

# TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION – FEBRUARY 3, 2024

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## TOWN OF HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES Cawley Middle School Saturday February 3, 2024

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator, Todd Lizotte called the First Deliberative Session to Order at Hooksett Cawley Middle School Cafeteria Center at 9:00 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Town Council members**

Tim Tsantoulis Chair, David Boutin, Rob Duhaime, Alex Walczyk, Randall Lapierre, Jodi Pinard, Keith Judge, and James Sullivan

#### **Budget Committee members**

Chair Brian Soucy, Abigail Shaine, William Lynch, Germano Martins, Ernie Bencivenga, Chhatra Gurung, Michael Kowack and Darren Greenberg.

Supervisor of the Checklist

Mike Horne, Barabara Brennan, Lou Ann Kelly

Town Clerk, Karina Towne

Legal Counsel, Matt Serge

Registered voters – 47 in attendance

### **PROOF OF POSTING**

Proof of posting was provided by the Moderator.

Members of the Town Council and Budget were introduced as well as the Town staff in attendance

The Moderator reviewed the rules and procedures.

### **BUSINESS**

Moderator Todd Lizotte read the following Warrant Articles into the record:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Hooksett, New Hampshire, in the county of Merrimack in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at **David R. Cawley Middle School on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:00 am** for the first session of the Town Meeting to discuss and amend, as required, warrant articles 6 through 32.

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The final ballot vote for warrant articles will take place at **David R. Cawley Middle School on Tuesday, March 12, 2024**. The polls will be open from 6 am until 7 pm.

### **Article 6: Martins Ferry Road Improvement 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 a new bridge (“the Project”); of that amount, to appropriate \$349,277.00 from fund balance; 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? (3/5 ballot vote required). Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

### ***J. Pinard motioned to move Article 6 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Sullivan***

J. Sullivan referred the public to the voters guide for information. This relates to the culvert on Martin’s Ferry Road. There is a rational which is clear cut and it is at a cost. Bruce Thomas engineer is available to answer questions

Ray Miclette, 9 Evelyn: There are a lot of people that want to understand the insanity with these projects and the taxes. Our taxes, with the revaluation is hard to understand. We had a company do the commercial revaluation and the town assessor did the residential. The commercial got a tax break on the back of the residents. Now with everything being proposed, our taxes can increase 32%. That is insane. How can you expect the tax payers to carry this burden. This is an example that we can fix it for 500,000 or 1.3 million. With the economy, and the way people are struggling, we are increasing our taxes 20-30%. Shame on everyone for allowing this to happen. This is hitting a lot of people hard. I am going to tell everyone I see to vote NO on every article. Times are tough for people. I’m not anti everything. The cost must be reigned in. It is not everything at all cost. I speak for a lot people. It is getting out of control.

Alan Brennan, 29 Pleasant St: Point of Order. You said the purpose is to explain and amend all articles of the official town warrant, why did you start with Article 6 and skip Article 5 Charter amendment which is money related?

Matt Serge, Town Attorney: The statue is clear that articles 1-5 go directly to the ballot without debate. Only appropriations go to this session. Articles 1-5 are not subject to discussion at this meeting.

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Alan Brennan, 29 Pleasant St: If that is the case, I will encourage everyone to respond NO. That is not fiscally responsible to give yourself a 33% increase. For the Councilors to redistribute the taxpayers money because they are going from 9-7 is not right. Please vote NO on Article 5.

James Michaud, 11 Laurel Rd: Article 6 does not list a tax impact.

J. Sullivan stated that was an oversight and it is required. IT is 3 cents.

***J. Sullivan motioned to reflect a 3 cent increase on the tax rate. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis. All in favor***

James Michaud, 11 Laurel: What does a 1 cent increase mean to the taxpayers?

Ray Miclette, 9 Evelyn: Who is responsible for the tax fiasco for the town. I think you should fire them all. I would recommend that the police, fire and employees raise should be passed and everything else should be voted down.

R. Miclette: It will increase the tax rate 3 cents. 1 penny is \$15 on the tax rate.

Vinnie Lembo, 56 Main St: I would like to know which Councilors voted no and why?

R. Lapierre stated he was the “no”. He doesn’t like the project as presented. There were not enough alternatives as presented. I also thought there were other funding resources that could be found. It wasn’t the project that was bad but not enough rigor was put into it.

A question on article 5 was denied.

