



Town of Loudon, New Hampshire

Annual Meeting Minutes

March, 12th, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Town Election Results.....	1
Article 4 PASSED.....	2,3
Article 5 PASSED.....	3,4
Article 6 PASSED.....	4,6
Article 7 PASSED.....	6,8
Article 8 PASSED.....	9
Article 9 PASSED.....	10,11
Article 10 FAILED.....	11,15
Article 11 PASSED.....	16,20
Article 12 PASSED.....	20,21
Article 13 PASSED.....	21,23
Article 14 PASSED.....	24,25
Article 15 TABLED.....	25,26
Article 16 FAILED.....	26,30
Article 17 PASSED.....	30,31
Awards & Certificates.....	31,32

Loudon New Hampshire Town Meeting Minutes 2022

The Town of Loudon, New Hampshire Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, March 12th 2022. It was located at the Loudon Elementary School and was scheduled to begin at 9:00AM.

Two Hundred Fifty Four (254) Registered voters of Loudon checked into vote at Town Meeting.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 9:10AM by Loudon N.H Moderator Howard Pearl. It was delayed to start, due to the amount of people still registering.

Moderator Pearl recognized the Cub scout pack #247 to present the colors. Howard ordered for all in the room to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Tejay Wallace from Cub Scout pack #247.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Howard Pearl asked for all to be seated. Mr. Pearl recognizes: The Board of Selectmen: Chairman Roger Maxfield, Jeff Miller and John Storrs. Assistant Moderator Janice Morin. Town Clerk Ashley Simonds and Deputy Town Clerk Theresa Chudoba. Supervisors of the Checklist: Francine Clave, Lucy Gordon and Andrew Parrella. Ballot Clerks: Dan York, Jodi Russell and Dena Leonard. Police Chief Kris Burgess, Sargent Dana Flanders and Corporal Sean Nye. Road Agent Russ Pearl and Fire Chief Tom Blanchette.

Moderator Pearl reviewed the Rules of Procedure.

Moderator Pearl read results from the Town of Loudon's Elections held March 8, 2022.

The total number of votes that were cast were 507.

- Selectmen for a three (3) year term, Roger Maxfield with 380 votes.
- Moderator for a two (2) year term, Rodney Phillips with 419 votes.
- Supervisor of the Checklist six (6) year term. Andrew Parrella with 417 votes.
- Supervisor of the Checklist two (2) year term, Francine Clave with 413 votes.
- Library Trustee three (3) year term, Adriana Andrian prevailed with 220 votes over Naquisha Bourget with 169 votes.
- Library Trustee one (1) year term with Joli White taking the race with 264 votes over Alichea Kingsbury with 200 votes.
- Planning Board three (3) year term vote for two, Rodney Phillips with 336 votes and Josh Pearl with 343 votes.
- Planning Board one (1) year term was a vacant seat which was filled by Stanley Prescott II who had the most write in votes to take that position.
- Zoning Board three (3) year term, vote for two, Alvin See with 299 votes and Earl Tuson with 330 votes.
- Trustee of The Trust Funds, Donna LaClair with 417 votes.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 04 as written.

Article 04- To purchase a Dump Truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purchase of a medium duty dump/plow truck with plow and sander, with \$100,000 to be withdrawn from the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen do not recommend this article by a vote of 2-1. (Majority vote required). No Tax Impact.

Chairman Maxfield made a motion to move Article 4 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield spoke in favor of this article stating that the truck they are looking to get has a sander and plow included. They would like to trade in their 2014 one ton truck for this new vehicle and hopefully make money from it. Chairman Maxfield explains how we currently have \$152,000 in the highway department capital reserve fund. Chairman Maxfield suggests that Road Agent Pearl address the Towns people with this Article.

Road Agent Pearl explains the duties and responsibilities of a Highway Crewman and the dedication it takes to be a part of it and how proud he is of his crew and the work they have accomplished. They are making great progress with their vehicles. He would like to purchase this class 6 truck with a GVW of 22,000. This truck will have a plow and sander already equipped with it. It is going to replace the existing one ton which has 80,000 miles currently on it.

Road Agent Pearl also stated that he took on two more routes this Winter, Creekwater Lane and Madison way. There is also talk of the town taking Memory Lane and Shaker Brook Park, adding another vehicle will help the crew in the future.

They spend money and time working on the older trucks they have. Road Agent Pearls states that this can be discouraging for them as they can be spending their time out on the road and getting their work done such as tree cutting and other jobs that are required in this position. Road Agent Pearl states that his crew work very hard on a typical 8-10 hour day and the crew does not mind being available longer, however, there are ways they can prevent this and hopefully having better equipment can help the crew.

The dealer quoted Road Agent Pearl for a new truck for \$30,000. Trade in. However they can not guarantee that until it is delivered. The problem they will run into is that this is a sought out truck and it could be a year before they see the purchase of it. It was suggested that they get "in line" if they really want one. Which is why Road Agent Pearl stated, he was bringing this to the townspeople now. Road Agent Pearl reminds people that they do have the money for it in the capital reserve fund.

Road Agent Pearl thanks the residents for their support in the past and hopes they could show support on this Article as well.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, wanted to know why two out of Three of the Selectmen voted no, in favor of this article. Mr. Leonard wanted to know their reasoning? And asked Road Agent Pearl how many miles the current truck has.

Selectman Miller spoke to answer Mr Leonard's question as to he why is not in favor of Article 04. Selectman Miller states that he has a few reasons as to why he does not support this article but praised

Agent Pearl and his crew for all of their hard work. Selectman Miller said he felt this isn't an appropriate time to ask for a new truck and he felt that we should keep adding to the Capital Reserve Fund, rather than spend it.

Road Agent Russ Pearl wanted to Clarify Mr. Leonard's questioned in regards to the miles on the truck and stated that the truck currently has 80,000 miles and he has put \$34,000.00 into the truck for repairs.

Ben Carter, 21 Foster Road stated that he is a driver for the Highway Department and drives the truck that they want to replace. Mr. Carter addresses the issues that the truck currently has, such as the size, brakes and the sander and is in favor of this article.

Chairman Maxfield explains again, the Capital Reserve Highway Department fund which has \$105,000.00 and the other is the Highway equipment which has \$152,000.00 This vehicle will be coming out of the \$105,000.00 fund.

No more questions or comments on the floor. This Article was requested to go by paper ballot by the six following registered voters, which Moderator Pearl roconized: Jeff Leonard, Melissa Bishop, Jen Mercer, Terese Grinnell, Amy Griffin and Sharon Kingsbury.

Yes- 153

No-62

ARTICLE 04- PASSED

Article 05- To reclaim & pave Clough Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$304,755 for the purpose of reclaiming, paving and installing under drains and shoulder gravel to approximately 5850' of the section of Clough Hill Road from the bridge at Fire Station #2 to Currier Road. To authorize the withdrawal of \$130,000 from the Roadway Improvement Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$174,755 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.25

Selectman Miller made a motion to move Article 5 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller stated he was handed a proposed amendment for Article 05 as follows: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$321,817.50 with the purpose of reclaiming, paving and installing under drains and shoulder gravel to approximately 5850' ft of section of Clough Hill road from the bridge at Fire Station 2 to Currier Road. To authorize the withdrawal of \$130,000 from the Highway Improvement Expendable Trust Fund created for this purpose. The balance of \$191,817.50 to be raised from taxes. The estimated tax impact is now \$.27.

John Sotrrs seconded the amendment.

Selectman Miller suggests Road Agent Pearl Speaks in regards to Article 05.

Road Agent Pearl stated that he drove by the local gas station and saw that it was over \$5.00 a gallon. So he called the guy that gave him the price back in November which he used for this quote. He recommended that we increase the budget by \$17,000 to cover the increased cost in fuel to do the road.

Majority vote needed for the amendment to raise the amount by \$17,062.50 which in total is now \$321,817.50. **Amendment PASSES**

Moderator Pearl made a motion to adopt the article as amended.

Article 5 PASSES

Article 06- To reclaim & pave Piper Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$192,000 for the purpose of reclaiming and base paving needed sections of Piper Hill Road and installing under drains and shoulder gravel with an overlay of pavement on the entire road with said funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen do not recommend this article by a vote of 2-1. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.27.

Selectman Storrs made a motion to take article 6 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Moderator Pearl recognizes Selectman Storrs to speak to his motion.

Selectman Storrs would like to amend the article to see if the town would vote to raise the approximate sum of \$ 201,039 for the purpose of reclaiming and base paving needed sections of Piper Hill Road and installing under drains and shoulder gravel with an overlay of pavement on the entire road with the said funds to be raised by taxes. Estimate impact would be \$.29.

