

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Public Hearing Minutes  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 via Zoom

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

**Present via Zoom:** John Lamson, Chair, Brandon Arsenault, Vice-Chair, William Wright, Alan Wilson, Jamie Belanger, John Chamberlain, Emily Savinelli, Sandra Sweeney, Jennifer Kent Weiner, School Board Rep, Samara Robertson, Selectmen's Rep, Ted Connors

**Guest:** Denis Hebert-Planning Board Chair, Mike Bilodeau-Police Chief, EJ Hoyt-Fire Chief, Patrick Moynihan-Assistant Fire Chief, Cathy Hazelton-Library Trustee, Brenda Blonigan-Police Commissioner, John Klanchesser-Board of Fire Engineer Chair, Ann Hyland Hebert- Fire Engineer, Jim Fabrizio-Fire Engineer, Denis Messier - Sewer Plant Manager, Martha Roy-Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder. Other residents and employees were present via Zoom.

**School Budget Review:**

Peggy Lamson thought that the school had done a wonderful job on the budget this year.

J. Lamson reviewed the School Operating Budget for the Newington School District. The operating budget did not increase from the previous year, however there was an increase in salaries and benefits due to an increase in health costs plus contract obligations.

**Article 1: Proposed Operating Budget.** E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$2,412,439. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor.

**Article 2: Retainage:** J. Lamson explained that state law permits schools to put away 5% of surplus money. The previous percentage was 2.5%. J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend Article 2. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor.

J. Lamson recessed the meeting and then called the meeting back to order and proceeded to hold the Town Budget Public Hearing.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Seven Million, Nine Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$7,988,838) for the operating budget. This article does not include appropriations voted in special or individual warrant articles addressed separately. Note: This includes the Selectmen's recommendation that the Fire Dept Budget "F/D-EQUIPMENT PURCHASES" BE CHANGED TO STATE: "F/D-EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE PURCHASES"

The 2021 budget is \$393,000 less than 2020. Each Board and Committee has done their best to cut their budgets.

G. Klanchesser asked to have the detailed budget posted on the town website so she could look at it.

J. Lamson said that he would postpone the public comment on article 1 until the end of the meeting.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 1.

B. Arsenault thought that the Town Clerk salary and wages lines had increased too much, 36%. B. Arsenault thought that there should be grade levels and procedures for wage increases. J. Lamson said there should be a clear cur Personnel Policy about wages and salaries. At an earlier meeting the Town Clerk told the Budget Committee that her duties had increased over the years and she is trying to "catch up" her salary. She also showed the committee other town clerk's salaries in other comparable towns. B. Arsenault thought that management should review the process and recommendations for increases. B. Arsenault asked if the Police Station needed a fence around its generator. M. Bilodeau doesn't think he needs a fence. He is looking at installing a camera for generator security.

**S. Sweeney moved to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$7,988,838. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor.**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$620,208 for the purpose of designing and constructing a safety lane along Nimble Hill Road from Shattuck Way to Arboretum Drive and to authorize the Selectmen to accept \$496,166 to be reimbursed to the Town from Federal funds administered through the NH DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and to further raise \$124,042. (20% match). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA

**32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner.**

This money has already been raised. No new tax dollars.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 2.

S. Sabine from Nimble Hill Road expressed concern that the bike/safety lane would be going through his property and he had not been contacted. M. Roy asked S. Sabine to call her tomorrow to set up a meeting with him and the town engineer to go over the details that pertain to his property.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 2.

J. Kent Weiner asked how this encumbered money would be reversed. J. Lamson explained that it would be unencumbered and put back into the unassigned fund balance. M. Roy said that if Article 2 passes then the money would be taken out of the assigned funds balance and put into the capital reserve. B. Arsenault reminded the committee that this isn't a discussion about whether the town should have a bike path or not it was a discussion on the procedure of how the money will be spent. Last year the \$140,000 was voted to fund the bike path, the state didn't award any grants in 2020 due to the pandemic. This warrant article is to be specific about how the money is spent. J. Chamberlain wanted to know if it will be a new path or just painting lines on the current asphalt for \$140,000. J. Belanger pointed out that this \$140,000 was voted on in 2020. Now there are lots of unknowns about the town's financial situation; the utility abatements, the mall uncertainty, the donor towns, etc. There is lots of financial stress on the town right now. Newington has gotten by for 300 years without a bike path and we will be just fine without one going forward. Is this a need or a want? B. Arsenault reminded everyone that the money has already been raised. J. Belanger said that if the money is not used on the bike path then the town can use it for other things. E. Savinelli said that this is being sent back to the town to decide if the money should be spent. E. Savinelli asked if the Safety Lane minutes could have more clarity in the future. The minutes are not clear. The Planning Board has not been consulted. E. Savinelli supports the safety lane but would like more transparency. B. Arsenault thought that this is a "win, win". The money has already been put aside and can only be used for this purpose if we get the grant from the state.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 2. A. Wilson seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one opposed.**

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be placed in the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson explained that Article 3 is to buy a fire truck by adding \$200,000 to the capital reserve in 2021 & 2022. Article 4 is also to buy a fire truck but pay by installment payments over 10 years. If Article 3 passes then Article 4 will be withdrawn.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 3 & 4. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 3 & 4.

B. Arsenault likes the idea of stretching out the cost over 10 years. It would keep the tax impact steady. J. Chamberlain supports Article 3 and buying the truck outright. The lease is the most expensive option. B. Arsenault said that it is not a traditional lease, it's financing the truck over 10 years.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 3. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one opposed.**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a ten-year lease/purchase agreement of a new Fire Engine to replace Engine 5 in the amount of \$670,000, with \$150,000 as the initial down payment coming from Capital Reserve in 2021. The remaining \$520,000 will be financed over ten years in estimated equal payments of \$60,597.57 starting in 2022, but are subject to change depending on current interest rate at the time of lease/purchase signing. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required). If Article 3 passes, Article 4 will be withdrawn.

**A. Wilson moved to not recommend Article 4. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one opposed.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$132,000) to be added to the Major Road Work Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required). 2021 Eversource Laydown Area rental income.

M. Roy said that this money is from the 2021 Eversource Laydown Area rental income from the Seacoast Reliability Project. The Budget Committee asked the Selectmen to

have a specific purpose for the money, so it was decided to add the money to the Major Road Work capital reserve each year. According to the Major Roads CIP, Shattuck Way is scheduled to be paved in 2022. D. Hebert thought that Eversource was going to pay the Town \$396,000 over three years (\$132,000) per year. M. Roy explained that Eversource paid the town \$132,000 in August 2019. That \$132,000 was for August 2019-July 2020. They paid the town \$55,000 in 2020 (The amount in Article 6) which was for August 2020-December 2020. The \$132,000 in this warrant article is the payment for January 2021-December 2021. G. Klanchesser asked how long is the rental agreement. M. Roy said three years, this is the last payment. B. Arsenault asked if there were any plans to extend the Industrial Corridor going forward. T. Connors said no.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 5. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-no, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one opposed.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) to be added to the Major Road Work Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required). 2020 Eversource Laydown Area rental income.

**A. Wilson moved to recommend Article 6. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-no, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-no, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-no. Six in favor, five opposed.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to purchase and outfit a new ½ ton pickup truck style vehicle to replace Car 2 for the Fire Department.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 7. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 7.

B. Arsenault asked which vehicle this truck would replace. E. Hoyt said the Assistant Chief's car.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 7. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one opposed.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 8. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 8.

J. Belanger asked why the ambulance purchase and ambulance equipment purchases aren't in separate capital reserve accounts like the others. P. Moynihan said that ambulances are outfitted with all their equipment. D. Hebert asked if the equipment lasts the lifetime of the ambulance. P. Moynihan said, in general, yes. The goal is to have \$350,000 in the capital reserve account by the year 2023.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 8. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Major Repairs of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 9. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 9.

B. Arsenault asked what the cap would be on this capital reserve. E. Hoyt said that this fund would be capped at \$50,000.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 9. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Wide Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 10. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 10.

B. Arsenault asked if the total amount (\$100,000) of revaluation was competitive. M. Roy said that the town bids out the services each time.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 10. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-abstain, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Ten in favor, one abstained.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund and further to purchase a backhoe from these funds.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 11.

G. Klanchesser asked how much a new backhoe cost. M. Roy said \$105,000, but the Board of Selectmen is also looking at used backhoes. G. Klanchesser asked about the Highway vehicle Capital Improvement Plan. B. Arsenault read the Highway CIP plan that showed the replacement of vehicles looked like in the future.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 11.

E. Savinelli thought that there was no clear direction indicated, are we voting on purchasing a new or used equipment. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen is looking at both. B. Arsenault thought that this was poor timing and a clearer path is needed.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 11. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-no, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-yes. Nine in favor, two opposed.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the Board of Fire Engineer's to purchase appropriate gym equipment to replace and expand existing used equipment.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 12.

J. O'Reilly asked if this expense would be offset by lower health insurance prices. E. Hoyt said that if the firefighters were healthier there could be fewer doctor visits, but no

direct lowering of health insurance expenses. J. Belanger asked if the money would be used for just equipment. E. Hoyt said yes.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 12.

B. Arsenault thought that it was not the tax payer's responsibility to pay for the equipment and thought the Fire Department should reach out to the community for donations for the equipment and he would be the first to donate. E. Hoyt said that the department was in the process of applying for a grant for the equipment. B. Arsenault asked if this could be considered in 2022. E. Hoyt said that he would like to move forward on this in 2021. J. Kent Weiner thought that this should be approved because the Fire Department returned a lot of money to the town in 2020. E. Hoyt said that they got a couple of quotes on the equipment and are getting discount prices.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 12. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Communications Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 13. There were none.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 13.

E. Hoyt said that the balance in this account is lower than listed because they had spent \$16,000 out of this account in 2020. E. Hoyt said that this capital reserve fund would be capped between \$20,000-\$25,000.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 13. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Computer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing in house servers, computers, laptops, communications and monitors and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund. Further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required).

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 14. There were none.



The Budget Committee commented on Article 14.

M. Bilodeau said that this fund doesn't include bodycams. The department is waiting to purchase bodycams to see if they will be funded or not funded. They don't want to purchase them and then find out it is a funded item. The department has an older server that will need to be replaced eventually. M. Bilodeau said that this capital reserve would be capped at \$35,000.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 14. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Generators Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 15.

G. Klanchesser asked if there were any pending generator replacements on the horizon. M. Roy said that the Police Station generator has serious issues.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 15.

J. Chamberlain thought that generators are from a different era and blackouts for multiple days don't happen anymore. We have consistent power now and thinks that a single generator could run the Town Hall, Police Station and Fire Station. J. Chamberlain thought generators were an inefficient way to supply power because they have big diesel motors that run them. D. Hebert said that the town generators run on gas and are fairly efficient. B. Arsenault thought that the cost of \$40,000 to replace a generator is too high and thought that the town could get away with not funding this capital reserve account in 2021. E. Savinelli mentioned that the Town Hall is a designated shelter so it needs a generator. Just because the capital reserve gets funded doesn't mean it has to get spent. E. Hoyt said that the Town Hall is a shelter for warmth and food, the Police Station is the Emergency Operations Center and the Fire Station can't open their bay doors quickly. B. Arsenault would like to see a \$50,000 cap on this capital reserve account.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend Article 15. A. Wilson seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-no, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-no, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-no. Six in favor, five opposed 6-5.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Police Department Radio/Electronics Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 16. There were none.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 16. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor 11-0.**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Replacement of Major Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing broken and/or outdated equipment with the replacement cost that exceeds \$2,500 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed into this fund. Further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required).

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 17.

G. Klanchesser liked this warrant article because it put money aside for large purchases. It puts more checks and balances in place. There should be a cop placed on this account in a couple of years.

The Budget Committee commented on Article 17.

J. Chamberlain thought that this expense should be in the Fire Department's budget. The warrant article just pads their budget items. B. Arsenault thought that this warrant article is redundant and would like to see a line item added to the Fire Department budget instead of this warrant article. E. Hoyt said that he was concerned that if a piece of equipment breaks, he won't have the money in his budget to fix it. B. Arsenault would like to see the Fire Department's equipment purchase budget line reduced to \$5,000 in 2022. J. Lamson thought that \$13,500 in the budget line each year was excessive. B. Arsenault asked if the department overspends their equipment purchase each year. E. Hoyt said yes, in 2020 they spent \$16,000 over. They had to replace hydraulic rams for \$8,000 and a pump for the fire boat for \$13,000. P. Moynihan said that there are valves that need to be replaced on the town fire hydrants and each valve costs \$6,000. E. Savinelli asked if we were budgeting enough. E. Hoyt said that the department is still trying to walk the line, but still keep everything in working order. J. Lamson said that he liked the concept of the capital reserve account. B. Arsenault asked how much E. Hoyt would need in his budget line. E. Hoyt said \$8,500. G. Klanchesser asked why this warrant article was needed because there are already capital reserve

funds for ambulance equipment, vehicle repairs and communication equipment. E. Hoyt said that they didn't have a capital reserve account for major fire department equipment. J. Klanchesser said that equipment on the trucks costs up to \$8,500. E. Hoyt said the cap on this account would be \$20,000. G. Klanchesser asked how much a cutter or spreader would cost to replace. E. Hoyt said between \$4,000-\$9,000 each.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 17. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor 11-0.**

L. Pickering would like to talk about Article 18, that isn't included on the warrant article list. The HDC had submitted a warrant article for \$5,000 to study the burial grounds by the Meeting House. M. Roy explained that before the warrant article can be submitted the Library trustees and the Cemetery Trustees have to get together and agree on the boundaries between the cemetery, meeting house and the library. L. Pickering said that she had spent three months researching the burial grounds in that area and \$5,000 was not a big request. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen would fund this request in the regular budget, but the library and cemetery trustees have to work out the land ownership issues before anything can be done. J. Chamberlain reminded L. Pickering that he had tried to increase her budget to preserve historical documents, but no other committee members supported it. J. Kent Weiner said that historic records are very important to her and other members. L. Pickering would also like to see internet added to the Old Town Hall. G. Klanchesser thought that wifi at the Old Town Hall would be nice.

Moderator J. O'Reilly updated the committee on the plans for Town Meeting. He said that they plan on having in person voting for the March elections, with the Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. According to the Governor's emergency orders a Zoom add on is allowed. The Town Meeting could be postponed until September and voting could be postponed until April, May or June.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 1.

G. Klanchesser asked about the status of the Library parking lot. J. O'Reilly said that they put the work out to bid and only received one bid for the work and it was high and above their budget, so they decided to encumber the funds. G. Klanchesser asked why the professional training line was unspent in 2020. M. Roy said that the salt classes were canceled for 2020. G. Klanchesser asked why the highway salt budget had been decreased in 2021 and wondered if it was budgeted accurately. M. Roy said that they thought the amount was sufficient after having Woodbury Ave. for one year. T. Connors said that budgeting the amount of salt that the town needs each winter is a guessing game, but believes this number will be enough. G. Klanchesser asked about

the Covid expenses in 2020. M. Roy said that the expenses were broken out and then most were reimbursed by the federal grants. J. Lamson mentioned that the HDC didn't get their \$5,000 warrant article and would like the Board of Selectmen to consider installing wifi at the Old Town Hall.

**Minutes Approval January 20, 2021:**

**J. Chamberlain moved to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

B. Arsenault asked for a clarification from the Board of Selectmen on Article 2. Are the funds (\$140,000) going to be unencumbered or are they going to be held as encumbered. T. Connors said that they are holding the funds as encumbered. B. Arsenault asked if Article 2 does not pass will the funds revert back to the general fund. T. Connors said yes. K. Latchaw said that the Board of Selectmen will follow the town vote.

J. Belanger would like a report at the September 2021 Budget Committee meeting on all the cost savings measures that the town has taken during 2021, like the LED conversion in town buildings. G. Klnachesser asked that all budget documents be on the website. J. Lamson asked that hard copies of the budget be available. E. Savinelli asked when we would hear more about the town meeting plans. T. Connors said that there is a meeting on Friday with the moderator, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Clerk and others to review the options and to make a final decision soon. J. Kent Weiner asked that a detailed revenue report be included in the committee's books at the September meeting.

**B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 9:50pm. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. S. Robertson-yes, T. Connors-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, S. Sweeney-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder**