

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2022
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

Moderator Lane-Douglas welcomed 40 voters in attendance to the first session of the 2022 Town Meeting and asked all those who were not registered voters to stand.

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

Robin Lane-Douglas, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Virgil Macdonald, Selectmen Chair, introduced the members of the Board of Selectmen.

Paul LaRochelle, Vice Chair
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator
Steven Whitley, Town Attorney
Laura Parker, Finance Officer
Not in attendance, Bob Holt, Selectmen

Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas, motions for Lisa Noyes, to introduce the Town Employees:
Jennifer Collins, Deputy Town Clerk
Shannon Hart, Secretary, Recorder of Minutes

Reuben Parker, Budget Committee Chair, introduced the members in attendance representing the Budget Committee.

Leann LaPlante, Member

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

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Tuesday, the eighth (8th) day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022), beginning at six (6:00) o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote which will be held on March 8, 2022 at St. Katharine Drexel Church (lower level) 40 Hidden Spring Rd. from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm:

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for which there are vacancies, for such terms as may be permitted by law; and to elect: two selectmen for three years, one town clerk/tax collector for two years, one trustee of trust funds for three years, two library trustees for three years, one moderator for two years, two budget committee members for three years, one budget committee member for two years, two planning board members for three years, one planning

board member for one year, one supervisor of the checklist for six years and two zoning board members for three years.

Article 9: 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. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 9 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Reuben Wentworth gave the rationale to the article. This article goes into a regular capital reserve fund which currently has \$30,757.39. Two long term employees retired this year.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 9 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 10: 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 \$8,691,586. Should this article be defeated; the Default Budget shall be \$8,434,833.00, which is the same as last year (with the exception of the Water Budget) 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Reuben Parker moves Article 10 and was seconded by Leann LaPlante.

Reuben Parker states that the department heads did a really good job of pulling together a budget. While looking at the budget the Budget Committee was not comfortable with the Operating Budget as is. The Finance Department and Town Administrator worked with the department heads to decrease the Operating Budget.

Loring Carr would like the budget committee to inform him on how many new positions are part of this budget. Reuben Parker stated he believes there are two positions and motions to confirm with the Town Administrator. Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator, states that there are two in the Fire Department and one part-time in the Parks & Recreation Department.

L. Carr is wondering how much these new positions will cost.

R. Parker mentions that the Fire Department wages are \$65,520 and for Grounds & Maintenance is \$38,480.

John Markland would like to know how you ask a voter to support a 7% increase when you have some of the 5% increase left over from the previous year to pay off things in the future. R. Heath states that the increase will be going to staffing and employee retention. J. Markland is asks how does the paying forward on some items this year effect the default budget next year?

R. Heath responds that some areas that decreased are going into a CIP article.

R. Wentworth states that if the Operating Budget is approved this year then the Default Budget will stay the same.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 10 and Brock Mitchell seconds 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 \$520,072.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution system for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$468,735.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 11 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Virgil Macdonald states this is the amount that was established during the budgeting process that is needed to operate the Town's Water Department that is offset by the users.

No Discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 11 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with a favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to establish an Assessing Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the pick-up truck used by the Assessing Department, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,500 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Brock Mitchell moves Article 12 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Brock Mitchell states this is to provide a capital reserve fund for the eventual replacement of the vehicle used by the Assessing and IT Departments. Over time, it will generate less tax cost to save a small amount per year rather than appropriate an entire replacement cost in a single budget. Further, single-budget appropriation runs the risk of being denied, potentially leaving the Assessing and IT Departments without a necessary piece of equipment.

Loring Carr is wondering why so much money is going into a reserve fund.

Virgil Macdonald states if we do not start saving money in these capital reserve funds then there will be no money saved up for replacements. Taxes could possibly go up the next year when they need to buy one straight out.

L. Carr notes there is an inflation rate of 7% with money sitting in the capital reserve fund earning .01%, which means the town is losing money on reserves.

Cydney Shapleigh asks which Selectmen voted against this article. R. Heath states that one was absent.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 12 and Reuben Wentworth seconds 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 establish a Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the pick-up truck used by the Building Department, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,500 to be placed into this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Brock Mitchell moves Article 13 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

B. Mitchell states this is to provide the town with the ability to appropriate the funds necessary to replace the vehicle over approximately ten years as opposed to appropriating the total amount in a single year, minimizing the burden on the taxpayers. The present truck was purchased in 2018 for \$25,000.00, the amount requested is in anticipation of inflation over the next ten years.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 13 and Virgil Macdonald seconds 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 clarify the purpose of the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously referred to as the Fire Truck Fund established in 1973, as being used for the purchase of all types of Fire Department apparatus, equipment on apparatus, equipment used by Fire employees in the operation of all apparatus at emergency scenes and repairs of apparatus and equipment. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (2/3 vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0).

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 14 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Reuben Wentworth states that a former selectmen and citizen came to the board for clarification for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, because back in 1973 it was only a Fire Truck Fund and they were wondering how the name was changed to a capital reserve fund.

R. Wentworth states that with talking with the Department of Revenue, they are bringing this to the town to have it clarified that this done correctly.

Loring Carr is wondering why the wording for the article is in past tense and does not have a present tense wording. R. Wentworth states that Legal Counsel and DRA have approved the verbal wording of the article as is. Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas suggested to Mr. Carr to write an amendment. L. Carr mentions that he's going to move to have the wording state "to be

used” instead of “as being” and that he wants to add “no more than \$100,000 per year” at the end.

Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas stated, after speaking with legal counsel, you are unable to put a limitation what they can expend in an article.

Mr. Carr motions to amend Article 14 and was seconded by Raymond Howard to read as: “To see if the Town will vote to clarify the purpose of the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously referred to as the Fire Truck Fund established in 1973. To be used for the purchase of all types of Fire Department apparatus, equipment on apparatus, equipment used by Fire employees in the operation of all apparatus as emergency scenes and repairs of apparatus and equipment. (2-3 vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Taking out the sentence “Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said funds”.

Virgil Macdonald states that by doing this that if a piece of equipment is lost then they will not be able to use these funds until the following next town election. We can’t hold a special town meeting for this only budget.

Cydney Shapleigh asks who Mr. Carr wants for agents to be able to expend? Ms. Shapleigh states for it to go to a special town meeting will cost the town members \$10,000 and addition to short changing safety for wordsmithing an article.

L. Carr shares his concern of taxpayers not having a say in spending if the next article passes. Too large of a sum of money to be resting on one vote by the Selectmen. James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, states that with removing the Board of Selectmen to be able to expend. It will put us behind if we need a repair. Waiting for a special town meeting will put us behind more. J. Beaudoin states that there is a large amount of money will be coming out for equipment in the next few years.

Kelly Sullivan states if this article was to pass with no Board of Selectmen to expend the funds then there could be a problem with citizens receiving the proper care that is needed in an emergency. K. Sullivan also states that from listening to the Fire Chief that it sounds like they will be using this money to update equipment that will be needed for the fire department.

Raymond Howard is wondering what would happen if Article 14 does not pass but Article 15 does? The next article adds more money into the capital reserve fund. What will happen with the current funds?

Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator, states back in the 70s it was originally a Fire Truck Fund as there were no capital reserve funds back then and it was changed into a CRF. As of right now they are trying to clarify what this account can be used for.

Mr. Wentworth states that calling a special town meeting could happen quite a few times a year, especially if equipment was to go down throughout the year. He also states to keep the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend because the board has never foolishly spent the towns money.

Mr. Wentworth, speaking as a resident, believes this is a bad amendment to the article.

Raymond Howard states this is a confusing article as it conflicts with Article 15. Article 14 you need two-thirds majority vote to pass.

Moderator Lane-Douglas clarified that Article 14 is to clean up what the capital reserve fund is used for; no money involved.

Mr. Howard asks if we would be in same situation if this does not pass.

R. Heath adds that when this was established in the 70's this was stated to be a "fire truck" fund, there were no capital reserves in the budgeting system. Over time, budgeting rules and regulations changed and capital reserve funds came into existence. At some point, as Selectmen Wentworth mentioned, we weren't able to track that transition. When transition rolled over into a capital reserve the town has been putting money into this as it exists over the years.

Mr. Howard agrees and adds if we don't change this the fund it is the same as it was in 1973; for a fire truck.

Steven Whitley, Town Attorney, explains the procedures for the town to call a special town meeting. There are two ways they can be done: first, is to go to Superior Court and file a petition establish some emergency expenditure that you need to make and go back to voters to get that money. The second, is to have ½ of the voters to show up and vote at the special town meeting.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 14 fails.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 14 and Reuben Wentworth seconds 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 \$450,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 15 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Reuben Wentworth states this article is for future needs of the fire department to be able to purchase equipment and replace apparatus.

Loring Carr motions to amend Article 15 by adding after 1973 "current balance in this account is \$896,205" and was seconded by Raymond Howard.

L. Carr states this is to allow voters to know the amount in the capital reserve fund.

Richard Shea supports Mr. Carr's amendment – it allows voter to exercise proper judgement.

Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas reads the article as amended: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973, current balance in this account is \$896,205. (Majority vote required)" and see who is in favor and oppose.

With a standing vote, the amendment to Article 15 failed.

James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, wants to make it clear that this plan comes from CIP and they work very hard to make sure that this will not impact the tax payers by a lot of money. Yes, there will be a lot of money in the account but there will be a lot of expenses in the near future. That is where the money will be coming from.

L. Carr is wondering why the amounts in the CIP will be increasing so much in the next few years. Would like to know from the Budget Committee.

Reuben Parker states from the little that he learned from the CIP that they looked at each department to see what their needs are; the amounts could change.

Patrick O'Brien, CIP Volunteer, states that the ladder truck for the fire department has not been part of the CIP for the past several years. There was a lot of outside funding; for example through grants. Because these avenues were being pursued they never went into CIP.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 15 and Paul LaRochelle seconds 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 \$399,195 for the purpose of paying off the existing lease on the Pumper Fire Truck. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 16 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Paul LaRochelle states this is to pay off the existing Engine 4 lease. This will save the town almost \$50,000 in interest and will remove the yearly payment from the operating budget.

Loring Carr is wondering how old the ladder truck is.

Paul LaRochelle defers to the Fire Chief J. Beaudoin, who states that the Engine 4 is a 2019. L. Carr is wondering what year the truck was supposed to be replaced. J. Beaudoin responds it was ordered in 2018 and scheduled to be replaced in 2038.

L. Carr asks why we are not paying this off with the \$896,205 that we have in the reserve fund now. Ryan Heath states that paying off one time warrant articles instead of putting on the operating budget. J. Beaudoin states that Engine 4 is not part of CIP and was leased; there is no money in the capital reserve fund for this vehicle since the money in that capital reserve fund is already spoken for.

Patrick O'Brien states that looking in the CIP packet on page 3 of 12 you would be able to see the CRF line. In 2026 the amount is down to a lower amount and that if they would take the funds from this to pay the pumper truck then the account would be in the negative and they would not be able to buy or do repairs.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 16 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 amount of \$20,000 to be added to the Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2019. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Brock Mitchell moves Article 17 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Brock Mitchell states the funds would be used to purchase replacement vehicles and equipment when needed for the Grounds and Maintenance Department, which maintains thirty-eight properties. The department performs general maintenance of town properties and buildings; plowing; mowing; trash removal at all Town buildings and public parks; turf management and custodial care of Town buildings. The fund currently has a balance of \$20,767.

The Grounds and Maintenance Department is expected to replace the 2015 F250 pickup truck in 2025 with a smaller vehicle for approximately \$40,000. Future purchases will include a replacement vehicle for the 2008 Dodge Caravan which is the transportation for the Town Custodian.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 17 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$150,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Brock Mitchell moves Article 18 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Brock Mitchell states that these funds would fund the CIP planned 2022 the Highway Department planned replacements of front line fleet vehicles with a 1-ton pickup truck, utility boy and plow and a 19.5 GVW truck with plows. These would replace: 1. 2016 Dodge 2500 pickup truck with plow. The vehicle would then be reassigned within the Public Works Divisions i.e. Cemeteries Division 2. 2002 Ford F-550 Utility Body with plow. This vehicle would be decommissioned. 3. Replacement of the 2001 30 ton trailer, the older trailer would be decommissioned. These vehicle replacements will allow for the department to upgrade two 20+ year old pieces of equipment, and reassign a 7-year old vehicle, to a lighter duty, in order to gain additional lifecycle years.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 18 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$1,165,994 to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by an estimated \$190,000 from the Highway Block Grant, the remainder will be raised through taxation. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 19 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Reuben Wentworth states the following will address 80% funding for pavement preservation (71 mi. paved/375,306 lineal feet x \$21.25 per lineal foot cost divided by 7 yr. treatment cycle equals \$1,139,321) and 20% funding for road rehabilitation (Reclaim, drainage and repaving) (\$375,000) Right now in the road reconstruction fund is a balance of \$406,652.00.

Overlay 2020 base pavement

1. Tom Road
2. Linwood Dr
3. Valley Road
4. Range Rd

Shim (1") and overlay (1")

1. Hall Road (7000') (Rt 140 to T/L)
2. Avery Hill Rd (14,700') (Alton Mtn to T/L)
3. Powder Mill Rd (11,420') (Old Wboro Rd to T/L)
4. Stockbridge Corner Rd (6803') (Rt 28 to T/L)

Shim (1") and SAM (Asphalt Rubber Chip Seal)

1. Fort Point Rd (6000') (Chestnut to Trask Side)
2. Southview Lane (1300') (Trask side to end)
3. Gedney Court (690') (Chestnut Cove to end)
4. Pearson Rd (1875') (Senior Ctr. to end)

Road Rehabilitation:

1. 5311' Reclaim, underdrain, open drainage ditching, culvert replacements, base and top coarse paving.
 - a. Culvert Replacement Basin inlet

Roberts Cove Road- 2020 section- Top course

Richard Shea, a resident on Roberts Cove Road, is happy with the increase. Roberts Cove Road is in major need of repair.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 19 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0) (Recommended by CIP)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 20 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Reuben Wentworth states these funds will assist in the bridge construction of future projects in the town. The 2021 capital reserve account was utilized for the Loon Cove “Red Listed” Bridge of \$252,000, which is approximate cost to replace the bridge. It was good to have this money as if the Board of Selectmen waited State of NH to come up with their money, it could have ten to eleven years.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 20 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 21 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Paul LaRochelle states these funds will be added to the capital reserve fund for future improvements to the Highway Building, such as mechanical upgrades or improvements, or physical structure enhancements or improvements. In 2021, the account was utilized for replacement of mechanic division equipment at the facility with a new 16,000lb vehicle lift, tire machine and balancer. Total project cost was \$36,864, and will leave an account balance of approx. \$51,000. So, adding \$20,000 to the account will round out to \$71,000.

Loring Carr is looking for clarification of account balance as the handouts state an ending balance is \$78,160. Mr. Wentworth states the balance Mr. Carr is looking at is as of December 31, 2021.

Laura Parker, Finance Director, states the amount on the capital reserve fund form that Mr. Carr is looking at is correct. The project total of \$36,864 did not all come out of the capital reserve; only \$19,040 for that project. The Public Works Director found other funds to cover some of this.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 21 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2007. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 22 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Virgil Macdonald states these funds will be added to the sidewalk capital reserve account for reconstruction of existing and new sidewalks.

Kelly Sullivan asks what is in the account as of now. Mr. Macdonald responds that there is \$27,283.63.

R. Wentworth added there are two capital reserve funds. The first is Highway Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund; which has a balance of \$27,283.63. The other is the Town of Alton Sidewalks which has a balance of \$20,424.20. The town is working on combining both sidewalk funds.

Loring Carr asks what the plan is for the \$55,000. R. Wentworth states that one of the plans is for Main Street from the Village Store to the tip of the Bay, which was done back in 1990. The second one is to replace the brick sidewalk in the bay but no concrete plans have been made as of yet.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 22 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$30,000 to be added to the Rock & Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 23 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Reuben Wentworth states the funds would be added to the capital reserve funds in the account which has approximately \$32,000. It would be used to crush the highway department aggregates recycling stockpile; which is approximately 5,000 + yards of material. The estimated cost is \$60,000 to crush the materials into reusable products for the department. A lot of these products go back into our road reconstruction when we grind up the roads.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 23 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 24: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Recommended by CIP)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 24 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Reuben Wentworth states these funds would be added to the Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, which currently has a balance of approximately \$9,591.73, after the construction of the new Sand-Salt building. These funds would be used for future construction and improvements to the sand building.

Loring Carr asks why are we adding another \$10,000 when \$61,479 was spent putting shed up, we have almost \$10,000 now. Mr. Wentworth responds that if they need to replace the cover on the building then it would cost close to \$30,000.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 24 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$151,900 for the purpose of purchasing an Excavator for the Public Works Department. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 25 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Paul LaRochelle states this purchase would be to replace the current Cat 320 excavator, which is 15 years old (10,000+ hours). It is too large for road maintenance work. This would purchase a mid-size 26K size machine. Which, would be able to be safely moved with our current equipment, and work well within the roadways we have. We would look to replace this equipment every 7-10 years, so we can maintain warranty coverage.

Kenneth Roberts asks if the Town plans to no longer do road construction since that it was stated for only maintenance only.

Scott Kinmond, Public Works Director, clarifies the purpose of the new excavator would be for road maintenance and any reconstruction that needs to be done within the town.

Loring Carr is wondering what the new model or the pricing will be. Scott Kinmond states that this will be going out to public bid. Unable to state what the machine name will be. Trade-in will range from \$50,000 - \$60,000. Mr. Carr mentions a discussion about fixing the excavator and is looking to clarify \$151,900, is this the cost to purchase a new one? Mr. Kinmond responds that the machine will be more versatile for the town roads.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 25 and Reuben Wentworth seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$127,600 for the purpose of purchasing a Loader for the Public Works Department. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Brock Mitchell moves Article 26 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Brock Mitchell states this purchase would be to replace the current Cat 938 Loader, which is 6 years old, with over 5,000 hours. The CIP plan is for a replacement every 5 years to keep equipment under warranty, and increase the trade resale value. Which will assist with future replacements, and lower overall capital expense. The replacement at this cycle works well to minimizing maintenance expenses such as tires, brakes and emissions hours maintenance items, which are very expensive.

No further discussion.

Brock Mitchell motions to restrict Article 26 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the IT Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2020. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0) (Recommended by CIP)

Brock Mitchell moves Article 27 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Virgil Macdonald states this capital reserve fund was established to fund large-scale technology hardware and software needs and emergencies. This fund supports updating technology resources over time, thereby significantly reducing cybersecurity risk and any burden these large scale projects would have on an annual budget. A one-time increase has been requested by the

IT Department and CIP collectively to cycle out some old equipment and get these systems current while requesting in subsequent years will focus on remaining current and flattening out future budget projects.

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 27 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$25,000 to be added to the Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 2020. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 28 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Paul LaRochelle states the funds would be used for interior and exterior repairs such as: painting; replace support beams; decking; boardwalk; fencing; railings; supports for underneath the building and boardwalk; siding; flooring; windows; kitchen; bathrooms; and upgrades/repairs to the septic, electrical, plumbing and heating systems when needed. The fund currently has a balance of \$705.32.

Loring Carr asks what was done last year.

Mr. LaRochelle responded “the roof and chimney”. Mr. Carr asks if the boardwalk goes from the beginning of the community center to Mt. Washington dock. Mr. LaRochelle responds “correct”. Mr. Carr goes on to ask if this is covered under this reserve. Since it certainly needs to be fixed. Mr. Wentworth states that the just under the building is only able to be done with these funds and the boardwalk decking is unable to be done using these funds. Anything more would need to go through budget process or line item to building and grounds.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 28 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Jones Field Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to the recreation area, park property, and parking lot, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 to be placed into this fund. With the Board of Selectmen named as agents to expend from said funds. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 29 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Virgil Macdonald states this warrant article is to establish a CRF for the upkeep and maintenance of the Jones Field Recreation Area/Park Property and Parking Lot Property. The capital reserve fund would be used for improvements such as: construction of new dug outs; maintenance of existing dug outs and buildings; security cameras; parking lot improvements; replacement or repairs of: Green Monster, chain link fence, playground equipment, footbridge, trail system and walking path, and field improvements.

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 29 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$9,000 for the purpose of hiring a Master Plan Consultant who specializes in municipal Master Plan guidance and who will work with the Planning Board and staff to assist with completing the Master Plan update that began in October of 2020. 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, 2026, whichever is sooner. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. **(No amount to be raised from taxation.)** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 30 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Paul LaRochelle motions to amend Article 30. Remove Planning Board recommendation from the article, which is a suggestion from legal counsel from RSA 659:44 and seconded by Brock Mitchell.

Attorney Steven Whitley recommends this amendment as the RSA that was just cited prohibits election officers from doing what's called "electioneering". Reasoning is there is no legal authority for the recommendation of Planning Board to be on an article of this type. To err on side of caution and protect the town, suggested the removal on the warrant article.

Susan Stevens asks if this will be happening from now in the future. Mr. Whitley states that he cannot speak for anything that happened in the past but for these articles spotted potential area of concern.

Cydney Shapleigh asks to clarify that the Planning Board can make recommendations on zoning articles?

Mr. Whitley responds "yes". There is specific statutory requirements for that. The problem is this is a money article not a zoning amendment.

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

Paul LaRochelle states the Master Plan consultant would provide assistance to the Planning Board to complete the Master Plan update that began in October of 2020. Up until now, the current Consultant has shown the Master Plan Committee how to proceed in identifying the demographics, engaging the community in the Master Plan process, how to conduct surveys with larger results, identifying and creating appropriate chapters in a proposed Master Plan, and how to get people involved. The consultant has also shown the Planning Board how to represent the Town and ways of participation for well-rounded results. The goal was 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 portrays guidance in how to promote and control growth in the Town, in appropriate areas, with appropriate means. The Master Plan forms the basis for all decisions made by the Planning Board, its Committees, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Loring Carr asks how much is left of the \$25,000 that was voted on in 2020. Paul LaRochelle defers to Jessica Call, Town Planner, and that the whole \$25,000 has been used. J. Call states that over the time to now that the money has been used for the Master Plan Consultant.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 30 and Brock Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of hiring a Planning and Zoning Consultant who specializes in municipal guidance, and who will work with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen, and their staff, to assist with crafting proposed zoning and ordinances and regulations. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Planning and Zoning consulting services are completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. **(No amount to be raised from taxation.)** Majority vote required. Recommended by the Planning Board (5-1). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 31 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Paul LaRochelle motions to amend Article 31. Remove Planning Board recommendation from the article, which is a suggestion from legal counsel from RSA 659:44 and seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 31 passes with a favorable vote.

Paul LaRochelle states the Planning and Zoning Consultant would provide assistance to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen to update the Town's Zoning Ordinance to include a proposed zoning ordinance for short-term rentals, and assist the Selectmen with implementing the permitting process. The consultant would also provide assistance with crafting proposed ordinances for Open Space Subdivisions and Cabin/Cottage Colonies. The aforementioned proposed zoning ordinances would be presented to the townspeople individually in warrant articles for their approval at a future town meeting.

Sue Stevens asks who would be hiring the Consultant.

Paul LaRochelle responds the Planning Board will be doing the hiring and that it will be the same Master Plan Consultant.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 31 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. Remaining funds of \$12,205 are to be transferred to the municipality general fund. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Brock Mitchell moves Article 32 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Brock Mitchell states this article is to close the fund, as it is a repeat of a previously established Solid Waste Equipment Fund. The remaining \$12,205 would be transferred into the general fund.

Sue Stevens asks why we are closing an equipment fund. Mr. Macdonald states it is to close this account and to put the funds into the Solid Waste Center Equipment account.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 32 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,205 to be added into the Solid Waste Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. **There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate.** (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Brock Mitchell moves Article 33 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Brock Mitchell states that if Article 32 passes, this is to transfer \$12,205 out of unassigned fund balance into Solid Waste Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used to buy equipment needed at the Solid Waste Center.

No further discussion.

Brock Mitchell motions to restrict Article 33 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 34 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Virgil Macdonald states this fund is required to fund unexpected expenses associated with the presence of new contamination at the landfill. Unexpected expenses may include but not be limited to the following: testing, installation of additional monitoring wells, removal of monitoring wells, and preparation of the annual report for the Groundwater Permit Management, as required by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 34 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0) (Recommended by CIP)

Brock Mitchell moves Article 35 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Brock Mitchell states these funds will be added to the capital reserve fund for future improvements to the town hall building, such as mechanical upgrades, interior improvements, or

exterior enhancements or improvements. Right now there is a balance of \$47,457.27 in the account.

Virgil Macdonald, as town resident, states that the original purpose for this article was to incorporate a sprinkler system within the town hall building. These accounts are getting all reworded.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 35 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Brock Mitchell moves Article 36 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Reuben Wentworth states the Milfoil Committee would like to request \$25,000 for the 2022 warrant article (2021 was \$25,000). The \$25,000 in conjunction with the existing 2021 balance will insure that we will have the funds for anticipated work next summer including herbicide treatments and DASH work in the lake and the Merrymeeting River. One of the tasks for the next summer is to begin treatment above the dam in Mill Pond and Wentworth Pond; areas which are relatively large and have not been previously treated.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 36 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to establish an Environmental Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1, with the purpose to assist any town department with unanticipated expenses concerning town properties needing work in order to be in compliance with DES and EPA regulations, or for the protection of the public health, welfare, and safety. The funds may be used for emergency repairs such as drainage controls, contamination concerns, preventive measures engineering, grant matching funds, grant application expenses, and other nutrient pollution cyanobacteria and algae blooms, or septic system failures. Further, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000 to be placed into this fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 37 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

Virgil Macdonald states this is established for a few reasons; one to save up money for unanticipated large expenditure, the second is to set aside money for an unanticipated large expense. Items that will fit into the large unanticipated expense are severe storm damage or septic system failures that can result in environmental damages. The fund also allows to be used for engineering work or grant application expenses related to environmental issues. Nature does not respect the budget cycle, the grants are always time sensitive. Having funds will allow town to move quickly.

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 37 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 38: Shall the Town vote to rescind Warrant Article #41 approved on the March 11, 2009 ballot because it does not allow for lawful meetings such as site visits and site walks used by many town boards in the regular conduct of their business, and further to replace it with the following language that complies with existing NH law: Shall the Town vote in order to promote openness in the conduct of public business, that all Town proceedings as defined by RSA 91-A, except in the event of emergency circumstances, shall be open and accessible to the public at all times in accordance with RSA 91-A. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0).

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 38 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Reuben Wentworth states the purpose of this article is to adopt language that is consistent with NH State Law and will allow all town business to be conducted as needed, while making it accessible to the public.

Loring Carr would like to amend the article to state "Alton owned facilities".

Attorney Steven Whitley states this is not a permissible amendment that can be used only at town owned facilities. RSA 91-A gives them more leeway to where they can hold town meetings. The amendment would limit where town bodies could hold town meetings beyond state statute and he does not believe that the town body has the power to do that. L. Carr states that the previous attorney thought that it was ok and that it could be enforced. Attorney Whitley states he can't speak to what it said in the past.

Break taken at 8:55PM.

Resume at 9:05PM.

Moderator Robin Lane-Douglas states that "Alton owned facilities" is an illegal motion and is unable to add as an amendment. It goes against RSA 91-A.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 38 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 39 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Reuben Wentworth states this article requires an individual estimated tax impact for all future monetary warrant articles, to include the proposed budget.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 39 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$20,000 for the purpose of supporting NH Lakes' Lake Host Program which is a program with a mission to keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and health, now and in the future. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 40 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

Virgil Macdonald states the money will be used to establish a Lake Host Program in Alton that will help inspect watercrafts entering our public ramps that may contain invasive plant species.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 40 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This is a special warrant article. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0).

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 41 and was seconded by Virgil Macdonald.

