the Town Selectmen are willing to use from this account to cover a partial loan.

C. Shapleigh responded that we wouldn't be able to answer that for the board that has not been elected.

Mr. McLeod then raised the question if FEMA does give us this grant is there a certain amount of time to use it or can we hold it until a time when more funds can be raised.

Chief Beaudoin responded that the grant funds would have to be expended in the year. If we can get the money in the year then we can use the grant. If we're unable to come up with the money within the year we would have to give the grant back.

Virgil Macdonald added that we could hold a special meeting.

C. Shapleigh added that if people are concerned if we could receive less than that amount we could not put a cap on what we could take from the undesignated fund balance. Right now we're capping it at \$350,000. We could simply state that if we receive funds from the grant that we can take the difference from the undesignated fund balance, this would be a way to ensure we don't lose a half-million dollar grant that we may not have the opportunity to get again.

John Markland motioned to restrict Article 16 and Virgil 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 \$23,000 to be added to the Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2019. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 17 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Philip Wittmann stated that these funds would be used to purchase replacement vehicles when needed for the Grounds and Maintenance Department. They maintain 38 town properties. They are looking to replace the current 2008 F-350 pickup truck which has over 109,000 miles on it in 2020 with a similar vehicle for approximately \$45,000. The current balance is \$22,500.

No further discussion on Article 17.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 17 and V. Macdonald 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 raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 18 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

V. Macdonald stated this is part of the CIP plan to replace a six wheeler and a one ton out of this fund.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 18 and Ken Roberts 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 \$950,000 to be added to the Highway Road 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 \$201,000. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

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

V. Macdonald stated that this article is for the rebuilding of town roads. Last year he spoke against this article. He believes the town has done a great job this year with the maintenance on the roads and the highway department is back to a full crew.

Joe Gray asked who decides where it gets spent as he is all for putting money in. Mr. Gray has appeared before the council for three years to discuss the condition of Linwood Drive and Stockbridge Corner Road. Wants to validate that he has been heard that there are concerns in this area. His road is never listed whenever he asks about a list of roads that will be maintained. Then referred back to an article from 2006 that Mr. Roberts said the road was in tough condition.

R. Wentworth responded that the recommendation comes from the road agent of what work needs to be done and reviews the information with the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen are looking at five to six roads this year, which came from a meeting last night and we will have to discuss with Mr. Roberts. One road was approved for paving last year by the taxpayers, but we had no money to pave it; this is one road we have to take care of as the townspeople told us they wanted Hayes Road paved.

Mr. Gray stated he would like Linwood Drive to be listed on it.

R. Wentworth then went on to tell Mr. Gray that there will be a workshop meeting to discuss the road reconstruction with Mr. Roberts before he goes out on surgery, and that he is more than welcome to come. It will be held at 6pm in the Town Hall.

Joseph Snow, a resident on Hayes Road, stated that he walks this road every day and the slopes on his road freeze and become very slick. His neighbors want the road to be paved, he suggests the top of the road be dug out, and proper stone put in, the slope reduced, and then pave the road. Right now, the road is dirt and gravel which accumulates ice and makes it slippery, especially since the school bus goes down this road.

Sharon Norby, a taxpayer and resident for 20 years, started off by complimenting the highway department for a wonderful job they have done. Roberts Cove Road needs road maintenance as there are a number of roads off of this. Because the road is all icy and needs to be repaired finds herself driving on the left side of the road rather than the correct side of the road. The other issue is there is a petition that was presented to the Board of Selectmen with 90 signatures asking for Roberts Cove Road to be added to this list of roads that need to be repaired. This is a road that has a lot of traffic even though it is a secondary road and includes school busses. Mrs. Norby commended the gentleman from Linwood Drive as it sounds as though they are having the same issues as what is happening on Roberts Cove Road.

Other residents from the Roberts Cove area expressed their concerns and are in support of this article.

R. Wentworth asked Moderator Lane-Douglas for a five minute recess to confer with the other Board Members after the next speaker. Moderator Land-Douglas agreed.

Richele Glidden, Linwood Drive resident, stated she has gone to Ms. Dionne about three to four years ago asking about Linwood Drive. She was told she would need to get a petition signed by every resident to be put on a two-year list. Mrs. Glidden sent in a signed petition from the residents and nothing has been done since it was submitted. Her road is falling apart; when it is plowed pieces of the road are coming up in chunks, waterfalls are coming down the road making it hard to drive up in a bad rain storm. This road really needs consideration to be put on the list.

Moderator Lane-Douglas called for a five-minute recess so that the Board of Selectmen can confer about this problem at 6:51pm.

The meeting was called back to order by the Moderator at 6:56pm.

R. Wentworth added that he asked Laura Parker, the Finance Manager, to prepare some numbers for this meeting. In 2019 the operating budget and warrant articles that passed came to a total of \$13,868,592. After the highway block grant came in that amount was reduced to \$13,670,592. As you also notice from this year that tax rate went down because revenues went up as we were working on a default budget. Mr. Wentworth is not an advocate in spending tons of dollars, but in 2020 we are inundated with road reconstruction. Mr. Roberts can only do so much even with the \$950,000 to get the work done on the roads he has to get done. This year if everything passes as it is currently written the dollar amount will be \$10,280,468, then remove the highway block grant like last year, the fund balance we are going to use for the fire truck and the master plan, that is \$435,500 that will be coming out of the undesignated fund balance making the budget \$9,844,968, almost \$4 million less than last year. The reason for the decrease is this is our third year with the Capital Improvements Program. Reminding folks that when we started the CIP program, we said the first two years would be the most expensive years and then it would start evening itself out. A lot of folks here tonight want a lot of roads done and this would be the time to amend the warrant article if you would like to add more money as the budget is less than last years. If we live in a perfect world and revenues stayed the same by spending less money it would bring the tax rate down. Even if adding more money to this article, Mr. Roberts can't guarantee every road will be done that needs to be. We would rather keep the highway department doing our road construction versus a private company as the private company charges a million dollars per mile. With Mr. Roberts' crew they could get probably a mile and three-quarters done.

Ralph Paolo, resident on Hayes Road, stated he is for the \$950,000 but was wondering if the road reconstruction work would go out to competitive bid with at least three bids.

Mr. Wentworth responded that as the Board of Selectmen feel today it would probably be the highway department doing this work. Mr. Paolo then asked if it would be more beneficial to put out to bid to see if that number is correct. Mr. Wentworth said it wouldn't and would refer to Ken. Then added, if we go out to bid, we would have to have total engineers' designs on all the roads and then would have additional added costs. Where Mr. Roberts does do a lot of our engineering when it comes to wetland areas, bridges, and other things of that nature.

Mr. Paolo stated that living on the road he has seen the engineering on the road. There is a retention brook that gave way one year after being built. We have already expended money to dig out Beaver Brook, the pond that used to be there for the fire department. The retention pond has given away and filled in already. You can watch the water run down with the silt into the brook. Mr. Paolo's house is directly on the brook and now has an island where the brook used to be of road sand that is supposed to be caught by the retention pond. When Mr. Paolo moved here the brook used to be seven to eight feet deep. Today, it is not even a foot deep. It is no longer a fire retention pond and is full of road sand. Thus, believes it is time to invest into some professional engineering.

Kelly Sullivan, Alton resident, stated that listening to her community members there is an awful lot of discussion on road improvement. Last year the road improvement article was turned down which would set us back a little bit. But after listening to Mr. Wentworth explain the numbers and having extra money, she was left wondering who on the budget committee voted against the proposal for this year.

Bob Holt confirmed it was he who voted against the proposal.

Ken Roberts, Highway Agent, believes the Selectmen have a report for Hayes Road from a wetland scientist on what happened with that. Mr. Roberts can do 90% with 10% he has to rely on engineers. Responded to the deep ditch lines, having catch basins, and underground drainage; this is catching as much sand as possible before it is going on the roadways. We try to close those ditch lines down everywhere we go now and add catch basins to trap all the sand; Trask Side Road and Gilman's Corner Road have catch basins. The Town of Alton uses approximately six thousand yards of sand a year. Sooner or later they will require us to put down and record it coming back up. Mr. Roberts would like to see this come in at \$950,000 this year and the townspeople come back next year and add to it as we are about 15 years behind schedule. The town saves approximately \$2 million a year for the highway department to do this work.

Norman Ahn, Hopewell Road resident, agrees with other residents that Roberts Cove is in pretty bad shape for being a main road to numerous other roads. He finds it confusing as to why we must rely on getting these funds by a warrant article to repair or reconstruct the roads rather than by an ordinary budget.

Reuben Wentworth replied that this has been a discussion between the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee over the last two years about putting this road reconstruction into the operating budget. Could possibly happen in the future, but is unable to guarantee this happening.

Bob Holt explained that he was the budget committee member who voted against this article. He agrees the roads need to be fixed and clarified that he is not totally against this article. The town

has no program in place to fix the roads. Mr. Holt has been before the Selectmen for almost two years with his concern. Which has been addressed, but not to Mr. Holt's satisfaction. He suggests the town have a ten- or twenty-year program that is funded with roads listed with the project year they will be worked on. Then when townspeople come before the board with a road issue it will be known when the work is scheduled. He stresses this would be a funded program.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 19 and P. Wittman 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 \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 20 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

V. Macdonald stated this is so that we can stockpile the sand undercover to protect it from inclement weather.

Marc Decoff asked if this was a state requirement to have this fund and how long do we have to do it.

