

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING -PUBLIC HEARING  
Janaury 11, 2024**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Hooksett Town Hall  
35 Main Street  
Thursday, January 11, 2024  
6:30 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**B. Soucy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.**

Pledge of Allegiance

**ATTENDANCE**

B. Soucy, R. Ross (late 7:12), M. Kowack, D. Greenberg, G. Martins, A. Shaine, W. Lynch, E. Baker, C. Gurung and E. Bencivenga

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 4, 2024**

***G. Martins motioned to approve the minutes of January 4, 2024. Seconded by M. Kowack correction: 1<sup>st</sup> motion – C. Gurung – Yes; M. Kowack -Yes and final motion – G. Martins – Yes; add C. Gurung to attendance.***

***Vote unanimously in favor as amended***

**Bruce Thomas, Town Engineer**

**Martins Ferry Road intersection project**

The guardrail on the existing road way was damaged a few years ago. In order to put a bridge rail, we have to dis-mantle the existing culverts which have six (6) concrete panels. These would have to be recast to fit. Just the design for that alone is \$48,000. The construction of that will be around \$500,000. While looking at that, there was severe erosion on the road. We spent \$130,000 on the design to repair that damage. (Pictures shown of the deterioration of the concrete.)

The erosion is going to be ongoing in the future. The stream deviates and goes into the road and down toward the intersection then back up to the stream. We want to put a new bridge in the original spot.

There is also poor drainage. The intersection is flat and the water pools and freezes in the winter. We want to change the entire profile of the road. (Pictures shown of the proposed bridge.) There is a sewer main that goes through the culvert. This makes it a project of high risk for flooding. If it over-tops it could effect the road and the sewer pump down the road.

If the project doesn't get approved, the town will need to replace the guardrail with a bridge-rail.

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The road has been posted as “No Thru Truck”. That bridge would resolve that issue. If the town wants to continue to disallow trucks, that would be a decision of the Town Council. A benefit of the bridge is it would be inspected by DOT every two years. The existing culvert was repaired or replaced 10 years ago and we already have to address it.

The cost of the warrant is \$750,000 and the project is 1.5 million We have resource for funds including impact, block funds, and ARPA funds.

If it doesn’t pass, the cost will be \$500,000 for construction and \$48,000 for design.

B. Soucy stated at CIP there was discussion about changing the angle of the roadway.

Bruce Thomas: The lifetime of a wooden bridge is almost the same as concrete.  
The Town Council will request SNHU contribute to the project.

G. Martins suggested the bridge be named after the President of SNHU to encourage their participation.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**Chairman B. Soucy opened the Public Hearing for the Municipal Budget at 7:00 pm**

B. Soucy read the following Municipal Warrant Articles into the record:

***Article 6 – Bond on Martins Ferry Bond***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500,000.00 (gross budget) for the reconstruction of the intersection of Martins Ferry Road and North River Road including roadway realignment and construction of the a new bridge (“the Project); of that amount, to appropriate \$349,277.00 from the State of NH highway block grants and bridge aid; to appropriate \$385,000.00 of that amount from Roadway Impact Fees; to appropriate \$15,723.00 of that amount from Federal Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes of not more than \$750,000.00 of that amount in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to fix the date, maturities, denominations, interest rate and other details of said bonds or notes; to authorize the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend any federal state, or private funds that are available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 from taxation for the bond issuance costs and first years debt service payments on such bonds or notes?***

***Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No)***

No public comments

***Article 7: Operating Budget***

***Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including***

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*appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling \$24,475,753.00? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$23,693,487.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating Budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$4.49.*

No public comments

***Article 8: DPW Union Contract***

*To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Public Works' Employees Local 633, Teamsters which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:*

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Salaries</i>     | <i>Benefits</i>    | <i>Estimated Increase</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>2024-25</i>     | <i>\$164,462.00</i> | <i>\$40,227.00</i> | <i>\$204,689.00</i>       |

*and further to raise and appropriate \$204,689.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

***Article 10: Non-Union Raises***

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,490.00 for an increase in salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time Town personnel.*

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Salaries</i>     | <i>Benefits</i>    | <i>Total</i>        |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>2024-25</i>     | <i>\$106,938.00</i> | <i>\$19,552.00</i> | <i>\$126,490.00</i> |

*The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

***Article 11: Police Supervisors Union Contract***

*To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Police Supervisors Union Local 633, Teamsters which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:*