***The Moderator declared Article 6 moved to the Ballot***

### **Article 7: Operating Budget**

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including 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. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 2 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

***B. Soucy, Budget Committee motioned to move Article 6 to the Ballot. Seconded by M. Kowack***

B. Soucy stated that the committee reviewed the budget and spoke with all department heads. There were reduction to motion but the end result was the budget presented.

M. Kowack: This year we presented a 3.5% increase.

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Margaret Rees, 7 Barberry: At the end of the article it is recommended 7-2 and 10-0. What is that recommendation?

T. Lizotte: That is the recommendation to go the ballot and be passed.

Margaret Rees, 7 Barberry St: I feel that is voter persuasion

J. Sullivan: If changes are made today, the Council and Budget Committee can reconsider their vote.

Margaret Rees, 7 Barberry: My question is the recommendation itself?

Attorney Matt Serge stated that there is a State Statute to put the recommendation on the Ballot.

Kathy McLean, 64B Dale Rd: It says this is 4.49 tax impact. My house is 400,000 and if everything passes, I will have an increase of \$2000 over what I already pay of \$6000.00 If this alone passes, I believe my increase would be \$1600.

C. Tewksbury, Finance Director: Page 6 compares the current tax rate to if everything passing in the voters guide. The tax rate impact is not on top of what you are paying. If everything passes on \$400,000 would be \$200 more for just the Town portion.

James Michaud, 11 Laurel Rd: The tax rate is not additional; It is a total of \$4.60. Would it be more accurate to put the additional tax impact. Each article are independent of what happened last year. Some articles repeat, so it is not an increase.

C. Tewksbury, Finance Director: We have always shown the rate this way. For that reason we put together page 6 in the voters guide for clarification.

Ray Miclette, 9 Evelyn St: We should consider another way of showing the tax rate. People add these taxes to the current rate. We could add more verbiage to say this is not on top of last years rate.

***Ray Miclette motioned to reduce the operating budget \$23,657.820. Seconded by Alyssa Ehl.***

Ray Miclette. 9 Evelyn St: I understand that everyone needs something and everything is going up. I can't go to my employer to cover my increases in my budget. I can't go in debt to make ends meet. You need to go without some things. We are all in this together. I think this year we need to make due with what we had last year. In normal times 3% is reasonable, but with all the warrant articles it is too much.

Alan Brennan, 29 Pleasant St: This is not a fiscally responsible budget by any means. We are talking about only 1/3 of our cost and the school is 60%. The 58 cent increase is just for the town and my bill is a lot for a cape. The number is the approved budget for last year on page 10. If this was approved, that pulls away a \$2 million increase. If everyone votes down the budget they get a default that is higher than the proposed. The dealt is last years budget plus, plus, plus.

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Heather Rainier, 1 Veterans Dr: The Default is our current budget plus contractual items. We have a small selection here. My concern is that if we pass this we remove the countless hours that staff, Council and Budget Committee have put into this. I understand it is a lot. All people working on this are also taxpayers.

Cindy Robertson, 33 Autumn Run: To say shame on you is wrong. Shame on those that are not here today.

James Michaud: What is the impact of a level fund and what would happen.

Andre Garron, TA: If this amendment passed, the impact is difficult to answer because there are increases in contracts, salt and some warrants. Fuel and increase in all goods and services are factored into this year's budget.

Ray Milette, 9 Evelyn: I appreciate the work and volunteerism and I was pointing out the shameful increases in taxes and the real impact it has on people in this town. There will be a lot of people impacted. I appreciate the work of the Budget Committee and Department Heads; I do a lot work on my personal finances but at the end of the day I need to cut something. The reality is there is a point that is a breaking point. This is one year we need to figure out a way to pay my bills on the salary I have or find another way. We need to draw a line in the sand and say no increase this year.

B. Soucy, Budget Committee Chair: This does under fund contractual services that reflect the increase. The other item is the presidential election which has increases in staffing and a \$15,000 increase for voting equipment that needs to be replaced.

Ray Milette: We mandated obligation. Out of this \$23,657,820, how much of that is obligated?

C. Tewksbury: I don't have that information. We have bond payment and contracts with unions. How much is obligated is welfare and the bond payment. We could cut services down to 0.

Germano Martins, 17 Stevens Dr.: I am opposed to this motion. I think Hooksett is well run, and a safe town. It always has a lean budget. To make a cut on the fly is irresponsible. The voters can vote for this or not. To put the town at risk is wrong.

Alan Brennan, 29 Pleasant St: The amendment is not unreasonable. If this does not pass, the voters look at the recommendations and the voters don't tune into this deliberative Session and see the Budget Committee approves. The voters are very generous and this is our only opportunity and this is a reasonable request.