K. Roberts replied that this is not a state requirement.

P. Wittmann motioned to restrict Article 20 and Peter Leavitt 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 \$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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

P. LaRochelle moved Article 21 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

R. Wentworth motioned to amend Article 21 to read as "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995." and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

R. Wentworth informed the audience that the State of New Hampshire provided a pamphlet at the entrance regarding a bridge on Loon Cove Road over Watson Brook. This bridge has been red listed as it is showing deterioration at the water level and underneath. The town has to show that we have at least 20% of the cost. The estimated cost to replace the bridge is \$230,000. By adding \$150,000 we would have \$275,000 in the reserve fund to enable us to file for the bridge aid now.

K. Roberts reiterated that having money in the fund is crucial when we apply for aid. Reed Road is an example of why we should be a part of the program. Reed Road has twenty-five homes that rely on a bridge. The state put a temporary bridge in and built permanent one within three months. This bridge repair was not scheduled for another seven years out. Because we are part of the Bridge Aid program, we were able to get this help as it was an emergency. Ken stressed this program is good as if something serious happens to the Loon Cove Road bridge, and it fails, we're a part of the Bridge Aid Program and can be addressed right away. The average build for

a bridge right now, according to the engineer, is \$1.3 million and in 2029-2031 it could be upwards of \$1.6 million.

Richard Shea stated in his past life in the State of Connecticut he had some experience with bridge reconstruction and the funding necessary for it. Ken Roberts is correct about the cost of repairing bridges. Being ready to take advantage of the program is a plus for the Town and strongly supports this article.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 21 passed with a favorable vote.

No further discussion on the amendment.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 21 and Patrick O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 22: 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

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

V. Macdonald stated this fund is used to save money to repair the highway department building. The capital reserve has \$39,000 in it now. We will have money in the account if something needs to be repaired.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 22 and John Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2007. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 23 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

V. Macdonald stated that these funds are used for improvements and maintenance of the sidewalks in town and in the bay.

K. Roberts stated the sidewalk at the town beach is being completed next year. This is a \$21,000 project. We like to add funds to this balance to keep it going in case anything comes up. This is in conjunction with the Fish & Game's proposal in that area.

Patrick O'Brien motioned to restrict Article 23 and John 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 establish an Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairs and upgrades to the Alton Bay Community Center and property, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend

from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

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

P. Wittman stated these funds would be used to repair the roof, floors, windows, kitchen, bathrooms, decking, boardwalk, painting, and upgrade electrical and plumbing when needed.

No further discussion.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 24 and P. Leavitt 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 \$23,000 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 25 and was seconded by P. Larochele.

P. Wittmann stated these funds would be used to control the spread of milfoil in our waterways.

Julie Brown, resident on Railroad Avenue, inquired as to how much money is in the milfoil reserve fund.

R. Wentworth stated there is \$29,000 in the fund.

Julie Brown further inquired as to if the \$23,000 requested will be expended out.

R. Wentworth corrected the amount, the balance is \$14,000 right now. Then confirmed with Ms. Brown that we are trying to establish a reserve fund.

V. Macdonald added that we are trying to get ahead of the milfoil problem.

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

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. LaRochelle moved Article 26 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

R. Wentworth stated this is a yearly appropriation. In the last couple of years, the amount requested has gone down as the balance is up. We have not needed to use this fund as there have not been as much testing being done. The money is still being requested to put aside in case the Department of Environmental Services comes in and requires us to drill more wells for water testing, if our wells test at inappropriate levels. Also, if there is ever a tear in the cap, we would have money set aside to fix it.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 26 and P. LaRochelle 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 authorize the Selectmen to enter into a maximum 25-year lease agreement with a company for the purpose of allowing the construction and operation of a solar panel array on top of the Town's capped landfill located at 61 Hurd Hill Road, Map 15 Lot 87, and further to negotiate terms and conditions of said lease. This article does not involve any taxation. There will be no impact to the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 27 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

P. LaRochelle stated this will allow the Board of Selectmen to seek out a solar array company and contract with the company for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a solar array on top of the capped landfill site on Hurd Hill Road. The contract would be up to a maximum of 25 years with the possibility for renewal. The leasing of the land would involve an annual lease payment paid to the Town for the land area being used. A PILOT program (Payment In Lieu of Taxes = Pilot) would allow the Town to tax the solar array company for their equipment on the land. All revenues would be placed into the General Fund. The Board of Selectmen feel this is a great use for a vacant lot.

Russ Wilder mentioned that we need to watch out for the solar company to ensure that they don't cause the tear in the cap. As we were just talking about putting money away to repair any tears.

Loring Carr stated that he is opposed to this article. He said the landfill cap is the only one in the state that is inverted and flows down. When he was on the board there were discussions about digging it up and sending everything down to Rochester. We had to buy the piece of property behind the church as the flume went out to that property. Wonders why we would want to attempt to possibly have more problems with the cap, when it is a problem itself. Mr. Carr asked if making an amendment to include the wording of "the town entering a use of panels on any land" instead of the landfill will that be a legal amendment.

Moderator Lane-Douglas stated this article is specific to the landfill property.

L. Carr continued by stating that we have all the land behind the Catholic Church that doesn't have any problems and who chose to place them on top of a cap that we've had problems with. It's a good idea to get the revenue from the solar panels, but we have other properties in town these could be placed. We can always start at the other end of the cap; nothing says it needs to be on top of a cap.

R. Wentworth responded that the Town Attorney stated that we cannot change the wording, as this is specific to this property. Agrees with Loring as he was a Selectmen when it was originally capped. There were problems years after that with it oozing out. The Town does not really know what is underneath there. This is a good concern, because if the town ever moves ahead with this the engineers would need to know this and NHDES would have to come and inspect the cap before anything can be put on top.

Attorney James Sessler stated that when these leases are negotiated, they are generally done on their capped landfills as they can't be used for anything else. There are extensive requirements for engineering reports, a sign off by DES and other state agencies before it's allowed to happen.

There's a liability provision if they penetrate the cap, they pay for it we don't. There are a lot of protections built into the lease which is all standard. We're putting all the liability on the company.

C. Shapleigh asked if we could change the wording to say "on top of the capped landfill or any other Town owned property."

Attorney Sessler answered no. You may be able to say "adjacent areas". You can't say "other town property" as that could mean school property. If you say "adjacent landfill area" this would probably not change the purpose and solve the problems.

R. Wentworth added we are going to be bonded to protect us, especially with the amazing number of solar array companies that have gone out of business over the last 15 years. We're looking to see if the town is interested in allowing the Selectmen to use a place at the landfill for solar panels to create revenue. We are unable to give an amount of revenue as there has not been any negotiations.

Loring Carr motioned to amend Article 27 to read as "To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into a maximum 25-year lease agreement with a company for the purpose of allowing the construction and operation of a solar panel array on top of the Town's capped landfill and adjoining lands located at 61 Hurd Hill Road, Map 15 Lot 87..." Marc DeCoff moved this motion and was seconded by Richele Glidden.

Jeremy Mains, Bay Hill Road resident, asked if we change the location will this affect the start date of this process.

R. Wentworth responded that we do not have proposals from any companies. At this point we are just looking to get permission from the townspeople to allow us to enter into looking into proposals and using Town land.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 27 passed with a favorable vote.

No additional discussion on the amendment.

P. O'Brien motioned to restrict Article 27 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of hiring a Master Plan consultant who specializes in municipal Master Plan guidance who will work with the Planning Board and staff to assist and address the Master Plan needs and processes in the Town of Alton. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the Master Plan consulting services are completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 28 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Master Plan consultant would provide assistance to the Planning Board in how to proceed in identifying the demographics, engaging the community in the Master Plan process. The goal is to identify the appropriate demographics, and assign those demographics into the Master Plan. The Master Plan is a flexible plan which evolves and

changes year to year. The Master Plan forms the basis for all decisions made by the Planning Board, its Committees, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This will help organize the goals for the future of the Town of Alton.

L. Carr stated this is just the start of this process as it could go up another \$75,000. Urges voters to go onto the Planning Department's website, check out the Master Plan and read it before voting for this. Mr. Carr is also wondering if this Master Plan is a requirement, as it sounds to him it can change from year to year. Meaning that this year the Planning Board can follow the plan, and next year not.

P. O'Brien added that he is an advocate for this article. We have a lot of aging buildings in town and need to figure out what the next step is. It's tough when boards change members making it easier for this information to get lost. The Master Plan will provide a working document, as the town evolves and perspectives change through meetings with the townspeople, the plan can be changed to the best fit moving forward. There is no funding behind this and we need to find out what direction the town is heading so we can plan accordingly.

Kelly Sullivan agrees that the Master Plan provides continuity. Was wondering if the consultant that comes on would still engage the community going forward.

Mr. O'Brien responded that the consultant is only going to help us lay the foundation for the plan to move forward. Like Mr. Carr stated before this could be several thousand dollars more in actually constructing the plan. It comes down to community involvement to cut down the costs.

Julie Brown urges voters who are looking for more information to check out Wolfeboro as they have been working hard on their Master Plan with community involvement. Ms. Brown also supports this article for Alton's future.

Andy McLeod asked how is the existence of a Master Plan consultant different than the Town Planner that we have and why is the Town Planner not devising the master plan.

V. Macdonald responded that the consultant is the one who sets up the master plan to get us going in the right direction. We have tried over the years and just can't get it up and going. We're trying to do like they did in Wolfeboro, have the consultant come in and get the community involvement on the Master Plan. There is no particular consultant to complete the plan.

Bob Regan, CIP Committee member, our current Master Plan was issued in 2005 and is out of date. It is the hope of the committee to guide them in getting it up and running on creating and implementing a new plan.

L. Carr reminded the audience that we used to belong to the Lakes Region Planning Commission, which they could have done this work for the cost of \$7,000 to belong to that organization.

Hunter Taylor added his experience with a town that had redone their Master plan also had to redo a lot of their ordinances. You can see it is time for a new master plan when your practices are not complying with your plan anymore. Sounds like we have an old master plan that is out of date.

Raymond Howard suggests that we table this article this year.

Moderator Lane-Douglas responded that we can't table this as it is already an article prepared for the ballot.

R. Wentworth added the only way to change this is to make a motion to amend the dollar amount.

P. Leavitt motioned to restrict Article 28 and J. Markland 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 \$14,000 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Recommended by the CIP Committee). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 29 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

P. LaRochelle stated these funds will be used for improvements to the town hall building and property. The funds are being sought for a sprinkler system in the town hall, fire safety codes for occupancy limits in the upstairs meeting room as well as the hallways and building exits.

No further discussion.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 29 and P. O'Brien 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 \$50,000 for the purpose of replacing the first floor lift which provides access to the second floor of the Town Hall. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the lift replacement is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 30 and was seconded by P. LaRochelle.

C. Shapleigh stated that the current lift is 30 years old and it works sporadically. The company has advised us that they are no longer making parts to repair it. The second-floor employees make reasonable accommodations for anyone who needs to get to the second floor. We will be out of compliance with ADA if it is no longer able to be repaired. The cost of the new lift is \$50,000 with a life span of approximately twenty-five years. We're looking to put this money away to ensure that we are never out of compliance and all of the townspeople can get services they require without difficulty.

No further discussion.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 30 and P. Leavitt 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 an IT Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding larger-scale IT needs and projects. This would include system upgrades, new hardware equipment, servers, computer and network software, GIS, security systems, audio/video systems, and emergencies. Further, to raise

and appropriate \$6,346 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. LaRochelle moved Article 31 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

C. Shapleigh stated this money is to establish a fund to keep up with IT needs of the town. Our IT Director has done an amazing job bringing us to the current standards we are at. Our IT needs are always changing and evolving, and we don't want to be in a position where we are unable to keep up with them.

No further discussion.

P. Leavitt motioned to restrict Article 31 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked for a five-minute break.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of installing the first phase of a GIS system for utilization by all Town Departments. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the first phase is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

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

Ms. Shapleigh stated the Geographic Information Systems is an overlay mapping system. The fund supports the Town in its efforts to produce and utilize a working GIS system in a phased approach. GIS is a computer-based system used to capture, analyze, manipulate and present geographic and spatial data. A tool like GIS is used in most towns in New Hampshire to answer complex questions and automate essential tasks associated with geographic information. The first phase of production involves digitizing our tax maps. For years, these maps have been edited via image editing software; a deprecated method that by 2021 will no longer be supported by the Town's current mapping vendor. Once these maps are inevitably digitized for use in GIS, the initial tax map layer can be built off of to create additional layers for use by taxpayers, town departments, and third parties seeking accurate geographical information associated with the town.

Mr. Howard asked if this was a topographical map, what is the total cost, and if this system would produce mylar copies for the purpose to register lots.

Joshua Monaco, IT Director, responded this is a way for the town to utilize an image of a map of Alton and overlay data on top of it. We can start by overlaying tax maps, which is the first steps most towns take. A topographical map can be produced as a layer to this system. However, most towns don't pursue this; they would map water lines, tax maps, and other pertinent areas for use by their departments or general public. Mr. Monaco has reached out to two different companies for the first stage, as the work cannot be done in-house. \$80,000 is the amount upfront to digitize tax maps. Mr. Monaco recommends to continue putting \$80,000 away after moving forward with the digitization to produce layers

over the GIS system. CAI, our current vendor can create those mylar copies. To Mr. Monaco's knowledge the town would be able to produce those copies, we can reach out to them and eventually get copies.

Julie Brown is in favor of the GIS system, as she has experience with such systems when previously working at National Geographic and an environmental service with the Town of Wolfboro. Being able to access tax maps on a daily basis makes her job easier and modernizes our data. Having the layers built in helps make informed decisions with things such as what is happening with wetlands, or what is happening with water flowing through a specific property. Not having this information available, limits our decision-making capabilities. Ms. Brown fully supports at least getting our tax maps online as we are far behind the rest of the state.

K. Roberts, as a department head, stated this GIS system has been talked about for 15 years. This system is going to allow taxpayers to be informed as Ms. Brown stated. This system could save time and money. For example, Mr. Roberts and his crew were called out due to a flood after a snowfall and were digging up ditch lines, found a culvert, problem was solved. Having this system in place he could have looked at the map layer, saw the culvert and the problem solved in 20 minutes rather than 4.5 to 5 hours. This will also show us the infrastructure which will help with the Master Plan.

Joshua Monaco added that CAI, our current mapping vendor, has expressed to the town in a formal letter that the mapping they have for us is outdated. Whether we like it or not they will be transferring that to digitalization, the wheel is already turning to make a change. It is our choice whether or not we are willing to keep that wheel moving and be progressive about making the change or wait until we have no other option.

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: To see if the Town will vote to DISCONTINUE the Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Extension Capital Reserve Fund, created in 1997. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, estimated to be approximately \$25,000 plus any additional accumulated interest, are to be transferred to the General Fund. This article is contingent upon Article # 35 passing. No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 33 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

R. Wentworth stated when the Board of Selectmen took over the Water Department last year by Town vote there were quite a few capital reserve funds that were limited to specific jobs. In talking with the Superintendent there are no plans to extend water lines and these funds are limited to doing just that. By DRA regulations we have to discontinue any funds that are for the Water Department and overseen by the Board of Selectmen and place into the General Fund. Then next year can be removed from the General Fund and put into the Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund that is created in article 35. This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to move the funds appropriately.

R. Wentworth went on to say that no motion was needed for the word changes above. DRA said to explain the change to the voters at the Deliberative Session that the money from this discontinued fund will be going to the General Fund.

Attorney James Sessler stated that when the article was originally written we thought we could transfer these funds directly into the new capital reserve fund that is being created in article 35. DRA disapproved the warrant article as we initially wrote it, stating that we needed to change it to have the funds first go into the General Fund, then come out and go into the new fund that is created in article 35. We were told by DRA that we did not need to make a motion to amend the change we just had to explain the change to the voters.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 33 and Bob Holt 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 DISCONTINUE the Alton Water Works Water Transmission Line Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, created in 1997. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, estimated to be approximately \$30,000 plus any additional accumulated interest, are to be transferred to the General Fund. This article is contingent upon Article # 35 passing. No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 34 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

R. Wentworth stated this is continuing on from article 33. The original motion read “Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund” which was not allowed by DRA and was changed to the General Fund as previously stated. The problem with this capital reserve is that it can only be used for service lines going into homes and businesses. \$30,000 has been sitting in this account for quite a few years and is not needed. The operating budget has money allocated for those services. This is another housekeeping line to go into the General Fund.

Peter Leavitt asked since the funds are going into the General Fund rather than the fund that is being created by article 35, will articles 33 and 34 be contingent on article 35 passing.

R. Wentworth replied yes. It would have to stay in the reserve fund that they are in now if article 35 doesn't pass.

P. O'Brien motioned to restrict Article 34 and R. Wentworth 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 establish a Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of paying for expenses incurred during any creation of a water main or main to stop, the installation, repair, upgrade, removal, location change, and replacement of same, and to raise and appropriate \$1.00 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 35 and was seconded by P. LaRochelle.

R. Wentworth stated this would be where the funds from article 33 and 34 would go if approved at Town Meeting. This will allow the Water Works to use the funds for anything within the water main section of the town.

Attorney Sessler stated the two funds that are discontinued equal \$55,000 which will go into the General Fund and they'll go into an unassigned fund balance. Somebody is going to have to make a motion to change the \$1.00 to \$55,000 plus accumulated interest to be deposited into the General Fund. The funds would then come from the unassigned fund balance to this new one.

R. Wentworth motioned to amend Article 35 to read “To see if the Town will vote to establish a Water Main Expense Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of paying for expenses incurred during any creation of a water main or main to stop, the installation, repair, upgrade, removal, location change, and replacement of same, and to raise and appropriate \$55,000 plus accumulated interest to deposit into this fund with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Further, to name the Board of Selectment as agents to expend from said fund. No impact on the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectment (5-0). Recommended by the Budge Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)” and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

No further discussion on the amendment.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 35 passed with a favorable vote.

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

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 to be added to the Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

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

P. LaRochelle stated during the winter of 2019 there was significant underwater damage done to the cribbing timbers from lake ice movement. The Water Bandstand Committee and the Board of Selectmen felt it appropriate and necessary to make the cribbing repairs in 2020. An estimate was obtained from a local marine repair company at approximately \$4,380.31. Due to the “unforeseen” or “unknown”, the amount has been rounded to \$5,500. Basically, the structure is on 2 large cribs that is separated by 8 feet in between, each crib is 8 foot by 20 feet long. During the ice out of 2019 severe ice came in and took out some of the timbers on the lower portion from the deck. We have a little buffer there in case more material is needed.

No further discussion.

P. O’Brien motioned to restrict Article 36 and J. Markland 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 \$80,400 for the purpose of replacing the existing dock attached to the restaurant known as Shibley’s on the Pier;

to allow the public to dock at the new dock; add one or two boat fingers as space will allow to the new dock area; fix the eroding banking behind the dock; and attach this new dock to the public “Town” docks using an extension of the existing board walk. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the repairs and renovations are completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 37 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

P. LaRochelle stated the plan is to remove the existing restaurant dock and underwater support structure. The current dock is in poor condition with valid safety concerns. The dock will be replaced with a new dock, pilings and everything required. This new dock will allow Shibley’s at the Pier, Inc., to have continued access to their basement from the dock and their upper level storage area (be the stairs on the side of the building). The public will continue to have access to the restaurant dining deck from the dock if they choose. The existing ten-foot curtilage area around the restaurant will remain as is, in the lease with the Town. This dock will become Town-owned and Town-maintained. Shibley’s on the Pier, Inc. will be responsible for costs associated with upkeep and maintenance of the dock and underwater structure within the ten-foot curtilage area listed in the existing lease. The restaurant owners will no longer be taxed on the entire length of the existing restaurant dock, but only on the ten feet within the curtilage of the dock. The public will be allowed to dock at the restaurant dock for access to other businesses. The steeply inclined banking beside the restaurant will be repaired using DES approved erosion control methods such as fill, rocks, plantings, and mesh covering for stabilization, etc. This will prevent further erosion into Lake Winnepesaukee. This new dock will then be connected to the Town’s existing public docks complete with an extension of the pedestrian boardwalk thus creating one large public docking area. The addition of one or two dock fingers will be installed onto the newer end of the structure nearest the restaurant and as space allows, or a dock for larger sized boats that will not fit into the existing public docks. By working together with the restaurant owners, the Town and the Shibley’s feel this is a win-win situation for everyone. The results of the renovation will improve the appearance of the area, improve safety of the existing restaurant dock, and improve the land/building site.

L. Carr asked if we were taking over somebody else’s dock, as the Shibley’s currently own it.

R. Wentworth responded no, according to the lease they have only 10 feet of the dock, and the rest is Town owned.

L. Carr disputed Mr. Wentworth’s response as he did a little research by obtaining the tax card. The tax card definitely says the Shibley’s own it on the first page. The tax card shows in 1997 they were being taxed on the dock. There is a drawing on the back end of the lease that states “to include water frontage of one hundred twenty-one feet”, which is attached to the tax card, showing they own it. On May 16, 2001 there is an application with the Department of Environmental Services completed by the owner, Pete Shibley, to redo the dock. There are three public records showing they own the dock.

R. Wentworth added that the dock he just referred to is the one for the patrons to sit on. The paperwork the Board of Selectmen received to make the decision on was provided by the Town

Assessing Department, and the Town Assessor highlighted that they have ten feet on this dock. The rest, to the southside of the bay, is owned by the Town of Alton.

Attorney Sessler stated Selectmen LaRoche, the Town Administrator, and himself met with Mr. Shibley, who agrees with this assessment and plan. Therefore, he's not arguing for his ownership.

Discussion ensued back and forth about the Town taking over private property.

Mr. Carr stated the numbers don't add up. After looking back five years we spent \$440,000 in the bay and only \$60,000 in Town. If you add this article into it the total spent in the bay is \$525,900. We are spending \$7.50 for work done in the bay for every dollar in the Town. This project can wait.

L. Carr motioned to amend Article 37 from \$80,400 to \$1.00 and was seconded by Joe Macdonald.

R. Wentworth, spoke as a citizen, agrees with Mr. Carr, the bay does get a lot of money. Unfortunately, the stone walls along the westside of the bay are in bad repair and we have been trying to get money to have these repaired; but costs have been coming in higher than what is there. This dock and area are a liability to the Town. When money is needed to be spent in town, we do the work that is necessary, it is not all spent in the bay.

P. LaRoche, also speaking as a citizen, added that the dock itself and the whole area is in disrepair right now. If nothing is done with it soon it will need to be shut down from anyone using it as it is a hazard. The intent is to rebuild and connect to the existing boardwalk. This will allow people to come down from the stairway by Morin's Insurance and walk all the way across up the stairs and even to park boats, as the plan is to add one or two fingers. The reason people come to the area is to enjoy the bay and we need to preserve it.

Stanley Moulton asked to move the amendment and was 2nd by Marc Decoff.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 37 failed.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 37 and P. O'Brien 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 \$3,000 for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events such as band concerts, magic shows and other forms of activities. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 38 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

P. Wittmann stated in the years past the Old Home Week Committee would request \$2,500 to fund their activities. Last year they did not receive the money. This year donations were \$1,900 less than what was spent on the activities. The Committee came to the Selectmen looking for \$3,000 to help with the shortfall.

No further discussion.

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

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell a parcel of Town owned land located on Coffin Brook Road, Map 43 Lot 5, known as the old burn dump. Said parcel to be put up for auction. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 39 and was seconded by P. Wittmann

C. Shapleigh stated the property was the former Town Dump site it is approximately 4.62 acres. The property was purchased by the Town in 1982 for what is remembered as the “Town Dump” and there are no records stating why it was purchased. There is an interest in purchasing the parcel by a nearby landowner. The Selectmen would like to go ahead and sell this property at a public auction. With the clear understanding for all those interested, there is a strong likely-hood that the land is contaminated with unknown contaminants from years’ worth of burning and burying the burned garbage, demolition, furniture, appliances, plastics and other unknowns. The Department of Environmental Services has it listed on their website as an abandoned dump. Water and soil testing would need to be done by the new owner.

No further discussion.

V. Macdonald motioned to restrict Article 39 and C. Shapleigh seconded the motion. The motion was 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 \$12,500 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 40 and was seconded by P. LaRochelle.

Gene Young asked if we could move to restrict consideration of articles 40 – 48.

Moderator Lane-Douglas could not allow the motion.

No further discussion.

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

Article 41: 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

P. LaRochelle moved Article 41 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

No further discussion.

P. O'Brien motioned to restrict Article 41 and J. Markland seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 42: 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 42 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

Beth Hayward, from the Community Action Program, stated that Alton has supported this program for twenty-five plus years. The money that the Town gives allows them to have an area center that is open 5-days a week for residents of Alton. This year the residents of Alton received \$171,054 worth of services. Thank you to the Town, and all of the residents as they appreciate the funds to help the program.

C. Shapleigh asked which Budget Committee member voted against this article.

B. Holt replied that he did with the main reason he never received any information other than how much money was asked for. It would be helpful for Ms. Hayward to come to a budget meeting to explain what they do and what they use the money for in his decision to vote for it. This is the first time he is seeing an explanation of what money is used for.

Ms. Hayward replied that she is unsure why he is only seeing this for the first time tonight, as they turn in their documents by the date required.

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

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 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 (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

V. Macdonald moved Article 43 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

James Christenson, of Alton Mountain Road and Member of Caregivers Association, explained that since 1987 the Caregivers has provided emergency transportation for elderly, handicapped, and other persons who need assistance getting to medical appointments. During the last year the organization provided transportation 289 times for Alton residents, which is a 27% increase from the previous year. This is a complete volunteer organization; from the directors to coordinators who volunteer their time. If a drive is less than 50 miles the drive is totally volunteer. If the drive is more than 50 miles the driver does get reimbursed forty-five cents a mile. Last year the cost for Alton residents came to about \$3,500. We're asking for \$500 more this year as it represents a 25% increase of the cost of services.

No further discussion.

P. O'Brien motioned to restrict Article 43 and V. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 44: 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 44 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

Julie Brown confirmed if the amount of \$500 was all that was requested by CASA.

R. Wentworth replied yes.

C. Shapleigh motioned to restrict Article 44 and P. Leavitt seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Central NH 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 (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

P. Wittmann moved Article 45 and was seconded by P. LaRochelle.

No further discussion.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 45 and P. Leavitt seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Child and Family Services of NH. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

P. LaRochelle moved Article 46 and was seconded by R. Wentworth.

No further discussion.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 46 and P. LaRochelle seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,750 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 (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 47 and was seconded by V. Macdonald.

C. Shapleigh, a supporter of Lakes Region Mental Health, stated this program was formerly known as Genesis Behavioral Health. We are looking for a level funded request that is the same

as last year. In 2019, Lakes Region Mental Health served 98 residents of Alton with 30 of these individuals utilizing emergency services. This resulted in charitable care to Alton residents of \$23,057; without this money Lakes Region Mental Health will no longer be reimbursed for the charitable care they give to the towns that they support. This organization works here in our schools, work with our local professionals should they need it.

J. Brown asked who on the Budget Committee voted against this article.

B. Holt stated he was one of the ones who voted against it. Again, no information at the time of budget talks.

P. O'Brien believes the other person who voted against this article is absent from this meeting. He does not have the record to accurately state this.

C. Shapleigh stated that a full budget for Lakes Region Mental Health services was submitted to the Town with an explanation sheet with the number of people who used the services sorted by age and received emergency services versus services they have been referred to Lakes Region Mental Health for.

R. Wentworth clarified the non-profits paperwork was submitted to the town, but unlike the warrant articles not to the budget committee.

R. Wentworth motioned to restrict Article 47 and P. Leavitt seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 48: 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, 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 (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

R. Wentworth moved Article 48 and was seconded by C. Shapleigh.

Kent Cromwell, L.I.F.E. Ministries President, stated they are asking for level funding. This program provides ten meals per person per week at the food pantry. In 2019, we distributed over 198,000 meals, a 2% increase from 2018. They helped 103 Alton residents in 2019; 22 under the age of 19 and 33 over the age of 60 years old. We distribute over 9,000 meals to these Alton residents in 2019; 5% of their total meals. Our food budget is \$147,400 and were asking for \$3,000; 2% of our total food budget. Even though Alton contributes to 5% of our meals contributed we are only as asking for 2%.

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

Article 49: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,575 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). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-1). (Majority vote required)

C. Shapleigh moved Article 49 and was seconded by P. Wittmann.

P. O'Brien stated every year we cross this bridge with the non-profits. There are a lot of questions behind them and even talk about consolidating them all into a single article, which we can't legally do. Suggests again this year possibly adding these non-profit articles into the Welfare Department Budget. It would benefit the taxpayers by not having so many warrant articles to have to consider.

J. Markland motioned to restrict Article 49 and P. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Moderator Lane-Douglas asked for any closing remarks.

R. Wentworth made an announcement about an EPA public hearing that will be held on Wednesday, February 5th at New Durham Elementary School in regards to the Cyanobacteria.

R. Wentworth motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by P. Leavitt.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Collins
Recording Secretary