Moderator Pearl confirms Selectman Storrs wants to amend Article 6. Selectman Storrs states yes. The amendment was Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Moderator Pearl recognizes Road Agent Pearl to speak.

Road Agent Pearl apologies for any confusion with the amendment. He had to cover an additional \$9,000 to cover the fuel costs. Road Agent Pearl also states that Piper Hill is in need of repairs as other roads in town. They have 14 miles of road that need reclaim and drainage so he would like to bring every year two roads to the meeting and the people can decide from there. They only have a certain amount that they save every year for the Capital Reserve and he would like to try bumping that up in the future. Road Agent Pearl states that Piper Hill and Clough Hill really need to be done.

Chairman Maxfield stated that he is the only one that supports the article. When they pave the dirt roads and the pavement starts to fall apart, he believes that they have a certain responsibility and obligation as Selectmen to keep our infrastructure together and this road, which Chairman Maxfield stated that he has walked, it is in bad shape and it really doesn't matter what road it is, if it Staniels road or Ridge Road, or School St, when these road really start to deteriorate, he felt we have have an obligation to try to keep them together and keep the infrastructure together which is why he does recommend this article and supports it.

Moderator Pearl asks for any further comments. Moderator Pearl reminds people that they are voting on the amendment which will raise the appropriation to \$201,039 which is approximately \$9,000 more than the original bill.

Moderator Pearl asks the voters to raise their cards to vote. **Amendment PASSES.**

Moderator Pearl moves forward with Article 6 with the new amendment with the \$201,039 with a tax impact of \$.29

Moderator Pearl asks for further discussion.

Jeff Leonard , 68 Coaster Road would like to remind people that taxes are going to go up and everybody just had a tax increase because of where the economy is now. Gas prices are going up and also stated that the cost of oil, which is in pavement, is going up. If we keep "shoveling money out" our taxes are going to keep going up as well.

Thomas Moore, 274 Bumfagon Road, states he agrees with Chairman Maxfield, in keeping the infrastructure together and asked Road Agent Pearl how the other roads that were up for consideration, compare in traffic counts. Mr. Moore understands that Piper Hill road is a dead end road, so the traffic is limited. He would like more clarification.

Road Agent Pearl states teh Piper Hill runs off from Route 129 and runs up to Clearview and there are a few houses on that road. It is a dead end road so it isn't a through road but it did take a beating when they built Clearview and it took another beating when a lot of the residents had their land logged which he understands why they would.

Road Agent Pearl states that Piper Hill needs some drainage. A lot of these roads that we see in town are really rough and wet. They need to get some stone in there to help dry them up and get ditches cleaned out. If we do that these roads should last longer. All the roads they rebuilt last year added 6 inches of stone base rock to them and they ground those rocks for them to help stiffen the base. Road Agent Pearl stated it is a work in progress.

Henry Huntington, 7290 Pleasant Street, questions that we voted on the amendment with the new quote that was given in November in which the company said it would be more money, if we pass this will a contract be signed and will we be locked into that price? Or could it potentially go up more depending on when we get this project done. It could go down too.

Road Agent Pearl stated the reason for the amendment is that if they left it as it was and all the bids that come in above it, they don't do it. They still have to put this out to bid and same with Clough Hill road before contractors bid on it, like the bigger guys in the area. The guy that worked for him last year he is the guy he will use to budget for the next year. He saw the price of fuel and rather than wasting time knowing that we voted this through and all the bids came through above it. He tried to get a new figure so we could at least have a shot at getting this road done.

Henry Huntington, 7290 Pleasant Street, states he will support this article but just so that the people are aware the price could go up even more.

Road Agent Pearl states that it will not be more than the price. If it is, he also stated that once he does get the bids in, he is going to go to the Selectmen to lay them out on the table and if they want to take money out of the Highway Department Budget, maybe they could do that. If someone comes in above the price such as the \$321,817.50 for Clough Hill Road then their bid is done. Unless the Selectmen choose to add to it.

Moderator Pearl asks for further discussion.

Moderator Pearl asks for a vote on article 06 as amended to see if the town would vote to raise the approximate sum of \$ 201,039.00 with an Estimated tax impact of \$.29.

YES 149

NO 71

Article 06 as Amended PASSES

Article 07 Fire Dept. Command Vehicle

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the purchase of a Fire Department Command Vehicle and equipment with funds to be withdrawn from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Chairman Maxfield moves to take Article 7 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Moderator Pearl recognizes Chairman Maxfield to speak on his motion. Chairman Maxfield stated that this is a command vehicle for the Fire Department. This current vehicle originally came from the Police Department. It is an old Suburban, which he believes is about seventeen years old and has a lot of rust. It does respond to any incident that we have in town with the fire department, regardless if it is a medical or fire call. They have approximately \$261,000.00 in the Capital reserve fund for the Fire Department Expendable trust fund \$261,000.00 Chairman Maxfield recommends this article.

Doug Proulx, 40 Iris Lane, was wondering why Chairman Maxfield stated that there is no tax impact when the money is coming out of the Expandable Trust fund and towards the end of the meeting they will be putting \$100,000 back into that fund. So, how is it that he can say that there is no tax impact when there is money that has to go back into that fund.

Chairman Maxfield stated that it is a standard line that they use every year. To say there is no tax impact is saying that they aren't raising money here because it is already in the trust fund. However, Chairman Maxfield understands Doug Proulx's point.

Dustin Bowles, Route 129, asked what they are going to be doing with the old command vehicle if this article should pass.

Chairman Maxfield explains that with all the older vehicles they like to try to sell them for whatever they can get. That money would go into the general fund which helps offset the taxes. He can't say how much they can get for the command vehicle but whatever they do receive it will go back into the General fund.

Chip Barrett, 16 Clark Avenue, stated that the truck is seventeen years old, he has driven the truck before it needs to be replaced. He urges the voters to please replace this vehicle.

Tom Moore, 275 Bumfagon Road, Was curious as to know what vehicle they are looking to purchase, what size the new vehicle would be and what it consists of.

Moderator Pearl recognizes Chief Blanchette to speak.

Chief Blanchette, 55 Storrs Drive, first thanked everyone for coming out with the questionable weather and appreciated the attendance. Chief Blanchette stated that they are going to replace it with NFPA standards that are supposed to be regulated by wanting to have clean vehicles. The gear has to be in the back of the vehicle. They are not supposed to be using SUVs and Tahoes anymore. Locally he has seen other towns approve Command vehicles and they move to a pickup. Which is what they did with the Deputy Chief last year for Code Enforcement and for his role as Deputy Fire Chief. We would be looking at a pick up and quite honestly, he couldn't tell exactly what size they are going to buy because that is a question in the entire market right now on what you can get. They are going to buy a vehicle that they can get that is affordable. Chief Blanchette stated that ordering a vehicle is a problem right now as we could all agree. They will buy what is affordable to get the job done. It's going to be a vehicle that is similar to the Deputy's last year. Chief Blanchette states that he hoped that answered the question.

Greg Cook, 7029 School Street, would like clarification on Chairman Maxfield's tax explanation. He thought it was a good question and it says no tax impact. He does believe people do need vehicles to operate but if there is something coming down the line where we vote to refill that is we are held liable to fill that as tax time.

Selectman Miller explains that the funds that are presently in there have been put in there over the years so there is no tax impact on pulling that money out. If everybody here today says no we are not going to put \$100,000 back in there. There is still no impact. That is a choice to put monies back in there which the Governing body can determine whether they want the \$100,00.00 to go back in or they want to reduce it

to \$50,000.00 but that's the way the DRA has them write that because there is no legal impact on the 2022-2023 year. Selectman Miller asks if Mr. Greg Cook understands that clarification better.

Greg Cook states that he understands the tax explanation and thanks Selectman Miller.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, asked how much money is currently in the Capital Reserve. Selectman Miller stated that there is currently \$260,000.00.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, also wanted to know if they are looking next year to replace any vehicles such as an ambulance or an engine. He would like to find out to make sure that there will be enough money in the fund.

Selectman Miller stated that has not been brought to their attention. But they can make sure if there are any requests for new vehicles.

Chief Blanchette states that if they follow the current Capital Improvement Plan which is managed by the Planning Board essentially with input from the Department heads, the next vehicle they would replace for Fire apparatus, excluding ambulance, the next fire apparatus that would be due to be replaced wouldn't be until 2025.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road confirms that the Fire apparatus would need to be replaced in Three years but would like to know if an ambulance would need to be replaced and would it come out of the same fund?

