

Loudon, New Hampshire Town Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2024

The town of Loudon held its annual Town Meeting on March 16, 2024.

There was a total of 344 registered voters in attendance.

Moderator Phillips began the Meeting at 9:09 AM. Moderator Phillips Recognizes Troop #247 to present the colors and lead the town into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Phillips Recognizes the following people in attendance: Selectman Jeff Miller, Selectman John Storrs, and Chairman Roger Maxfield. Assistant Moderator Janice Morin, Town Clerk Ashley Simonds, and Deputy Town Clerk Theresa Chudoba. Supervisors of the Checklist, Francine Clave, Andrew Parella and Lucy Gordon. Ballot Clerks, George Saunderson, Pat Chagnon and David Colby. Police Chief Kristopher Burgess, Lieutenant Dana Flanders. Road Agent Russ Pearl. Fire Chief Tom Blanchette. State Senator Howard Pearl, State Representative Jose Cambrils, State Representative Alvin See and State Representative Michael Moffett.

Moderator Phillips states he will not be using "Roberts Rules" he will be using the standard State guidelines. Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129 makes a motion to adopt the rules Seconded by Peter Pitman 173 Lovejoy Road. The majority vote passes to adopt the Moderator's rules as printed.

Moderator Phillips reads results and statistics for the Municipal Election held March 12, 2024. There was a total of 701 voters who cast ballots out of 3,952 registered voters in the town. Moderator Phillips states that this was a higher turn out with eighteen% of Loudon voters in comparison to our 2022-2023 Municipal elections which only 13% and 11% of the town voters voted then.

The winners for the town election are as follows: Selectman Race: Dwayne Gilman with 293 votes. Town Clerk Ashley Simonds with 677 votes. Moderator Rodney Phillips with 542 votes. Supervisor of The Checklist Francine Clave with 549 votes. Trustee of the Trust Fund Victoria Phillips with 143 Write-in votes. Planning Board for a 3-year year: Forrest Green with 393 votes. Stanley Prescott II with 392 votes. Planning board for a 1-year term: Alisha Kingsbury. Zoning Board Peter Pitman with 475 votes. Library trustee 3-year term Rebekka Hermann with 289 and Library Trustee 1-year term Amy Corliss with 337 votes.

Amendment one passed with 530 votes. Amendment two passed with 564 votes. Amendment three passed with 545 votes. Amendment four passed with 553 votes. Amendment five passed with 461 votes. Amendment six passed with 521 votes. Amendment seven passed with 520 votes. Amendment eight passed with 454 votes. Amendment nine passed with 504 votes. Amendment ten passed with 450 votes. Amendment eleven passed with 422 votes. Amendment twelve passed with 447 votes. Amendment thirteen passed with 486 votes.

Moderator Phillips explains the numbers and the reports from the town election. How overvotes and undervotes are counted for. He also wanted to address the rumor that the new ballot counting device “slowed down the counting” for election night. Moderator Phillips stated it did not slow it down, they never opened the ballot box until after 8AM and wanted to improve the way they count at the end. They learned a new way of counting through the Moderator of Woodstock Ken who has been in his position for over fifty years and Woodstock’s Town Clerk, Judy who has been serving for over thirty years. With this, Moderator Phillips took an extra step with a new process of Reconciling ballots. They felt “Very confident” using this method.

Moderator Phillips then proceeds to explain the end of night process and how they resolve write-in votes. He then states the time it took for his counters at the end of the night was a total of 2 hours to complete the process after they were sure of the ballots cast. In addition, it took the election officials an additional half hour to box up all election materials at the end of the night. He explains what needs to be boxed up according to the State guidelines. Lastly, the boxes are signed off and handed to the Town Clerk who delivers the boxes in the vault to the Town Office.

Moderator Phillips states that if residents are following the annual report with the blue cover there was a misprint between Articles 7 and 8. The publisher accidentally added Article 22. This is not in the official warrant and encourages all to ignore it.

Moderator Phillips explains to voters how to properly Amend Articles if they want to do so.

Moderator Phillips advises the newly elected officials to be sworn in after the meeting.

Richard Bilodeau of 22 Hollow Route Road makes a motion to move Article 16 (Operating Budget), before Article 3. Seconded by Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129. Moderator Phillips states two-thirds ^{of the} vote is needed to pass. Moderator Phillips reads the motion as follows: “To move Article 16 before Article 3 to be voted on”. Moderator Phillips states it is too close to call so he will ask for a hand count.

Yes 120. No 162. Motion to move Article 16 prior to Article 3 FAILS.

Moderator Phillips reads Article Three As Written:

Article 03 – To purchase a police cruiser (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,500 for the purchase of a police cruiser and authorize the withdrawal of \$30,654 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$29,846 is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). The estimated tax impact is \$0.05.

Chairman Maxfield made a motion to take Article 3 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by: Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield spoke to the motion stating that the total cost for this cruiser is \$60,500. They would like to withdraw the \$30,654 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. Chairman Maxfield states it is the money from last year’s tax money. The new balance that they raise and appropriate would be \$29,846. That represents the \$.05 on a Hundred-dollar evaluation

or five dollars on one hundred thousand. Mr. Maxfield also explains that The Police Department currently has seven cruisers. They would like to reduce the number to five, which will help reduce future costs. They would also like to discontinue the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund if voted on.

Chairman Maxfield explains that the cruiser they would like to discontinue has well over 125,000 miles on it. He asks for the town to support this article.

No further discussion.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 03 for a majority vote required to pass. ***The majority vote passes Article 03.***

Moderator Phillips reads Article 4 as written:

Article 04 – To close Police Cruiser CRF (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. This article is contingent on Article 3 passing. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Miller Makes a motion to Adopt Article 4 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by: Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller states that prior to 2017 they had a fleet of eight cruisers. Moving forward from there; They stopped buying a cruiser each year. Selectman Miller states that this allowed them to save money for the Capital Reserve Fund and now they spend it every other year to purchase a cruiser. Their findings showed that those cars cost the town money, overtime with maintenance. The Police Department has seven full-time police officers. They are short of issuing each officer a car to expand the mileage of the cars. What they chose to do this year along with potentially a new one, is to replace a cruiser every year, as they did prior so every fifth year, the new car would have five years on it with an estimated mileage of 140,000.

Selectman Miller explains that emergency vehicles are not like our “personal” vehicles when they get over a certain mileage. These vehicles are going over higher speeds, they are used more frequently on all road conditions and cost money for maintenance. With that said, Selectman Miller states they would again like to reduce the fleet to only five cruisers and replace them every year in the hope of reducing costs. Every Fifth year a car would go out with five years of service on it. This also helps the officers stay safe and for them to efficiently get to their emergency calls.

Alvin See of 64 Plateau Ridge Road, asks why they would want to discontinue the Police Cruiser CRF since they will continue to buy cruisers? Or is this going to be a line item in the budget every year?

Selectman Miller explains that it would become a line item that it was previously to the Police Departments Operating Budget.

Terese Bastarache of 7337 Oak Hill Road states that she feels it is “Disingenuous” and “Fraudulent” to say that “there is no tax impact”. Mrs. Bastarache would like to look at Articles fourteen and fifteen as an example. The taxpayers will have to put money right back into what the taxpayers just spent out. Therefore, she feels there IS a tax impact and does not agree with the wording. In addition, she states the Police Department is going from seven vehicles to five. She questions why they need to get another one this year. She states there are rarely more than five officers on duty at a time and feels the Police department has a challenging time holding onto officers.

Mrs. Bastarache states that the town should be fiscally responsible at a time when people are struggling financially.

Selectman Miller states the whole purpose of getting rid of this line item is so that they are not putting money back into it in the Capital Reserve. Once they pull the money out that is presently in there, the line is gone. There will be zero funds and that is not going to impact anything further because it will be put into the Operating Budget of the Department. He disagrees with the term “Disingenuous.” He states yes, it will be put into the budget in 2025-2026.

Selectman Miller states they are discussing this today so that everyone knows what the plan is. The impact will not happen until 2025-2026 when it goes back into the line of the Police Department.

Terese Bastarache of 7337 Oak Hill Road points out Article fourteen with putting money back into these Capital Reserve funds. Mrs. Bastarache uses an example of how she would budget for a home improvement on her home. She uses money she saved. In comparison, she suggests the town should not spend the money because it is there. They should save it.

Moderator Phillips clarified that there is no Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund listed in Article 14. Therefore no money is being proposed to be going into it.

Lisa Laughlin of 185 Old Shaker Road questions the language “There is no tax impact” and asks if it comes directly from the DRA?

Selectman Miller states yes. Mrs. Laughlin, states so it is legally required language? Selectman Maxfield states yes.

Richard Bilodeau of 22 Hollow Route Road makes a motion to move the question. Moderator Phillips suggested he withdraw the motion since there is no one else in line to speak. Mr. Bilodeau withdrawn his motion to move the question.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 04 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 04.

Moderator Phillips reads article five as follows:

Article 05 – To purchase Lunar Devices (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purchase of MSA Lunar devices and authorize the withdrawal of \$20,000 from the Self-Contained Breathing

Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

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

Chairman Maxfield Defers to The Fire Chief, Tom Blanchette.

Fire Chief Tom Blanchette shows the handheld Lunar device and explains that when they received their air packs a few years ago, they were full of technology. They did not have all the money to buy the technology, but they needed the air packs. The ones they had were fifteen years old and they were out of standard. They had to replace the air packs with the money that they had. The fund was established so they could buy the air packs needed every fifteen years. Fire Chief Blanchette explains the problem with that is they do not always have the money and prices on them increase.

His plan for moving forward is that they do not upgrade everything all at once because it is costly and depletes the funds completely. Instead, they would like to do "phased purchases." To be more responsible with money and responsible for the equipment so they do not run into a situation where everything is bad at once.

Fire Chief Tom Blanchette states the benefits of the Lunar Device. It has Thermal imaging; cameras that link to the air packs they bought previously. The Lunar Devices also work on AT&T First Net technology, so they are communicators as well. They translate any information that the camera on the front sees back to the Commanding vehicle. These have the capabilities to see people trapped in burning buildings. They can see the conditions inside from outside. Fire Chief Blanchette explains they can then see how many personnel they need to assist with the emergency and these devices can help them get more resources on a day that staffing is short and limited.

It can outline anything in a room in green including bodies. This will help expedite searches for Fire fighters and can alert the Commander of anyone in danger. It can alert them of any firemen who may have stopped breathing, and it can tell the environment of a room the firefighter is in. He would like to purchase four, for the a few of the trucks, the engine, and the tower truck.

Rick Whitney of 11 Route 129, asks if they have no thermal imagers on any of the apparatus they currently have?

Chief Blanchette states they have two thermal imagers that are more than ten years old. Technology then was different from what it is today. Every one of their air packs has a 2inch by two inches built into the regulator but it is the color pallet technology.

Rick Whitney of 11 Route 106, asks if the Lunar Device is also cellular phone based? Chief Blanchette states yes. Mr. Whitney asks if there is anywhere in Town that this device will not work in?

Fire Chief Blanchette states that he did not bring this to the floor before because they were unsure of AT&T technology capabilities, but they use it on cardiac monitors as well town phones and tablets amongst their devices. The one spot they found does not work is right at Clough Hill Road and 129, from there through the next little hollow. They do have a deficiency there but other than that, he has not found any issues.

Mr. Whitney would like to know how much testing have they done on these devices with Mask Destruction, coal smoke or other testing? He knows of other communities that use different units and have completed hours of testing. He would like Chief Blanchette to guarantee that these are the best units they can get for \$20,000. As a retired firefighter with the City of Concord for thirty years he has experience and would like to know What have they done for Lunar training? He also wanted to know why they did not currently have any. He feels there are better units out there.

Chief Blanchette states that Cities have more resources than small towns. They have a smaller staff and in addition to the responsibilities he and the Deputy Chief have they unfortunately do not have the time to train their employees. They have trained with these at the two demos they attended and stated everyone felt comfortable using them. There are not any training issues he feels currently.

Chairman Maxfield states that this Capital Reserve they have \$80,662.45. They are asking for \$20,000. They will be putting back \$15,000 in Article 14 which is \$.03 on a one-hundred-dollar evaluation. Chairman Maxfield encourages the voters to support this article.

Chief Blanchette describes how they figured the budget this year. Chief Blanchette states that this process started last July. Prices can go down, there is a promotion currently and he believes he can buy these at \$14,000 rather than the \$20,000. They only need four. When you budget, you must put in a number that you feel is good. Sometimes those numbers are inflating.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 05 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 05.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to restrict reconsideration for Articles 3,4 and 5. Seconded by Dustin Bowles of 1229 Route 129.

Motion passes by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads article six as follows:

Article 06 – To replace doors & windows at Safety Complex (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the replacement of doors and windows at the Safety Complex and authorize the withdrawal of \$45,000 from the Safety Complex Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 06 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield asks if Selectman Miller knows of the balance.

Selectman Miller states the current balance is \$83,977.19.

Chairman Maxfield explains that this is for the small interior/exterior doors and windows at the safety Complex. Last year they installed eight overhead doors which work well and will save money by keeping heat inside.

Chairman Maxfield continues stating that In Article 14 they will be putting money back into it which will be \$.03 impact on a hundred-dollar evaluation. The \$45,000 comes from last year's tax money so it will not affect the new tax rate.

Chief Blanchette stated they started this fund a few years ago so they would have the funds towards the maintenance for the building. Rather than to go to the town asking for a new building which could cost the town up to eight million like other neighboring communities. Chief Blanchette states the doors currently are all metal and have two to three inches of rust. The interior windows are outdated, and the weather can work its way around them. The received money from ARPA funds helped cover costs last year for new windows and doors. Propane heating went down 50% by making those changes. He feels he will see more energy costs and encourages voters to pass this.

Mary Hewitt of 12 Sheep Rock would like clarification on the dollar amount. Is it per thousand or per hundred? She states there is a difference.

Selectman Miller states that it is per thousand.

Douglas Proulx of 40 Iris Lane, would like to know if everything that is being asked for today gets approved, what impact would it have on the tax rate?

Selectman Miller states it would come to \$11.11 per thousand including the general fund.

Mr. Proulx would like to know how this compares to last year's tax rate? Selectman Miller states the towns portion of the total bill is \$5.77. His estimate if everything today passes is \$11.11. He would also like to remind everyone that is not included in the revenue coming in. The estimated revenue is about half of that amount.

Selectman Miller estimates about \$5.50 however, this is just an estimate. They will not know until September when the revenues are submitted in October. By November they should know. He also states that there are three new businesses coming to Loudon which will also help bring in revenue. It also depends on the assessment of the values of the town.

Mr. Proulx asks if this will be a flat rate this year compared to last year.

Selectman Miller states yes. He encourages residents to start coming to the budget meetings. At the first budget meeting they had one resident show up. The second they had twelve residents show up. Selectman Miller states Residents can ask the Trustee of The Trust Funds who keeps track of interest rates, which also plays a factor in these numbers. They try to calculate out to two years. He reminds people that this year they are not repairing big roads this year. In over Five

years they have repaired Three roads and repaired Two bridges. They are trying to keep tax dollars down.

Selectman Maxfield states that last year's revenue was about three million. That helps cut the budget in half, On the capital reserve funds their revenue was \$60,000.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 06 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 06.

Moderator Phillips reads article seven as follows:

Article 07 – To reclaim and pave Lesmerises Road (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$290,000 to reclaim and pave Lesmerises Road and authorize the withdrawal of \$290,000 from the Roadway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Miller Makes a motion to move article 7 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller refers to Road Agent Russ Pearl.

Road Agent Pearl states the condition of Lesmerises road makes it a priority for him currently. He also stated that if anyone has driven down this road recently, they would understand why. Road Agent Pearl confirms with Selectman Miller stating prior that they will be bringing one road that was in the Capital Reserve Fund. Road Agent Pearl states it is .85 miles long and it looks like it should be an easy road to fix. They do have a few culverts to check on. The only issue will be the gas company will have to remove all their shut-off covers. Road Agent Pearl estimates about twenty that would have to be taken out and then reset by the company. Mr. Pearl states that he feels it is straightforward.

Selectman Miller states that he feels Russ and his crew have done an amazing job along with the construction crew that have helped. Selectman Miller adds they have developed a better plan to maintain the roads in comparison to the past. They used to tear up the roads then pave over them again. Now, they are building stronger foundations to help the roads last longer. Selectman Miller appreciates the hard work and dedication of Russ and his crew. Selectman Miller also states they have roads and bridges they want to work on in the future and are currently looking into ways to help with costs.

Melissa Tucker of 581 Route 129 would like clarification that if they pass this Article "As written" there is a typo in the dollar amount.

Moderator Phillips states the official Warrant is correct. It has a comma.

Philip Nadeau of 96 Lesmerises Road would like to give a "Thank you" to the Selectmen for placing this on the warrant article. Mr. Nadeau also wanted to thank Police Chief Kristopher Burgess and all the police staff who have spent a lot of time monitoring speeding on the road. He feels incredibly grateful for the time and effort spent.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 07 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 07.

Peter Pitman of 73 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to restrict reconsideration for Articles six and seven. Seconded by Lisa Laughlin of 185 Old Shaker Road.

Motion passes by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads article eight as follows:

Article 08 – To purchase a road tractor (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purchase of a road tractor and authorize the withdrawal of \$75,000 from the Transfer Station Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

Selectman Storrs makes a motion to move article 8 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Chairman Maxfield would like to Defer to Road Agent Russ Pearl to speak on Article eight but before Road Agent Pearl comments, Chairman Maxfield states they have \$89,017.92 in the Capital Reserve Fund. They will be putting back in \$30,000 to keep the Capital Reserve active.

Road Agent Pearl would like to clarify that the road tractor is the truck that pulls the trailers that hauls all the trash to Penacook. This truck is needed; they must rely on this three times a week. They also only have two days to repair it if something goes wrong. He is okay with a used truck, but it must be dependable. When the transfer station closes it cannot be a place that closes for too long. They need another vehicle. Road Agent Pearl states that this is a highly needed item.

Selectman Miller asks what it cost the town last year when they had to have another company come in to help at the transfer station? Road Agent Pearl stated that it cost \$650-\$700 per dumpster, with loads being dropped off up to three times a day by another company.

Selectman Miller states that the truck they bought years ago has many mechanical issues with it and advises people to go look at it. They only have so much money in the Operations Budget. They do their best to make sure they can do what they can. The truck is barely “Road ready.”

Road Agent Pearl states the truck currently has 427,000 miles on it and is a 2014. Any truck he decides to purchase, will be brought to the Selectboard meetings for public input.

Selectman Miller also states the cost it would take to send this truck to a mechanic would be costly to keep the truck roadworthy and to find parts for older trucks.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 08 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 8.

Moderator Phillips reads Article nine as follows:

Article 09 – To purchase excavator and trailer (PASSES)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of a mini excavator with trailer and authorize the withdrawal of \$150,000 from the Highway Equipment Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

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

Chairman Maxfield states that the Town currently has \$ 248,332.21 in the Capital Reserve Fund. They would like to put \$50,000 back into it to keep it active.

Chairman Maxfield would like to Defer to Road Agent Russ Pearl.

Road Agent Pearl states that the current excavator they use is a 2001 Rubber tired Excavator. Road Agent Pearl feels this excavator is too large for the ditch working they do. It currently has 10,410 hours on it. They can still use it and utilize its use at the Transfer station three times a week. They use it for brush burning and use it for other projects on the roads. Most ditches they take care of are two feet wide. The bucket on the excavator is about five feet wide. Its large stick and boom can reach up to the wires and trees. Road Agent Pearl states that a smaller excavator would cost less in repairs and would be easier to work with culverts, ditches, and other miscellaneous projects around town. He hopes to get approval for a slightly used one and he is hoping to also look at bids.

Matt Raimer of 173 Clough Hill Road would like to know why the Town Departments such as Fire, Police and Highway are not exploring the option to lease equipment or vehicles. Mr. Raimer states homeowners and business owners rent them, and it covers the cost of maintenance. It may save the town money.

Selectman Miller states that they have looked into it in the past with police cruisers but after communication with several other towns who did lease for a few years, have gone back to buying because it was not saving them money it was costing them more. Selectman Miller states you must factor into each vehicle being leased, the maintenance on them plus other fees. In all actuality it would be doubling the price.

Selectman Miller does state he has not done research on other equipment, only cruisers.

Mr. Raimer states that companies nowadays rent them because of the dollar amount today.

Selectman Miller reminded the voters that Road Agent Pearl is looking for used equipment to help with costs. They are not a business; they are a town so prices may vary for the town lease.

Road Agent Pearl states he leased an excavator before he went into business and feels it is like purchasing it just prolongs the deal. Road Agent Pearl does not know of any companies that cover maintenance. He states it would get costly because of the amount they would use the equipment for.

Moderator Phillips asks for a hand count. Yes 165. No 123. Article 9 passes.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 10 as follows:

Article 10 – Solar array at the Clough Hill Fire Station (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,575 to install a solar array at the Clough Hill Fire Station and authorize the withdrawal of \$68,575 from the Alternative Energy Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

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

Geroge Saunderson of 615 Lovejoy Road, is also a member of Loudon's Energy Committee. Mr. Saunderson states the Energy Committee has been putting another Solar array on the Fire Station located at Clough Hill. This decision came after the success of the installation of the town office arrays installed in 2021.

Mr. Saunderson states that the Fire Department has a large electrical building which is why this was a selection. He thanks the Alternative Energy Capital Reserve Fund, which now has enough money to cover the cost. KW gave the Energy Committee an "excellent" bid, for building the project, which they also built for the Town Office building. Mr. Saunderson states he is hoping for a majority vote to pass this since the Selectmen also recommend this article.

Mr. Saunderson stated that the total electric bill for the town offices, between September 2021-February 2024 was \$93.51 and put away 102,000 pounds of CO2 emissions in the air.

Jean Blodgett of 23 Bee Hole Road expresses her concern for wildlife and solar panels. She would like to know how many birds have passed away due to the current solar panels put in at the Town Offices. She states billions of birds are killed every year because of solar panels.

Selectman Miller states he has not seen any dead birds outside of the offices. He can see how arrays that are on pedestals are dangerous to wildlife but the panels that the town has installed should not have any effect on the wildlife.

Alicha Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road states that she has been attending the Selectmen's meetings for a while and when this topic came up in the past, Selectman Miller had asked the group what the savings would be. She feels that they never show evidence of the Town saving money. Ms. Kingsbury also recalled at a meeting there was talk of repairs which sounded costly that may not have been covered under the warranty and did not save the town money.

Selectman Miller states there are many factors that play into the figures. They have to look at the K watts and try to dissect that information. What they did from September 2021 to now is to look at the actual bills for the building. He states the building burns a lot of electricity so when you have a zero factor each month they are saving money. He states it did cost an estimate of \$70,000. They are saving money and the environment.

Harold MacLauchlan of 474 Route 106 North, to confirm with Jean Blodgett's comments about birds, he does know that windmills are a cause of deaths but not roof tops. He also suggests for future projects coming up that the Energy Committee look into grants as well. He supports this article and encourages voters too, as well.

Trudy Mott-Smith of 91 Kenney Road was on the First Energy Committee in Loudon. Mrs. Mott-Smith and has been a member until recently. She is concerned with the first array failing and not having anyone notice until a few months after. IS there a new plan for the new array to be monitored by the Town of KW?

George Saunderson stated that there was a slight problem, but it was easily and quickly fixed. The array is checked weekly. These will be monitored weekly as well. Through the Solar array, you can also look at each panel to see if it is working.

Trudy Mott-Smith stated that Congress passed an Infrastructure Bill in 2021 following another infrastructure bill in 2022. Those are two streams of funding that Loudon could tap into. There is also another way to apply for a Grant by Jean Shaheen. Mrs. Mott-Smith would like to know if there were any proposals to do so for this project?

George Saunderson states that it is not because the funding that is coming from the federal government initially was for much more communities than Loudon. Things are changing and they are trying to keep up with the changes. They hope to do a few more arrays. They got all the money on this array through savings and would look into grants in the future.

Don Falkowski of 5 McKenzie Road wanted to know what the projected savings would be and when it would be paying for itself. The talk of CO₂, is it different from what we are breathing in right now? What does CO₂ cost in addition to the Solar Rays? What impact will this have if the Town votes yes.

Selectman Miller states the town would not be impacted by this now.

James Troon of 114 Lovejoy Road would like to confirm that this is a purchase not a lease from KW. Do we know the size of the K watts? Has there been a study on net savings?

Gerge Saunderson replies that this is bought, not leased and we do not currently know the size. These are difficult to guess. At Clough Hill Fire station there, the bill is \$10,406 for electricity. Putting in this will pay itself off in six years. There will be a day when we see electricity free for the town.

Mary Cozzens of 410 Clough Hill Road wants to know how much is the cost?

Moderator Phillips states the warrant article is for \$68,575.00. Mrs. Cozzens also wanted to know what it cost in repairs if they had thought about getting a warranty and had looked into grants. She feels this is a want and not a need.

Gerge Saunderson explained because we are under warranties the town has not paid for any repairs. They are warranted for 25 years. In addition, he hopes he will try to go for grants. He also reminds people that they have the money that they have been saving for this project.

Richard Bilodeau of 22 Hollow Route Road would like to vote to move the question.

Trudy Mott-Smith adds she is for the array and encourages people to vote for this. She suggests people sign up for the Energy Newsletter. Trudy reads lines out of an article she brought regarding a program waiting for approval that will help Municipalities with Solar projects.

Don Falkowski makes a motion to table this article. Seconded by Jean Blodgett of 23 Bee Hole Road.

Terry Bridges 96 Pine Ridge Road questions the motion on “Tabling.”

Karen Noyes of 159 Clough Hill Road feels that the motion to move the table is taking president.

Moderator Phillips tries to clarify the terminology.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road calls for a point of order. The point of order is you have a motion on the floor that has been seconded. We have to vote on that motion before you can take any other motions.

After discussing with Assistant Moderator Janice Morin, Moderator Phillips makes a motion to table this article.

The majority vote FAILS to table the article.

Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129 made a motion to move the question. Seconded by Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road.

Majority Vote passes to move question.

Article 10 was made to vote by secret ballot by the following people: Jen Mercer of 556 Lovejoy Road, Alichia Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road, Terry Bridges of 96 Pine Ridge Road and David Cooper.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 10 done by secret ballot. Yes 179. No 132. Article 10 Passes.

Moderator Phillips reads Article ten as follows:

Article 11 – Community Power (PASSED)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Loudon Community Power plan, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Loudon Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.” The Selectmen recommend this article. There is no tax impact. Majority Vote Required.

Selectman Storrs takes Article 11 and moves its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

George Saunderson states that the Loudon Energy Committee has also been collaborating with the Community Power Coalition to get Loudon and other towns involved in the coalition. Today he invited Henry Hermann as a guest speaker who will answer any questions residents may have regarding Community Power.

Henry Hermann states they are a nonprofit organization. His purpose is not to weigh in on one side or the other. This is a warrant article to adopt the Loudon Community power electric aggregation plan and adopt the plan to authorize but not obligate the Selectmen to implement this program if they chose to by entering into service contracts. If implemented, Loudon Community power would become the town's new Electricity provider. Which means Eversource and Until will own the grid and they will always be responsible for delivering the electricity and sending customers the bill. What would change is the line item on the bill energy line. It would change to Loudon community power. Residents are informed of this change 30 days in advance and they can opt out and choose other options.

Mr. Hermann states this can lower costs and there are already a dozen programs similar to this one throughout the state.

Jen Mercer of 556 Lovejoy Road asked for clarification that this would be implanted if this was adopted today. Moderator Phillips states that Article states yes.

Mr. Hermann also adds that the final decision lies with the Selectboard. This is the process the state RSA states.

Mrs. Mercer would also like to know why the Selectmen approve this article.

Selectman Miller states that if this helps lower electricity and fuel costs, he is for this. He currently gets his fuel from a similar program based out of Barnstead for \$.03 cheaper. He feels this is a wonderful way to keep rates down.

Chairman Maxfield states the alternate energy Committee came to the board with a proposal and they decided to have the townspeople vote this in or out.

Mrs. Mercer feels this is not a clever idea for many reasons. At the top of the list is anything into which you are automatically opted. If this is such an innovative idea why force the entire town to be involved? Why would she want to do this when she has a fabulous rate with her current provider? And she is in complete control.

Jen Mercer also requests to vote by secret ballot by the following people: Jen Mercer of 556 Lovejoy Road, Matt Bouchard, Terry Bridges of 96 Pine Ridge Road and Bonnie Bridges of 96 Pine Ridge Road.

Alicha Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road what is the service contract they intend to implement with the town?

Mr. Hermann explains it is a contract for Loudon to be a part of Community Power and it would be the default provider. This purpose is to have a locally controlled program. You can always opt out to go to another provider. Everyone gets 30 days' notice. Ms. Kingsbury would like to know if the town does benefit from this. Mr. Hermann states there is a contract to provide electricity to customers with more services.

Ms. Kingsbury would like to know if all Three selectmen were in favor of this article. Selectman Miller and Selectman Maxfield both stated they were in favor of this article. Ms. Kingsbury

stated she had spoken to a Selectmen who was against this. She did not want to call him out and he did not want to come forth at the meeting. She feels this is not a good benefit to the town.

Selectman Miller states anybody can opt out of this.

Alvin See of 64 Plateau Ridge Road remembered from a presentation that was held at Charlie's Barn that this was an "opt in" program not an "opt out" one. How does this work with the county community program this is currently being worked on?

Mr. Hermann states that this is an opt-out program and Merrimack County delegation last week voted to adopt a community program. And it would not affect Loudon. The purpose of the country program is to elevate the town's planning process.

Don Falkowski of 5 McKenzie Road wants to know how there is no tax impact. What is the cost going to be on the upcoming taxes?

Mr. Hermann states under state law they are not allowed to use any general funds or taxpayers' money to pay for the operations. They must be for the charge on the electric bills.

Jamie Troon, 114 Love Joy Road would like clarification that the town currently has an agreement with Eversource and Until and this would then be the default.

Mr. Hermann states there is not an agreement per say with Eversource and Until, it is a new legislative change that gives this option to have an alternate default provider.

Terese Bastarache of 7337 Oak Hill Road wants to know what percentage of the town has to be involved with opting in to get the ultimate rate?

Mr. Hermann states that all the programs that moved forward have been an opt out program. Only 1% have opted out. Any customer can opt out without a penalty or fee. It becomes effective on your next monthly bill.

Michelle York of 7150 Currier Road asks Henry Hermann out of all the towns that have brought this up to town meetings how many have opposed it? Mr. Hermann states he knows of the 30-40 passed and one that has not.

Mrs. York agrees those are good numbers and by the sounds of it many people feel this is the right option. She has an 85-year-old mother who is hoping this town helps pass this to save her money.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129. Moderator Phillips states there is one more person in line to speak.

Mary Cozzens of 410 Clough Hill Road states that she feels that there is no guarantee these fees will stay low. She does not feel the government should have a say in who we chose for providers. She does feel as an individual the town or government should opt her for. She is fine where she is.

Mr. Hermann states there is no fee for opting in or out of the program.

The majority vote passes to move the question.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 11 done by secret ballot. Yes 164. No 146. Article 11 Passes.

Lisa Laughlin of Old Shaker Road would like to make a motion to restrict reconsideration of article 8,9 and 10. Seconded by Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road.

Motion to restrict Articles 8,9 and 10 Passed by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads Article twelve as follows:

Article 12 – Close Town History CRF (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Town History Capital Reserve fund created in 2016. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). There is no tax impact.

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

Chairman Maxfield states that this Capital Reserve Fund was established to write the Town of 250th History of Loudon book. The book has been Published by Author Melissa Moore of Loudon Ridge Road. They have sold many copies and feel they can discontinue this fund. They still have \$13,647.94 that they would like to put back into the general fund.

Michael Moffett of 144 Greenview Drive questions the closing of this fund and will there be a tax impact on putting money in other funds. What is the process in doing so?

Chairman Maxfield states they have a Capital Improvement Program Committee that the Planning Board runs. This committee meets several months out of the year and meet with department heads to see what funds they need for their department. They meet every Fall. The first capital reserve ever established was in 1959 for the Fire Department.

Selectman Miller states that these committees const of department heads, a member of the select board and planning/zoning members as well. And anybody else who wants to be else on the board. They work together on a five-year plan. These intentions are to not burden the taxpayers. These funds go back to the unreserved funds balance and at the end of every year they can figure out with the DRA what the new rate is. The board can apply those funds to the tax rate to reduce the amount of the tax rate.

Elgie Goodwin of 75 Coaster Road wants clarification on where the money goes, and does it go back to the Selectmen for the general to decide where it goes.

Chairman Maxfield states that it goes back into the General Fund in the unreserved balance. It can go towards the tax rate. They do this every year. If they did not have it there the tax rate would be higher.

Selectman Miller also adds For Audit Purposes it has to go back to the General Fund.

Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 106 explains how a capital reserve works and that the Selectboard does not have the authority to move money to one fund or the other. IT can only be done at Town meetings.

James Troon 114 Lovejoy Road wants clarification on two-line items mentioned in Article 14 that are distinctly different from the line item in this Article.

Chairman Maxfield answers yes.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by George Page.

The majority vote passes to move the question.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 12 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 12.

Moderator Phillips read Article 13 as written.

Article 13 – Retiree Liabilities ETF (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to establish a Retirees Liabilities Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the payout of accruals at retirement and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). The estimated tax impact is \$0.04.

Selectman Miller made a motion to take Article 13 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Selectman Miller states when employees retire from town if they have accumulated time on the books such as: annual time, comp time, sick time, and any other benefits the town offers, to their full-time employees, are liable to pay that time out. Selectman Miller states that over the several years he has been in his position he has only had two people retire.

One employee who retired cost the town about \$15,000 that they did not have allocated, and the board had to hunt for money to pay this individual off. Selectman Miller suggests that they look into this article and take it seriously as they have about three-four employees looking to retire in the next year or two. The estimated cost is \$35,000. This article will allow the board to have a line item to be able to pull funds from to pay the employees who have served the town for some time and are retiring. They have accumulated their time. Selectman Miller states it is a liability to the town, and they need funds available, which would start in July.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 13 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 13.

Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129 makes a motion to restrict articles 11,12 and 13. Seconded by Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road.

Motion passes by Majority vote.

Chairman Maxfield recognizes with a certificate of appreciation to Marylin Whitten for her 3 years as a member of the Planning Board

Chairman Maxfield is recognized with a certificate of appreciation to Selectman John Storrs for his 3 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Moderator Phillips adds that he would like to recognize Janice Morin for her 40 years of service to the Town of Loudon. Moderator Phillips speaks on how he met Janice in 1987 when he himself joined the Loudon fire department. Janice had already been a member since 1985. Since, Ms. Morin, has worked for Loudon Police Department, served as assistant Moderator, helped with elections, the school PTA, The D.A.R.E program, old home Day as a judge. Janice has also helped with many other committees.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 14 as written.

Article 14 – To raise and appropriate for existing CRF's (PASSED)

To see if the Town of Loudon will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,290,000 to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds.

Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund \$125,000

Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund \$200,000

Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund \$200,000

Roadway Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$350,000

Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund \$15,000

Alternative Energy Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000

Town Garage Capital Reserve Fund \$200,000

Safety Complex Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

Town History Museum Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000

The Selectmen recommend this article.

(Majority vote required).

Estimated tax impact is \$1.79

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

Chairman Maxfield explains the process of the Capital reserve committee and funds stating: They have a capital improvement program which is set by the Planning Board chairman with recommendations taken from the Department heads. They all form this committee. They have to replenish the Capital Reserves each year to keep them active. The Chairman of the Planning Board sends a letter to the selectmen the figures of what they need. The Selectmen approved them, and they brought these figures to the Legislative body for a vote.

Karen Noyes of 159 Clough Hill Road Makes a motion to amend Article 14 to a total of \$998,000. The same as last year. The Fire Department \$200,000 to \$125,000 (same as last year).

Ambulance \$100,000 to \$63,000 (same as last year). Self-contained breathing apparatus \$15,000. Remove Alternative Energy \$30,000. Town garage \$200,000 to 100,000 (same as last year). Safety Complex \$20,000. Remove Town History \$50,000.

Chairman Maxfield states that those are arbitrary figures. They are not based on the needs of the departments or the town replenishing the Capital Reserves.

Alicha Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road seconded motion.

Moderator Phillips asks for discussion on the amendment brought to the floor by Karen Noyes.

Chairman Maxfield states the town garage is one of the facilities they need more than any other. Chairman Maxfield states the other buildings are in decent shape. If we do not put \$200,000 away the building could cost up to a million and take years to build in the Capital reserve to pay for it. They have considered taking bonds out. The figures to be voted on today have a five-ten-year projection.

Lisa Laughlin of 185 Old Shaker Road states prices have gone up-they are not going down. Mrs. Laughlin agrees to putting the money away now at a lower rate rather than see it come out of taxes at a future time.

Earl Tuson of 5 Pittsfield Road asks for clarification on the amendment. He states it says, "the same as last year." Mr. Tuson states that "Remove the Town History \$50,000. insinuates we need to put money back in, rather than close the account.

Moderator Phillips clarified that Mrs. Noyes stated it was the total amount from last year and she wanted to reduce three-line items to go back down and reduce it to zero.

Mary Cozzens of 410 Clough Hill Road would like to know the current balance of each fund. Mrs. Cozzens does not feel the town needs much more. Mrs. Cozzens asks specifically what is left of the Alternate Energy Capital Reserve Fund and how much does the town normally spend out of that fund and what was put into this last year.

Moderator Phillips states \$94,570.51 is left in the Alternate Energy Reserve Fund.

Selectman Miller states that it is hard to say. It depends on the array they are looking at to purchase and the equipment involved. Selectman Miller states \$30,000 is the amount that has been put away for a few years. He states this is for preparation just in case if things go wrong, they have an opportunity to do a solar array with funds available, so they do not have to burden the taxpayers again with any other funds.

Mary Cozzens would also like to know how much money the town put away for Roadway improvements/

Moderator Phillips states \$350,000. He states these figures are in the report from last year.

Selectman Miller states they spent \$125,000 out of that fund to pay for road maintenance, after July when the new budget started to pay for road maintenance.

Mary Cozzens asks if the balance is \$225,000 remaining in that fund. She states that at a time that everyone is cutting their own budgets she feels the town should cut theirs. She supports this amendment and encourages others to do so.

Selectman Miller states that currently it is \$355,172.14. Selectman Miller states they build interest on these funds as they sit so this number may be off.

Chairman Maxfield stated they had a recommendation to tar another road for \$350,000. They put that on hold until next year. They will be using those funds in the future for infrastructure. Each year, roads deteriorate.

Katherin Phelps of 1102 Route 129 asks how much an ambulance, or a Fire Truck costs today as to what it would cost ten years from now. Capital Reserve Funds are a long-term planning tool and help us look into the future.

Fire Chief Tom Blanchette states the Capital Reserve funds start in June and he encourages involvement from the community. The Fire Department line increased to \$200,000 this year because the Tower truck they purchased used in 2014 is now going to be twenty years old. Given the age of this truck it is hard to find parts, and a new tower truck can cost from \$1.4-\$1.8 million dollars. Next year they plan to go before the legislative body to see what they can do to help fund this. There is not enough money in the fund to purchase a new one.

Chief Blanchette states Ambulances used to cost \$200,000. They are now \$400,000. Everything has gone up in Public Safety almost 100% since 2020. He purchased an ambulance last year and they still have yet to see it nor have a date on when it will be complete. They have spent \$12,000 on maintenance for the current ambulance they are replacing. Chief Blanchette continues to discuss prices of trucks then vs now.

Chief Blanchette encourages the public to be involved in the CIP planning process and go to public meetings and give their input then they consider.

Richard Bilodeau 22 Hollow Route Road is not in favor of the amendment and would like to move the question. Seconded by a Loudon resident.

Moderator Phillips states there is one more person at the microphone.

Kathryn Ambrose of 196 North Village Road would like to ask the Selectman: According to the Capital Improvement Program, how many of these funds are intending to sit for five years or more, suggesting the Trustee of the trust funds could invest them in less liquid investments higher interest-bearing investments for the funds.

Chairman Maxfield states that as mentioned prior the interest they got from the Capital Reserve funds is over \$60,000. They sit for years but still make money. IN addition, Selectman Miller states some of the higher ticket items are scheduled out such as: Highway trucks. They are out for up to ten years as a replacement. They have a plan and plan out when the expense will be. The Trustees do have a window of time to look into them.

Chairman Maxfield would like the voters to look at page 73 in the Annual report the funds.

Moderator Phillips makes a motion to vote on amending Article 14 as written by the five petitioners.

Motion to Amend Article 14 fails by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 14 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 14.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 15 as written.

Article 15 – To raise and appropriate for existing ETF's (PASSED)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$142,000 to be placed in previously established Expendable Trust Funds.

Recreation Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$2,000

Conservation Commission Land Expendable Trust Fund \$50,000

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 \$0.20

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 15 and move its adoption as printed.

Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield Explains like the previous Article, these are amounts they feel they need to put in for these funds.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 15 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 15.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to restrict reconsideration for Articles 14 and 15. Seconded by Lisa Laughlin of Old Shaker Road.

Motion to restrict reconsideration on articles 14 and 15 passes by a majority vote.

Moderator Phillips read Article 16 as written.

Article 16 – Operating Budget (PASSED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,452,089 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required). The estimated tax impact is \$8.92.

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

Chairman Maxfield states on page 14 the line item for Police and Fire Special Events is for \$180,000. That is an accounting item they had to put in for the operating budget, but it is paid by the town. In addition, there is another line item (page 16) called the Highway Block grant. They get money from the state each year \$177,796. In total they received \$357,796. If they take that from the bottom line of the budget it lowers it down to six million. They also get three million in revenue and have funds in the unreserved that sits with the Department of revenue. We have a serviced-based budget and need these funds.

Selectman Miller also adds there is a substantiation increase in salaries. Selectman Miller states they lost eight employees last year because those employees felt they could go elsewhere that paid five dollars or more an hour. The cost to send one person to training is \$7,000 with custom fitted gear. Selectman Miller states that other Police Departments and Fire Departments pay more in other communities. They are in competition with other agencies. Now is the time to take care of the employees we currently have.

Selectman Miller also states that Over time budgets increase, NHMA Detail rates have gone up as well. They have to balance revenue with those who are dedicated to getting up in the middle of the night and safe residents.

Rick Whitney off 11 Route 129, states if Chief Blanchette is going to send someone to the Fire Academy, we are taking a "shot" economically. Mr. Whitney suggests that when these individuals sign these contracts, they should be economically liable to pay them back. He states they should go after the poaching towns, seeking out our employees as well if we cannot get the money paid back from new hires that leave. For the cost of what it takes to send the trainees to school, does the town get any of the 3 years of the cost back? His taxes have doubled since 2021 and would like to save somewhere.

Selectman Miller states the only obligation they have for a contract such as the one suggested by Mr. Whitney is only for Police Departments because it is an RSA. And the town can only receive so much of the money back within the years. It is prorated and they go after it when they can. Selectman Miller states he is a taxpayer as well and with the newest assessment the taxes have increased with that as well.

Alicha Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road, Town employees do deserve raises and she agrees with that however, she would like to make a motion to amend Article 16 to reduce the line item 110 (Selectmen's Salaries) to \$15,000. Stating the Selectmen are overpaid in comparison to other towns in addition to reducing their hours to meet only twice a month rather than weekly. Ms. Kingsbury would also like to reduce the balance of the budget by an additional 10% to \$5,793,381.10.

Seconded by Terese Bastarache of 7337 Oak Hill Road.

Katherine Phelps of 1102 route 129 calls for a point of order.

Moderator Phillips Phillips explains that you can reduce a budget line. The legislature recognizes this is a budget and the Selectmen are allowed to move money around, effectively, you can only reduce the bottom line of the budget. They can only reduce a line item to zero.

Alicha Kingsbury asks that the only person allowed to reduce the Selectmen's salary is the selectman. Moderator Phillips states yes.

Chairman Maxfield addresses the amendment stating the money they do meet the first and third of every month, but they do go in fifty-two times a year to sign payroll, salaries, bills, review, and draft correspondence. from march-march they had twelve emergency minutes. They are all on committees as well. He feels if they had a town manager, they would do all the things they are currently doing along with other tasks. Chairman Maxfield states the selectmen serve as town managers alongside Brenda Pearl, Loudon Town Administrator. He feels he should get \$50,000 a year for the work he puts in. He does not do this job for the money.

Selectman Miller adds with a town manager they are doing the work and getting a total of \$30,000. One Town manager's salary alone would cost \$120,000-\$170,000. This does not include the benefit package. He will do what the legislative body wants to, but he encourages the residents to see the work the three selectmen do that helps save the town money.

Terese Bastarache of 7337 Oak Hill Road, thanks the voters for coming out. Mrs. Bastarache states that there will be an increase in taxes within the county, and in the school. Today's votes will have an impact on monthly mortgages as well. 73% of taxes goes to the school and the turnout the week prior was exceptionally low. The assessments of properties have gone up, creating more revenue for the town to use and spend. Inflation is hitting everyone. They did an analysis of other towns who do not have a town manager. On average their selectmen are making \$4,000. She appreciates the civic duty but with a \$2. Raise in addition to merit raises across the board for employees, now is not the time. Mrs. Bastarache feels the Town Administrator and the Road Agent are town employees whose overtime makes up the majority of their income. Mrs. Bastarache states her concern on checks and balances in making sure family does not approve overtime for one another.

Her second Concern as a registered nurse is with police and Fire. She feels having sign-on bonuses and having school paid for are typically contracted. The town should have a similar practice and suggest the town contract with a person who will have to sign on to stay with the town for up to 3-5 years. She supports the amendment, and she would like to operate within the taxpayers' means.

Selectman Miller asks the supporters of the amendment, where would they like to take the 10% off? They are service based so if they have to take a police officer off the road to make this happen, they can. This could cause them to overspend on a line item. They put a lot of thought into these funds.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road, if they just voted on articles 14 and 15 to put money into the budget, if they say yes to this amendment will this take 10% of each one of those as well.

Moderator Phillips states no. They voted on those two articles to put money in the Capital Reserve and Trust funds which are completely separated.

David Colby 17 Route 129, in an attempt to move things along he would like to have people speak to this amendment.

Alicha Kingsbury of 293 Bear Hill Road would like to clarify she is not stating the selectmen are not doing an excellent job and are putting in hours, she feels when they state they should be earning more, the jobs are civic duties. Ms. Kingsbury feels the Planning and Zoning and all the other positions are making more. If we were to look at the Tax Collectors' salary and the importance of her job, if they want to show an act of good faith, they will support their article. As far as where to take the 10%, everyone is cutting back at home, the selectmen should produce an idea.

Chairman Maxfield states it is not personal, but the selectman has not taken a raise in two years and does not intend to.

Terese Bastarache would like to clarify she is not for cutting it completely, just reducing it to 90%. Mrs. Bastarache would like to know if every year the town is going up a half a million dollars.

Selectman Miller states the reason it is going up this year is because they want to take care of the employees. Most of the figures are the employees, when it comes to looking at the budget, over half of the operating budget is salaries and benefits.

Jean Blodgett 23 Bee Hole Road would like clarification on how much taxes would go up.

Selectman Miller explains that it would be an estimated cost of \$11.11. This is without looking at the revenue that is coming into the town. Normally it would be half of what they see.

Chip Barrett of 16 Clark Ave, if they reduced the budget by 10% every line would go down 10% including salaries of all the people, they want to give raises to.

Fire Chief Tom Blanchette explains fire service is different from the police service when it comes to training. Most of the people in the fire department pay for their own training. The Fire Chief has a \$15,000 budget to train forty people on. An EMT class is \$2,000 that they are on their own time doing and not getting paid for. If they pass, he tries to find the money in that budget to reimburse them for their commitment to come out and help. He does not have 10% in his budget to cut without it affecting service. When the Police are hired, they have to go to the academy and have to stay there. They get paid for their time. There are similarities and differences.

Chief Blanchette states he has worked hard to create a decent work environment for his staff and to keep his employees. There is a lack of individuals wanting to choose this career. And the ones who do, fund everything out of their own pockets.

Richard Bilodeau of 22 Hollow Route Road is not in favor of the amendment stating There are EMT/Firefighters and other employees who leave their homes at night to serve the community and do not think it is fair. If people want to cut this budget, they should join her department.

Jean Kennedy 152 Lovering Ave, if they cut the budget by 10%, she feels the selectmen would not cut the employees' wages.

Selectman Miller states there is not much moving ability they can do. The department heads come in with a little margin of their lines. Ten percent will make a significant difference.

Peter Pitman makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by a Loudon Resident.

Moderator Phillips makes a motion to vote on the amendment of reducing the budget to \$5,793,381.10. Amendment fails.

Moderator Phillips continues to read Article 16 as printed.

Shane Labonte 429 Route 129 Loudon thanks the Selectmen. He knows how hard they work throughout the town and has seen them on site walks and looking at roads with the Road Agent in their own time. He states that there is a selectman who has a full-time job in addition to selectman.

Selectman Miller states that he has two jobs.

Darrell Schlichting 1 Clearview Drive questions the number on page 9 printed in the book. \$6,450,445. The number on page 18 reads \$6,452,089. What number are they voting on?

Moderator Phillips states that they have to look at the Warrant that was signed by the selectmen. The one in the Town report is a misprint.

Ken Chalifour of 7338 School Street would like to confirm with Selectman Miller that \$5.75 is about half from the \$11.11 spoken about prior. What is the increase in what we pay for 2023?

Selectman Miller states that is the number if we take on the revenue coming in and is the portion. Taxes were out in the fall. Selectman Miller broke down the taxes \$5.77 county was \$2.36, local school was \$11.14 and state school was \$1.57. = \$20.84 per thousand. Selectman Miller states they can only estimate. They will not know the tax rate until November.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 16 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote passes Article 16.

Peter Pitman Makes a motion to restrict any reconsideration for Article 16. Seconded by Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129. Motion by majority vote passes.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 17 as written.

Article 17 – To discontinue a section of Old Wales Bridger Road (FAILED)

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue, and relinquish all interest in, the portion of the afore-described Road as it leads from the southern boundary of Tax Map 11, Lot 35, running southerly along Tax Map 11, Lot 5 and along Tax Map 11, Lot 4 to the Soucook River edge. BY
PETITION

Selectman Storrs makes a motion to take article 17 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield

Alvin Davis III of 216 Flagg Road has been a resident since 1985 and still considers himself a “newcomer.”. He has purchased the land on the side of Wales Bridge Road with the intent of building his retirement home. He explains people do like to walk down the road where there was a bridge. Most people are using this land as a private dumping ground such as roofing material and other things right down to the river. He appreciates fishing and it is his intention to allow others to fish there if they legally trespassed and kept the area clean. Mr. Davis states that Articles 17 and 18 go together.

Mr. Davis states he is asking for this section in the name of the roadway and for the record of the town vote to discontinue the section that lies between the Ives property and his on the Southern End. The Section between the Ives property and his was discontinued previously and that it was deeded over to Wilfred and Constance Ives by the town. He states he does not think it was deeded over by town vote, like he is presenting to the voters. He states he is not there to punish law abiding citizens but to protect the right he has as landowner. He encourages voters to pass this article.

Chairman Maxfield explains the location. The state turned over that side in 1987. Alvin Davis owns both lots and would like to join them together and eliminate the road and own that. The Selectmen cannot recommend this article, it has to be up to the petitioner.

Selectman Miller states by RSA they have to discontinue the road that used to be 106. Previous to the stone bridge being built they are talking about the roadway to the right which is a class 6 road that goes to the old bridge that is no longer there. This road has not been utilized for anything. It was known as Concord Road. He states it is an easement that the town owns when the state gave it to the town. He is in favor of what the landowner would like to do. He is going to take the split property and rather than having two lots he will have one.

John Mesick of 34 Clearview Drive opposes this article. Mr. Mesick feels once public access is no longer prohibited it is lost forever. This Concord Road leads to Historic stone abutments which date to 1809.

Alvin See of 64 Plateau Ridge Road, wants clarification if this is a situation where the Town gives the land to the petitioner or are they selling this for a certain amount?

Selectman Miller states it refers back to the present landowner.

Chairman Maxfield states that in 1988 the Selectmen were allowed to sell land. Today they have to bring some land to be transferred to the legislative body to be voted on.

Jeff Kennett 73 Wales bridge road states oppose this article. It is a historic piece of land that People walk down often to enjoy. Mr. Kennett also enjoys going there himself with his grandson. He states people are throwing trash everywhere. Encourages the voters to vote no.

Stephanie Rivera 78 Wales Bridge Road, her land is the abutting land, and it goes right in front of her land. Her concern is that she will no longer be able to have access to the river, when she purchased the home, it was a feature she enjoyed. She wants to know the end goal. She stated he wanted to build onto it for guests and if doing so there would be more traffic.

Moderator Phillips States if she was North from this, it should not affect her home.

Stephanie Rivera of 78 Wales Bridge Road wanted clarification if she would still be able to travel down. She would still like access to the river. The lot in front of her home, he wanted to build a dual residential home and would feel "Pushed out."

Selectman Miller states if this goes back to the landowner, he can post signs for people not to enter. Mr. Davis would have to get permission to build if he wanted to pursue additions to the property.

Alvin Davis III states that Ms. Rivera's property just beyond this roadway would be discontinued and her driveway goes across his land over to the old roadway. He states he does not want to build additions. Mr. Davis has not had many discussions with Ms. Rivera.

Karen Troon of 114 Lovejoy, could they sell this land? They could get more money in taxes back.

Selectman Miller states there is not enough land there. It is just an easement.

Peter Pitman makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by George Page of 140 Berry Road. A majority Vote passes to move the question.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 17 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote failed Article 17.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 18 as written.

Article 18 – To discontinue a section of Old Wales Bridger Road (FAILED)

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue and relinquish all interest in a second portion of the same afore-described Road as it leads from the Soucook river edge in a southerly direction between Tax Map 11, Lot 4 and Tax Map 11, Lot 48 to Riverview Lane. BY PETITION

Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 18 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

Chairman Maxfield states the location of this road and states that Connie Ives has the deed to the road and owns it. The town sold it to the Ives in 1988. The town also has a copy of the deed on file.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 18 for a majority vote required to pass. The majority vote failed Article 18.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 19 as written.

Article 19 – To purchase playground equipment. (FAILED)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$95,000 for the purchase of playground equipment to be installed at the recreation field on Recreation Drive. BY PETITION.

Selectman Miller makes a motion to take article 19 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Storrs.

Members of the Recreational committee, Josh Pearl of 44 Dragonfly Drive and Meghan McNaulty of school street speak of their proposal to build a wide range capability playground. Mr. Pearl states it will be in the Southwest Corner of the ball field in the Rec zone.

Jen Mercer 556 Lovejoy Road does not agree that a playground is an innovative idea right now. There are other facilities that kids can use. Mrs. Mercer does not feel they should build on the well-used soccer fields. There are other ways such as fundraising to help build a playground. Funds should come from donations. Mrs. Mercer also requested a secret ballot for Article 19 from the five registered voters: Amy Corliss 931 Route 129, Marc Griffin 7193 Shaker Road, David Cooper, Jennifer Mercer, 556 Lovejoy Road, Bonnie Bridges 96 Pine Ridge Road.

Becky Hermann of 260 Old Shaker Road, states this is a want and not a need item and the Loudon Elementary school has a nice playground. She opposes the way to fund this through taxpayers' money is not the way to go but to go to business and sponsors. Mrs. Hermann disagrees with the location, stating that the space is used for town sports when they can find an extra field for all the teams they have. Mrs. Hermann would like to see the Staniels Road playground to be redone since it is already there.

Terese Bastarache of 7337 opposes this article and encourages the rec committee to resurface the skate park before building something else. Mrs. Bastarache feels we keep building and not taking care of what we have.

Shawn Kitson 7 Memory Lane would like clarification on who would be maintaining the new playground. The upkeep of trash and lawn. What would the costs of repairs be if something were to break?

Josh Pearl states there is a bi-annual checklist that the rec committee volunteers will have committed to take care of. As far as the equipment is concerned, Mr. Pearl states it has a 25+ year expectancy for all upright and metal components. There is a 15-year warranty on plastic pieces, where certain components and hardware come together, there is also a lifetime warranty on those as well. It is a one-time investment. Mr. Pearl states if times are hard then have a playground where you can go freely and not pay. This is an opportunity for younger kids to play. He understands it is not cheap, but it is an expense he is hoping everyone is willing to make.

Selectman Miller adds there is also a rec facility maintenance trust that they put money into as well to maintain fields and parks.

Shawn Kitson 7 Memory Lane Road states, we would then have to put more money into that fund.

Selectman Miller states it would be the same amount as years prior. Mr. Kitson Disagrees. Selectman Miller states they would be building into the fund so they could continue facility maintenance over periods of years.

Mr. Kitson states that the town just voted on a lot of money already. There are residents who could not hold town meetings and the ones who all have been deciding the fate of the ones unable to attend. Times are tough, he states, this is not a needed item. There is a playground at the Elementary school. Now is not the time.

Colette Conway of 161 Bear Hill Road moved to Loudon 30 years prior. Ms. Conway joined LYAA, where they raised money for everything that is currently around town. They went to local businesses, they received sponsors, had fundraisers, and purchased a playground that went to the rec field. They spent all weekend assembling it and saw that it was rarely used.

She states it was not "State-of-the-art," but it was suitable for the amount of traffic. It ended up rotten and she feels there are not a lot of people that use them and also agrees that there are currently playground families that can use them. There are two playgrounds. One at school and one down by Staniels Road. She would rather see the town invest in adding to the two playgrounds than build a new one that is used. Ms. Conway states that they use the fields for sports and Old Home Day. She would like to see the town raise money to support this and not go through taxpayers.

Josh Pearl states that the new playground would not impact soccer fields. Mr. Pearl states they have spoken to the Old Home Day Committee, the Fire Department in regard to the Ice-skating rink and the current LYAA leadership. They did not put this together without inviting people that use the space.

Katherine Ambrose 196 North Village Road would like clarification on what the \$95,000. would cover and if they lost the ARPA funds, they could be fundraising an additional \$50,000.

Josh Pearl states that the \$95,000 covers the playground equipment.

Selectman Maxfield states the selectman would have to vote on the appropriations.

Selectman miller states that they already approved the money to be designated.

Andy Palhoff of 186 Wellington Lane states he has had five kids go through the Loudon and MVM school district, he was incredibly involved in the Youth committee, in all the years they have been here, his kids have never used the playground. Mr. Palhoff asked Mr. Pearl if he had children in the district. Mr. Pearl states he does not. They attend Shaker Road. Mr. Palhoff asked if Shaker has a playground and a pool? Mr. Pearl states they have a playground and multiple playgrounds that are separated by age. Mr. Palhoff states his point is: People do not have unlimited funds to put things forward.

Becky Hermann States that Mr. Pearl explained this was a "free space." When in fact it is not free, they are all paying for this through taxes. Mrs. Hermann feels strongly that though the Selectman states there is no tax impact, there is one. There are people who need help in our community and in school.

Josh Pearl states it would be freely used. He explained the cost and agreed it is an expensive project. This would be another wonderful place for families to come together.

Shawn Kinston 7 memory Lane, has the rec committee looked at private enterprises to fund this? Local business? Private citizens for donations? Mr. Kinston suggests putting names on benches for those who would like to donate.

Mr. Pearl states that he has not pursued those obstacles and that today is to present a working budget. He wonders if they have the money to get the equipment described in Article 19. This is a single plan to get a playground built by the end of this year.

Mr. Kinston feels that the rec committee could have done more research before asking the town to fund the playground.

Casey Southwell of 7526 Currier Road, she has a son in the high school who is no longer there. There are homeless children without parents due to incarceration. She states tax money could go to helping these kids rather than go to a playground.

Peter Pitman makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by George Page of 140 Berry Road. Motion to move question passes by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 19 done by secret ballot. Yes forty-one. No 232. Article 19 fails.

John Mesick makes a motion to restrict any reconsideration for articles 17 & 18. Seconded by Stanely Prescott II. Motion passes by majority vote.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 20 as written.

Article 20 – Paper ballot & hand counting (FAILED)

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 constitute a return to hand counting ballots and the immediate discontinuance on all electronic voting machines and electronic devices authorized for use by trial in RSA 656:40. Should this article be passed; it shall be enacted by the Town of Loudon immediately. BY PETITION

Moderator Phillips sits so he can speak for Article 20. Assistant Moderator Janice Morin reads Article 20 as written.

Selectman Storrs makes a motion to take Article 20 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Chairman Maxfield.

Mary Hewitt of 12 Sheep Rock Road feels Loudon has an excellent group of diverse people who work for our elections and has never felt Loudon has had any issues and trusts our election officials. She encourages voters to vote against this article. It would take days for election results.

Rodney Phillips of 143 Clough Hill Road is the moderator and explains that the flier residents received in the mail that stated these machines are hackable is false. Moderator Phillips adds, the Voting works device cannot be hooked up to the internet. In order to gain access to the hardware,

you must gain access to the vault at the Town office, break the seals that are documented, take a key card, and replace them with new ones and furthermore.

Moderator Phillips also states the flier stated hand counting was more accurate. Moderator Phillips states that Woodstock NH held a demo for Voting works for their community. Three individuals who were against machines were given eight ballots to count along with instructions on how to count and none of the three could get an accurate count. Moderator explains how he makes up the test ballots for elections and never can produce accurate numbers.

Mary Cozzens Clough Hill Road states that there would be more than one person carrying on each other's work and that machines are still not accurate. She would rather have an accurate hand count election than machines.

Don Falkowski 5 McKenzie Road, Results often take time and do not come in overnight. He knows presidential race results can take weeks.

Ed Friedrich 7023 School Street Sees no reason to produce a solution to a problem that does not exist. Move forward into this technological era and there is no need to go back in time.

Andrew Parella 105 Lesmerises Road, is also a member of the Supervisors of The Checklist, states the Voting Works Tabulator have been thoroughly vetted, by the NH Ballot Law Commission. It has passed the voluntary voting system guidelines set up by the US election commission. Additionally, the bipartisan policy center DC founded by Senators Tom and Bob Dole, a democrat and Republican established the task for elections, which has several studies that conclude machine tabulators are more accurate and efficient than human tabulators.

Selectman Miller adds there is a YouTube video on the new machine. There should be no question if you have a chance to see the security on this machine. Selectman Miller also states how human error can occur just filling out a ballot, but the new machine can detect the error and pull up the ballot improperly marked. Selectman Miller also states there are people in teams that view the ballot and determine the voter's intent. The elected officials had thirty hand count ballots in the past election. From either people who wanted hand count or for the ballots that the tabulator could not read.

Mary Ann Steel of 637 Lower Ridge Road Opposes this article for numerous reasons. The machines work as explained by others prior and have been proven. She states they are far more accurate than hand counts. Mrs. Steele focuses her discussion on hand counting ballots. Stating if the people "love" their elected officials, do not vote for this. Mary Ann Steele recalls a time in 1992 when they did hand count numerous presidential races between Bush and Clinton, they did not leave until 3AM the following morning.

Bernadette Theriault of 190 Pine Ridge Road wanted to know why a petitioner did not speak in this article. She feels the people who wanted this article passed are not invested in Loudon personally since no one is talking. Second, she states they received the flier, and it states it is paid for by a group out of Salem NH. Loudon is Not Salem; Loudon is dedicated and has amazing employees and election workers. She understands the work as she was once a

Supervisor of The Checklist. Mrs. Terrio explains the importance of the election workers and how enthusiastic they are about every vote.

Kathryn Ambrose 196 Lovejoy Road, states studies have shown NH elections are accurate, ballot counting devices are dependable and NH is well served by local officials. The Ballot law commission recently certified the two machine device options that lie under NH RSA and Loudon selected one of these options. There are checks and balances in place for these devices as required by law. For example, the seals on the devices. They are documented every time one is broken and when managed people must be present. She will be voting no and trusts the system.

Matt Demarais 34 Wales Bridge Road, hand counting is difficult, but humankind has done greater things than counting votes. You cannot hold a machine accountable the way you can hold a person accountable.

Jean Blodgett of 23 Bee Hole Road speaks of the dedication the election officials have-if they are so dedicated why cannot they stay to count ballots which has been going on for hundreds of years. Machines may not be hacked because she feels they can be manipulated by other people, and she does not trust the government.

Peter Pitman makes a motion to move the question. Seconded by George Page of 140 Berry Road. Motion passes by majority vote.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road Makes a motion to restrict reconsideration for articles 19 and 20. Seconded by Lisa Laughlin. Motion passes.

Moderator Phillips reads Article 21 as written.

Article 21 – To transact business.

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

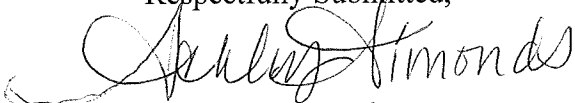
Chairman Maxfield makes a motion to take Article 21 and move its adoption as printed. Seconded by Selectman Miller.

No further discussion from the floor.

Peter Pitman of 173 Lovejoy Road makes a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Katherine Phelps of 1102 Route 129.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley E. Simonds

Town of Loudon New Hampshire Town Meeting Results
Saturday, March 16, 2024, held at the Loudon Elementary School.

- Article -03 To purchase a police cruiser- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article-04 To close police cruiser CRF- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 05- To purchase Lunar Devices- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 06- To replace doors & windows at Safety Complex- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 07- To reclaim and pave Lesmerises Road- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 08- To purchase a road tractor- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 09- To purchase excavator and trailer- *Secret ballot* Yes- 165, No-123 **PASSED.**
- Article 10- Solar array at the Clough Hill Fire Station- *Secret ballot* Yes- 179, No- 132 **PASSED.**
- Article 11- Community Power- *Secret ballot* Yes- 164, No- 146 **PASSED.**
- Article 12- Close Town History CRF- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 13- Retiree Liabilities ETF- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 14- To raise and appropriate for existing CRF's- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 15- To raise and appropriate for existing ETF's- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 16- Operating Budget- *majority vote* **PASSED.**
- Article 17- To discontinue a section of Old Wales Bridge Road- *majority vote* **FAILED.**
- Article 18- To Discontinue a section of Old Wales Bridge Road- *majority vote* **FAILED.**
- Article 19- To purchase playground equipment- *Secret ballot* Yes- 41, No- 232 **FAILED.**
- Article 20- Paper ballot & hand counting- *majority vote* **FAILED.**
- Article 21- To transact business- (No further discussion) *majority vote* **PASSED.**