Peter Bolster, Alton Community Services President, states this service has helped the town residents, along with American Legion, schools, churches and Welfare Department. It allows for a "one stop shop" for people who need help. The program served 75 families in 2021; 22,000 meals were provided. This money helps pay the rent for the facility they provide services from. None of the money goes to the volunteers. Truly a non-profit organization.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 41 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This is special warrant article. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 42 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 42 and Reuben Wentworth seconds the motion. The motion was passed with 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 \$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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 43 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 43 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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 \$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 proved by volunteers. This is a special warrant article. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 44 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

No further discussion.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 44 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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 \$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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 45 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 45 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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 \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Granite VNA fka Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternity child health services. This is a special warrant article. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1)

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 46 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

No further discussion.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 46 and Reuben Wentworth seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1)

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 47 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

L. Carr asks "how much was expended in Alton last year?"

The Director of Public Relations, from the Lakes Region Mental Health Center, stated this is a level funded request for emergency services for Alton resident. The program provides emergency 24/7 care regardless of a person's ability to pay. For the record, in the 2021 fiscal year, there were 114 residents of Alton and 24 of those individuals used the emergency services, with the total care of \$16,224 to the residents.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 47 and Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Reuben Wentworth moves Article 48 and was seconded by Paul LaRochelle.

No further discussion.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 48 and Paul LaRochelle seconds the motion. The motion passed with 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 crises support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This is a special warrant article. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Virgil Macdonald moves Article 49 and was seconded by Brock Mitchell.

No further discussion.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 49 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Waypoint formerly known as Child and Family Services of NH. This is a special warrant article. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0)

Paul LaRochelle moves Article 50 and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth.

No further discussion.

Paul LaRochelle motions to restrict Article 50 and Reuben Wentworth seconds the motion. The motion passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 51: 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.

Loring Carr shares his concern over a \$20 million fire house that the Selectmen should take the reins in oversight of committee. Mr. Carr would like the Selectmen to have a direction before spending the \$20 million.

Kelly Sullivan states the meeting being referenced is a CIP meeting that the public is invited to attend and is recorded. There has been large talk about facilities because of aging and planning for future. It was recommended that the BOS would oversee.

Patrick O'Brien mentions that main topic for the CIP this year is buildings. This group will be looking at the town buildings and what needs to be fixed and repaired over the next few years. This hasn't been accounted for by CIP prior for five to six years.

Reuben Wentworth motions to restrict Article 51 Virgil Macdonald seconds the motion. The motion passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as written.

Article 52: Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot; and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting services. **This is a petition article.**

Ruth Larson states she is against the article there are no problems with Alton elections. She added this is a warrant article to create a solution to a nonexistent problem. There is no evidence of problems with Alton elections. Our election officials now work is to 18 hours a day every election. If every ballot has to be hand counted this figure could double or triple. It would have every candidate or warrant article counted like a recount. Recounts are labor intensive and time consuming.

Cydney Shapleigh motions to amend Article 52to read: Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? "All voting shall be by paper ballot; and all ballots may be counted by electronic counting devices, or hand counted only if necessary." John Markland seconds the amendment.

C. Shapleigh states the current laws provide ample opportunity for a contested ballot to be hand counted. Human error can occur more with hand counting than with a machine. People are able to come to watch the count of ballots through the machine.

Kelly Sullivan added that she believes Alton has a reputable election process as of date with how counting of ballots are already done.

With a show of cards, the amendment to Article 52 passed with a favorable vote.

Brian Reihl, resident on Sunset Shore and also Deputy Director of Open Democracy and Open Democracy Action has worked on voting issues in the state, stating that they have worked every year and that machines are unlikely to be hacked. Because they don't get plugged into the internet. The Accuvote system has been proven to be very reliable and has worked in many years of use.

Virgil Macdonald motions to restrict Article 52 and Brock Mitchell seconds the motion. The motion passed with favorable vote and will go to the official ballot as amended.

Brock Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by P. LaRochelle.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon L Hart
Recording Secretary



A True Copy Attest:

Date March 28, 2022 Alton, NH

Jeri P. Collins
Town Clerk