Ray Milette: The \$35,667 is the difference between the default and the amendment. That is not dangerous and that is less than 1/3 of 1 percent.

B. Soucy stated there is \$125,000 increase in health insurance that is not in the default budget; so it is more that \$35,667.

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R. Duhaime stated why he voted no on this budget was because the taxes are now more than your mortgage. We keep adding to the town's tax base but the rates do not go down. The people that built this town are not being taxed out. The other towns around don't want growth because it doesn't help taxes.

Tony Lacasse: I hear Mr. Soucy talk about health care so I don't understand what the difference is between the default and what is not included. Where do these come in and how much of these extra line items are not in the default.

C. Tewksbury: The default is last years budget and it goes up and down for anything that the voters have approved. Health insurance is an example. We got an increase in 2024. The voters did not vote to increase so that is not in the default. \$140,000 is health and dental. The other increases are liability went up a little and 20,000 for welfare which are not in default as well as the state and federal elections.

Alyssa Ehl: When was the last time the town increased or change health insurances?

T. Lizotte: That is not pertinent to the amendment.

*Mike Horn motioned to move the question.*

*Vote approve by hand vote*

*Vote on amendment to reduce the budget to \$23,657,820.*

*Standing Vote: 35 Yes and 32 no Motion carries*

*Alan Brennan motioned to reduce \$3000 from the Councilor stipends. Seconded by Pam Niemi, 3 Debbie St.*

**Point of order** *G. Martins stated that a 2/3 majority is need to change the operating budget.*

Moderator: We are not operating under Roberts Rules of Order.

G. Martins spoke against the motion to reduce another \$3000.

*Alan Brennan withdrew the motion.*

*Ray Miclette motion to restrict reconsideration on the amendment for Article 7. Seconded by Alyssa Ehl.*

*Standing Vote: 35 Yes and 27 No Motion carries*

**Moderator declared Article 7 moved to the ballot**

### **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:

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Fiscal Year Salaries Benefits Estimated Increase

2024-25 \$164,462.00 \$40,227.00 \$204,689.00

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); Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 2 No).

***J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 8 to the Ballot. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis***

J. Sullivan explained that this is a one year contract and they are trying to remain competitive in the market.

Vinnie Lembo asked the Budget Committee members that did not recommend what their reason was.

B. Soucy and M. Kowack stated this was an effort to keep taxes down.

**Moderator declared Article 8 moved to the Ballot.**

### **Article 9: Non-Monetary**

Shall the town, if ARTICLE #8 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE #8 cost items only? (Majority vote)

Keith Judge explained what happens if the contract fails.

### **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.

Fiscal Year Salaries Benefits Total

2024-25 \$106,938.00 \$19,552.00 \$126,490.00

The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

***R. Duhaime motioned to move Article 10 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Pinard***

R. Duhaime explained the non-union wages.

R. Milette asked what was the percentage of raises?

J. Sullivan stated it is 3.2% cola and 1% for merit as stated in the voters guide.

Ray Milette: What is the reasoning for Budget Committee voting no.

B. Soucy: It is an area to be smart with the money to keep taxes down.

Alyssa Ehl: Included is \$8230 to address issues. Is that a slush fund.

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A. Garron: That is to address any salaries to make wage adjustments or if additional merits are beyond the 1% it will address those.

*Alyssa Ehl makes a motion to reduce to \$118,058. Seconded by Alan Brennan.*

B. Soucy: Increase should be laid out in advance and planned but not an additional amount.

Alan Brennan: I have a soft spot for non-union but slush funds have no place in our Deliberative Session. Present budgets and stick with it.

A. Garron stated that it is used to hold onto good employees and identify those that have done an outstanding job. Retention is an issue and it good to have funds available if they occur.

*M. Farwell called the question  
Vote to call the question*

*Vote on amendment  
Standing Vote 27 Yes and 32 No Motion fails*

*Moderator declared Article 10 moved to the Ballot*

### **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.

Fiscal Year Salaries Benefits Estimated Increase

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); Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes – 3 No).

*J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 11 to the Ballot. Seconded by R. Lapierre*

J. Sullivan stated that information is in the voters guide

**Moderator declared Article 11 moved to the Ballot**

### **Article 12: Non-Monetary**

Shall the town, if ARTICLE #11 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special



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meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE #11 cost items only? (Majority vote)

### **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.

Fiscal Year Salaries Benefits Estimated Increase

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); Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

### ***R. Lapierre motioned to move Article 13 to the Ballot. Seconded by K. Judge***

R. Duhaime voted no because he felt that everyone's raise should be same and this was higher than the others.

Ray Miclette asked why 4.3% in these difficult times?