*Estimated increase over prior year.*

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| <i>Fiscal</i> | <i>Year Salaries</i> | <i>Benefits</i> | <i>Estimated Increase</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2024-25       | \$42,753.00          | \$11,768.00     | \$54,521.00               |
| 2025-26       | \$42,718.00          | \$14,643.00     | \$57,361.00               |
| 2026-27       | \$35,714.00          | \$11,215.00     | \$46,929.00               |

*and further to raise and appropriate \$54,521.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 13: Fire Union Contract**

*To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association Local 3264, IAFF which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:  
Estimated increase over prior year.*

| <i>Fiscal</i> | <i>Year Salaries</i> | <i>Benefits</i> | <i>Estimated Increase</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2024-25       | \$87,782.00          | \$33,173.00     | \$120,955.00              |
| 2025-26       | \$87,119.00          | \$32,260.00     | \$119,379.00              |
| 2026-27       | \$87,257.00          | \$32,311.00     | \$119,568.00              |

*and further to raise and appropriate \$120,955.00 for the current fiscal year; of this amount \$10,355.00 is authorized to be withdrawn from the Ambulance Revenue Fund, and the balance of \$110,600.00 to be raised from general taxation. Such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No)*

No public comments

**Article 15: Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Vehicles**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 to be added to the Public Works’ Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.08. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes - 1 No)*

No public comments

**Article 16: Capital Reserve Funding – Fire Apparatus**

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax*

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*rate impact is \$0.08. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

***Article 17: Capital Reserve Funding – Town Building Maintenance***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No);***

No public comments

***Article 18: Semi Tractor***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,000.00 to purchase semi tractor without trailer for the Recycling and Transfer Division of Public Works, with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No)***

No public comments

**Article 19 – Capital Reserve Funding - Fire**

***Article 19: Capital Reserve Funding – Fire***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$177,500.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:***

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <i>Air Packs and Bottles</i>           | <i>\$ 27,500.00</i>  |
| <i>Fire Rescue Tools and Equipment</i> | <i>\$ 150,000.00</i> |
| <i>Total</i>                           | <i>\$ 177,500.00</i> |

***The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No)***

No public comments

***Article 20: Police Body-Worn Cameras***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,645.00 to purchase Body-Worn Cameras with accessories for the Police Department. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No)***

No public comments

***Article 21: Capital Reserve Funding – GIS Digital Parcel Recompile***

***To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,000.00 to be added to the Town Wide Digital Mapping Systems Capital Reserve Fund previously***

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*established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes- 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 22: Capital Reserve Funding – Drainage Upgrades**  
*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to be added to the Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 23: Capital Reserve Funding – Revaluation**  
*To see if the Town will vote and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 to be added to the Revaluation Capitol Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 24: Full-time Laborer Recycling and Transfer**  
*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,598.00 for salary and benefits to hire one full-time laborer in the Recycling & Transfer Division of Public Works.*

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Salary</i>       | <i>Benefits</i>    | <i>Total</i>       |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>2024-25</i>     | <i>\$26,002.00*</i> | <i>\$29,596.00</i> | <i>\$55,598.00</i> |

*The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes - 2 No)*

No public comments

**Article 25: Scale House Engineering and Design**  
*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000.00 for the engineering and design of the Transfer Station’s scale house replacement, with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 26: Capital Reserve Funding – Emergency Radio Communications**  
*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund previously established.*

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*The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No)*

No public comments

***Article 27: Capital Reserve Funding – Police***

*To see if the town will vote to establish a Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 to replace certain police equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Town Administrator as agents to expend from said fund. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No)*

No public comments

***Article 28: Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Parks and Recreation Facilities Development***

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Parks & Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes - 1 No)*

No public comments

***Article 29: Capital Reserve Funding – Information Technology***

*To see if the town will vote to establish an Information Technology (IT) Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to replace and upgrade technology and communication equipment as necessary and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be placed in this fund; further, to name the Town Administrator as agent to expend from said fund. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

***Article 30: Capital Reserve Funding – Automated Collection Equipment***

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No)*

No public comments

***Article 31: Capital Reserve Funding – Conservation Land Improvements***

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*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 0 No)*

No public comments

**Article 32: Cemeteries Headstone and Monument repairs**

*To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the purpose of repairing headstones and monuments in the Heads, Martins and Riverside Cemeteries. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these projects are completed or in three (3) years or June 30 2027, whichever occurs first. The estimated tax rate impact is \$.003. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No)*