Chief Blanchette states that no. It has a separate account, Rescue and Ambulance Equipment Fund.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road would like to just make sure that there is enough money in the fund appropriated every year so they don't have to come back every year and raise taxes when they get a new engine. Jeff Leonard thanked Chief Blanchette for the explanation.

Selectman Jeff Miller would like to remind people that it is important to remember that this vehicle is an emergency response vehicle, it's not a vehicle that the Fire Chief goes home in and goes to work, he is on call 24 hours a day. He responds to calls 24 hours a day, whether it be a Fire call or an ambulance call or Mutual aid if they have to respond. That vehicle that the Chief drives now was a part of the Police Department for numerous years sitting on a lot and not being utilized so there is a lot of rust underneath it. Anybody that has any mechanical ability would understand that if that frame is rusted, there is a probability of other items being rusted under there as well. The Chief has spent quite a bit of money on repairs already. He needs a safe vehicle to operate. Again, he reminds people it is seventeen years old and believes that our Fire Chief needs to get around safely for our People in this town on the fire department.

Moderator Pearl confirms that this Article be passed by paper ballot by the following registered voters: Jeff Leonard, Melissa Bishop, Jen Mercer, Terese Grinnell, Amy Griffin, and Sharon Kingsbury.

YES 168

NO 72

ARTICLE 07 PASSES

Peter Pitman of Loejoy, made a motion to restrict reconsideration on articles 4,5 and 6.
Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Moderator Pearl asks for a vote to Restrict reconsideration for the articles made by Mr. Peter Pitman. **All in favor, Motion Passes.**

Article 08 (2) Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purchase of (2) Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators with funds to be withdrawn from the Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Miller made a motion to take Article 8 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller would like to defer to Chief Blnachette to speak on this article for further information.

Chief Blanchette, would like to encourage the people to support article 8. The Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators are required pieces of equipment on any ambulance in the State of New Hampshire. They do currently have two FDA requirements that they get replaced after eight years. One of them is going to be eight years old in this budget cycle and absolutely needs to be replaced or the ambulance will come out of service until such time that it can be. The second unit is not eight years old but they are having issues with both of them. Some of the issues that they are having are with the punch keys on the front. They have a circuit board behind them and when they bought those units, they were the best of course, but because of a supply chain issue the manufacturer is having issues getting the boards behind those push keys and as you can imagine, in situations that are high energy, those push key circuit boards break. So they are having trouble keeping them in service. They have another manufacturer that is made right here in New England in Chelmsford, Massachusetts that is all medical and has given them a quote on some supplies and they make their stuff primarily all in the USA. Chief Blanchette would like to encourage those to support this article and also states that the funds coming out of the Capital Reserve account, has money currently in it. When they look at purchasing another ambulance in the next year or two, they will not have to replace a monitor at the time, which typically in the past has been incorporated into the cost of that ambulance.

Moderator Pearl asks if there are any discussions. No discussion to follow, majority vote is requested for article 8.

ARTICLE 8 PASSES

Article 09 Police Cruiser

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,913 for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser with equipment, and authorize the withdrawal of \$50,913 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Storrs made a motion to take article 9 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Selectman Storrs would like to defer to Police Chief, Kristopher Burgess for explanation.

Chief Burgess thanked everyone for their attendance. This is the only item that the Police Department is asking for this year. Chief Burgess stated as most are aware, they request a new cruiser every two years versus the every year that it was prior to him being the Chief. Chief Burgess stated that there is more than enough money in the Capital Reserve to support this item. He states that the cruiser that this would be being replaced is a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria. That vehicle is currently with the Highway Department. Whenever they get rid of a vehicle or downgrade it, it typically goes to the Highway Department and then maybe to the transfer station to be auctioned off.

Chief Burgess explains the reasoning of the cost being higher than the past is because virtually none of the equipment currently in a crown victoria can be repurposed for the Ford SUV and that's what they will be purchasing. People may be familiar with it around town, they are the White SUV's. The equipment that is in the Crown Vic is old and outdated. Chief Burgess would like the voters' support on this article and will entertain any questions people may have.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, asked Police Chief, Kris Burgess if he is fully staffed at the Department now.

Chief Burgess stated that he is fully staffed.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, wanted to verify if every officer will have their own cruiser.

Chief Burgess states that they currently have six cruisers, this new vehicle would make seven. Typically what they do with a car that he is driving right now which has about 116,000 miles on it, he will try to drop it down to what they refer to as a detailed car. His old car would be used specifically for detail purposes. For example: You may see the office doing detail behind an asphalt truck with the lights on all day. That's usually what they downgrade those vehicles to be and what he does is operate the second oldest cruiser.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, asks how many full time police officers they have now.

Chief Burgess states that they have 7 full time and 5 part time staff.

Shane LaBonte, 429 Route 129 confirms that they have one four wheel drive SUV.

Chief Burgess explains that the SUVs they have are one wheel drive.

Shane LaBonte, 429 Route 129, how many crown vics do we have?

Chief Burgess stated they just got rid of the last crown vic and believes they are the last department in the state to have one which is currently at the Highway Department. They no longer have any Crown Vics.

Shane LaBonte, 429 Route 106, clarifies with Chief Burgess if they are going from what used to be cars to SUVs (which will be all-wheel-drive), will they be able to go where they need to go, such as dirt roads or any back roads?

Chief Burgess, states yes. That's exactly why they need to upgrade vehicles to the SUV's now.

Moderator Pearl asks if there are any more questions or comments. No further questions or comments in regards to Article 9.

Moderator Pearl moves this Article to a vote. A paper Ballot was requested by the following registered voters: Jeff Leonard, Melissa Bishop, Jen Mercer, Terese Grinnell, Amy Griffin and Sharon Kingsbury.

YES 190

NO 38

ARTICLE 9 PASSES

Article 10 Change purpose of ETF

To see if the town will vote to change, in accordance with RSA 35:16, the said purpose of the Library Collection Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund from books only, to include: books, library collections, programs, technology, and supplies and further to name the library trustees as agents to expand. The Selectmen do not recommend this article by a vote of 2-1. (2/3 vote required). There is no tax impact

Chairman Maxfield made a motion to take Article 10 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield stated that this article is pretty self explanatory. They would like to change the library collection maintenance Expendable Trust Fund from Books only. Right now they can only buy books and they would like to buy other items such as printer ink cartridges, children program supplies and so forth. They have about \$74,000.00 in the trust fund. They have other trust funds but they use it for other purposes. Chairman Maxfield explains he is the one Selectmen that recommends this article. He also stated that perhaps the Library would like to also speak in favor of this article.

Pete Pitman, 173 Lovejoy Road, Wanted to know what happens to the money right now that comes from the library that they take in and wanted to know if it goes back into the General Fund.

Dyrace Maxfield, 7319 Currier Road, explains that he is a trustee of the library and will speak on behalf of the library. Mr. Dyrace Maxfield explained that what they are asking for is just to change the purpose. He stated that this trust fund was established in 1994 before the expansion of the library so back then all they really had was books. Now, they have such a large amount of different items for the children's library, technology, computers, and internet. They just want to expand the use of this to give them more flexibility so there are two things. One: that they are not asking for anymore money. Two: it will save the taxpayers money in the long run. For example, if they have an emergency like a computer goes down, they will be able to access this fund for something like that and wouldn't have to go to the taxpayers and ask for extra money in the budget line when there are already funds that exist.

Mike Moffett, 144 Greenview Drive, would like to ask a question before Article 5 but did not get up in time, so he will ask the same question here, Selectman maxfield is for this article but the other two aren't. Could they explain why?

Selectman Miller explained that their job as fiscal agents for the town the library has their own trustees and they are responsible for their monies as well, subsequently through some research this capital reserve fund or trust fund that they are talking about has been building since 1994. They have the ability to make determinations to pull that money out in lieu of hitting the taxpayers. Through Selectman Miller's research he has found out that not only have they been putting \$5,000.00 away in the ETF but they have also been putting into our operating budget \$9,000.00 for books. Selectman Miller is not sure exactly how long it's been happening but it has been happening since he has been in.

Selectman Miller stated he also requested a technology line to be put into the operating budget which was agreed upon with minimal money. Last year was the first year they chose not to put any money into the expenditure trust fund because of no money being taken out. Selectman Miller states that it isn't because he is against the library, he certainly whole heartily agrees with the library being there and us funding it, however, it seems we are double taxing the taxpayer at this time. Those funds if they spent \$9,000.00 a year, out of those as they have as our article shows in our operating budget, then the taxpayer is not paying for that line so if it does happen to pass and the expandable trust does change for the programming the library collection and technology then certainly it should come out of the operating budget, which is his primary reason for it. They are responsible for taking out of the funds. They have the Bob Bear funds that they can take out of, they have the Maxfield trust fund they can take the funds out of. Selectman Miller states there are multitude of ways they can take money out that is currently available to them. Selectman Miller does not want to push it this year.

Mary Ann Steele, 637 Lower Ridge Road, if in fact there are issues about which monies go where into what funds that is for the budget process. This is an entirely different question as she is concerned, this is taking monies that already exist and recognizing the fact that this is 2022 not 1994. If people have not been to the library recently then you don't have any idea what you are missing. Mary Ann Steele praises the library stating it is awesome and if the trustees feel they can make the use of these funds by expanding the purpose. She says go for it.

Alicha Kingsbury, 293 Bear Hill Road, Would like to know what exactly is in that fund currently that has gathered over the several years.

Selectman Miller Answers \$79,987.67.

Alicha Kingsbury, 293 Bear Hill Road suggested that they revisit the budget process as well and thinks over the last number of years that taxpayers have voted that money in for books, shame on us for not realizing that it had gotten that high and that it wasn't needed for books. Alicha Kingsbury also states that she does not think we should allow full access as the description is extremely vague and that it seems the library wants to use it for books, dvds and even computer maintenance. Alicha Kingsbury would like to see next year a breakdown of specific items, so that there is transparency and accountability where we have already selected our money to go.

Dyrace Maxfield, 7319 Currier Road, States that he is one of the trustees for the library and they do have accountability for everything they spend. They do keep track of it. Dyrace Maxfield explains that the Selectmen last year chose to reduce the book budget. Their initial offer was zero dollars but they did take \$6,000 away from the book budget and also he would like to direct everyone's attention to Article 12 where we fund the ETF's and the Library ETF is not in this year's budget. They Reduced the book budget and are no longer funding that anymore. The library needs accessibility for the fund. Like it was said before, they have already put the money in there. They would just like to be able to use that money that was out there for things at the library since it has grown over the years. Dyrace Maxfield states he has only been back a year but with that much money using the budget money for things that happen like he said, with computers, that just simply means, the library doesn't have to come back to ask the taxpayers for a raise in the budget line for a computer that needs to be replaced or Children's Programme that needs to be funded. They would use the money that has already been out there since 1994 and then ten years down the road they can ask for a budget line. He would like to see support on this.

Ken Chalifour, 7388 School Street, would like to know how many trustees are there?

Dyrace Maxfield states that there are three trustees.

Ken Chalifour, School Street, would also like to know how much money is currently in the account that they are currently talking about?

Chairman Miller states that there is \$79,987.60.

Ken Chalifour, stated that he has served as a trustee on many things in his career and has never had the ability to write checks for that organization. The biggest part that he has a problem with is having the trustees write checks.

Selectman Miller stated that it is by law that they are able to do so. RSA 202 allows them to expend those funds.

Ken Chalifour asks if all of them have that ability. And wonders if it is an RSA, then why is it an article.

Selectman Miller states Yes all the trustees have that ability and they are voting on the wording of the article to go through the DRA.

Pete Pitman, Lovejoy Road, Questions Selectman Miller's comments on the fact that no money had been taken out in quite a while, why change things now. The Library isn't using the money now. If they have that much money in there.

Chairman Maxfield states that the money is there to be used in the future if they determine they need to use it for something that they need.

Peter Pitman, Lovejoy road, would like to confirm that this line was for them to buy books.

Selectman Miller states that Mr. Pete Pitman is correct. At this present time it is but they would like to change that so that they can use it for a lot of other items.

Pete Pitman, Lovejoy Road, asks if the library has been buying books with that money.

Selectman Miller answered that they have. They have been buying books and taking money out of the Operating Budget.

Pete Pitman commented that it sounded like they "have too many pockets".

Michelle York, 7150 Currier Road, as a former trustee she feels the voters of Loudon pick and voted to have these trustees in and that we should be able to trust the people to make the right decisions. Also states that when she was s trustee it was the small library in the 1980's and things have certainly changed and again states, that we should trust them.

Sherri Kluesener, 136 Pittsfield Road, would like some clarification on different lines in the budget, and would like to know if this item is for the purchase of books only. It sounds that all they are trying to do is clear some budgetary confusion to get things all in the proper pot and they are taking it out of the budget line and they want to use the \$79,987.60 that's just sitting there. Sherri Kluesener would agree this sounds smart. She sees this as a savings account you forgot about and suddenly you remember you have this savings account. That this is going to help this year's budget and will allow this money that has been sitting there to be used. Mrs. Sherri Kluesener states that she used to be a part of the library when the fund went in and at that time it was important to them that the collection was maintained but it was mentioned people do not use books as much. She is glad to hear the library would like to make it more universal and it sounds efficient to her and she hopes that this passes.

Selectman Miller states that they have reduced two of the lines to allow them to utilize that particular expendable trust fund.

Cynthia Rodgers, 200 Greenview Drive, Would like to move to amend the article to read: To see if the town will vote to change in accordance with RSA 35:16 The said purpose of the Library Collection maintenance Expendable Trust Fund from books only to include library collections, programs and other media and to further name the library trustees as agents to expend.

Cynthia Rodgers explains that This would eliminate the opportunity for spending items that should be in the regular budget such as: The maintenance and update of computers and so forth.

Moderator Pearl confirms that she is putting in the amendment from the floor. And confirms she has written it out.

Cynthia Rodgers hands Moderator Pearl the Amendment.

Moderator reads the amendment and asks for a vote to pass the amendment as read. No further discussion.
Amendment to article 10 passes.

Moderator Pearl moves article 10 as an amendment and asks if there are any further discussions on this article.

Stanley Prescott II, 424 Love joy Road, questions at the end of the fiscal year does the library turn in any left over funds back to the town and if so, how much and what happens if they don't?

Chairman Maxfield explains the selectmen gave the library a letter that any funds remaining from the expenditure budget will be returned to the town. Selectman Miller adds, at this time they have been doing research and there are some funding abnormalities they are currently dealing with at the library during this time.

Stanely Prescott II, 424 Lovejoy road, asked how much has been turned back in?

Selectman Miller stated he has no idea. Which is why they will be asking for an audit. Selectman Miller states he is not pointing fingers at anyone, there were a whole lot of people involved in all ends and they would like to get it all cleared up and clarified so we can all live in harmony swiftly.

Moderator Pearl makes a motion to vote on Article 10 as amended. Moderator Pearl reminds the voters that only Two thirds of a vote is needed for this to pass.

Yes 125

No 72

ARTICLE 10 does not meet the two thirds threshold and does not pass.

Peter Pitman, Lovejoy Road makes a motion to restrict any reconsideration on articles 7,8,9 and 10.
Motion Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Motion to restrict any reconsideration on articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 PASSES.

Article 11 To raise and appropriate for established CRF

To see if the Town of Loudon will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$560,500 to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds.

Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000

Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000

Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund \$40,000

Roadway Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$125,000

J.O. Cate Memorial Van Capital Reserve Fund \$2,500

Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$63,000

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000

Town History Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000

Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

Alternative Energy Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000

Town Garage Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

Safety Complex Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

The Selectmen recommend this article.

(Majority vote required).

Estimated tax impact is \$.79

Selectmen Miller made a motion to take article 11 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller is recognized by Moderator Pearl to speak on his motion.

Selectman Miller states that an amendment was presented to him. They propose the following amendment for consideration to article 11 as follows.

To see if the Town of Loudon will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$585,500.00 to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds. This figure will now include the Historical Society Museum Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00 as approved at the annual town meeting in 2021. The estimated tax impact is now \$.83

Moderator Pearl makes a motion to amend the article to move it to \$585,500. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller would like to defer to the Chairman to speak on this article.

Chairman Maxfield stated that last year they approved the Capital reserve fund Historical Society Museum which is the stone granite building in the Village Road. This year it was inadvertently left off the list and they discovered it after the town reports went to press and it is very important that they include it. The people voted for it last year so this amendment would be to simply include the Historical Society Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00

Karen Bast, 16 Memory lane, would like a better understanding with the library budget. Mrs. Karen Bast asked if the amendment that they just voted on was for the library to spend money that they have is just restricted to books still they cant buy anything else? Do they have money in the Library for the other stuff that they need to spend money on such as programs, DVD's and other things.

Selectman Miller states that they do have the money in the Operating Budget for them.

Don Falkowski, 5 McKenzie Road, stated that this is his first meeting but he is just curious as to why all these line items are in one build and is it possible to strike any of these or vote against them. Because some of these, just based on the names alone, he would simply choose not to vote. And the next article where they are all lumped together, it would take forever to vote on each one and also states that he is not a big fan of spending money that isn't there.

Chairman Maxfield explained that these Capital Reserve Funds all approved by the legislative body and by the people and every year we put the amount primarily on what the original Capital Reserve fund was at. You can take the Town Capital reserve fund for example, we put away \$20,000.00 every year to keep building up the money to purchase the line item. We do this every year we have to include the new amounts to keep the Capital reserve funds active. Again, he stated that this is what the voters and legislative body vote on every year.

Chris Whittenberg, 158 South Village Road, the previous gentleman asked if the items could be struck. And she did not hear an answer for that and would like clarification on that.

Moderator Pearl stated that you could change the line items if an amendment was presented.

Amy Corliss, 931 Route 129, would like to know the balance of the current capital funds.

Selectman Miller stated in The Highway department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund is \$107,175.33.

The Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund presently has \$441,415.80.

The J.O Cate Memorial van has \$66,271.55.

The Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund presently has \$206,451.15.

The Self-Contained breathing apparatus Capital reserved Fund has \$31,991.66.

The Town history Capital reserve Fund presently has \$36,344.86.

The Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund has 60,274.29.

The Alternate Energy Capital Reserve Fund.\$30,892.66.

The Landfill Maintenance CRF currently has \$43,636.50

The Town Garage Capital Reserve Fund \$60,023.17.

The safety Complex Capital reserved Fund has \$40,002.19.

Selectman Miller also would like to address that whatever they vote on today will be coming out of the Reserve funds that are listed so those numbers will be reduced. We put money into these accounts like savings so that we do have it available for maintenance on vehicles and buildings.

Chairman Maxfield also stated that you could find these numbers in the Town Report.

Mary Anne Steel, 637 Lower Ridge Roads also adds that to remove a line item from the Capital reserve you must prepare a written warrant article properly published prior to town meeting to remove capital reserve. You can certainly change the funding for it, they have done it year after year but if you want to remove the Capital Reserve you have to make sure it goes through the annual meeting process next year and that is a warrant article that is published in the warrant.

Selectman Miller states that we will see that the library is not there, it is still an active capital reserve however it is not listed because they are not putting money into it.

John Lebrun ,267 Love Joy Road States that he is a property taxpayer and his property taxes went up 33% this year and would like to know when the taxpayers will find relief? He doesn't mind paying his share but in 20 years has never seen such an increase.

Selectman Miller Explains that the Board of Selectmen And legislative body have nothing to do with his increase. Every five years the towns have to be re-evaluated due to the market value. Everybody's property in the town affected the overall true evaluation of the town. Selectman Miller states we went from over five million to over Seven million dollars in assessed value. There was an impact and the taxes were increased but the Tax rate went down from \$22.98 to \$19.20 cents per thousand. Everybody's assessment went up.

Chairman Maxfield also stated that The Department Of Revenue ordered the town to bring the town up to market value. Chairman Maxfield explains that they are taxpayers too. Every Five years this needs to be done.

Earl Tuson, 5 Pittsfield Road, stated that his comments are not for or against the article but he would like to remind the residents that these funds are like piggy banks. They save money in these accounts like the J.O Cate van, historically this was well supported but the choice is, fund it today, don't fund it tomorrow or stop funding it completely.

Terese Grinnell, 7337 Oak Hill Road, explains the question looking at the budget and being a responsible conservative Republican, her concern is the transparency of all these different trust funds and then looking at the General budget and what do we truly need to put in, in order to make sure that we do keep our FireFighters, EMTs and our town, operational. Looking at the town budget if you look at Page 13 and 14, we have the budget for the library which is \$246,000 a year but yet we also have a library trust fund of \$80,000, her question is how do the selectmen help that taxpayers to balance out what they have in the trust funds with the operational budget and they aren't just taxing to spend for next year and are they really optimizing the resources here in town to help the taxpayers.

Chairman Maxfield stated that they did not fund the Capital reserved fund for the library this past year so that's how they control it to some degree. These trust funds were established many years ago and that is the way people have approved it.

Selectman Miller added that if they read down the library budget the majority of the monies are salaries. Selectman Miller explains that they meet with the library and all the Department heads and discuss what the necessities and other needs are in the department. Selectman Miller reminds people that the budget is an estimate on what they think they need. For instance they budgeted an "x" amount of fuel last year for the Fire Department and the Highway Department when gas was just around \$2.80 a gallon and now it is over \$5.00. Selectman Miller explains that they utilize every penny, as the legislative body allows them to use, they don't spend anything they are not supposed to, they do not go in with expectation of raising a billion dollars and just have it sitting in a pot. At the end of the calendar year, they get from the DRA an estimate of what our liabilities are. Last year for example, they put back in to offset the taxes due to revenues and unreserved fund balance that they hold and reserve. They took \$850,000.00 to pay down the town's liability to get the \$19.20 rate. Selectman Miller states the department heads do a great job but again, our economy is not doing too well. This year they do have to look at funds elsewhere so that the fire trucks and ambulances can get to your residence and to other scenes needed. They do not spend unnecessary funds.

Chairman Maxfield adds this year from the unreserved funds balance, or what they call their savings account, they could use up to \$500,000.00 To help reduce the tax rate, he feels that is really important. Chairman Maxfield states as a town, we talk about the budget at the end of discussion about expenditures and so forth, but the total expenditure budget for all departments, committees and organizations is approximately \$5,200,000.00 Our revenue for the town is \$2.7 million which more than cuts in half our expenditures and that's really important to know so that we aren't spending foolishly, as Selectman Miller stated.

Doug Proulx, 40 Iris lane, asked a question that was in regards to the Revenue. The State of New Hampshire each year takes 22% of the rooms and meals tax and goes back and is divided among the towns in the State. In the fiscal year of 2021-2022 it has been voted on that now The State will get back 30%. so that's a 30% increase in what they received as residents as revenue from the state. Mr Proulx was wondering how much at 22% they were getting every year. Mr Proulx also stated that he does have a suggestion as well.

Selectman Miller answers Mr Proulx, stating in a round figure, he believes that they were just over \$200,000. Last year in 2021 they ended up with \$440,000 from rooms and meals.

Doug Proulx, 40 Iris Lane, suggested that these meetings are like buying things with a credit card, you go into a store and buy things and sometimes the amount you are buying doesn't hit you until you get your bill at the end of the month. He would like to see if possible, if there could be a document or something showing the amount of increase and dollars increase to show where things are going. It is easy to sit and sit here and vote on things we would like but at the end we end up with a whole bunch of things that will later reflect in our tax bill. It would be great to see.

Selectman Miller agrees with Mr. Proulx, and thinks that is a great idea. He also states that in the Town report, it shows the breakdown from previous years and what was adopted and what they would like to spend with the increases.

Sandra Hillsgrove, 166 Pittsfield Road, makes a motion to move the question.

Moderator Pearl, states there are two others in line that would like to speak. And reminds people that they are still on the amendment.

Marylin Whitten, 49 Pittsfield Road would like to clarify, she reminds people that they have all voted to have a Capital Reserve Fund and that's okay. We didn't vote yet, to put money into the savings account. It is not something they need, they are saving for the future, it usually makes sense. However, she states, does it make sense today, with inflation and gas prices. That is what we are voting on. Do we want to save today for tomorrow?

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, The Capital Reserve Fund and the Expenditure Trust Funds are basically two different entities but basically the same and as long as the Selectmen as our agents of the fund, they can spend money out of both of the accounts as well.

Selectman Miller confirms Jeff Leonard's statement to be true.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, Stated that we have a Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund and then down to the Expendable trust funds you have another highway equipment expendable trust fund for \$50,000 so overall we are putting away \$150,000 instead of \$100,000.

Jeff Miller states that they were both established for different reasons. Mr. Leonard understands that but he wants to know if the Selectmen can spend both of those funds. Selectman Miller states legally they can, however they choose not too. They prefer to take it to the townspeople and legislative body to let them decide where those monies go.

Moderator Pearl moves the question on the amendment to article 11. To see if the Town of Loudon will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$585,500 with all the Capital Reserve Funds that were listed and the extra \$25,000. Would go into the Historical Society Museum Capital Reserve Fund.

Moderator Pearl asks for a vote in adopting the amendment.

AMENDMENT PASSES.

Moderator Pearl now takes Article 11 as amended To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$585,500 to be placed in the previously established Capital Reserve Fund, all the ones listed, plus the Historical Society Fund. Moderator Pearl asks if there are any more questions or comments.

Moderator Pearl asks for a vote for Article 11. Majority vote needed.

Article 11 PASSES.

Article 12 To raise and appropriate for an established ETF.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$122,000 to be placed in previously established Expendable Trust Funds.

Recreation Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$2,000

Conservation Commission Land Expendable Trust Fund \$30,000

Transfer Station Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$30,000

Highway Equipment Expendable Trust Fund \$50,000

Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$10,000

The Selectmen recommend this article.

(Majority vote required).

Estimated tax impact is \$.18

Selectman Storrs makes a motion to take Article 12 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Chairman Maxfield speaks to the motion stating this is the Expenditure Trust Funds that are listed. Impact is \$.18 We just passed the Capital Reserve Fund prior to this. It is almost the same Article just different names of Capital Reserve funds. This is the Expendable Trust Funds and he recommends that they pass this article.

Moderator Pearl asks if there is any discussion in regards to Article 12. No question nor comments were presented . Moderator Pearl asks for a vote.

By Majority Vote Article 12 PASSES.

Article 13 For general municipal operations.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,294,214 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately." (Majority vote required). Estimate tax impact is \$7.47

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 13 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfields speaks to his motion stating that this is the total operating budget for the town \$5,294,214. The estimated tax impact is \$7.47. This is for all the town boards, committees, and the library. As he had mentioned earlier our revenue is approximately \$2.7 Billion so it cuts this operating budget in half which he always calls it good news. The total impact of \$7.47 is a dollar less than the last two budgets that they voted on. The Selectmen think using the unreserved fund balanced possibly of half a million dollars, the way this budget is with our revenue, we are going to be in decent shape for the tax rate. They can't at this time, predict what it is but they do feel good about it.

Alicha Kingsbury, 293 Bear Hill Road, states that residents need to look at our selectboard to be leaders at a time where everyone is struggling financially. She thinks that it is irresponsible for the selectmen to take a 2% raise. They mentioned per policy procedure, they are going to cut to only meeting twice a month instead of four times a month and they won't reduce their pay, so she would like to vote to amend the

Selectmen's Salary line item in the budget from \$30,185.00, To \$15,185.00 reducing the total budget to \$5,279,214.00. Alisha Kingsbury, also stated that she did have the amendment filled out.

Moderator Pearl makes a motion to vote for the new Amendment to change the Selectmen's salary to reduce it from \$30,185.00 to \$15,185.00 Reducing the total budget to \$5,279,214.00.

Chairman Maxfield comments that he worked on the budget during December and January and they did not decide to go down to two meetings when they set the budget for the 2% raise. But like the Former Selectwoman, Mary Ann Steele had mentioned, this is 2022 and it's not 1922. So many things have changed, they have instant messaging and instant messaging with the town office. They still have meetings outside of the office with contractors, architects and engineers. They still do the same amount of work. The town pays each of them \$10,000.00, a town manager would make a minimum of \$100,000.00 with benefits or more. So he feels the town is getting a really good deal. And the other argument/discussion they have had was there are over 4,000 registered voters in the town of Loudon and everyone here could sign up for Selectman this year yet, only one person signed up. They have talked about it, if the people would like to freeze their salary to \$10,000.00 going forward then he is okay with it, but as Chairman he feels he spends a lot of time doing the job almost as much as a full time manager would.

Chairman Maxfield explains how we, as a town, have an outstanding Town Administrator, Brenda Pearl. Brenda puts all this together. She puts the annual audit together, she does so much work and at this point we may not need a town manager but states if people would like to freeze their pay, it is okay.

Peter Pitman, 173 Lovejoy Road, Directs his comments to Selectman Miller. Mr Pitman states that he is going by the minutes that were in the Loudon Ledger; Jeff Leonard had asked what the benefits were for the Selectman to meet twice a month rather than four times a month? Peter Pitman Stated that in the article, Selectman Miller's response was that it would help save money on electrical and heating.

Peter Pitman then asks, didn't we just put solar panels on the top of the town office? So we aren't paying for lights and heating unless they have forced hot water, or unless we are doing electric heat. He reminds them that they aren't paying for electricity anymore, unless he misunderstood what had happened at the last town meeting. He would like to hear Selectman Miller's response.

Selectman Miller responds to Mr. Pitman stating that, Mr. Pitman is right, they do have solar panels up there that we're presently paying for and that's okay. They did a procedural move to match every town. He also does not have a problem cutting his pay. He mentions that he will be willing to have a town manager because for \$30,000.00, they are doing the town managers job. They also oversee all the employees and department heads along with having to take disciplinary actions and bring people in. They also have to do site walks and site visits.

They do all kinds of things and everybody just thinks that they just show up on Tuesday nights for an hour and a half. He states that right now the meetings last about 30-50 minutes, if they don't have appointments. It does not make a lot of sense to him to meet every week to sit in a room to say what they do, when they can accomplish that otherwise. He reminds the people that they are the legislative committee here. If they vote them in half, then that's okay. Selectman Miller also reminds people how many people run for the Selectmen positions. He stated that he does not do this job for the money. He will

leave it up to the legislative body to determine their pay. Selectman Miller stated that he misspoke, he did not keep the Solar in mind.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, believes that a lot of people do not want their job and he believes that they are doing a good job. His comment is based on the fact that the Planning Board and Zoning Board both put in a lot of time. We also vote them into the Planning/Zoning board. They all step up to do something for the town. He does not know the exact number but they get paid very little and they do site walks and have a lot of responsibility. The Zoning board upholds the law of our zoning and our town administrator does a lot of work for the selectmen which makes their jobs way easier, which he feels is why they can go down to meetings twice a month.

Marilyn Whitten, 49 Pittsfield Road, reminds people that they just voted on putting \$560,000 into a rainy day fund, just savings and people are quibbling over \$15,000. She wouldn't want their job.

Moderator Pearl moves the Amendment to a vote as reads- To amend to change the Selectmen's Salary line item in the budget to reduce it from \$30,185. To \$15,185 reducing the total budget to \$5,279,214.

Amendment FAILS.

Moderator Pearl goes back to the original Article 13 for discussion.

Don Falkowski, 5 McKenzie Road, Looking through some of the lines items and it showed the revised vs the expended and many of them expended far less than the revised amount that was budgeted and yet the same amount is still being asked for in the proposed budget for the next year, where is that extra money that was not used for the budget prior. For example, \$6,000.00 which is budgeted for Selectmen Printing it looks like \$1,456.00 was expended but yet, \$6,000.00 is being asked for again in the 2022-2023. Where is the discrepancy going and why is it being asked for in the same amount?

Chairman Maxfield explains any unused funds go back into the unreserved fund balance. They used some of that to help reduce the taxes. They usually have money left over in the expendable budget each year.

Susan Lefebvre, 7323 Oak Hill Road, would like to add Clarification as to why there are still monies in those funds that aren't currently being used. She asks if it is because the departments have until the end of June to use that money? Therefore, there is still time left to expend those funds.

Chairman Maxfield, thanks Susan Lefebvre for her addition to clarifying Mr. Falkowski's question. Chairman Maxfield also explains how they hold two budget meetings a year. They have used half of the year and they will have spent most of the money come June.

Moderator Pearl asks if there is any more discussion. No discussion on the floor.

Moderator Pearl asks for residents to vote on the Article 13 Majority vote needed.

ARTICLE 13 PASSED

Article 14 All Veterans' Credit

Shall the Town of Loudon vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Loudon under RSA 72:28. BY PETITION.

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to move Article 14 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Selectman Miller states that he would differ to the petitioner.

Helen Dlubac, 126 North Village Road, states that she is the resident who petitioned for the All Veterans Tax Credit. The reason she felt this petition was necessary was because she felt that any man or woman who enlisted in the military went in with the intention to serve our country in any way that was asked. A veteran is a veteran whether they served during a period of a war or not. If we are going to give Veterans property tax credits, they should be given to all veterans. Mrs. Dlubac spoke with approximately twenty surrounding towns and all the surrounding towns she spoke with, gave all veterans a tax credit according to the requirements. She was also told by a gentleman today, that 65-70% of NH towns give the veterans tax credit to all veterans and that it would impact the Town of Loudon by approximately 10%. She hopes that the residents all vote yes to this article and support all of our veterans.

Regina Fiske, 368 Lovejoy Road, would like clarification that the veterans credit right now, is for all Veterans except the two parties that are listed in the petition such as the 90 days and the officer honorably separated. Where do you draw the line right now? To Regina Fiske, 90 days seems like a short period of time but understands how that is possible. She would like to know why they aren't eligible now.

Chairman Maxfield Explains that today you have to be a veteran of a declared conflict or war, such as Vietnam. This petition allows the 90 days folks who serve on active duty to receive the same benefits. Currently they receive \$500 taken of their property taxes annually and the spouse if the veteran has passed away. The new law will make it so that all veterans receive those benefits. Chairman Maxfield goes on to explain that they also have a disabled veteran in both categories that get a little more than \$500 a year. Right now they are spending \$151,000. And the petitioners tell them it would probably be 10-15% higher. Chairman Maxfield doesn't know how many Veterans are out there that served over the 90 days in that category, so they can give him a figure on that new number.

Helen Dlubac, 126 North Village, explains the minimum of 90 days served how she feels, she believes it would apply to someone who was honorably discharged due to medical reasons. When people enlist in the military they sign a contract for a certain amount of time. She believes they don't sign a contract for just

(

(

(

90 days. Her husband signed a contract for 6 years. So she feels the 90 days would only apply to someone who was medically discharged with an honorable discharge.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coatser Road, would like to know if this is 2 separate tax credits or just one? Will it be \$1,000? Or \$500. across the board.

Selectman Miller confirms it would be just for the \$500 same as present Veterans. Mr. Leonard asks if the present Veterans receiving the credit can go for this and get \$1,000. Seletman Miller states no. It is \$500 max here in the Town of Loudon.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, states that he feels like this should pass and that we do not do enough for our veterans in this Country to begin with.

Mary Cozzens, 410 Clough Hill Road, would like to clarify that the 90 days is in reference to the Department of Veterans affairs. To be considered to be a veteran, you have to honorably serve the 90 days of active duty. It doesn't matter if you have been medically discharged or not. And she also would like to see this pass as well.

Joshua Beachum, 7336 School Street, He did a google search on how long boot camp lasts, he stated that it is 6-13 weeks, so from his understanding of this, it's anyone who made it through bootcamp and is an active part of the military and is honoring their contract. If they are injured and discharged, if they are honorably discharged, they step up to serve our Country and agree that we don't do enough for our veterans.

Moderator Pearl states that this Article is by paper requested by the following registered voters: Shawn Mulkhey, Mike Abbott, Randy Cummings, Tim Landry and James Leonard.

Yes 190

No 31

ARTICLE 14 PASSES

Peter Pitman, Lovejoy road made a motion to restrict reconsideration for article 11,12,13 and 14. Seconded by a Loudon Resident.

Moderator asks the residents to vote on the restriction. **Motion to Restrict reconsideration for article 11,12,13 and 14 passes by majority vote.**

Article 15 Establish committee to study withdrawal from MVSD

To see if the town will vote to direct the Merrimack Valley School Board to establish a committee to study the opportunities and liabilities to the Town of Loudon to withdraw from the Merrimack Valley School District pursuant to RSA 195:25 Procedure to withdraw. This study committee shall submit a feasibility report of their findings to the NH Board of Education within 180 days. BY

PETITION

Selectman Storrs made the motion to take Article 15 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Selectman Miller would like to defer the Article to the Petitioner.

Moderator Pearl asks if the Petitioner is present. No answer. Moderator Pearl asks if anyone would like to speak to this motion.

Peter Pitman, Lovejoy Road makes a motion to Table Article 15. Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Moderator Pearl reminds people that this is a non debatable motion. He explains what "tabling" does, stating that it puts this on the table and this body will not act on it. It can be brought off the table by a majority vote at any point in time before they close the meeting today. He will take it directly to a vote.

Majority vote needed to table Article 15. MOTION PASSES by majority vote.

Article 16 Election Petition

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 devices. This shall also constitute an application for RSA 656:40, stating ballot counting machines were adopted on a trial basis, so we wish to return to manual hand counting by citizens. BY PETITION

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 16 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield would like to defer to the petitioner to speak to Article 16.

Terese Grinnell, 7337 Oak Hill Road, states that this was an initiative that was brought forward by a liberty group that identified when the voting machines came into NH, the RSA articulated that they were coming in at a temporary basis and if they were to made permanent there would be need to be a vote by the majority to keep them in place. It has been brought to her attention that there is a memory card in our version of the machine that is programmed, so if it's "Terese Grinnell" voting bubble A, "John Storrs" bubble B, "Miller" bubble C, we do a template that goes out to a contractor named LHS who is contracted with Dominion they take that sample ballot and they do the programing on that card to say if with this bubble, you get this number on the rolling tape.

Terese Grinnell feels that the problem is with the memory cards. The State of New Hampshire says we are to do 50 test ballots. Those 50 test ballots take up to a day of staff to go through and run them through and to make sure the count and bubbles are correct. However, if someone wanted to do something sinister they would have the programming ability to say "Okay on number 70, go ahead and add five counts to Bubble B". She states there is absolutely no chain of command, there is no audit, there is no way to back

into that, those memory cards go back to LHS after the vote is done to where they are meant to be kept by law for 22 months. They are not being kept, they are being wiped clean.

Terese Grinnell goes on to state that many have heard about the audit that took place in Windham, N.H. In that vote when they did the hand count, one of the things they found is that the machines were off by 300 votes. All of "You" matter, she states. All of you took half of a Saturday to be here today for your vote to matter.

Terese Grinnell, states that she has a history of working in finance. She was a financial director for Washington Mutual for twenty years, she started her career out as a bank teller and a vault teller and she had cash dispensing machines but she would also count her drawer to make sure the manual count matched up with the automation.

Terese Grinnell stated she also transitioned and became a registered nurse and worked on the floors of Concord Hospital. She knows that when the deliveries were made with their narcotics and medications, she would go and pull them from her drawer for patients. She states they still have manual counts that the pharmacy does, to make sure that the accuracy of the count with the machine is spot on.

Terese Grinnell states that this is not a question about the employees that volunteer their time, or those who come out to take notes, along with those who count the ballots. This is not about the people here in the town who are helping us with our elections, this is about the fact that these memory cards go to that contractor that has absolutely zero accountability or oversight.

Terese Grinnell asks if she could read a letter from the Secretary of State, William Gardner. It is an 11 page document, and on the top of page 5, is a paragraph that speaks to the fact that these machines can be manipulated with programming the memory cards. Terese Grinnell also states she has a copy of that letter here for us today.

This is not a conspiracy, this is not trying to be difficult. Automation is in the works that has integrity. She is not for working harder, she is for working smarter. But there is no reason in today's World that we can't have machines that also have the oversight and the integrity to make sure the programming in them is accurate. She states that we do not have that today, so she is here today, to say; can we take a step back until we make sure that we got machines that we can truly have the oversight for the programming. The cost, if we look in the budget, we are spending over \$20,000 now for elections. She also stated that they can hand count and that there is an army of 45 people here in Loudon who are willing to volunteer to hand-count now that we know there is an issue with the machines. Our vote is the foundation of our democracy. She feels her two little boys may not have a flag in the constitution if we don't secure our vote. If our voter integrity is compromised, we risk losing everything. What she is asking for may be a little harder but her Dad taught her if you are going to do something, do it right. If we are going to vote, we need to make sure our votes are right. It is important. This is by partisan.

Ms. Terese Grinnell asked to play an audio that was 30 seconds long.

Moderator Pearl denies her request stating that she must wrap up as there are more folks in line wanting to speak. Moderator Pearl states he gave her more time than he usually allows but will allow her 15 more seconds to sum up.

Terese Grinnell, Oak Hill road, states in summary the cost is not an issue, we have the manpower to do this accurately, She counts a pile, another counts a pile, she checks her numbers to the other person counting the same. If they are good, wonderful, if not, then they figure out where the discrepancy is.

That's how they do it in banking. That's how they do it in the HealthCare field and our votes deserve just as much integrity as those too. She thanks everyone for her time.

Moderator Pearl would like to ask that everyone keep what they have to say to about two minutes, stating there is more business to do and that the snowstorm is upon us.

Jen Mercer, 56, Lovejoy Road, She is asking all to vote "Yes" for Article 16. Stating that like the other 80-100 million voters she would like her vote to actually count. She has done her research and the ability to alter votes on these machines is real. It may not have happened in Loudon but it is happening. She watched on Election night as the numbers changed overnight and numbers flopped. She watched hours and hours of testimony from the state legislators back in November and December of 2020 that discussed all of this. She Has seen the evidence she has gone through hours and hours and additionally reviewed additional reports that have come out from this. There is proof. These machines are altering the votes. It is time to make our elections , elections and not selections.

Again she states that this should be a bipartisan issue because both sides have said the machines can be altered. In 2006 the democrats released a document called "Hacking Democracy", which shows exactly how this happens and it explains everything. Mrs. Mercer also states that if anyone wants to do their research then think about this; How does New Hampshire vote red, at the State level but vote blue at the National Level. It makes zero sense unless votes are being flopped. For those who feel that this is too much of a burden as Terese said, there are plenty of people who will help out with hand counting. It is time for election integrity, it is time to return to hand counts. There are other towns that are doing it, so Loudon should too. Mrs. Mercer thanks everyone.

Mary Ann Steele, 637 Lower Ridge Road, urges everyone to vote against this Article. Mary Ann Steele, states that the first speaker said this has nothing to do with the people who are sitting in the room that manages elections, Mrs. Steele states that it has everything to do with them. They do in fact validate how many ballots go in, how many ballots they still have, and how many ballots get counted. She states that if they feel that there are any discrepancies, the very first thing that is done is they recount and it is done by hand. She also states that when the second speaker said " When she is there with 80- 100 million other voters, it's not happening in Loudon, but somewhere else, we are voting here in Loudon. If you have ever been up to the polls after midnight and counted ballots on a long ticket, you could imagine how happy they were to see voting machines come in. They get verified, they get tested, if you are worried about what happens, stand there at the polls all day and watch them get fed in, bring your own calculator. In the meantime let's not put our election officials through all of this, let's not doubt their integrity, let's move this thing along and vote this down.

Andrew Parrella, 105 Lesmerises Road, Speaks today on behalf of the Supervisors of The Checklist for The Town of Loudon. He states that they understand the great importance that this Article addresses and is glad to see it come before the body, free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy and he can not over emphasize how seriously they execute their duties to ensure your ballots are accurately counted. There has been no evidence presented that Loudons machine is faulty or has produced error results. In the 26 years that Loudon has been using these optical scanners to count the ballots a recount has never been requested. Hand counting is a time and resource intensive operation . In 2020 Loudon casted nearly 3700 ballots in the General Election. At that scale there is evidence to suggest that hand

counting ballots can be less accurate than using the optical scanner. David Brooks, a senior journalist for Concord Monitor, surveyed several recounts from the 2020 election and found in many cases optimal scanning machines were more accurate than hand counts. Mr. Parrella states that this warrant article assumes a problem for which there is no documentation, a more appropriate path forward is to petition our legislators to instruct our offices to have the secretary of the state and attorney general to conduct a full audit in New Hampshire's election system and to identify where weaknesses in fact lie, and address them. He encourages everyone to vote no on this article and thanks the residents.

Josh Beauchum, 7336 School Street, Feels this is a 'Hot button issue' and knows others in the room would agree. Mr. Beauchum states this comes with a lot of heat from both sides and he has looked around as people presented their arguments and can see people shaking their heads at one point or another. He stated that he watched a documentary last night that had a New Hampshire woman, Marilyn Todd, an Auditor, here in New Hampshire, and she also has done research in this. He will not say where he stands politically but it isn't a matter of where the votes go it is a matter of making sure there are people who would want to influence in either case, don't rule us. Research has shown there is a one-in-a-million chance that these machines with the cards that they use in the state of New Hampshire have been tampered with. Due to her research as an auditor 22/30 districts have at least one of those one in a million machines. If that doesn't give you pause for either side of the aisle, look into Marilyn Todd, she is just trying to do what is right by us. He states people are going to vote how they vote, he doesn't want to try to pursue anyone but advises people to take a moment at home and do research. Mr. Beauchum thanks everyone for his time.

Katherine Pitman, 173 Lovejoy Road, states she does not vote for party lines. She votes for the people. So, she may vote republican for state, democrat for national, that's how you get blue for one and red for the other.

David Colby, Route 129, has a question as to where it refers to the RSA 656:40 in the Article, will this serve as an application to remove voting machines from the town?

Moderator Pearl, states that he himself has not read that RSA so Moderator Pearl does not want to answer however he states that is what it appears to be.

David Colby, Route 129, would like to know what exactly they are voting on.

Moderator Pearl states that they are voting whether or not to use the optical scanners or go back to hand counting. Moderator Pearl asks the Petitioner, Terese Grinnel to answer.

Terese Grinnell, 7337 Oak Hill Road, answered yes. And to clarify this would bring them back to hand count which is also consistent with the New Hampshire constitution.

David Colby, Route 129, is not sure if his questions were answered. And repeats, Is it the intent by petition to remove voting machines from the Town of Loudon.

Moderator Pearl states, that's what he interprets it to be.

David Colby states that this article has been defeated in every town meeting that has been held up until Friday, there is a reason for that, democracy wins. David Colby would also like to move the question to vote. Seconded by Loudon Resident.

Moderator Pearl states that the people who are currently in line still get the opportunity to speak. Moderator Pearl asks for a vote to Move the question to vote.

Motion to move the question to a vote PASSES.

Moderator Pearl states that there is a request for a paper ballot for Article 16 , byt the following registered voters: Jen Mercer, Terese Grinnell, Helen Dlubac, Amy Griffin, and Alicia Kingsbury.

Yes 74

No 156

ARTICLE 16 FAILS

Article 17 To transact any other business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Given under our hands and seal, this 12th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.

Selectman Miller makes a motion to take Article 17 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller would first like to thank everyone for showing up today for the town's peoples meeting. He states that as Selectmen, they are there to present to them what their budget is and what those warrant articles are and what they feel they need. It would certainly open the floor to any other business by the legislative body.

Alvin See, 64 Plateau Ridge, Would like to move that we remove Article 15 from the table. Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Moderator Pearl puts Mr. See's motion to remove article 15 from the table to a majority vote.

Motion FAILS an Article 15 stays on the table.

Jeff Leonard, 68 Coaster Road, would like everyone to know that with our tax dollars, our town pays the Merrimack Valley School District out of 11 months \$7,821,000.00 a year. In years forward, think about if we had our own high school, we would have this money in our own town.

Liz Lebrun, Oak Hill Road, would like to make an announcement for free that won't cost the taxpayers money. It is in regards to The Loudon Historical Society. Liz Lerbun states The Historical Society applied for and was awarded a grant in November of 2021 from the New hampshire Humanities Council.

Their proposal was to develop the Traveling Trunks program which is essentially a museum in a box. The goal of the program is to take some of their pictures, documents and artifacts from their museum collection out into the public, to help people get a better understanding of Loudon's History and how that history impacted what the town has become today.

Thanks to the Grant funding, Melissa Moore, Kathy Klapprock, Stanley Prescott and Liz Lebrun, have created two trucks. One is called Loudon Grows Farm to City and the other is called Loudon on the Move, Land and Sky. Trunks are designed to be presented in school classrooms and youth and adult civic groups. The trunks can go out with or without Historical Society presenters and maybe sign out for two weeks at a time. The program goes live on April 12th and at that time there will be reservation forms under the Historical Society's section of Loudon's website.

She has some flyers if anyone would like to grab some. Mrs. Lebrun stated she will also stay around for a few minutes after if anyone has any questions. In a future date, she also states that they will schedule a public presentation and they will plan something for Old Home Day.

Peter Pitman, 173 Lovejoy Road, would like to make a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 16. Mr. Pitman would also like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Moderator Pearl asks for a vote to restrict reconsideration for Article 16. Majority vote needed. **Motion to restrict Article 16 PASSES.**

Moderator Pearl states that before he votes on the next motion, Chairman Maxfield would like to do awards and presentations for Loudon Employees after. If people would like to leave, he asks people to be quiet and respectful while they still continue the meeting with those awards.

Moderator Pearl makes a motion for a vote to adjourn. Majority vote passes to adjourn the Loudon Town Meeting.

Chairman Maxfield presents the first award to Wendy Young, in recognition of 12 years as Loudon Town Clerk. Signed by the Selectmen.

The second award for appreciation goes to Howard Pearl for his recognition of 2 years as Moderator.

The third certification of appreciation goes to Rodney Phillips, in recognition of his outstanding dedication and continued commitment to volunteering time and effort in running and setting up the AV system at the Town Office meeting room. Chairman Maxfield thanks me for bettering the lives of our community members. Chairman Maxfield states that Rodney had spent days, weeks and months setting this up and really appreciates saving the Town of Loudon money and appreciates all he continues to do.

In addition, Chairman Maxfield presented an award of appreciation to Jeremy Minery for his recognition of 3 years as a Planning board member.

Lastly, Chairman Maxfield presented a certification of appreciation to Katie Phelps in recognition of serving on the Planning Board.

Chairman Maxfields thanks everyone for their time.

Loudon Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley E. Simonds

Loudon, N.H, Town Clerk.