B. Soucy stated he voted against this because it is 13% over 3 years and thought it was high and should be in line with others.

W. Goertel: Why is this higher than others?

Christine Tewksbury: This is our largest group. The retirement is a little higher and the fire contribute less to health although this contract included a step up in percentage.

James Michaud asked about the Ambulance Revenue Fund.

C. Tewksbury: About 10 years ago the town established this fund to use the charges for the service to fund the ambulance.

Vinnie Lembo: Can we ask the Fire Chief to come up and support this contract?

Chief Colburn stated that they have struggled to keep staff and are finally full. This will keep us competitive to provide the level of service the town expects.

Ray Miclette: What percentage did contribution rates increase.

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A. Garron: Their portion went up 20%.

### **Moderator declared Article 13 moved to the ballot**

#### **Article 14: Non-Monetary**

Shall the town, if ARTICLE #13 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE #13 cost items only? (Majority vote)

#### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

*A. Walczyk motioned to move Article 15 to the Ballot. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis*

Ray Miclette asked how much is in the fund now?

C. Tewksbury: Currently \$30,848

Ray Miclette: When was the last truck purchased?

Ben Berthiaume, Director of DPW: In 2024-25 non-CDL dump and Park and Rec truck estimated at \$160,000.

Ray Miclette asking are they now asking for \$250,000.

Ben Berthiaume: We try and plan for future. In 2025-26 will need a plow truck. This is a plan for keeping our fleet up to day. In the past it has been \$200,000 each year but with the increase cost it is not proposed at 250,000.

### **Moderator declared Article 15 moved to the Ballot**

#### **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 rate impact is \$0.08. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

*J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 16 to the Ballot. Seconded by R. Duhaime*

J. Sullivan: This has existed for 15-20 years. Engine 5 is 18 years old and the replacement cost is 850,000. The existing fund of \$650,000 is adding \$250,000.

Ray Miclette stated in this area of vehicle use, are we getting better than average because we don't have as much usage as some larger cities that see a higher use. The average is 15 years but we have seen 18 years.

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Chief Colburn: Engine 5 is due for replacement which has been extended a few years. The lead time is now about 4 years. If you can put money away, when it is time to replace, we will have the cash. 20 years ago we had to lease and that was more expensive.

R. Duhaime: Having the money doesn't mean you have to spend it. You want raises and you want new trucks. You cant have it all.

**Moderator declared Article 16 moved to the ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

***J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 17 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Pinard***

J. Sullivan stated that the voter's guide explains this fund.

Ray Miclette: The estimated cost of the Safety Center Parking in 2029-2030 is \$600,000 and that is out 6 years. In 2024-25 it says the library is end of life. What is end of life? Can that be pushed out?

Heather Rainier, Librarian: The roof was installed in 1992 so it is 30 years old. We have it evaluated every other year. We have been pushing it out and it is earmarked for 2025.

**Moderator declared Article 17 moved to the Ballot**

### **Article 18: Semi Tractor**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,000.00 to purchase a 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); Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

***T. Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 18 to the Ballot. Seconded by D. Boutin***

T. Tsantoulis this is move trash out of town.

**Moderator declared Article 18 moved to the Ballot**

### **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:

Air Packs & Bottles \$ 27,500.00

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Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment 150,000.00  
Total \$ 177,500.00

The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No); Not recommended by Budget Committee (4 Yes – 6 No).

***J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 19 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Pinard***

J. Sullivan stated the information is available in the voter's guide.

Ray Miclette: This has the most opposition by Council and Budget Committee.

R. Duhaime was opposed because of spending. This falls on the Council for spending.

B. Soucy: This had to do with radios and communication. There was money for radios. It said after 10 years they won't be supported. I don't understand \$10,000 for the cost of radios.

Ray Miclette: The majority is \$650,000 to replace fire radios. What is the impact if we don't replace these radios now or next year. Now things are tough for people. Can we wait on this?

Vinnie Lembo: I don't know a lot about radios but I know they do become obsolete. If they are obsolete, our fire department will be out there all alone without help.

Chief Colburn: The first capital fund was for air packs which we have done for 30 years. We expanded the fund to address other large expenditures for rescue tools. The \$27,000 is the same for air packs. Looking at long term planning for radios. We don't need them replaced tomorrow but we are looking at long term.

**Moderator declared Article 19 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

***K. Judge motioned to amend Article 20 to add \$7,435 for a total of \$183,080. Seconded by D. Boutin.***

***Vote voice Moderator declared the motion passed.***

***K. Judge motioned to move Article 20 to the Ballot. Seconded by R. Duhaime***

**Moderator declared Article 20 moved to the Ballot**

### **Article 21: Capital Reserve Funding – GIS Digital Parcel ReCompilation**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,000.00 to be added to the

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Town Wide Digital Mapping Systems Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes- 0 No); Not recommended by Budget Committee (2 Yes – 7 No).

***A. Walczyk motioned to move Article 21 to the Ballot. Seconded by R. Lapierre***

A Walczyk: This is to enhance the information that is available for our maps and planning. There is an opportunity to work with Manchester to take advantage of cost savings.

Mary Darby, 244 Whitehall Rd: Google maps is available. If you need properties line you can hire a surveyor. This is unnecessary.

Tony Lacasse: In my line of work, real estate, I look at these every day and Hooksetts maps are terrible. I can't use them. Specifically in the village, you have houses in the street. It is unusable.

Mary Darby: I you rely on these maps, you are opening up to liability. There are deeds available and that is your legal document.

**Moderator declared Article 21 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

***T. Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 22 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Pinard***

**Moderator declared Article 22 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Not recommended by Budget Committee (2 Yes – 8 No).

***A. Walczyk motioned to move Article 23 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Sullivan***

Ray Miclette: This is a substantial opposition by Budget Committee. Only part of the recent revaluation was done by an outside company at \$124,000. When the next revaluation in 2028, is that going to be the cost for just the commercial side and what is the rational.

A. Garron: The amount is the continuation for revaluation which must be done every 5 years. In the past, we have put \$30,000 into the fund each year. Last year it did not get funded. This is to do a full revaluation rather than a statistical revaluation.

Mr. Duhamel, Assessor: It will go to the total cost of the project.

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M. Kowack: The budget committee learned that the full evaluation is for interior inspections and we were told by the assessor that the success rate to get into the homes is 0.

W. Goertel: Why a full reval now?

A. Garron: It must be done every 5 years.

*Nancy House, 7 Doris Dr motioned to amend the Article 23 to \$0. Seconded by Alyssa Ehl.*

Alyssa Ehl: We are just trying to keep our taxes down.

Ann Stelmach: If you wait for 5 years to do a full reval, you will increase your rate by spiking it. This will provide accuracy of data.

James Michaud: If there is no money to do a reval in 2028, the State will make you do it and you will have no say. If you put the money away, you will have the funds in 2028.

M. Kowack: Last year the voters voted it down; and if you are not getting into the houses, what is the value of the accuracy.

*Voice Vote Moderator declared motion failed*

**Moderator declared Article 23 moved to the Ballot**

### **Article 24: Full-time Laborer Recycling & 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.

Fiscal Year Salary Benefits Total

2024-25 \$26,002.00 \$29,596.00 \$55,598.00

The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 2 No); Not recommended by Budget Committee (5 Yes – 5 No).

*J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 24 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Pinard*

**Moderator declared Article 24 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

*R. Lapierre motioned to move Article 25 to the Ballot. Seconded by K. Judge*

**Moderator declared Article 25 moved to the Ballot**

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### **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. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

*J. Sullivan motioned to move Article 26 to the Ballot. Seconded by K. Judge*

**Moderator declared Article 26 moved to the Ballot**

### **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 agent to expend from said fund. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

*K. Judge motioned to move Article 27 to the Ballot. Seconded by D. Boutin*

**Moderator declared Article 27 moved to the Ballot**

### **Article 28: Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Parks & 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); Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 2 No).

*R. Duhaime motioned to move Article 28 to the Ballot. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis*

**Moderator declared Article 28 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

*R. Duhaime motioned to move Article 29 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

**Moderator declared Article 29 moved to the Ballot**

### **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

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Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 2 No).

*A. Walczyk motioned to move Article 30 to the Ballot. Seconded by K. Judge*

**Moderator declared Article 30 moved to the Ballot**

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

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); Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes – 4 No).

*A. Walczyk motioned to move Article 31 to the Ballot. Seconded by R. Duhaime*

**Moderator declared Article 31 moved to the Ballot**

### **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); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

*J. Pinard motioned to move Article 32 to the Ballot. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

**Moderator declared Article 32 moved to the Ballot**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moderator Lizotte declared the meeting closed at 1:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan