



## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **Town of Hollis**

Seven Monument Square  
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## **Minutes of February 14, 2018**

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:** Frank Cadwell – Selectman Rep, Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Darlene Mann, and Tammy Fareed – School Board Rep

**Others present:** Peter Band – Selectman, Tom Bayrd – DPW Director, Dawn Desaulniers – IT Director, Bill Drescher – Legal Counsel, Kim Galipeau – Town Administrator, Joe Hoebeke – Police Chief, Deb Padykula – Finance Officer, David Petry – Selectman, Rick Towne – Fire Chief

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Tom G. reviewed upcoming meetings: Tonight's meeting is the Hollis Town Budget Public Hearing.

March 6, 2018:	Hollis School District Annual Meeting
March 13, 2018:	Election Day
March 15, 2018:	Hollis/Brookline COOP Annual Meeting
March 17, 2018:	Hollis Annual Town Meeting

### **Budget Process:**

Tom G. 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 0.25% increase in the tax base was assumed when developing the guidance for FY18. He stated that the guidance budget increased by \$191.4K (2.2%). The proposed operating budget of \$10,748,845 is \$6K under guidance.

Tom G. reviewed several metrics regarding tax rate, student enrollment, and staffing. The presentation can be accessed online at <http://www.hollisnh.org/budget/files/PublicHearingTown2018FINAL.pdf>.

### **Warrant Overview:**

Tom G. briefly reviewed the anticipated town warrant articles. A preliminary estimate of the town portion of the tax rate results in an \$0.86 increase (+14.5%). Part of this increase is due to land purchase bond payments that commence in FY18. This also reflects an anticipated revenue increase of \$69K and assumes all warrants as currently written will pass. Tom G. stated that if the budget and all warrant articles pass as proposed, the projected total tax rate could increase to \$25.04, up from \$23.15 in 2017 (an 8.2% increase).

Tom G. reviewed the conduct of the public hearing and opened the floor for public comment at 6:55 PM.

## Discussion of Warrant Articles

### ARTICLE 1 - Officials Reports

To hear reports of the Board of Selectmen, other Town Officers and Committees. – No discussion necessary.

### ARTICLE 2 – Land Acquisition – Playing Field Construction

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$860,000.00 (gross budget), for the following purposes: (1) to acquire full ownership interest in a certain tract or parcel of land in the Town of Hollis, and defray any necessary costs attendant thereto, together with any buildings thereon, more particularly described as Map 47, Lot 44-2, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$510,000 with \$100,000 to come from the Conservation Fund, and \$410,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance as of 12/31/17, if available; and (2) to defray the cost of development and construction of playing fields on said property (once acquired) in the amount of \$350,000, said funds to be withdrawn from the unassigned fund balance as of 12/31/17, if available. No amount to be raised by taxation.

- This article is contingent on the Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen approving of the share of funding attributed to the conservation fund, pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, (I) & RSA 36-A:5, (II), as well as the establishment of suitable perpetual conservation restrictions on such portion of the property as may be required to justify the application of the conservation funds portion of this appropriation to this purchase. This article is a special warrant article pursuant to RSA 32:7, (VI), designated as non-lapsing and shall expire no later than December 31, 2020.

### Recommended by Selectmen

#### Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0

Tom G. explained that expending funds that could potentially be used to reduce the tax rate equates to forgoing a \$0.71 reduction in the town tax rate.

Tom G. asked Attorney Dresher to explain the legality of using conservation funds for this purchase.

Attorney Dresher stated that conservation funds cannot be used to purchase or construct athletic playing fields but they can be used to protect water resources or other land designated as important for conservation. To meet this legal requirement, a portion of the property has been designated worthy of conservation subject to perpetual conservation restrictions. The Conservation Commission is required to hold a public hearing to discuss this expenditure and the Selectmen ratify the decision to purchase the property.

Tom G. described the location and plan of the proposed purchase.

Tom Dufresne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, stated that conservation funds would be paying 20% of the total cost for 80% of the land.

#### Public Comment:

Joe Connelly (Sawmill Rd.), president of HB CalRipkin, stated that the shortage of fields causes scheduling conflicts and field damage due to overuse. He added that HB CalRipkin pays thousands of dollars for the use of the fields and this acquisition will enable the organization to provide recreational baseball and softball to hundreds of Hollis children. He highlighted the benefits of youth participation in athletics and stated his strong support for developing the fields.

Peter Baker (Buttonwood Dr.) stated he is against the acquisition. He requested that the warrant article be removed because it is too difficult to understand and does not define the problem it is attempting to solve.

Elizabeth Wright (S. Merrimack Rd.) expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic on a designated scenic road and the potential impact on land zoned as residential/agricultural.

Forrest Wright (S. Merrimack Rd.) stated that there is a risk of a vehicle or pedestrian accident near the fields given the high amount of tractor/trailer traffic on Witches Spring and S. Merrimack Rds.

Mary Lou Ward (Witches Spring Rd.) stated that she is opposed to the article because of the high cost, increased traffic, and potential impact on the water aquifer. She feels the field will only benefit a small percentage of Hollis citizens.

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Martha Smith (Alsun Dr.) stated that she is opposed for environmental and traffic reasons and asked if information was available for existing field usage that would justify the acquisition.

Tom G. replied that the Hollis Master Plan indicates that the fields will be necessary to support the population of children participating in team athletics at build out.

Martha Smith asked if a study had been conducted to determine better use of the existing fields and if alternative locations had been considered.

Tom G. replied that the Recreation Commission has tried in past years to identify other properties but this was the only property brought forth in this budget cycle.

David P. added that the recently updated Master Plan is available on the town's website, as is a survey conducted by the town 2 years ago regarding the master plan update.

Mark L. stated that the Recreation Commission determined that it would cost over \$1M to develop fields on the recently purchased Stefanowicz property and that there were concerns regarding traffic and agriculture. The Siergiewicz property recently became available and its intended use will only be for recreational fields and the conservation of 80% of the land.

Martha Smith asked if the cost was supported by market analysis.

Tom G. replied that a professional appraisal had been conducted valuing the land at \$600K and the town would pay \$500K.

Frank C. stated that the town has been studying the need for recreational facilities since 2002 and added that 10 separate studies have been done by Hollis volunteer citizens which all determined that 2 more fields are needed.

Karen Bridgeo (Buttonwood Dr.) stated her support for more recreational fields but not at this location. She asked if other properties besides Stefanowicz and Siergiewicz had been considered.

Frank C. replied that many other properties have been researched.

Karen Bridgeo expressed concern regarding safety and overflow parking on the side of S. Merrimack and Witches Spring Rds. She added that weekend use of the COOP turf field might be a solution and asked that a committee be formed to find other potential locations for the new fields.

Jason Bridgeo (Buttonwood Dr.) stated that he does not support this location and that not enough research regarding this acquisition has been conducted.

Mark L. spoke to a comment regarding government transparency. He stated that Conservation Committee chairman presented this to the Selectmen in October and it was also discussed during the November deliberations with BudCom. Both conversations were conducted in Non-Public session.

Bill Angevine (Meadow Dr.) does not support the article due to safety concerns and the lack of traffic studies.

Dan Bergeron (Baxter Rd.) agrees that there is a need for fields but is concerned about the location due to traffic and safety reasons. He asked if it would be possible to swap Siergiewicz field for existing agriculture fields by Woodmont. He stated that if this is the only available location he would support the article.

Kelley Simonian (Old Runnells Bridge Rd.), president of BHYSL, stated that she strongly supports the article and that there is a dire need for new fields. She added that the new fields will benefit the entire community because children are future citizens. She stated that approximately 600 children participate in BYHSL and Cavaliers soccer programs and did not anticipate the kind of traffic that is experienced at Depot Rd.

Josh Bauer (Buttonwood Dr.) does not support the article due to concerns regarding flooding, noise, and the potential impact on his property which abuts the rear border of the land.

Carryl Roy (S. Merrimack Rd.) does not support the article due to concerns regarding safety, increased noise, wildlife displacement, and the water aquifer.

Josh Ward (S. Merrimack Rd.) does not support the article due to concerns regarding the water aquifer, traffic, and noise. He added that the fields are frequently flooded and questioned how this would impact abutting properties.

Kristine Opalka (Mooar Hill Rd.) does not support the article. She questioned why Stefanowicz was no longer being considered for fields and expressed concern regarding traffic, safety, the wetlands, and the aquifer.

Bill Opalka (Mooar Hill Rd.) opposes the article because the land floods regularly and expressed concern with chemicals going into the aquifer. He stated that the cost is high and he disagrees with the use of the unreserved fund balance.

Ken Bonn (Meadow Dr.) does not support the article due to safety concerns. He stated that 4 homes on the land would generate \$40K in revenue and added that the wetlands are already protected so purchasing them is not

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necessary. It was confirmed there would be no lights added as part of the project. He asked why there was such a sense of urgency and stated that most of the Selectmen's discussions occurred during closed meetings.

Attorney Dresher stated that the Conservation Committee meeting approving the purchase would occur after town meeting if the article is approved.

Virginia Brooks (Mendelssohn Dr.) opposes the article due to safety concerns and referenced a 1963 fatal accident involving a Siergiewicz child that was hit by a car while riding her bicycle.

Jonathan Garruba (Meadow Dr.) opposes the article and stated that he felt the purchase is being rushed. He feels the land does not meet the town's needs, will create safety and noise issues, and would like part the unassigned fund balance to be returned to the taxpayers.

Hans Keyser (Oakwood Ln.) opposes the article and feels the costs keep increasing. He expressed concern regarding that ability of emergency vehicles to access the field, flooding, traffic, and noise.

Cathy Coe (Toddy Brook Rd.) opposes the article due to safety, wetlands, and the location on the outskirts of town. She feels the project is being rushed.

Russ Lawson (Toddy Brook Rd.) opposes the article due to traffic safety and questions the availability of parking. He compared the potential traffic increase to the flea market.

Michele St. John (Orchard Dr.) is undecided because there isn't enough information available regarding the viability of the land for athletic fields and used Stefanowicz as an example.

Chris St. John (Orchard Dr.) stated that the current fields are overused and there is a need but more information needs to be available to ensure the fields will be built.

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr.) opposes the article for all the reasons stated thus far and stated that a better location should be determined. He questioned why conservation funds would be used for land that will never be developed anyway.

Tom Dufresne (Pound Rd.) stated that the appraisal of the field is accurate and the price for the land is fair. He stated that the fields will be placed out of the 100 year flood zone. The plan will protect 15 acres in a permanent conservation easement. If the land is developed the land may not be protected. He stated that the Siergiewicz property was documented in public minutes for the November 15, 2017 Conservation Committee meeting.

Kyle Gillis (Truell Rd.), Recreation Director, stated that fields are so overused sometimes they do not meet game regulation safety requirements and many fields are split 3 ways to accommodate multiple practices. He stated that there would be no lights and there is no room to build bleachers. He verified with the NH State Agriculture Commission that there are no restrictions on fertilizers or pesticides.

Michelle Baerthlein (S. Merrimack Rd.) neighbors the Siergiewicz land and opposes the article due to increased traffic and safety concerns. She is also worried that lights will be added in the future.

Eugene Ward (Witches Spring Rd.) opposes the article. He mentioned significant large truck traffic and expressed safety concerns as well. He does not agree that the unassigned fund balance should be used.

Randall Clark (W. Hollis Rd.), Vice Chair Hollis Agriculture Commission, stated the commission has not taken a position on the article. He stated that developing fields on Stefanowicz is not feasible because there is no flat area that exists without significant grading which is cost prohibitive. He added that the Food Safety and Modernization Act prohibits mixed use of agricultural fields.

Jennifer Brooks (S. Merrimack Rd.) opposes the article due to traffic and safety concerns. She said she would support the purchase of the land if it is kept as open space.

James Brooks (S. Merrimack Rd.) stated that recreational fields would be preferable to houses, but keeping it as open space would be best.

Deborah Pucci (Nartoff Rd.) opposes the article because not enough information is available.

Peter Baker (Buttonwood Dr.) stated that information regarding this article was not readily available until January. He expressed concern that the use of the fields would grow and that the area would be re-zoned as commercial. He also questioned the reliability of the appraisal.

Jennifer Brooks (S. Merrimack Rd.) stated that her property is zoned as agricultural/residential and that the Planning Board restricted client visits to 14 per day to limit traffic for Horse n' Hound. She repeated her traffic and safety concerns.

Michele St. John (Orchard Dr.) stated that the fields would only be in regular use for half the year.

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr.) asked for details concerning the study that states a need for these fields at buildout.

Tom G. replied that buildout is a point in the future but there is a current need for the fields.

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Frank C. confirmed the current need for fields.

Tom Dufresne (Pound Rd.) stated that information explaining why alternate town owned properties are not suitable for athletic fields is included in a packet he distributed to BudCom. He added that he is seeing the same field overcrowding with his granddaughter that he experienced with his daughter 20 years ago and feels that it is time to do something.

Jonathan Garruba (Meadow Dr.) stated that he estimates over 1,000 vehicles for 13 hours of field usage and expressed sanitation concerns. He inquired about the land in front of the high school currently being leased for agricultural use. Matthew Murdock (Meadow Dr.) asked if the town was looking to build fields in Brookline since many sports organizations encompass both towns.

Tom G. replied that this discussion does not involve Brookline and stated that clubs combine Brookline and Hollis so there are enough children to field a team. He does not know what percentage of participating children are from Brookline.

Matthew Murdock added that most people using the fields are not from around the neighborhood.

Karen Bridgeo (Buttonwood Dr.) asked if a 3 house sub-division had been approved and questioned the reliability of the appraisal.

Tom G. replied that a sub-division has not been approved but 3 test pits have been done indicating the land will support 3 new houses.

Peter B. added that the town engineer and the Planning Board have looked at the property and concluded that a minimum of 3 lots is achievable. No sub-division application has yet been submitted.

Tom G. stated that the appraisal was performed by a certified professional.

Peter B. stated that the land is appraised at \$600K and the town entered into a non-binding contingent agreement for \$500K. He added that the non-public sessions that occurred in October pertained to negotiations with the property owner and are allowed by NH RSAs. As soon as the negotiations were concluded the information become public.

Karen Bridgeo thanked the boards for their service. She stated that information regarding the Siergiewicz purchase was made public on November 15, 2017 and does not give residents enough time to learn about the project.

Peter B. replied that the seller presented the opportunity to the town in October.

Paul Edmunds (Dow Rd.) stated that there is an acute need for fields that must be addressed. He added that the topography of the land is nearly perfect for fields and the water aquifer will not be affected. The owners have indicated that the land will be sold for private development if the town does not purchase the property. He stated that traffic concerns can be addressed and several other locations have been looked at that are not as viable.

Mary Lou Ward (Witches Spring Rd.) asked why Brookline children would be playing on the fields.

Frank C. replied that the recreational leagues need children from both towns to have enough to put full teams together. He stated that the leagues play on both Brookline and Hollis fields and that the arrangement is reciprocal. He added that several other towns would also be playing on the fields as the visiting team during games.

Virginia Brooks (Mendelssohn Dr.) reiterated her safety concerns.

### ARTICLE 3 – Fire Rescue 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 \$742,000, for the purpose of lease purchasing one (1) fire rescue truck with equipment and attachments for the fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	Total
\$53,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$53,000	\$742,000

### Recommended by Selectmen

### Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.03/\$1,000

Tom G. stated the estimated purchase price is \$650K and the financing cost is \$92K. It is a 7 year lease. This will replace a 1999 Rescue Truck and has the ability to handle vehicle fires without the assistance of the engine truck.

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Mike H. asked for a quote on the interest rate.  
Deb P. replied 3.2% but it is not yet locked in.

### **Public Comment:**

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd.) asked if the estimated tax impact was only for the first year.  
Tom G. replied yes.  
Drew Mason requested the tax impact be provided for subsequent years.

### **ARTICLE 4 – 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.

#### **Recommended by Selectmen**

**Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0**

No public comment.

### **ARTICLE 5 – Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be placed in the Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting.

#### **Recommended by Selectmen**

**Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.06/\$1,000**

Tom G. stated that the town is liable for accrued earned time in the event that employment is terminated. The purpose of this article is to have a reserve in place for this contingent liability. Nine employees left during 2017, drawing \$50.6K from the fund. At the end of FY17 the town's liability was \$273K and the fund's balance was \$82.8K.

No public comment.

### **ARTICLE 6 – 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.

#### **Recommended by Selectmen**

**Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.01/\$1,000**

Tom G. explained that NH state law requires a town wide property reevaluation every 5 years and this article sets aside funds for this expense over several years to lessen the tax rate impact. 2018 is a reevaluation year.

### **Public Comment:**

Mary Lou Ward (Witches Spring Rd.) asked if this means that an assessor will ask to come inside her property every 5 years.  
Frank C. replied that recently sold properties receive inside inspections and they will do an outside inspection of a sample of other properties.  
Peter B. added it is a statistical update and not all homes can be inspected.

**ARTICLE 7 – 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.

**Recommended by Selectmen**

**Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.06/\$1,000**

Tom G. reviewed the fund balance and proposed FY18 projects, which include Town Hall security improvements and roof repair, and fence repair at the Transfer Station.

No public comment.

**ARTICLE 8 – 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, 2017, if available. No amount to be raised from taxation.

**Recommended by Selectmen**

**Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0**

Tom G. stated that expending funds for this article equates to forgoing a \$0.06 reduction in the town tax rate. \$5.8K was expended from this fund in FY17.

**Public Comment:**

Jonathan Garruba (Meadow Dr.) asked what expenses are allowed for this fund.

Mike H. replied that it at the selectmen's discretion.

Frank C. stated that the last time most of the fund was used pertained to legal fees associated with the gas pipeline proposal.

David P. stated that this used to be a line item in the operating budget but is now required by RSA to be presented as a warrant article. He added that usage of this fund is a last resort for emergencies.

Mark L. reviewed prior use of the fund which included legal fees, an unforeseen fire truck replacement and a dam breach repair. He stated that unused funds roll back into the unassigned fund balance.

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd.) asked for the difference between the contingency fund and the unassigned fund balance in terms of authorized expenditure.

Tom G. replied that the expending the contingency fund is at the selectmen's discretion and expending the unassigned fund balance requires DRA oversight and a town vote.

Drew Mason stated it would be helpful to explain this difference at town meeting.

Mark L. stated that at one time the fund balance was only \$149K. He said the Board of Selectmen voted to increase the unassigned fund balance to \$2.5M and succeeded in attaining an AA2 Moody's Bond rating.

**ARTICLE 9 – Collective Bargaining Agreement, Local 3657 (Police/Fire/Communications)**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Town of Hollis and AFSCME Local 3657, and in doing so, to approve the cost items within said agreement, which calls for the following increases for salaries and benefits over what was raised under any current agreements for the employees of the Union and, further, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$104,400 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The 2019 and 2020 costs associated with the agreement will be included in the respective operating budgets.

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<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$104,400	\$113,100	\$7,700	\$225,200

### **Recommended by Selectmen**

#### **Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.06/\$1,000**

Tom G. reviewed the details of the agreement. Changes in 2018 include multiple wage scale increases from 5%-6% to maintain regional competitiveness, a \$150 longevity payment per year of service, a \$4K increase in tuition reimbursement, 5 additional Child Passenger Safety Technicians allowable (\$5K), a 7 day increase in the waiting period for short-term disability, and employee health premium contribution increases (HMO 30%, Lumenos 12%). Changes in 2019 include a 2% wage adjustment and merit step/longevity. Changes in 2020 include salary and benefit increases of \$7.7K including NHRS, Social Security, Medicare, and PTO Buy-back.

#### Public Comment:

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr.) asked for clarification regarding the Child Passenger Safety Technician positions. Rick T. explained that this is an extra certification so an employee can oversee the safe installation of child car seats. He clarified that the \$5K is for all the positions and not per person.

### **ARTICLE 10 – 2018 Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,748,845 which represents the operating budget of the Town for 2018, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

### **Recommended by Selectmen**

#### **Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$6.33/\$1,000**

Tom G. stated that this budget is \$6K below BudCom guidance. Staff changes include the addition of a Town Hall full-time receptionist (\$50K), increasing a Police Department Maintenance Technician position to full time (\$23K), and adding a full time Youth Services Librarian (\$45K).

Increases to the proposed budget include:

1. Long Term Debt
2. Police – Legal (Prosecutor)
3. Library Payments
4. NH Retirement System
5. Workers Compensation – increase in insurance premium based on claims history

Decreases to the proposed budget include:

1. Health Insurance
2. DPW – Financed Equipment – at the end of the lease
3. Planning Special Projects – Master Plan Update was a onetime expense
4. Financial Software Capital Lease
5. Town Liability Insurance

#### Public Comment:

Joseph Garruba (Winchester Dr.) asked why there is a \$1K line item in the budget pertaining to the Luminary Event since he recalls it being voted down at last year's town meeting.

Mark L. replied that at last year's town meeting a motion was made to add the \$1K to the budget and it was approved. There was a discussion about whether the line item should be perpetual or if it should be approved every year at town meeting and how to present an amendment at town meeting.

David P. stated that last year the event was funded through private donation and this year the Agricultural Commission has offered to fund it. The \$1K pays for police detail (traffic) and miscellaneous expenses.

Drew Mason (Baxter Rd.) asked what road projects are planned.



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Mark L. replied re-building Witches Spring Rd. and finishing the project on Pine Hill Rd.

Drew Mason asked how Article 13 (paving Wood Lane) will be funded if it is approved.

Tom G. replied that the article is non-appropriating and the selectmen would need to find money elsewhere in the operating budget.

Peter B. stated it is non-binding article and could be completed in a future year.

Mark L. stated the estimated cost is \$102K.

### **ARTICLES 11, 12, & 13**

Tom G. stated that Articles 11, 12, & 13 are available in the presentation posted online and BudCom will not deliberate on them because they are non-appropriating articles.

- ARTICLE 11 – Draining Easement – Woods Subdivision
- ARTICLE 12 – River Stewardship Plan
- ARTICLE 13 – Pave Wood Lane

### **ARTICLE 14 - To Transact Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before Said Meeting.**

Public Hearing was ended at 9:38 PM.

### **Budget Committee Positions**

Tom G. opened BudCom deliberations at 9:40 PM.

#### Article 2:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tom J.

Frank C. stated that data from the multiple studies is available online and asked what information is specifically requested by BudCom that would address the concerns raised by the public.

Mike H. replied that he would like more details on the traffic study.

Mark L. provided some statistics:

- 367 vehicular accidents in Hollis from January 2015- December 2017, of which 36 (10%) occurred on S. Merrimack Rd.
- Average speed on S. Merrimack Rd. is 34-37 mph. Speed limit is 30 mph.
- 10 am and 4 pm are frequent accident times.
- 20 of the 36 accidents that occurred on S. Merrimack Rd. occurred in inclement weather.
- None of the accidents involve fatalities.

Mark L. agreed with the public's concerns and stated that the warrant gives the Selectmen several years to construct the fields, during which time much of the feedback received from the public would be addressed.

Mike H. asked if police detail would be needed, similar to the flea market.

Mark L. replied no.

Frank C. added that the traffic calming measures at the fields on Depot Rd. are very effective.

Mark L. stated that the COOP has a warrant article to construct one turf field for the cost of \$1.7M, of which Hollis is responsible for 70%.

Frank C. stated that the tax impact for Article 2 is \$285/year for an average home.

Darlene M. questioned why Horse n' Hound is restricted by the Planning Board to 14 clients per day but the fields would have 107 parking spaces. She requested a formal traffic study.

Frank C. replied that businesses neighboring the fields on Depot Rd. face the same traffic restrictions and the high school is not required to submit a new traffic study in order to add the turf field.

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Tammy F. stated that no new parking spaces will be added to accommodate the new turf field. She questioned the need for 2 new fields because if the turf field is approved it would be available for recreational purposes during the daytime on weekends. She expressed concern about traffic safety and asked why only 107 spaces are planned when the need for 150 has been indicated.

David P. replied that the 150 spaces is from the analysis performed for building fields at the Stefanowicz property, which was to be a larger complex. He added that the Recreation Commission would be required to go before the Planning Board and stated that a traffic study needs to be done on S. Merrimack Rd. regardless of the article.

Mark L. stated that the town is not required to purchase the land if the article is approved at town meeting if it is determined that it is not best for the Town to do so.

Tom J. stated that many in the public are not convinced there is a need for fields and asked for several location options. He asked the Recreation Commission to reevaluate properties he suggested at the meeting on January 30, 2018.

Frank C. replied that this proposal is the result of fields not being constructed at Stefanowicz. He expressed frustration that the Recreation Commission has spent 20 years trying to add these fields only to be rejected each time. He stated that many of the locations referenced cannot be used for fields.

Tammy F. expressed concern that the Siergiewicz purchase could end up the same as Stefanowicz where it is determined fields cannot be built. She stated that not enough study has been done to support the article.

Frank C. stated there is no question the fields will be built if the land is purchased and it would not take 2 years.

Tom J. said again that there are better locations that should be considered.

Frank C. offered to list the numerous resident volunteers that have studied the need for fields and potential locations.

Tammy F. asked if the article is amendable for the purpose of inserting conditional language.

Mike H. stated that the language can be amended but should be left to the Selectmen's discretion.

Mike L. stated that many of the answers are currently available and that there will always be questions but there is discretion built into the article that makes this an opportunity worth taking.

Tom G. does not support the article given the number of unanswered questions and speed with which this was presented to the public. He feels that not enough information has been adequately publicized. He added that fields are needed but that this is not a prudent use of funds at this time and requests that the article be withdrawn.

Mike H. stated that he also has concerns regarding traffic and parking.

David P. asked what Tom G. would like to see in order to support the article.

Tom G. replied public outreach and adequate time to make an informed decision.

Tom J. asked to move the question. Mike H. seconded. Vote was 6-1-0. Tammy F. voted against. Motion passed.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. - Yea, Tammy F. - Nea, Tom G. - Nea, Mike H. - Nea, Tom J. - Nea, Mike L. - Nea, Darlene M. - Nea, Motion failed 1-6-0

### Article 3:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tom J.

Tammy F. asked what will happen to the old truck.

Rick T. replied that it will be sold.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. - Yea, Tammy F. - Yea, Tom G. - Yea, Mike H. - Yea, Tom J. - Yea, Mike L. - Yea, Darlene M. - Yea, Motion carried 7-0-0

## **Budget Committee Minutes February 14, 2018**

### Article 4:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Mike L.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 5:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tammy F.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 6:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tammy F.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 7:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tammy F.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 8:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Mike L.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 9:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tom J.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

### Article 10:

Mike H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article.

Motion was seconded by Tom J.

Roll call vote:

Frank C. – Yea, Tammy F. – Yea, Tom G. – Yea, Mike H. – Yea, Tom J. – Yea, Mike L. – Yea, Darlene M. – Yea,  
Motion carried 7-0-0

## **Budget Committee Minutes February 14, 2018**

### **Approval of minutes:**

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 2/6/18 as written. Mike L. seconded. Vote was 7-0-1. Frank C. abstained. Minutes were accepted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Tom J. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor, Tax Collector