No public comments

**Chairman B. Soucy closed the Public Hearing on the Municipal Warrant Articles at 7:27 pm**

**Chairman B. Soucy opened the Public Hearing on the School District Budget at 7:28 pm**

B. Soucy read the following Municipal Warrant Articles into the record:

**Article 2 – School District Operating Budget**

*Shall the Hooksett School District 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 \$41,404,263? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$39,977,883 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hooksett School District 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. Estimated tax rate impact is \$.79. (Recommended by the School Board 5-1)*

C. Isbicki, Business Administrator stated that changes in the proposed budget were made at the School Board meeting to include increases in the stipends in the amount of \$17,864.15.

The Budget Committee stated that they will take that into consideration following the public hearing.



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*Article 3- Collective Bargaining Agreement HESPA*

*Shall the Hooksett School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett School Board and the Hooksett Education Support Professionals Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over those paid in the prior fiscal year:*

| <i>Year</i>      | <i>Estimated Increase</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>2024-2025</i> | <i>\$171,912</i>          |
| <i>2025-2026</i> | <i>\$ 76,647</i>          |
| <i>2026-2027</i> | <i>\$ 76,647</i>          |

*and further to raise and appropriate \$171,912 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing level?  
Estimated tax rate impact is \$.05. (Recommended by the School Board 6-0)*

No public comments

*Article 4 – Lease Agreement*

*4. Shall the Hooksett School District authorize the School Board to enter into a multi-year (15 year) lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$13,342,120 for the purpose of replacing the Memorial, Cawley and Underhill Schools’ ventilation systems as well as upgrading existing energy management system controls and installing high efficiency boilers at each of the schools and completing roof improvements at both the Memorial and Cawley Schools; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,266,096 for the first year’s payment for that purpose? This lease agreement will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. Future payments on the lease will be offset by guaranteed energy savings and a reduction in fuel utility costs for the district.  
Estimated tax rate impact is \$.40. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the School Board 4-2)*

E. Baker stated that the wording states improvement on the roof **not new roof**.

D. Greenberg stated it appears the lease is a point higher than bond.

W. Rearick stated that the Board voted in favor of the lease because there was more certainty in that number because if approved it could be locked in within a month. With the bond bank, the bonds don’t go out for bid until July; so while the rates might be lower now, the Board decided to go with the lease. Also we can refinance the lease if interest rates keep going down. It also gives us an option to prepay and the lease can be paid off early where a bond they get all their money out of the bond.

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M. Kowack asked why two (2) members voted against the lease?

W. Rearick stated that he is not sure but they felt it was a lower rate.

***Article 5 – Technology Expendable Trust Fund***

***Shall the Hooksett School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March of 2008? Estimated tax impact is \$.03. (Recommended by the School Board 6-0)***

No public comments

***Article 6 – Special Education Expendable Trust Fund***

***Shall the Hooksett School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the Special Education Trust Fund previously established in March of 2001? This sum to come from June 30, 2024 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.00. (Recommended by the School Board 6-0)***

No public comments

***Article 7 – Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund***

***Shall the Hooksett School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$100,000 to be added to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2020? This sum to come from June 30, 2024 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.00. (Recommended by the School Board 4-2)***

No public comments

**Chairman B. Soucy closed the Public Hearing of the Hooksett School District at 7:52 pm**

**The Budget Committee meeting reconvened at 7:55 pm**

***G. Martins motioned to increase the School Operating Budget as listed.***

***Line 31-1410-2-0500-5117 \$6328***

***Line 31-1410-2-0500-5220 \$ 485***

***Line 31-1410-2-0500-5232 \$1242***

***Line 31-1410-1-0400-5117 \$4959***

***Line 31-1410-1-0400-5220 \$ 379***

***Line 31-1410-1-0400-5232 \$ 974***

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*Line 31-1410- 1-0300-5117 \$2755*  
*Line 31-1410- 1-0300-5220 \$ 211*  
*Line 31-1410- 1-0300-5232 \$ 541*  
*Total \$17,874*

*Seconded by D. Greenberg.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*E. Bencivenga Yes*  
*M. Kowack Yes*  
*A. Shaine Yes*  
*W. Lynch Yes*  
*C. Gurung Yes*  
*G. Martins Yes*  
*R. Ross Yes*  
*D. Greenberg Yes*  
*E. Baker Yes*  
*B. Soucy Yes*

*Vote unanimously in favor.*

**Recommendations on Municipal Warrant Articles**

**Article 6 – Bond on Martins Ferry Bond**

*B. Soucy motion to recommend Article 6. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

*C. Gurung Yes*  
*W. Lynch Yes*  
*A. Shaine Yes*  
*R. Ross Yes*  
*M. Kowack Yes*  
*G. Martins Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga Yes*  
*D. Greenberg Yes*  
*E. Baker Yes*  
*B. Soucy Yes*

*10:0 motion carried*

**Article 7- Operating Budget**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by G. Martins*

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*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*10:0 motion carried*

**Article 8- DPW Union Contract**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 8. Seconded by D. Greenberg*

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>No</i>  |

*8:2 motion carried*

**Article 10 Non-Union Raises**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 10. Seconded by G. Martins*

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |

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*D. Greenberg*            *Yes*

*B. Soucy*                *No*

*7:3 motion carried*

**Article 11- Police Supervisor Union Contract**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 11. Seconded by E. Baker*

*Roll Call Vote*

*M. Kowack*            *No*

*E. Bencivenga*        *No*

*W. Lynch*             *No*

*C. Gurung*            *Yes*

*E. Baker*              *Yes*

*R. Ross*               *No*

*G. Martins*            *Yes*

*D. Greenberg*        *Yes*

*A. Shaine*             *Yes*

*B. Soucy*              *No*

*Vote 5:5 failed*

**Article 13 – Fire Union Contract**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 13. Seconded by G. Martins*

*Roll Call Vote*

*G. Martins*            *Yes*

*A. Shaine*             *Yes*

*R. Ross*               *Yes*

*C. Gurung*            *Yes*

*W. Lynch*             *Yes*

*E. Bencivenga*        *No*

*D. Greenberg*        *Yes*

*M. Kowack*            *No*

*E. Baker*              *Yes*

*B. Soucy*              *No*

*7:3 motion carried*

**Article 15 – Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Vehicles**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 15. Seconded by D. Greenberg*

*Roll Call Vote*

*R. Ross*                *Yes*

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|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>No</i>  |

*9:1 motion carried*

**Article 16- Capital Reserve Funding – Fire Apparatus**  
*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 16. Seconded by W. Lynch*

Chief Colburn stated that they will be looking to replace the Forestry Truck in the next 2-3 years and Engine 5 and the Ladder Truck in 5 years. The Ladder Truck was purchased used and is a 2007 truck.

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*Vote 10:0 motion carried*

**Article 17 – Capital Reserve Funding – Town Building Maintenance**  
*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 17. Seconded by D. Greenberg*

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

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*C. Gurung*            *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*           *Yes*  
*E. Baker*             *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*             *No*  
*9:1 motion carried*

**Article 18 – Semi Tractor**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 18. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

*C. Gurung* *yes*  
*M. Kowack*           *No*  
*E. Baker*             *Yes*  
*W. Lynch*            *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*      *Yes*  
*R. Ross*              *No*  
*G. Martins*          *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*            *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*       *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*             *No*  
*7:3*

**Article 19 – Capital Reserve Funding - Fire**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 19. Seconded by C. Gurung.*

Chief Colburn stated \$100,000 for portable radios was added to this line. The portable radios are coming up in 2026-27 and will be 10 years old and no longer supported by Motorola. We want to put money away so we will have funds in 2026-27 at a cost of \$650,000.

*Roll Call Vote*

*M. Kowack*           *No*  
*E. Bencivenga*      *No*  
*W. Lynch*            *No*  
*C. Gurung*           *Yes*  
*E. Baker*             *No*  
*R. Ross*              *No*  
*G. Martins*          *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*       *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*            *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*             *No*

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*4:6 motion fails*

**Article 20 – Police Body Worn Cameras**

***B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 20. Seconded by W. Lynch***

Chief Sargent: These cameras are good for 5 years and refresh at 2.5 years and again at 5 years. It includes the hardware and the software.

The entire force supports this and it is a nationwide movement.

A refresh is all new equipment and includes at the 2 1/2 year mark and right before the contract expires. The 2<sup>nd</sup> refresh is before the new contract. This is for 32 cameras for 30 sworn officers and an unfilled part time and one back up. Each officer is assigned a camera.

There are 3 full time officers vacant and one part time officer vacant.

***Roll Call Vote***

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><i>G. Martins</i></b>    | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>A. Shaine</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>R. Ross</i></b>       | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>C. Gurung</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>W. Lynch</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Bencivenga</i></b> | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>D. Greenberg</i></b>  | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>M. Kowack</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Baker</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>B. Soucy</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |

***Vote 10:0 motion carried***

**Article 21 – Capital Reserve Funding – GIS Parcel Recompile**

***B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 21. Seconded by C. Gurung.***

***Roll Call Vote***

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b><i>R. Ross</i></b>       | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>W. Lynch</i></b>      | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>D. Greenberg</i></b>  | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>C. Gurung</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b>    |
| <b><i>M. Kowack</i></b>     | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>G. Martins</i></b>    | <b><i>absent</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Bencivenga</i></b> | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>E. Baker</i></b>      | <b><i>No</i></b>     |
| <b><i>A. Shaine</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b>    |
| <b><i>B. Soucy</i></b>      | <b><i>No</i></b>     |

***2:7 motion failed***



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**Article 22 – Capital Reserve Funding – Drainage Upgrades**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 22. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*Vote 10:0 motion carried*

**Article 23 – Capital Reserve Funding – Revaluation**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 23. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>a. Shaine</i>     | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*2:8 motion failed*

**Article 24 – Full-time Laborer Recycling & Transfer**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 24. Seconded by G. Martins*

A. Garron: In the budget process there were several requests for personnel. This was to reduce 2 part time positions to acquire the help where it is needed at the Transfer station. This is why I was supported in this position.

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C. Tewksbury: The need for the full time person is for the duties listed specifically policing the yard. The State does inspections and found some of the violations. The solution is to police the yard. The elimination of the part time people is a bonus. They are already hard to fill. The rate for the part time positions is currently \$15-16/hour.

**Roll Call**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>No</i>  |

*Vote 5:5 motion fails*

**Article 25 – Scale House Engineering and Design**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 25. Seconded by W. Lynch*

**Roll Call Vote**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*Vote 10:0 motion carried*

**Article 26 – Capital Reserve Funding – Emergency Radio Communications**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 26. Seconded by W. Lynch*

W. Lynch: The strategy is continuous upgrade so do we need to spend it all at once?

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Chief: This was \$50,000 a year for 10 years to completely outfit officers. We are at the 10 year mark. The console needs to be replaced because there are no more parts available. It is the brains of the operation. We can use portable radios but it affects the dispatch. The cost is \$250,000 to replace. The current radios will work with the new system.

***Roll Call Vote***

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><i>G. Martins</i></b>    | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>A. Shaine</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>R. Ross</i></b>       | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>C. Gurung</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>W. Lynch</i></b>      | <b><i>No</i></b>  |
| <b><i>E. Bencivenga</i></b> | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>D. Greenberg</i></b>  | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>M. Kowack</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Baker</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>B. Soucy</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |

***9:1 motion carried***

**Article 27 – Capital Reserve Funding – Police**

***B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 27. Seconded by D. Greenberg***

***Roll Call Vote***

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><i>R. Ross</i></b>       | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>W. Lynch</i></b>      | <b><i>No</i></b>  |
| <b><i>D. Greenberg</i></b>  | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>C. Gurung</i></b>     | <b><i>No</i></b>  |
| <b><i>M. Kowack</i></b>     | <b><i>No</i></b>  |
| <b><i>G. Martins</i></b>    | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Bencivenga</i></b> | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>E. Baker</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>A. Shaine</i></b>     | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>B. Soucy</i></b>      | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |

***7:3 motion carries***

**Article 28 – Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Park & Recreation Facilities Development**

***B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 28. Seconded by M. Kowack***

***Roll Call Vote***

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><i>M. Kowack</i></b>    | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |
| <b><i>D. Greenberg</i></b> | <b><i>Yes</i></b> |

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*C. Gurung*                *Yes*  
*G. Martins*              *Yes*  
*W. Lynch*                *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*        *No*  
*R. Ross*                 *No*  
*A. Shaine*               *Yes*  
*E. Baker*                *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                *Yes*  
*8:2 motion carried*

**Article 29 – Capital Reserve Funding – Information Technology**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 29. Seconded by D. Greenberg*

*Roll Call Vote*

*W. Lynch*                *Yes*  
*G. Martins*              *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*        *Yes*  
*R. Ross*                 *No*  
*A. Shaine*               *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*        *Yes*  
*C. Gurung*              *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*             *Yes*  
*E. Baker*                *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                *Yes*  
*Vote 9:1 motion carried*

