



BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town of Hollis

Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

Minutes of February 4, 2019

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 6:32 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Chairman; Chris Hyde; Tom Jambard; Tammy Fareed, School Board Rep; Mike Harris; Darlene Mann; Mark Ledoux, Selectmen's Rep; Mike Leavitt arrived at 7:24 PM.

Others present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Frank Cadwell, Selectman; Peter Band, Selectman; Paul Armstrong, Selectman

Chief Joe Hoebecke, Police Department; Lieutenant Brendan LaFlamme, Police Department; Todd Croteau, Director of Public Works; Rick Towne, Fire Chief; Dawn Desaulniers, IT Director; Tom DuFresne, Conservation Commission

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 5, 2019- HSD Public Hearing

February 6, 2019 – COOP Public Hearing

March 6, 2019 – COOP Annual District Meeting – Part 1

March 7, 2019 – COOP Annual District Meeting – Part 2

March 12, 2019 – Town Elections

March 13, 2019 – HSD Annual District Meeting

March 16, 2019 – Town Meeting

Budget Committee Presentations

T. Gehan explained the public hearing process and presented a slideshow detailing current budget related information for the Town of Hollis.

Budget Process

T. Gehan discussed the assumptions and methodology that go into developing the town and school district budgets each year. He reviewed economic data, valuations, tax bills, demographics, bonded debt, etc; all factors that are taken into consideration when developing budget guidance. He stated that a 0.50% increase in the tax base was assumed when developing the guidance for FY19. He stated that the guidance budget increased by \$218.2K (2.4%). The proposed operating budget of \$11,167,510 is \$10K under guidance. Metrics regarding population, tax rate, road maintenance, student enrollment, and staffing were reviewed. The presentation can be accessed online at https://www.hollisnh.org/sites/hollisnh/files/uploads/publichearingtown2019_0.pdf

Overview of Warrant Articles

T. Gehan briefly reviewed the anticipated town warrant articles. A preliminary estimate of the town portion of the tax rate results in a \$0.78 increase (+14.3%). This also reflects an anticipated revenue increase of \$77K and assumes all warrants as currently written will pass. T. Gehan stated that if the budget and all warrant articles pass as proposed, the projected total tax rate could increase to \$21.67, up from \$23.59 in 2017 (an 8.8% increase).

T. Gehan reviewed the conduct of the public hearing and opened the public hearing to order at 7:00pm.

Discussion of Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE 1 - Officials Reports

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To hear reports of the Board of Selectmen, other Town Officers and Committees.

ARTICLE 2 – Land Acquisition – Hardy Property

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750,000.00** (gross budget) to acquire full ownership interest to certain tracts or parcels of land, together with any buildings thereon, in the Town of Hollis and as more particularly specified below, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Board of Selectmen and as more particularly specified below.

Said funding shall be raised as follows:

- Not more than **\$80,000**, shall be raised hereby through *ad valorem* taxes; and,
- Not more than **\$450,000** shall be paid by the Conservation Commission from the conservation fund, on the condition that said Commission (as well as the Board of Selectmen) shall approve such acquisition in the manner required by ***RSA 36-A:5, (II)***, prior to concluding the purchase; and,
- Not more than **\$200,000**, if available, shall be paid from the unassigned fund balance available as of December 31, 2018; and,
- Not more than **\$20,000**, if available, shall be paid from the Forest Maintenance Fund, as authorized by the Forestry Management Committee, it being a condition of such funding that all or a portion of the property referenced below shall be identified and designated as a ‘Town Forest’, within the meaning of ***RSA 31:110-113***, said portion of said property being thereafter subject to the management and maintenance of said Forestry Management Committee.

The Board of Selectmen is also hereby authorized to apply for and accept gifts, grants, or other forms of assistance, from both public and private sources, to offset the raising and appropriating of the funds referenced above. If the gross amount of this appropriation cannot be confirmed as available through one or all of the combination of the foregoing means on or before December 31, 2019, this appropriation shall be rendered void and shall lapse.

This acquisition shall also be subject to the following additional condition:

The property shall be conveyed to the Town subject to suitable conditions and use restrictions that shall insure that the property will be utilized in perpetuity for conservation purposes within the meaning of ***RSA 36-A:4***, forestry purposes, within the meaning of ***RSA 31:110-113***, and such additional passive recreation purposes as determined by the Board of Selectmen with the consent of the Conservation Commission, Forestry Management Committee and Trails Committee, which property, after such acquisition, shall be managed and maintained jointly by said committees, as the appropriate scope of their respective oversight(s) shall appear. Such restrictions shall be contained in the conveyancing instrument by means of which title to the Town is granted and shall restrict the property in perpetuity. If the said committees and Boards are unable to agree on the terms and conditions of said conditions by December 31, 2019, this appropriation and authorization shall be null and void and shall lapse.

The certain tract or parcel of land which are authorized be purchased hereby, is known as the ‘Hardy Property, and is more particularly, described below:

<i>Tax Map/Lot</i>	<i>Owner (tax records)</i>	<i>Approx. Acreage</i>	<i>Book/Page Hillsborough Registry</i>
31-009	<i>Ernest E. Hardy and Jane E. Hardy Revocable Trust</i>	75.90	2254-0469 excepting 2774-0597

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Subject to the conditions set forth above, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, III and will not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation is made shall be completed. This is a special warrant article pursuant to RSA 32:3 (VI)(b).

Estimated Net Tax Impact of \$0.04/\$1,000

T. DuFresne presented details about the property. Stated Conservation Commission took a vote and unanimously approved pursuing this article. Property appraised at \$1mil and the environmental study phase 1 is complete and came back clean. Survey will be done after the Purchase and Sale is signed.

Public Comment

Peter Baker (Buttonwood Dr.) spoke in favor of conserving and protecting the land.

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr.) asked for clarification regarding which boards need to agree on what specific conditions. Expressed concerns that the estimated net tax impact is inaccurate.

T. Gehan responded that the boards are the Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Forestry Committee and Trails Committee. These bodies will meet and come up with a plan, in terms of who will manage the property, once all bodies are satisfied that the terms of acquisition have been met they will formally agree and execute the acquisition.

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd) spoke in support of this article.

ARTICLE 3 – Elderly Exemption Modification

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, to modify RSA 72:39-b, Elderly Exemption from property tax in the Town of Hollis based on assessed value, for qualified full time resident tax payers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$159,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$190,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$222,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years preceding April 1st, own the real estate individually, or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five consecutive years.

In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income, as that term is defined in RSA 72:39-a, in each applicable age group of not more than \$53,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,500 and own net assets not in excess of \$165,000; excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to the greater of 2 acres or the minimum single family residential lot size specified in the local zoning ordinance.

No Direct Tax Impact. Estimated lost General Fund Revenue \$16,500/year.

Public Comment

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr) spoke in favor of this article in general. Suggested eliminating the means testing, as he felt this would constitute a loss of privacy to residents and be burdensome for the town to administer.

T. Gehan pointed out that the means testing has always existed here, this proposed article simply changes the numbers to reflect inflation.

ARTICLE 4 – Conservation Commission

To see whether the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 (IV), to change the action taken at the March Annual Town Meeting of 1999, which action authorized that fifty percent (50%) of funds collected from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) be deposited in the Conservation Fund, by increasing said amount to seventy-five percent (75%) that is provided to the Conservation Fund. The vote shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2019.

No direct tax rate impact. Estimated lost General Fund Revenue of \$53,000/year, based on prior 5 years

M. LeDoux pointed out many other towns in the area allocate 100% of land use change tax into this endeavor because the management of conservation land assets is a priority. Undesignated fund balance has expanded dramatically over past 5 years; a lot of that is due to land use change tax because of developments coming into the community.

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Tom Defresne that of the surrounding towns, the average land use change tax going to conservation is about 72%.

Public Comment

Peter Baker (Buttonwood Dr) spoke in opposition; that the funds would better serve the town.

J. Garruba (Winchester Dr) spoke in opposition; that the Conservation Commission should receive 100% of LUCT.

ARTICLE 5 – Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen pursuant to RSA 33:7-e to enter into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$230,000, for the purpose of lease purchasing one (1) dump truck with equipment and attachments for the Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause.

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	TOTAL
\$23,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$23,000	\$230,000

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 6 - Pick-Up Truck Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen pursuant to RSA 33:7-e to enter into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$60,000, for the purpose of lease purchasing one (1) pick-up truck with equipment and attachments for the Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause.

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	TOTAL
\$6,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$60,000

Estimated Net Tax Impact of \$0.01/\$1,000

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 7 – Fire Truck Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen pursuant to RSA 33:7-e to enter into a seven (7) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$700,000, for the purpose of lease purchasing one (1) fire truck with equipment and attachments for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause.

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	TOTAL
\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$700,000

Estimated Net Tax Impact of \$0.03/\$1,000

Public Comment

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd) stated that the Budget Committee does great job tracking debt service, asking if they also track the sum total of lease purchase agreements.

T. Gehan responded yes, citing the top two lines of the ridgeline graph shown in the presentation.

ARTICLE 8 – Fire Pump Truck Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 to rebuild the 2005 Spartan fire engine that will replace the 1997 International pump truck. This article is contingent upon the passage of article 7, if article 7 fails; this warrant article will become null and void.

Estimated Net Tax Impact of \$0.07/\$1,000

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 9 – Asset Management Software

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to purchase Asset Management Software for the Department of Public Works. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2018, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$30k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.

Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.02/\$1,000

Public Comment

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd) asked if the tax impact would be \$.02/\$1000 if a resident at Town Meeting suggested changing the verbiage to “raise and appropriate”.

T. Gehan responded yes, approximately.

ARTICLE 10 - Old Home Day Special Revenue Fund To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of sponsoring the Old Home Days event and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the Old Home Day Special Revenue Fund. This article will not affect the tax rate, as these funds will be raised from fees and donations.

Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 11 - Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to be placed in the Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2018, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$30k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.

Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.02/\$1,000

Public Comment

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd) pointed out that in 2018 50k was spent out of this fund and recommended the board consider appropriating 50k for 2019.

M. LeDoux stated that they do not anticipate enormous amounts of resignations over the next year. When 50k was called upon in 2018 the funds were there as they had appropriated larger sums in prior years.

ARTICLE 12 - Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,000 to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund as previously established at the 1996 Annual Town Meeting. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2018, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$14k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.

Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.01/\$1,000

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 13 - Municipal Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be placed in the Municipal Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting and amended by the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2018, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$100k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.

Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.07/\$1,000

Public Comment

J. Garrula (Winchester Dr) asked what the specific updates to Town Hall security will be.

M. LeDoux replied that they are simply making the space a little more secure for personnel, and directing the flow of traffic better for people who are visiting the building.

ARTICLE 14 – Establish a Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a contingency fund under the provisions of RSA 31:98-a for the purpose of funding unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$70,000 towards this purpose and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2018, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$70k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.

Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.05/\$1,000

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 15 – Pave Wood Lane

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000, for the purpose of paving Wood Lane. This article is a special warrant article and shall be non-lapsing in accordance with RSA 32:7, V.

Estimated Net Tax Impact of \$0.07/\$1,000

T. Gehan advised this was brought up as petition article last year and passed by significant margin. As a result the Selectmen have placed this article on the 2019 Town Warrant.

No Public Comment

ARTICLE 16 – Conservation Easement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600,000 (gross budget), to allow the Conservation Commission, in the name of the Town and subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, (I), to acquire conservation easements on approximately 39 acres, more or less, consisting of two parcels of land located on Ranger Road, identified in the Town of Hollis Tax Maps as Map 26 - Lot 26 and Map 26 - Lot 80, said funding to be raised as follows:

- Not more than **\$200,000**, if available, shall be paid from the unassigned fund balance available as of

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December 31, 2018; and,

- Not more than **\$100,000** shall be paid by the Conservation Commission from the conservation fund, on the condition that said Commission (as well as the Board of Selectmen) shall approve such acquisition in the manner required by **RSA 36-A:5, (II)**, prior to concluding the purchase; and,
- Not less than **\$300,000**, in the form of a federal grant administered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

It is a condition of this appropriation that this appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year (December 31, 2019), if any of the above sources of funding have not been confirmed as available for this transaction by that time.

Further, it is understood that the conservation easements shall be identical in terms and conditions to those reached by agreement between the Town (Board of Selectmen) and the Seller.

No rate increase in 2019. The Unassigned Fund Balance is the sum of unspent taxes and revenues collected in prior years. Expending \$200k, that could *potentially* be designated by Selectmen to reduce the Town tax rate, equated to foregoing a *potential* rate reduction.
Estimated Net Tax Impact – \$0.14/\$1,000

Public Comment

M. LeDoux pointed out that this is almost a verbatim copy of what was approved several years ago. At that time, the USDA employee responsible for filing documents had only filed one of two essential documents, therefore the article failed by virtue of noncompliance by the USDA. This person was embarrassed and asked us to resubmit, which is what we are doing by virtue of this article. This article is simply asking the public to allow us to proceed again.

Joe Garruba (Winchester Dr) asked what the risk of the USDA not being able to file the paperwork on time is. Can anyone assess that risk? With no clerical errors is there a high likelihood that the USDA will pass this?

P. Band said that if the paperwork is processed correctly, there is a high likelihood this will go through.

Paul Edmunds (Dow Rd) said he has been in ongoing discussions with the ranking person for USDA in NH. He has been informed that the funds have been appropriated and will be allocated and distributed to the states in March/April. The only reason it did not get processed last time was because of a clerical error.

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd) asked why this isn't a non-lapsing appropriation and what will the public's access to this land be.

M. LeDoux stated that Attorney Drescher advised that it needs to be lapsing because of DRA requirements.

D. Petry replied that this land is different and there are restrictions, and these details will be included in the presentation at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 17 – 2019 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,157,398.00 which represents the operating budget of the Town for 2019, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$5.84/\$1,000

Public Comment

Joe Garruba (Winchester Dr) asked questions regarding a \$10k increase in planning and \$700 increase in zoning.

D. Petry replied yes, this \$10k increase is in alignment with the long term plan for the Planning Department and the \$700 increase is due to postage for abutter notices.

ARTICLE 18 – Petition Article to Pave Fletcher Lane

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Shall the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to pave Fletcher Lane as soon as possible. The full text of the petition is set forth for informational purposes.

We, the undersigned residents of Fletcher Lane in Hollis, NH and other Hollis residents respectfully request that the Town of Hollis pave Fletcher Lane as soon as possible.

We request this for a number of reasons, including but not limited to the following, many of which affect many town residents, in addition to Fletcher Lane residents. Paving Fletcher Lane would benefit far more town residents than just those of us living on Fletcher Lane.

- 1. The dust and dirt that traveling vehicles raise during dry weather not only is a health issue for anyone breathing in the dust, but enters homes and leaves behind residue and/or prohibits opening windows for fresh air. This is a serious and demonstrable health concern.*
- 2. Rain or melting snow and ice causes long ruts that make steering vehicles difficult and when two vehicles meet, create a potentially dangerous situation.*
- 3. Within a few days of being resurfaced with dirt and stone, the large ruts and potholes reappear, making repeated and frequent resurfacing a waste of time and money that paving would favorably resolve.*
- 4. The large ruts and pot holes cause excessive noise, especially from the large trucks passing between Witches Springs Road and South Merrimack Road as they speed down the road and bounce up and down. The high traffic resulting from being a cut-through road exacerbates the dust, mud, rut and noise issues.*
- 5. The ruts and furrows cause excessive tire wear and frequent front-end alignments to vehicles traveling on this road.*
- 6. Using the dirt/stone mixture to resurface the road causes a great deal of stone to be left in driveways, shrubbery and bark mulch best near the road that is very difficult to remove. It is too large to use a leaf blower on and too small to rake effectively.*

Paving Fletcher Lane will relieve the above problems, inconveniences and health issues as well as save the Town money and maintenance issues in the future.

Estimated cost to pave Fletcher Lane: \$130,000 (estimate provided by Todd Croteau, Hollis Public Works Director). Approximately .41 miles

This article does not appropriate any funds for this purpose No Tax Impact in 2019

Public Comment

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr) spoke in opposition of the article because of traffic impacts it would have and how it would change the character of the neighborhood.

Christina Marmonti (Fletcher Ln) has lived on Fletcher Ln for 7 years and spoke in support of this article. Pointed to a recent increase in large commercial trucks using the road. Explained how road runoff and resurfacing materials regularly end up in front lawns.

Eric Schifone (Fletcher Ln) spoke in support and explained that the road has been graded for so many years, the road height has increased by 16", therefore many residents have a 16" hump to get from their driveway onto the road. Recently spoke with Todd Croteau, DPW Director, to get an estimated report of maintenance costs. Currently has an annual grading cost of \$6800, however they anticipate the cost will rise to \$10-\$13k/annually due to current usage conditions.

M. Harris asked if the estimate of \$130k includes drainage and necessary foundation work, in addition to paving.

E. Schifone replied that it does.

T. Fareed, M. LeDoux and C. Hyde discussed traffic studies, options for limiting cut-through, potential for getting a posting to disallow trucks above a certain GVW, and what might require police activity and notification. A traffic analyzer has been on the street for a week and the PD will compile data prior to Town Meeting.

Geoff Loftus (Fletcher Lane) has lived on Fletcher Ln for 13 years and spoke in support of the article. The runoff, nuisance factor and quality of life issues that the dirt causes are real and the amount of debris in yards is significant. Referenced a comment made at the opening of the meeting that, over the long term, paved roads are cheaper than dirt roads and asked if there is data to support that to present as a long term cost saving measure.

T. Gehan stated that, as these are petition articles, the onus is on the petitioner to make the case. Recommended contacting John Belanger, Town Moderator, to coordinate a presentation at town meeting to make your case to get this done.

ARTICLE 19 – Petition Article to Pave the Dirt Section of Nartoff Road

Shall the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to pave the dirt section of Nartoff Road as soon as possible. The full text of the petition is set forth for informational purposes.

We, the undersigned residents of Nartoff Road, and other Hollis residents, respectfully petition to have the dirt section of Nartoff Road paved as soon as possible. We state the following reasons:

- 1. The dirt/rocky road has caused significant vehicle expenses and travel aggravation. The numerous potholes and rocks have caused alignment problems and wear on tires. Driving over large gravel is like riding over old cobblestone. Dirt has accumulated and become frozen on wheel axels and shafts, resulting in steering problems, which in turn cause safety issues. Dust and dirt from the road make it impossible to keep a vehicle clean and they ruin its finish. It is very aggravating to spend \$10 or more at a carwash, only to have a car become filthy after driving home the same day.*
- 2. Residents have safety concerns when the road is dry or wet. The dust from the dirt road literally looks like a desert storm when a small car drives by at the 25-mph speed limit, causing breathing hazards. When a truck goes by, the dust is quite dense and breathing becomes more hazardous. The huge gravel makes the road difficult to walk and jog on, to ride a horse on, and impossible to ride a bike on. Muddy conditions on the road are treacherous, especially for the elementary school bus.*
- 3. Residents on the dirt road are burdened with extra work and frustration. The rocks tossed into yards by snowplows get in the way of snowblowers and lawnmowers. The rocks are too big to rake and be moved by leaf blowers. Dust blowing onto driveways and being tracked into garages requires constant sweeping and removing. Dirt is collecting on houses as well. Residents have complained about sleep disturbances from the noise created when vehicles drive over the rocks.*
- 4. Maintaining the dirt road has been a hassle for the town, dealing with complaints about potholes, mud, noise and dust storms. Crews have needed to surface the road more than once a month lately. By paving the road, this could be settled once and for all and save the town money and maintenance issues in the future.*
- 5. The cost of maintaining the dirt part of Nartoff Road is estimated at \$14,800 per year. If that amount stayed constant for the next 20 years the maintenance cost would total \$296,000. The cost for paving is approximately \$280,000. Considering the yearly town expense to service Nartoff Road, the total amount residents on Nartoff Road expend because of the above factors described, and the health and safety concerns, the cost for paving the road is justified and makes sense.*
- 6. Years ago, the road may have been described as "scenic," but this is no longer true. The road is nearly full of residences. Fuel, lawn maintenance, dry cleaners, trash removal, Fedex, UPS, and other trucks continuously stir up the rocks, dirt and dust.*
- 7. It is time for us to be allowed to drive and live on a modern road instead of a dirt, or mud or cobblestone one.*

Length of dirt section of Nartoff Rd is 1.03 miles.

This article does not appropriate any funds for this purpose.

Public Comment

Art Dinbergg (Nartoff Rd) lives in middle of dirt section of Nartoff road and spoke in support of paving the road.

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D. Mann asked both petitioners what percentage of the people who live on the roads signed the petition.

Art Dinbergg (Nartoff Rd) replied 90%

Eric Schifone (Fletcher Ln) replied 90-95%

T. Gehan article 20 is not an actionable item. Public hearing closed at 9:08pm.

(5 minute recess)

Budget Committee Discussion & Votes

T. Gehan opened Budget Committee deliberations at 9:15 PM.

Article 2

M. LeDoux stated that he is hopeful that this article will pass and that his family will be making a contribution and hopes that others that will step up as well. With the goal that by Town Meeting it will be substantially less than 80k raised by ad valorem taxes.

T. Gehan raised question of how private donations will impact property tax. Brought up concerns of lack of athletic fields in town and raised additional concerns over how high levels of land conservation can distort the local real estate market. However is in favor of this piece of land due to the location.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 2, Land Acquisition (Hardy Property), to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 3

T. Fareed asked if there was a sense of whether the 55+ communities tend to fit within this paradigm. Is it estimable?

M. Leoux said this is set up statutorily as a hardship relief program for the elderly. They set up income stream tests, asset limitations, age limitations, and if you fall within those you qualify.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 3, Elderly Exemption Modification, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 4

C. Hyde spoke in opposition, believes the current means of 50/50 is a very fair split amongst desires for continuing conservation and having a pot that is available for high value target areas.

M. Harris spoke in agreement with C. Hyde, stated that he believes the town has hit it's target for conservation land.

T. Gehan and T. Jambard spoke in agreement.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 4, Conservation Commission, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion was Mark LeDoux. Voting in opposition of the motion was Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann. The motion DID NOT PASS 1-7-0.

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Recommended by Selectmen
Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 5

Boards discussed at length the advantages and disadvantages of a capital lease purchase agreement with payments appropriated from ad valorem taxes, payments made from Unassigned Fund Balance, or outright purchase from Unassigned Fund Balance. Any changes to the language in the proposed warrant article can be modified at Town Meeting.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 5, Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. Voting in opposition of the motion was Chris Hyde. The motion PASSED 7-1-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 6

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 6, Pick-Up Truck Lease Purchase, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 7

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 7, Fire Truck Lease Purchase, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 8

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 8, Fire Pump Truck Repair, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 9

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 9, Asset Management Software, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom

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Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 10

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 10, Old Home Day Special Revenue Fund, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 11

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 11, Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 12

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 12, Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 13

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 13, Municipal Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 14

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 14, Establish a Contingency Fund, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

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Recommended by Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 15

Petition Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting 2018

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 15, Pave Wood Lane, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were, Tom Jambard and Mark LeDoux. Voting in opposition were, Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde. Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann. The motion DID NOT PASS 2-6-0.

Recommended by Selectmen

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 16

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 16, Conservation Easement, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 17

Board members discussed the escalating operating expenses for the town.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 17, 2019 Operating Budget, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Recommended by Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 18

T. Gehan said that on Fletcher Ln there are 15 residences and there were 7 signatures on the petition.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 18, Petition Article to Pave Fletcher Lane, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion was Mark LeDoux. Voting in opposition of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann. The motion DID NOT PASS 1-7-0.

Not Recommended by Selectmen

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Article 19

T. Gehan said that on Nartoff Rd there are 27 residential properties on the unpaved portion of road and there were signatures from 15 of those residences.

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MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Tammy Fareed that the Budget Committee recommend Article 19, Petition Article to Pave the Dirt Section of Nartoff Road, to the warrant. Voting in opposition of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was in favor. The motion DID NOT PASS 0-8-0.

Not Recommended by Selectmen

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Approval of minutes

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Mark LeDoux that the Budget Committee accept the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Budget Committee meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Mark LeDoux that the Budget Committee accept the minutes of the January 8, 2019 Budget Committee meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Adjournment

MOVED by Mark LeDoux, seconded by Mike Harris that the Budget Committee adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Tammy Fareed, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Camila Devlin, Tax Collector