

Loudon New Hampshire Town Meeting Minutes 2021

The Town of Loudon, New Hampshire postponed the Town Meeting From March 13th to May 15th, 2021 due to the Corona Virus outbreak.

This years Town Meeting was held at the Loudon Elementary School, on Saturday, May 15, 2021 and was scheduled to begin at 9:00A.M

One hundred, twenty nine (129) Registered voters of Loudon checked into vote at Town Meeting.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 9:01AM by Loudon N.H Moderator Howard Pearl. 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 Ken Ward from the American Legion post #88.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Howard Pearl asked for all to be seated. Mr. Pearl recognizes: The Board of Selectmen: Stanley Prescott, Roger Maxfield and Jeff Miller. Town Clerk Ashley Simonds, and Deputy Town Clerk Wendy Young. Supervisors of the Checklist: Francine Clave, Lucy Gordon and Andrew Parrela. Ballot Clerks: Dan York, Cheryl Spagnoulo 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 9, 2021.

- The total number of votes that were casted were 514.
- Selectmen for a three (3) year term, John Storrs 277 prevailed over Stanley Prescott who had a total of 221.
- Town Clerk for a three (3) year term, Ashley Simonds with 484 votes.
- Supervisor of the Checklist five (5) year term. Lucy Gordon with 455 votes.
- Library Trustee, a three (3) year term Dyrace Maxfield.
- Planning Board for a three (3) year term, Robert Phillips with 263, Forrest Green with 275 and Marilyn Whitten with 284.
- Zoning Board, three (3) year term, Peter Pitman with 436 votes.
- Zoning Board for a one (1) year term, Alvin See with 418 votes.
- Trustee of The Trust Fund, Three (3) year term, Victoria Phillips with a total of nineteen (19) votes.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 02 as written.

Article 02 To purchase a Dump Truck.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$198,000 for the purchase of a dump truck with plows and sander, with \$198,000 to be withdrawn from the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). No Tax Impact.

Chairman Prescott moved that we take article 02 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Chairman Prescott suggested Road agent Russ Pearl speak in regards to article 02.

Road Agent Russ Pearl spoke in regards to Article 02. Road Agent Pearl explained that the Highway Department would benefit greatly with a new plow/dump truck. It would help keep the drivers safe and to keep the crew with the ability to provide good service and having a dependable truck. It would cost the same to run this truck as it does with the other vehicles at the Highway Department. This truck would be similar to the one he purchased two (2) years ago. It will have the capabilities to sand which will help reduce the risk factor on driving on the ice. In addition, Road Agent Pearl stated he would appreciate the community's support.

Moderator Pearl, asked if there was any discussion to be had in regards to Article 02. No questions or comments were presented. Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl continued to read the next article as written.

Article 03 To reclaim & pave Loudon Ridge Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for the purpose of reclaiming and paving approximately 1700' of the section of Loudon Ridge Road known as River Hill and authorize the withdrawal of \$120,000 from the Roadway Improvement Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). No Tax Impact.

Selectman Maxfield made a motion to take Article three (3) and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Seletman Miller.

Selectman Maxfield spoke in regards to this article and describes the exact location of the road that needs to be paved. He also gave a time frame on which the paving and reclaiming would begin.

Moderator Pearl asks for any open discussion from the floor. No discussion. Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 04 as written.

Article 04 To reclaim & pave Flagg Road

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$122,235 for the purpose of reclaiming and paving the existing paved portion of Flagg Road with said funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.22.

Selectman Miller made a motion to take article 04 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman prescott.

Selectman Miller spoke in regards to his motion explaining the location of the portion that needs to be reclaimed and paved.

Moderator Pearl asks if there is any discussion from the floor.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road spoke against this article.

Dustin Bowles of Route 129 spoke in favor of this article.

Road Agent Pearl spoke in favor of this article.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article five (5) as written.

Article 05 To reclaim & pave Piper Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,145 for the purpose of reclaiming and base paving needed sections of Piper Hill Road with an overlay of pavement on the road with said funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen do not recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.27.

Chairman Prescott made a motion to take Article 05 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selecman Maxfield.

Chairman Prescott spoke against Article 05.

Road Agent Russ Pearl spoke in favor of this article.

Selectman Maxfield spoke against this article.

David Steele of Ridge Road had questions in regards to the number of feet that would be reclaimed and paved.

Road Agent Pearl Explained to Mr. Steele the portion that would be reclaimed and paved.

Mike Timmins of Piper Hill spoke in favor of this article.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion failed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 06 as written.

Article 06 For equipment Storage Shed

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of building an equipment storage shed on the transfer station property for housing the grader, tractor,

backhoe, wood chipper and other small equipment with said funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen do not recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.22.

Selectmen Maxfield made a motion to take article six (6) and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Selectman Maxfield spoke in regards as to why the Selectmen do not recommend this article.

Road Agent Russ Pearl discusses the importance of storing his equipment properly. Rather than leaving out thousands of dollars of equipment outside.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which the majority of votes were too close to call. Moderator Pearl asks for a hand count from the Supervisors of the Checklist.

Results are as follows: YES- 64. NO- 51. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Prescott made a motion to restrict any reconsideration for articles two (2) through six (6). Majority vote required. Motion Passed.

Road Agent Pearl thanked the residents for their support and praised his crew.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 07 as written.

Article 07 For Dispatch Live

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,723 for the purchase of Dispatch Live, an innovative technology-based computer program. Dispatch Live allows multi agency usage and enhances the ability to work closer with surrounding towns and agencies with said funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen do not recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.02

Selectman Miller made a motion to take article 07 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Prescott.

Selectman Miller explained they do not recommend this article due to lack of information on the overall cost.

Dustin Bowles of Route 129, asked about costs and if they had a rough idea now that it was March and these articles were presented to the Selectmen a few months back. Police Chief Burgess answered, "No".

Jeff Leonard of 68 Coaster Road asked if Police Chief Kris Burgess could speak on this article.

Chief Burgess spoke in regards to this article. He explained dispatch live and the benefits it would have in the department. He explained that the computers in his department are capable of Dispatch Live and this would help keep his officers more available to be on the road and work from their cruisers.

Todd Phelps of 1102 Route 129 spoke in favor of this Article.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road asked Chief Burgess if they were going to get rid of dispatch through the County or if this was a program they would only use at night. Chief Burgess explained that they would have their dispatcher still present but she could use this system as well during the day.

Lisa Laughlin of Old Shaker Road asked Chief Burgess if this passes does this mean he will be coming back next year for money for the system. Chief Burgess explained that he would not. It is a one time budget.

Jeff Leonard of 68 Coaster Road asked if there will be additional costs to train the Officers on the Department to use this Program. Chief Burgess explained there is free training but no certification is needed.

Marilyn Whitten of Pittsfield Road asked if this would help with the growing homeless population. Chief Burgess explained it would help identify homeless people by allowing them to see other agencies' information.

Tom Moore of 274 Bumfagon Road asked Chief Burgess if this was the only program out there. Chief Burgess explained that this is the most current software other departments are using.

Dana Flanders of Old Shaker road spoke in favor of this article.

Peter Barton of Old Shaker Road asked Chief Burgess if this would help eliminate paperwork that the police have to fill out. Chief Burgess said it would help cut time in half and eliminate paper.

Jeff Leonard of 68 Coaster Road spoke in favor of this article.

Melissa Bishop of 38 Creekwater Lane, asked if there are any grants to help pay for this? Chief Burgess explained he has not looked into grants for this particular system.

Amy Griffin of Old Shaker road spoke in favor of this article.

Alicha Kingsbury of Bear Hill road asked Chief Burgess if he knew what the dollar amount in which he gave back to the town was. Chief Burgess was unsure about the accurate amount. Alicha Kingsbry stated it was \$95,000.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 08 as written.

Article 08 Fire Dept. Code Enforcement Vehicle

To see if the town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 for the purchase of a Fire Department Code Enforcement 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 Prescott made a motion to take article 08 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Chairman Prescott spoke in favor of this article.

Chief Blanchette spoke in further detail about article 08. Chief Blanchette said the funds would be taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund which is intended for equipment for the Fire Department. He also stated that the Code Enforcement vehicle that the Building Inspector uses now is a Ford Crown Vic that was one of the Loudon Police Departments old Cruisers. It was inherited by the Fire Department in 2015. The new vehicle that they would be getting to replace the 2007 Crown Vic would be a State Bid pickup truck with four (4) wheel drive which will help on construction sites.

Dustin Bowles of Route 129 questions why the Fire Chief is asking for two (2) vehicles and asks the mileage on Chief Blanchette's command vehicle.

Chief Blanchette explained he asked for this vehicle last year and it did not pass and wanted to ask again. He stated that the vehicle he drove only has 52,000 miles on it but is a sixteen (16) year old vehicle and the running equipment on the 2005 Suburban is having a lot of issues. Chief Blanchette explained the importance of this vehicle and giving the age should be updated for safety reasons.

Moderator Pearl reminded Chief Blanchette to stay on topic for Article 08 that is being discussed and not the next one.

Tom Moore of Bumfagon Road spoke against this article.

Jeff Leonard of Coaster Road asked about how much money was left in the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr Leonard also stated he does not agree to spend \$60,000 on a truck.

Selectman Maxfield explained the Capital Reserve Fund currently has \$220,810.18.

Pam Matott of Lesmerises road wanted confirmation that this will not affect our taxes.

Chief Blanchette reassured Mrs. Mattot that it would not. It would be taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Forrest Green of Bumfagon Road spoke against this article.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road would like to correct the answer given to Mrs. Matott stated it would not be taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund, it would be taken out of the Fire Departments Expenditure Trust Fund and made a motion to move the question.

Moderator Pearl addressed the residents and asked for all in favor to move the question. The **motion passed.**

Moderator Pearl read the question (Article 08) for a majority vote in which by majority, the vote was too close to call. The Supervisors of the Checklist were asked to hand count the votes.

Results are as follows: YES- 65 NO- 52 **motion passed.**

Moderator Pearl stated Articles 9-12 were requested for a secret ballot.

Moderator Pearl Reads article 9 as written.

Article 09 Fire Dept. Command Vehicle

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 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.

Selectman Maxfield made a motion to take Article nine (9) and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

This Article was requested for a secret Ballot by the five (5) following Registered voters of Loudon. Rodney Phillips, Dustin Bowles, Cynthia Merrill, Peter Pitman and Todd Phelps. Moderator Pearl confirmed that the voters who requested a secret ballot were present at the meeting.

No discussion on the floor in regards to article nine (9).

Results are as follows: YES- 61 No- 64 **Motion Failed.**

Moderator Pearl reads article 10 as written.

Article 10 Exhaust System for Station 2

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 40,000 for the purchase and installation of an Air Flow Exhaust Removal System at Fire Station 2, with funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.06.

Selectman Miller made a motion to take article ten (10) and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Prescott.

Moderator Pearl asked for discussion on this article.

Chief Blanchette explained the diesel vehicles are inside the building at station 2 and would like an exhaust system to help protect the employees of the Fire Department. It will also help reduce the risk of cancer in the workplace. Chief Blanchette welcomes any questions.

MaryAnne Steele of Lower Ridge Road asked why this has to be raised through taxes and not taken out of a fund.

Chief Blanchette stated last year (2020) they established a capital reserve fund for the Safety Complex which they inserted \$20,000 last year. And would like to see this continued. Chief Blanchette states they tried to apply for grants but were unsuccessful.

Jeff Leonard of 68 Coaster Road stated he would like to see the money come out of the Capital Reserve fund in which they have money in there.

Jim O'Neil of 63 Oak Hill Drive spoke in favor of this article.

Gary Brooks of 106 Kenney Road spoke in favor of this article and spoke on the growing number of Firemen who have had Cancer at the workplace. Mr. Brooks asked Chief Blanchette to tell the community of the payouts that some of the spouses get if their loved one is affected by Cancer.

Chief Blanchette stated a widow had a payout of Three (3) million dollars.

Chairman Prescott stated that the Town has insurance and they use Primex.

Alicha Kingsbury of Bear Hill Road asked Chief Blanchette how much money they have received in grant Money for the year.

Chief Blanchette stated that they had roughly \$150,000 in grant money.

Alicha Kingsbury of Bear Hill road felt that this money should have been budgeted elsewhere and with the grant money given, it should have been used for the Health and safety of the Firemen.

Selectman Miller explained that the grant money received was used to help with the Covid 19 outbreak.

Dustin Bowles of Route 129 asked if the highway Department had it. Mr. Bowles stated he doesn't understand why the highway's health and safety isn't as important. They also have Primex for insurance.

Selectman Miller explained that the Highway department does not sleep at the department at night nor do they spend much time in the building.

Chairman Prescott also agreed with Selectman Miller that the Highway crew doesn't spend much time there.

Alicha Kingsbury of Bear Hill road wanted to clarify that she wasn't suggesting that grant money should have been used on this, it would have allowed the taxpayers to save \$150,000 Elsewhere in the budget so that we could get "Creative" and not have to go to the taxpayers. Ms. Kingsbury also stated that she thought last year it was said that the apparatus and equipment fund was not just for trucks. Ms. Kingsbury wanted clarification from legal counsel.

Selectman Miller stated that the way he understood it was that the Apparatus and Equipment fund was for the equipment on the Fire trucks.

Jeff Leonard of 68 Coaster road asked if they were still discussing Station two (2).

Chief Blanchette answered yes.

Jeff Leonard asked if Station one (1) has an exhaust system.

Chief Blanchette stated No.

Jeff Leonard wanted clarification that Station one (1) is used more than station two (2). Mr Leonard also stated that the crew used to sleep at station one (1) at night. Mr. Leonard also asked to expand in detail the reason why Station one (1) does not have an exhaust system.

Chief Blanchette agreed that Station one (1) is used more than Station Two(2) and also asked to expand in detail the reason why Station one (1) does not have one. Chief Blanchette explained how Station one (1) has an electrical system that was put into station one (1) the time it was built is undersized and inadequate to do an install of this system currently. He has researched it because he feels it is certainly as important to have an exhaust system for both stations. Chief Blanchette also stated he has had a quote to put in an exhaust system for station one (1) and the total amount that was quoted by the Local electrician. The electrician quoted the upgrade that would be needed at Station one (1) at \$96, 540. Chief Blanchette explained the cost would be to only cover Eversource who would have to bring power all the way to Route 129, additional transformers would also be needed. And the system itself was about \$134,000 to install at Station one (1). He felt the cost is higher than he and the selectmen would like to bring in front of the voters at this time.

Jeff Leonard of Coaster Road stated that Chief Blanchette didn't answer his question fully but he wanted to make the point that Station one (1) houses the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, two (2) full time members, plus a secretary in the front office. He believes that they should have an exhaust system there but it should not come out of taxes.

Pam Matott of Lesmerises Road, wanted Chief Blanchette to clarify that The insurance company suggested that they get an exhaust system.

Chief Blanchette stated that was correct. As a Fire Chief, he receives from the New Hampshire Municipal Association, a monthly book. The Association dedicated half a book to Firefighter safety because of the Cancer Presumptive law that Governor Chris Sununu signed in 2018. He feels that as Chief it is his responsibility to take care of his staff and stated that this is a Nationwide issue that New Hampshire addressed pretty firmly.

Moderator Pearl recognizes Selectman Miller.

Selectman Miller spoke in favor of the exhaust system and explained that the Fire Chief is going with the smaller of the two (2) and also has gone to the board numerous occasions talking about advancing the current CIP. To answer Mr. Leonard's question, Selectman Miller also stated he realizes there are more employees at Station one (1) but they have to start somewhere. Station two (2) will save them from a million dollar bill bond. This is key to saving us millions of dollars down the road and again stated that we have to start somewhere and take care of our employees.

Pam Mattot of Lesmerises road wanted clarification on the incident where a widow was paid out three (3) million dollars.

Chief Blanchette stated that yes, that was what was relied on by them.

Mrs. Matott wanted reassurance that the Town of Loudon Has NOT been hit with any of those settlements.

Chief Blanchette stated that the Town has not and he preferred we didn't.

Mrs. Matott of Lesmerises Road feels that it is important to take care of our employees so we don't end up in a similar situation. Mrs. Matott spoke in favor of this article.

Gary Brooks of Kenney road clarifies that Station one (1) does in fact have an exhaust system however the exhaust system that is current is outdated by twenty five (25) years old and took a year to order a filter for the system. The company said they do not make that system anymore. They chose to go with Station two (2) because it would be easier.

Steve Ives stated he doesn't like scare tactics and wanted to know who paid the three (3) million dollars to the widow. The town or insurance company?

Chief Blanchette stated he does not have the facts sheet in front of him; this was the information relayed to him between Primex and the Municipality.

Steve Ives stated that he could almost guarantee that it was the insurance company that paid the three (3) million, not the town. That is why the town has insurance. Mr. Ives stated that he doesn't think it is wise for the Chief to scare people saying the town is going to be the one responsible for a payout.

Moderator Pearl wanted to remind everyone to "keep it clean".

Maryanne Steele of Lower Ridge road made a motion to move the question.

Pam Matott of Lesmerises road spoke in favor of this article.

Motion to move the question passes.

This Article was requested for a secret Ballot by the five (5) following Registered voters of Loudon. Rodney Phillips, Dustin Bowles, Cynthia Merrill, Peter Pitman and Todd Phelps. Moderator Pearl confirmed that the voters who requested a secret ballot were present at the meeting.

Results are as follows: YES 81 NO 42 **Motion passed.**

Moderator Pearl reads article 11 as written.

Article 11 FD Communications

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund for Communications under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required). Estimated tax impact is \$.11.

Chairman Prescott made a motion to take article 11 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Chairman Prescott spoke in favor of this article.

Moderator Pearl recognized Chief Blanchette to speak.

Chief Blanchette stated that the fifty two (52) portable radios, at a cost of \$2800 a piece to be replaced. He stated that most of the radios they have are seventeen (17) years old or older. They were obtained primarily through a grant that came about due to a large-scale failed incident that happened in Colebrook in 1998. Every public safety agency received federal funding to get these radios replaced. He has

researched grants and when he went to apply for a grant radios were rated as a medium priority and they had to be more than seventeen (17) years old. Chief Blanchette explained that a majority of their radios were seventeen (17) years old this current year. Chief Blanchette states that with any grants for radios you have to have matching funds available. His hope with this program is to replace all the radios in the department. He received a quote to replace the radios at \$246,000. Chief Blanchette also states that most of their radios are made by Motorola that does not carry any of those parts anymore and can't program them. He would like to see this fund in place so he can apply the money to match grants to get the bulk of the cost covered if successful.

Rodney Phillips of Clough Hill road wanted clarification as to why in October when they were having the Capital Improvements Meeting, the request was for \$120,00 to be raised by taxes next year. Mr. Phillips stated he was curious about why the sudden change. Why is the \$60,000 going into a new Capital Reserve Fund in this year's budget instead of next year. Raised by taxes. Sounds like double? Chief Blanchette stated they need to have half available to match the amount of the grant and need to have proof for that available in order to apply for the grant.

Rodney Phillips of Clough Hill Road asked Chief Blanchette if they are putting \$60,000 away for a couple of years. Chief said yes instead of coming to the townspeople for a full \$120,000.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road wanted Chief Blanchette to confirm that the Capital reserve Fund that we are making, will go away in Two (2) years. Chief Blanchette said that is the intent. Once they are at the halfway mark for the radios, maybe it would be wise for the town to keep putting a little money away for future replacement, instead of coming to the taxpayers for high amounts to replace equipment.

Lisa Laughling of Old Shaker Road felt that the Fire Department "Can't win." They are asking for important items that could help the Fire Department Staff and Supports the Fire Department. They are working hard and are trying to get grants.

MaryAnne Steel of Lower Ridge Road wanted to know why we are not increasing the Capital Reserve Apparatus Equipment. It would make more sense.

Chief Blanchette explained he wasn't against what Mrs. Steele said however, the group of people that he discussed this with has a plan and Chief Blanchette would like to stick to it.

Craig Clough of Goshen Drive, made a motion to move the question.

Moderator Pearl stated that there are a few more people that wanted to speak. After the vote to make a motion he will allow them to speak.

Jodi Russell of 46 Creekwater lane urges the Fire Chief to keep going for grants.

Sandra Hillsgrove of Pittsfield Road, wanted clarification on when Chief Blanchette buys new apparatus, why radios are not included.

Chief Blanchette explains because of cost they do not incorporate portables into the radio purchase of the new engine. The cost is a large amount and he has the full intent of applying for grants to help save the taxpayers money.

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Results are as follows: YES 49 NO 71 **Motion failed.**

Moderator Pearl reads article 12 as written.

Article 12 Firefighter Protective Clothing Extractor/Dryer

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 for the purchase and installation of an Firefighter Protective Clothing Extractor / Dryer, with funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.04.

Selectman Maxfield made a motion to take Article 12 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chief Blanchette spoke in regards to this article. Chief Blanchette explained that this is to help address the presumptive cancer law. The protective clothing, the jacket and pants are currently \$2700 per set. There are only a few department members who have two (2) sets of gear due to the cost. Chief Blanchette talks about the importance of his staff having to go and wash their gear after a fire which they are required to do. Both Stations for the Fire Department have the same types of washers and dryers as residents have in their homes. Using these machines makes it harder for the staff to make it to the next call in a timely manner. Chief Blanchette also explained that they use the same washer and Dryer for the sheets that come off the stretchers as well as their own personal gear. If they had upgraded Washers and Dryers it would help save time between calls. Chief Blanchette welcomes any questions.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy road wanted to know why Chief Blanchette didn't take advantage of using the Expenditure funds or Capital funds rather than going to the taxpayers for this.

Chief Blanchette stated he will defer to the Governing Body to explain the budget process.

Selectman Maxfield explained the process and the reasoning as to why they are asking the taxpayers.

Chairman Prescott added to Seletman Maxfields explanation and stated The capital Reserve fund is for other departments as well.

Alicha Kingsbury of Bear Hill Road wanted to know if this article passes, will the police department be able to use this as well. The Loudon police Department takes their uniforms home to wash themselves and also come into contact with hazardous material as well.

Chief Blanchette stated they work together all the time as well and they could absolutely use it.

Mike Moffett asked if Loudon could possibly use Concord Fire Department's Washer and Dryer.

Chief Blanchette stated that he doesn't think they would appreciate the Loudon Fire Department coming over with twelve (12) sets of gear and using the Washer and Dryer due to Concord needing it. They work with Concord on calls and would have to take turns using them.

Pam Matott of Lesmerises road asked Chief Blanchette when he knew he needed a new washer and dryer
Chief Blanchette explained this was brought forward a few years ago.

Pam Matott also recommended that this should be coming out of the Capital Reserve fund.

Chief explained why they did not recommend using the Capital Fund.

Jim O'Neil of Oak Hill Road spoke and stated that no matter what fund we want to take money out of, it is still coming out of the taxpayers pocket. Mr. O'Neil believes we should be taking care of employees better and felt this is a need.

Jonathon Leonard of 74 Chestnut Circle is a firefighter/EMT on the Loudon Fire Department and has been with the department for 27 years this October. Mr. Leonard explained the condition of his gear, the importance of needing another set. He has only had three (3) sets of gear issued to him. His current set was given to him in 2014. It is now seven (7) years old.

Peter Barton of Old Shaker Road spoke in regards to the budget and asked the Fire Chief how many sets of gear he purchases annually.

Chief Blanchette states he can afford four (4) sets a year.

This Article was requested for a secret Ballot by the five (5) following Registered voters of Loudon. Rodney Phillips, Dustin Bowles, Cynthia Merrill, Peter Pitman and Todd Phelps. Moderator Pearl confirmed that the voters who requested a secret ballot were present at the meeting.

Results are as follows: YES 93 NO 24 **Motion passes.**

Moderator Pearl reads Article 13 as written.

Article 13 Historical Society Museum CRF

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19a, to be designated as the Loudon Historical Society and Museum at 29 South Village Road, for the purpose of demolishing the two-story wooden structure attached to the granite building and rebuilding a new one-story structure on the same footprint and to raise and appropriate \$25,000, to be placed in this fund, with this amount to be raised by taxes; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.05.

Selectman Miller makes a motion to take article 13 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Prescott.

Michelle York of 7150 Currier Road spoke in regards to this article. Michelle is the President of the Historical Society in Loudon and spoke why she is in favor of this article. The Historical Society members have obtained and preserved Loudon artifacts for over fifty (50) years for the town and its citizens. The State of New Hampshire Historical Society has stated the granite building they are discussing is one of the most significant landmarks in our Town. The granite building already has sewer,

electricity and parking which will reduce the cost of construction. Mrs. York states that they have no modern way to store the artifacts in Loudon. If this passes, they can help preserve all of Loudon's history.

Sherry Kluesener of 136 Pittsfield road asked for clarification on the particular building and the name of the fund.

Selectman Maxfield explained to Sherry that the whole building is addressed 29 South Village. And it would only be the Granite building they would utilize.

Moderator Pearl also agreed with Mrs. Kluesener, that the way the article is written there is some confusion.

Maryanne Steel of Lower Ridge road also stated there is confusion on the way this article is written and suggested that they write out a new amendment. Mrs. Steel rewrites Article 13.

"Amend Article 13 to read. To see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19a to be designated as the Loudon Historical Society and museum fund for the purpose of demolishing the 2-story wooden structure attached to the granite building at 29 South Village road and rebuilding a new one story structure on the same footprint and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be placed in this fund, with this amount to be raised in taxes: Further to name the selectmen as agents to expand from this fund."

Motion made by Maryann Steele. Seconded by Peter Pitman.

Moderator Pearl asked the question for All in favor of the Amendment as adopted.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl read Article 14 as written.

Article 14 Solar on town office

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,481 for the installation of solar on the town office building and authorize the withdrawal of \$66,000 from the Alternative Energy Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$7,481 is to come from general taxation. Recommended by the Selectmen. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.02

Chairman Prescott makes a motion to take article 14 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Moderator Pearl recognizes George Saunderson to speak.

George Saunderson of 615 Lovejoy road, chairman of the Energy Committee explained how three years ago the town established the Energy Committee and started a fund and voted to put away \$30,000 a year. Mr Saunderson also added they had a total of \$90,000 in which they spent about \$24,000 with repairs on other town buildings. They do have a remainder of \$66,000 left in their fund. The cost of the project by

putting Solar panels on the Town office building would cost \$73,000. Mr. Saunderson is asking for the remainder of the cost \$7,481. There is also State money that would also help get them close to there. George Saunderson invited Mark Weissflog of KW Management, to speak in regards to the solar panels they are purchasing in detail.

Dustin Bowles of Route 129 wanted clarification as to which Town building. The Town Hall or The Town Offices.

Moderator Pearl answered Mr Bowles' question and stated this article is for the Town Offices.

Harold Maclauchlan of 474 of Route 106 North, also on the Energee Committee, explained where he had decided to put the Solar panels and also added how much money the town would save using Solar.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road asked why they can't take it out of the reserve fund.

George Saunderson answered Mr. Pitman's question saying that the new budget starts in July and they would like to start this project before then. Mr Pitman disagrees and doesn't understand why they could not wait a month and avoid taking out taxpayers' money.

Matthew Cook of Targhee Drive asked what the lifespan of a panel is and if these are coming from China.

Mark Weissflog explained the lifespan on the solar panels is twenty five (25) to Thirty (30) years. When the panels expire, all the parts get recycled. Mark also confirmed that they would be coming from China.

Mr. Cook does not agree to buy Solar Panels from China.

Alvin See of Plateau Ridge Road agreed with Mr. Pitman about the timing of the project starting in July and using funds from the Capital funds. Selecman Miller explained that the time this was asked was back in February before they postponed Town Meeting. At the time they weren't sure they would have those funds.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy road made a motion to table the article until after we vote on the articles presented today to see how much money they would have left in the Capital reserve fund. He suggests after Article 18 has been taken care of. Dustin Bowles seconded the motion made by Mr. Pitman. Moderator Pearl asked for a vote to table Article 14 until after Article 18 is voted on. **Motion passes.**

Moderator Pearl read the question for article 14 for a majority vote in which by majority so too close to call. Moderator Pearl requested a hand count by the Supervisors of the checklist.

Results are as follows: YES 46 NO 42 **Motion passes.**

Moderator Howard Pearl reads Article 15 as written.

Article 15 Library income

To see if the town will vote to permit the Maxfield Public Library to retain all money it receives from its income-generating equipment to be used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase

of books, supplies and income-generating equipment? The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Maxfield made a motion to take article 15 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Selectman Maxfield states he is not in favor of the Article. In addition he adds that all of these articles go through the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administrative for approval then back to the selectmen. In order to adopt this article, first it must have a public hearing and the article must be on the ballot during municipal elections just as Zoning does. Next year they will have a public hearing and will add it to the ballot next March. Selectman Maxfield suggested to the voters they do not vote for this article as it is illegal.

Moderator Pearl, asked if there was any discussion to be had in regards to Article 15. No questions or comments were presented. Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion failed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 16 as written.

Article 16 Audio/Visual System

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purchase of an audio/visual system for the Town Office Meeting Room; capable of streaming and conference calls with said funds to be raised taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$.06.

Selectman Miller made a motion to move Article 16 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Prescott.

Selectman Miller explains Article 16 and the benefits the residents would have investing in this. Selectman Miller calls on Rodney Phillips for an explanation in more detail.

Rodney Phillips of 143 Clough Hill Road, also Chairman of the Loudon Planning Board explains where the location of the equipment will be placed in the Meeting room. Mr. Phillips also explains the advantages of having the audio and video so that the residents of Loudon can watch live meetings from their homes. It helps with transparency. Mr. Phillips said the videos would be viewed live stream through Youtube at no cost. Mr. Phillips explains each member would have a microphone, and two cameras, one focusing on the board Member and one focusing on the applicant. They would also have the ability to be able to view applicants' plans and maps.

Lisa Laughlin of Old Shaker Road asked Mr. Phillips if the cost outline includes staffing and training.

Rodney Phillips answered that the cost for this is included and the training as well.

Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road made a motion to move the question. Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Jeff Leonard asked Mr. Phillips if there is a way you can save these videos to go back on.

Rodney Phillips answered yes.

Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl read Article 17 as written.

Article 17 To adopt RSA 41:14-a

To see if the town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the planning board and to the conservation commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen.

Chairman Prescott made a motion to move Article 17 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Chairman Prescott explained the locations. One parcel in which is described to be a triangle piece located on the Loudon and Canterbury town lines. Abutters would include Kim Bean and Gary Morrisette. The second piece of land is in the village Map 20 Lot 70 and it was taken in 1988. This piece of land is right beside Gary Minery and abuts the land the State owns.

MaryAnne Steele, of Lower Ridge Road spoke against this article. Stating it gives the Seletmen "too much power."

Charlie Aznive of Pleasant Street agrees with Maryanne Steele and speaks against this article.

Pam Matott of Lesmerises Road also agreed that Mrs. Steele spoke against this article.

Sandy Blanchard of Kenney Road wanted to know if this was passed would all the town properties could be put back on the tax roll. She also adds that it may be a good idea for the Selectmen to take over these parcels as she is on the trail's group for the Conservation committee and when the committee put out a survey for residents, the survey showed that people would appreciate more trails. However, Mrs. Blanchard explained that she also agrees with Maryanne Steele and that it does give the Selectmen too much power; she understands both sides.

Moderate Pearl read the question for article 17 for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion failed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 18 as written.

Article 18 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 \$.98

Selectmen Maxfield made a motion to take article 18 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Selectman Maxfield spoke on his motion. He explained in Article 20, we will be able to see what the town operating budget is. The good news is the revenue at this point is just over 2 million. This is for 9 months. The full year would be well over 3 million, helping with the tax impact.

Lee Laughling of Old Shaker Road presented an amendment to increase the Fire Department Apparatus budget line from \$100,000 up to \$160,000. (Which was later withdrawn.)

Jonathon Leonard of 74 Chestnut Circle spoke in favor of this article..

Selectman Miller spoke in favor of this article.

Ben Carter of Foster Road spoke in favor of this article.

Moderator Pearl read the question for article 18 for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed.**

Moderator Pearl reads Article 19 as written.

Article 19 To raise and appropriate for 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 \$.21

Selectman Miller made a motion to move article 19 and move it's adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Prescott.

Selectman Miller is recognized to speak in regards to his motion. Selectman Miller explains that these Expendable funds are similar to CRF or capital reserve funds; it allows them to have money in savings and should can be utilized. It will make it easier to have these available.

Moderator Pearl, asked if there was any discussion to be had in regards to Article 19. No questions or comments were presented. Moderate Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed.**

Moderator Pearl reads Article 20 as written.

Article 20 For general municipal operations.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,110,258 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 \$8.90

Chairman Prescott made a motion to take article 20 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield.

Jodi Russell of Creekwater Lane questions how much of an increase over last year's tax rate will it be, compared to last year's which was \$8.90.

Selectman Miller answered Mrs. Russell by stating that the operating budget is "a little over \$8.00."

Alvin See of Plateau Ridge Road spoke and asked how much this goes to the school.

Selectman Miller explained that this is town only and he would be able to find the school tax rate on his property tax bill. They are separate from each other. He recommends going to the school board or website for any information Mr. See is seeking.

Moderator Pearl read the question for article 20 for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Lee Laughling of Old Shaker Road made a motion to restrict consideration on articles thirteen (13) through twenty (20).

Moderator Pearl asked the question to restrict consideration on articles thirteen (13) through twenty (20). Vote was too close to call. Moderator Pearl asked The Supervisors of the Checklist for a hand count.

Results are as follows: YES 50 NO 27 **Motion passed**

Moderator Pearl explained that there will be an award ceremony and there will be swearing in of any elected officials who need to be sworn in.

Jeff Leonard of Coaster Road wanted to go back on article 16. Mr Leonard would like to amend an article that all conference calls through the town would not be deleted. Mr. Leonard asked if they do keep these files, what the cost will be.

Mr. Leonard had five (5) registered voters sign the amendment. The five (5) registered voters who signed are: Terry Leonard, Jefferey Leonard, Amy Griffin, Donna Laclair, Peter Barton.

Selectman Miller said last year, it was voted that the town keep all records of meetings for ten (10) years. He feels it would be redundant.

Rodney Phillips of Clough Hill Road stated there is no cost at keeping any files with hopes that YouTube doesn't disappear. Although another way to file these would be taken into consideration.

Moderator Pearl asks the question to propose any audio and video to be kept for 5 years to not be deleted. Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion failed**.

Moderator Pearl reads Article 21 as written.

Article 21 To transact any other business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands and seal, this 9th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

Selectman Miller made a motion to take article 21 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Moderator Pearl, asked for a majority vote to close Article 21. No questions or comments were presented. Moderator Pearl read the question for a majority vote in which by majority, the **motion passed**.

Moderator Pearl stated he would hand the podium to Selectman Maxfield for a presentation.

Selectman Maxfield presents certificates to those who were elected and chose not to run this year.

Alice Tuscon was awarded for her seven (7) years as a member of the Planning Board.

Diane Miller was recognized for her five (5) years as library trustee.

Jennifer Becker was recognized for her six (6) years as Trustee of the Trust Funds.

John Storrs was recognized for his (3) years of service as a Planning Board Member.

Selectman Maxfield thanks the Merrimack Valley school district staff for their hard work in audio, set up and maintenance they participated in for our annual Town Meeting.

Chairman Stanley Prescott was recognized for his (3) years of service as Selectman.

Selectman Miller thanked the Town employees for all of their hard work and dedication over the Covid 19 pandemic. The town did not close any offices during that time.

Moderator pearl thanked all for attending the Meeting and stated his appreciation for being our Town Moderator.

Moderator Pearl made a motion to adjourn the Loudon Town Meeting. Seconded by Loudon Resident. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley E. Simonds

Loudon N.H Town Clerk