**Article 30 – Capital Reserve Funding – Automated Collection Equipment**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 30. Seconded by M. Kowack*

*Roll Call Vote*

*C. Gurung*                *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*             *Yes*  
*E. Baker*                *Yes*  
*W. Lynch*                *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*        *Yes*  
*R. Ross*                 *No*  
*G. Martins*              *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*               *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*        *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                *No*  
*8:2 motion carried*

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**Article 31 – Capital Reserve Funding – Conservation Land Improvements**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 31. Seconded by W. Lynch*

**Roll Call Vote**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>M. Kowack</i>     | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>No</i>  |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>No</i>  |

*6:4 Motion carried*

**Article 32 – Cemetery Headstones and Monument repairs.**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 32. Seconded by D. Greenberg*

**Roll Call**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <i>G. Martins</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>A. Shaine</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>C. Gurung</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>W. Lynch</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Bencivenga</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>D. Greenberg</i>  | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>B. Soucy</i>      | <i>Yes</i> |

*10:0 motion carried*

**Recommendation on School District Warrants**

**Article 2 – School District Operating Budget**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 2. Seconded by D. Greenberg.*

**Roll Call**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <i>W. Lynch</i>   | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>G. Martins</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>E. Baker</i>   | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>R. Ross</i>    | <i>No</i>  |

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*A. Shaine*                    *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*            *No*  
*C. Gurung*                   *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*                 *No*  
*D. Greenberg*             *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                    *No*  
*6:4 motion carried*

**Article 3- Collective Bargaining Agreement HESPA**  
*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 3. Seconded by W. Lynch*  
**50 Employees**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*C. Gurung*                   *Yes*  
*R. Ross*                     *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*                 *Yes*  
*E. Baker*                    *Yes*  
*W. Lynch*                   *Yes*  
*E. Bencivenga*            *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*             *Yes*  
*G. Martins*                 *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*                   *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                    *No*  
*9:1 motion carried*

**Article 4 – Lease Agreement**  
*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 4. Seconded by M. Kowack*

*Roll Call Vote*  
*E. Baker*                    *Yes*  
*M. Kowack*                 *No*  
*E. Bencivenga*            *Yes*  
*W. Lynch*                   *Yes*  
*C. Gurung*                   *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*             *Yes*  
*R. Ross*                     *No*  
*G. Martins*                 *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*                   *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                    *No*  
*7:3 motion carried*

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**Article 5 – Technology Expendable Trust Fund**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 5. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

*G. Martins yes*

*C. Gurung Yes*

*R. Ross Yes*

*W. Lynch Yes*

*E. Bencivenga No*

*A. Shaine Yes*

*M. Kowack No*

*D. Greenberg Yes*

*E. Baker Yes*

*B. Soucy No*

*7:3 motion carried*

**Article 6 – Special Education Expendable Trust Fund**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 6. Seconded by W. Lynch*

*Roll Call Vote*

*R. Ross Yes*

*W. Lynch Yes*

*D. Greenberg Yes*

*C. Gurung Yes*

*M. Kowack Yes*

*G. Martins Yes*

*E. Bencivenga No*

*A. Shaine Yes*

*E. Baker Yes*

*B. Soucy Yes*

*9:1 motion carried*

**Article 7 – Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

*B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by M. Kowack*

*Roll Call*

*M. Kowack Yes*

*E. Baker Yes*

*C. Gurung Yes*

*G. Martins Yes*

*W. Lynch Yes*

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*E. Bencivenga*            *Yes*  
*R. Ross*                    *Yes*  
*D. Greenberg*           *Yes*  
*A. Shaine*                *Yes*  
*B. Soucy*                 *Yes.*  
*10:0 motion carried*

**Public Input**

A. Garron asked if the Budget Committee would consider allowing the Police Chief to speak to the Budget Committee regarding the Police Supervisor’s Union Contract for reconsideration on their recommendation.

The Board discussed whether they would reconsider their vote and by consensus did not reconsider their motion.

A. Garron stated that he received an email questioning the residency of a Budget Committee member chair and that it was the duty of the Budget Committee to take any action if they wish.

The Budget Committee took no action on the matter at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*M. Kowack motioned to adjourn. Seconded by R. Ross.*  
*Vote unanimously in favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan