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2016

## Unity Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2016

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**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE  
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016  
LOCATION: UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UNITY, MAINE**

**TOWN OFFICIALS SEATED AT HEAD TABLE:**

**Selectman Chris Rossignol  
Selectman Penny Picard-Sampson  
Selectman Emily Newell  
Selectman Tony Avila  
Town Clerk, Samantha Mank**

**MODERATOR: Donald Newell**

Meeting commenced at 10:00:47 Hours.

10:00:47 Donald Newell: Good morning and welcome to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Town of Unity. We have a few things to review before getting to the Articles, and I'll proceed with that. I think I'll open with the folks who have left us since our last meeting, residents of our town that are no longer with us. Page 44, if you'll go to that. Some of you have page numbers, some don't. For those who have page numbers its right after 43. [LAUGHTER] Right after Taxes Due. See if you're on the list. I'm going to read them to you anyway and then I'll ask you to join me in a moment of silence on behalf of those people and the contributions they have made to our community. George Bridges, Cora Carmichael, Albin Davis, Joseph DeFazio, Everett Dunton, Dorothy Fernald, Christopher Gabinski, Robert Gardner, Harold Gordon, G. Hunter, Alan Hunter, Michael Koziupa, Mark Mesaric, Suzanne Meserve, Stanley Mitchell, Kenton Mitchell, Robert Potter, Arleta Reynolds, Marilyn Rhoades, Randall Roberts, Betty Shawley, Eleanor Ward. Please have a moment of silence. Thank you very much.

10:03:18 Donald Newell: We had elections yesterday. The results for Selectman, a three-year term, Avila, Antonio, otherwise known as Tony, 155 votes. Charles Schaeffer, 99 votes. I got that wrong. I've never seen your name written this way. Antonio is where Tony comes from! There were no write-ins. Our new Selectman for the three-year term is Tony. [APPLAUSE] Tony, I want to take this opportunity to swear you in. You're not actually Selectman until the meeting is over but I'm going to swear you in now.

10:04:22 Donald Newell: Tony, please raise your right hand and read.

10:04:30 Tony Avila: I, Tony Avila, do swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State so long as I shall continue as a Resident thereof so help me God. I, Tony Avila, do swear that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my abilities the duties incumbent upon me as Selectman according to the Constitution and laws of the State so help me God. [Applause]

[Recited together] I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

10:05:06 Chris Rossignol: I'm going to hand Tony the keys to the kingdom.

10:05:34 Donald Newell: And we had elections for the Unity Utilities District Trustees and that election is voted on by folks who live in the district. The results of that election were Patricia Clark, 32, Kevin Spigel, 33, and one write-in for [inaudible] Pinnette of one. It doesn't say the length of the term, but Patricia Clark and Kevin Spigel. [Applause]

10:06:25 Donald Newell: Let's talk about procedure here for a bit and for those who are visiting from the Senate or the House, I'll call on you before we enter into the Articles. I was elected yesterday as Moderator. My job is to assure that there is an affirmative motion on each of the Articles in the Warrant, and that that motion is seconded, and that there is free and open discussion on the motions and a very clear vote on the motion. So, some things along the way. We have developed a system here where I will read the Article and then I have motioner and a seconder staged in the room so as long as Dot (Quimby) doesn't fall asleep on us, it ought to work well. So then the motion is on the floor. This works well, it will get it on the floor and then the voters have an opportunity to deliberate on it. There is a little wrinkle this year, at least to me. I'm rather specific about how I like to see these go. These Articles, by the time you get to number six, which is on page 65, you will see let's go number seven. You will see where the Article says 7, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and then at the end of the sentence, you'll see a number of \$500.00. That's contradictory. In Maine law the number is in the Article and that is the maximum number that the voters can actually approve. However, the words 'what sum, if any,' indicate just the opposite, that the Town can approve whatever number they wish on that particular issue. So I asked the Selectmen whether it was intended in the writing of the Articles to cap the number, and the answer is no. First I said, well, I'll read it as what sum if any. Well, if I do that, then I end up with a motion on the floor, moved and seconded, that says what sum, if any which means you have a motion with no number. So that can be confusing too. Here is what we're doing. I'll read the Article with 'what sum, if any stricken.' For example, number seven, to see if the Town will approve and appropriate \$500.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. That's how I'm going to do it. That way you have a clear and concise motion on the floor, before it's moved and seconded, and we'll open it up for discussion. That doesn't mean that the voters couldn't move to amend to raise \$400.00, or \$350.00, or whatever number you wish. We'll follow along with your book. Any questions about that procedure?

10:10:50 Donald Newell: Are there any people that are actual Unity Town residents and are at this meeting for the first time? One, two, okay. I'm always criticized for taking time to do this. So, if you elect me as moderator I'll always do it. The Town of Unity has a very organized approach to Town Meeting. It's a very respectful approach and some have gone so far as to say a very effective approach. We'll see about that. I would tend to agree. We will work really hard on the respect piece. I'll ask you if you have questions that when you speak on any of these Articles that when you speak, first of all we want to make sure that everybody hears you. That's why the mike is there. Not everyone has a big booming voice, which is a little distracting if one tries that and others don't, so I'll ask that anytime you want to speak to a motion to please address

the mike and address the whole group so we can all hear you. The approach here is to talk to the Moderator. Don't get caught talking to someone that just spoke and creating an argument with one person. The conversation is between the Moderator and the speaker, not with individual voters. In the end, it's the green card or voice that determines the vote and it doesn't matter how loud the voice is. I can tell that by one loud and a not so loud, and a whole bunch of soft ones. So you don't need to be loud, we just need to have our voice heard. The thing I worry about with brand new people who are not used to what we do at any Town Meeting and so your voice is not heard. That's not good. We want to make sure that on any of these subjects that your voice is heard. Some folks have said, well, geez, I don't know what to do. I don't agree with this motion that's been made but I don't know how to fix it. All you have to do is say, Mr. Moderator or hey you, stand up, wave -- anything will work to get my attention. I'll assist you through it and help you make a motion to amend if that's what you need help with. If you wonder how did we get to this point, don't hesitate, raise the question. As we get moving here, we oftentimes get going rather rapidly. Not right now, we're not going rapidly right now, but once we get rolling we will. I'll use voice voting, yea or nay. I'm going to declare approval or denial, yes or no and move on. If at any point in the day anyone of you thinks that I missed that, that I didn't call that right, then rise or say Mr. Moderator, I don't think you got that right. I'll ultimately ask you to use the green cards, raise the green cards. These are very visible. These green cards were given to only people who are registered voters. So if it gets close that's a way for us to really be careful of who is voting and be careful in getting the numbers right. We've had it before, 54 to 53 so these are very important. If anybody is here that is a resident of the Town of Unity and doesn't have a green card come get one. If you are not a registered voter but you're a resident of the Town of Unity, we have registration cards and we'll accommodate that. So you can come up and get registered and get your green card and work with us here.

10:16:27 Donald Newell: That is the basis of our work. Other things that may come up. In your Town Report we've got the basic rules of procedure. Hopefully we won't get to a point where we'll worry about that but for those of you who are seasoned and you think I've made an error, please bring it to my attention and we'll go from there.

10:17:12 Donald Newell: Let's start with the Pledge of Allegiance, please. [ALL STANDING - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED].

10:18:05 Donald Newell: Article 3, To see if the Town will vote to approve the Maine Moderator's Manual 6th Edition as the rules of procedure for the meeting. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

10:18:19 Donald Newell: Article 4, to see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

10:18:40 Donald Newell: Laurie raises a great point. I'm getting older or something. I never could remember everything but if I skip an Article or I take a vote on an amendment and not the main motion, I've got some helpers out here. Laurie suggested that I said I was going to invite the various senators and representatives and candidates to have a moment at the mike. And we hope it's not a long time [LAUGHTER] but we do want to hear from you and we certainly

appreciate your taking the time to come meet with us. So, I see Mike Thibodeau. Mike, come on up.

10:19:31 Senator Mike Thibodeau: Good morning and thank you for allowing me to represent you in the State Senate over the last two years. I did some checking after I was elected Senate President. I was the first Senate President to be elected from Waldo County for over 90 years. I made a promise after I found that out. I promised that I was going to be on my best behavior because nobody can remember what Senator Buzzell did but it took 90 years to forget, so I don't want to see another 90 years go by to see another State Senator from Waldo County that serves in that State capacity. You know, people back home ask me, Mike, and my wife asked, why would you do this again? It's pretty contentious. I'm running for my fourth and final term in the State Senate for the same reasons I ran for the State Senate. It's this. The decisions that we make at the State House in Augusta, if we make every one of them exactly right, our State would still face enormous challenges. If we do make them right, those decisions make everybody's life just a little bit better. That 1.25 million people. That's a big deal. So every day that I go to Augusta, I promise you this, I do the very best I can, I use my own best judgement to make sure that we make our state the best place possible it can be. I appreciate your time and if there is anything I can ever do, if you're trying to navigate the State bureaucracy, please feel free to reach out to me. I'll help you in any way I can. Thanks, Don. Thank you.

10:21:29 Donald Newell: See I've already made two mistakes and one is that I didn't call on you, and two, you get to decide who you're going to hear from who is not a resident of Unity. I knew that would be close. A two-thirds vote is required for nonresidents to speak. The next one is Jonathan Fulford, and we'll try out this two-thirds vote. All those in favor of hearing Jonathan? Those opposed? You're on.

10:22:11 Jonathan Fulford: Hi, I'm Jonathan Fulford. I live over in Monroe and I'm running again for State Senate. I met some of you two years ago when I ran. I told people when I was running last time that I had three grandchildren and that's not the reason I'm running anymore because I have five grandchildren. Those grandchildren remind me of my commitment to the future, for all of ours. In particular that I'd like to address are property taxes. You probably know that of any taxes in most of the states, income tax, property, and sales tax, out of all those three I think that property taxes is the one that hurts rural Maine the most, for people on a fixed income. And if we don't do revenue sharing properly and we don't fund the schools properly, it hammers the taxes. I'd like to do something about that. Because I have children and now grandchildren in Waldo County I want to make sure there are good jobs. I've worked hard to keep my kids around. I have ideas about how exactly to make the economy work well for all of Waldo County and Maine. That's connected actually to another reason why I'm running and that's climate change. When I think about my grandchildren I think about their future, and this could impact them a lot, I believe, and I think it's time for us to take that in hand. There are things you can do about it and I want to be a part of that with you. The last thing is I had to spend a lot of time in Augusta before I ran for office and I decided if I was going to run again I ought to get to know a little bit about what I'm going to get myself into. I learned a lot. There are a lot of good people there but there's also, at first a lot I wasn't very comfortable with, but on both sides of the aisle, the influence of money basically. That's all I'm going to say. I appreciate the time you've given me at Town Meeting. Thank you very much.

10:24:24 Donald Newell: And lastly I would like you to meet April Turner from Freedom. All those in favor of allowing April to speak say aye? Opposed, no?

10:24:52 April Turner: Thank you. I'm not going to be long-winded. My name is April Turner. I'm running for the House of Representatives, and I live in Freedom. I've lived in this area for 26 years. I graduated from Mt. View. I actually have two children that will graduate in the [inaudible] spring. I'm a birth, adoptive, and foster mom. Taking care of kids and working with families is what I like to do. In 50 days, not that I'm counting, I will be graduating with a degree in social work. I want to take that degree and what I've learned and bring it to the State, to bring those values in social work to the State House. I'm a caring and compassionate person. I want to fight for social justice and in the future assured that we have the jobs. I want to make sure that my two kids who are heading off to college can afford it. So I'd really appreciate your vote in November, I'm April Turner and I'm running for the House of Representatives.

10:26:12 Donald Newell: Penny Picard Sampson has some business to attend to before we move on to the next Article.

10:26:28 Penny Picard Sampson: We are very lucky to have a very dedicated and faithful Resident that helps us out every year at Town Meeting. She also does the stenography at the Planning Board. One Planning Board meeting she took 41 pages of notes. She won't take any money for it. We've offered and she refuses. So we thought the least we could do this year is to give her a thank you gift, and we'd like to thank Sherry Powell-Wilson for her assistance.

10:27:15 Sherry Powell-Wilson: Thank you. Is my face as red as my hair? Thank you. [Sherry opened gift, a berry bowl, from Unity Pottery.] Now that's fancy!

10:28:31 Donald Newell: I would like to draw your attention to Article 33. We struggled a little bit with where to put this Article. We can put it up front with the intent to notify folks of the implications of it, and we don't know what they really are. You don't have the numbers yet. We put it at the end and you have the numbers but you have people making decisions that are not relating to this particular law in the State of Maine. So we put it at the back and I talk about it at the front, the Tax Levy Limit. We have described it in detail now for two or three years so I assume everybody in the house knows all about that and why that Article is in there. Any questions about that?

10:29:29 Resident: Can you not assume everyone knows and just explain it anyway?

10:29:36 Donald Newell: I could! You're welcome. That's not a problem.

10:29:43 Resident: Put it in layman's terms.

10:29:47 Donald Newell: I'll do my best. Does one of the Selectmen want to take this?

10:30:02 Emily Newell: I can try. I want your notes. I don't have any notes on this. There is a law in the State of Maine that says what the difference can be of the taxes we raise versus what

our our property values were based on last year 's taxes, but this is what we use to know when we have gone over that limit.

10:30:37 Donald Newell: That's a good start.

10:30:42 Tabitha Littlefield: Governor Baldacci set the goal of lowering Maine's State and local tax burden [inaudible] from the middle one-third of the State by 2015 by setting this particular Tax Levy Law in place. The goal was to lower everyone's taxes because our taxes are too high and it's burdening the State of Maine. Some towns are able to not exceed that Tax Levy limit, and some towns exceed it anyway. Canaan residents slashed \$180,000 from their proposed town budget after rejecting the increase in the Tax Levy limit and, unfortunately they did that at the end of the Town Meeting, so they did it after they had already voted to spend. Then they voted not to exceed the levy limit and had to sit there and deliberate for hours afterwards. We don't really want to do that. That being said, I did take the time to look at the number in advance. Our budget exceeds a million dollars. We're not going to make this Tax Levy limit as long as we're paying loans for the Town Office Building and the Fire Department. I really don't believe it's going to happen. That doesn't mean you couldn't vote to do it and it doesn't mean you could but it doesn't have to be an awful lot and it may be borderline possible and really suffering a few years as a result. I do want to say thought that we also have a lot of charitable endeavors that are in the Town budget and every year I hear a lot of bickering and complaining and arguing. I added them all up. They're only slightly over \$14,000. That's not even close to what we're proposing. The budget's only \$14,000. That being said, I'm not opposed to lowering taxes. I think that's a good idea and we should try to do that while we're looking over everything that we spend money on from our Articles that we're going to talk about and vote on. I just want everyone to think about that the fact that everyone is struggling and no one is able to pay their taxes. Charities and philanthropy are a good thing and everyone should be trying to serve their communities in different things and those charities are a great way that we can serve our community. But, in a certain sense I want them to think about you're taking money away from those who can't pay their taxes to try fund these charities. In a certain sense, you're taking money away from the very people you're trying to help so I'd ask you to consider that on every little detail as we go through the Articles that we're going to talk about today, whether or not you're really helping people or hurting them. Thank you.

10:33:50 Donald Newell: The basic foundation of Baldacci's work was that towns increase their real estate holdings over the course of the year ultimately more tax funds available in that community, and that residents, on average, have an increase in income over the course of the year and, thus, have a little higher ability to pay. The Tax Levy Limit is a computation based on the State Planning Office figure for what the annual income increase would be, and a local determination on the increase in taxable real estate over a period of one year and so that gives you a percent increase in your budget that would be in line with the percent increase and revenues available in the community. And it's okay to go with that amount. What the Tax Levy Limit does is it tells you that you're increasing the burden on your taxpayers beyond what they could expect to be raising. So it is a higher burden for the taxes. It is just there to let you know what you're doing as you're considering all of these Articles.

We already knew that trying to meet this Levy was not going to work. That's why we wanted to at least have the reason of the Article, the law, in the first place to just alert folks to be careful in your deliberations this morning. Don't spend money you don't need to and increase the burdens beyond what is absolutely necessary. Other questions about that? Okay, moving along.

10:35:48 Donald Newell: Article 5, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$63,185.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries. It's important as we go along that everybody participates in the ayes and nays. Otherwise it will get wishy-washy and I won't be able to tell what we voted through.

10:36:26 Donald Newell: Article 6, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Assessing Services for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing none, will call for vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:36:45 Donald Newell: Article 7, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:37:03 Donald Newell: Article 8, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$830.00 for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. I will call your attention to the Selectmen recommendation and Budget Committee recommendation is less than that figure. The floor is open.

10:37:25 Penny Picard Sampson: Do we need to make an amendment to get it passed for \$500.00. [Yes] I'd like to make an amendment to change the figure from \$830.00 to \$500.00.

10:37:56 Donald Newell: Moved and seconded to reduce the figure from \$830.00 to \$500.00. Further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none will call for the vote on the amendment. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries. Now we'll call for the vote on the Article as amended. Further discussion on that? Seeing none will call for that vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. That's how that is done. That's a perfect example in how we can do something.

10:38:38 Donald Newell: Article 9, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? I know the result but I'm going to ask you to raise your green cards. All in favor raise your green cards? Motion carries. Thank you very much. The motion carries.

10:39:11 Donald Newell: Article 10, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for



discussion. I will call your attention to the Selectmen's recommendation and the Budget Committee's recommendation of raising that figure to \$500.00.

10:39:37 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to make an amendment that we change the amount of \$300.00 to \$500.00.

10:39:55 Donald Newell: Moved and seconded. Penny is going to speak to it. Is that Meals on Wheels that we're talking about?

10:40:22 Penny Picard Sampson: Spectrum Generations helps our elderly and some of our most needy people in Town. They are primarily Meals on Wheels. The reason why we increased it from \$300.00 to \$500.00 was because the amount of support that they give. Based on meals alone, not including the other activities they support, it is \$.40 a meal that are provided to the most needy Residents. That's why we increased it.

10:41:24 Donald Newell: Further discussion on the amendment? I'll take your comment because otherwise I'd call for the vote.

10:41:28 Lynn Warman: Penny, does that \$300 or \$500 go directly towards Meals on Wheels or does it go to the Spectrum Generations as a whole, because only 58% of their income goes to social services?

10:41:50 Penny Picard Sampson: In the past year Spectrum Generations provided, they prepared and delivered 1,237 meals to 60 Unity home-bound Residents, which is a 22% increase over the previous year. The aged and disability resource specialist provided 73 hours of outreach counseling to seniors ranging from elder abuse to prescription drug coverage and long-term care. They also provided help and support to two family caregivers who are struggling to balance work and family while attending to full-time care of elder or disabled relatives, a 200% increase over the previous year. Twenty Unity seniors attended health and wellness activities at the Community Center, a 900% increase, and 32 meals were served to Unity residents through the Community Dining Program where they use local Maine products whenever possible. The estimated value of the services is \$10,377.00, or \$.80. Our understanding is the actual cost per meal that is delivered is approximated to be \$7.00 and we're paying, just counting the meal part alone, is \$.40.

Resident: What percentage of the money we provide actually goes to the Meals on Wheels program?

10:43:38 Donald Newell: I think it would be appropriate to ask the Selectmen to put a note, if you approve this figure saying that the marginal money that is contributed is to go directly to Meals on Wheels. So if they accept that money, that's the obligation they have is that the whole \$200.00 goes to Meals on Wheels. You can't enforce it. No one is going to get an auditor. I think that's a reasonable thing to do if anybody wants to do it that way then somebody make a motion to incorporate that. [Moved] So we have a motion to amend...

10:44:41 Emily Newell: Are we going to act on the amendment first and then amend?

10:44:45 Donald Newell: No, the amendment is to raise the figure before we go to the main motion we can deal with that issue. So hold that amendment until we get back to the main motion. So the vote is on raising the figure to \$500.00. Any further discussion? All in favor of raising the figure to \$500.00 say aye? E: Those opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we're back to the main motion as amended regarding the dollars to accept the motion to amend that to put a note with that that the marginal \$200.00 is to be dedicated to Meals on Wheels. Do we have a motion to amend to put a note with the funds? Moved and seconded? Any discussion on that?

10:45:31 Kevin Spigel: Not particularly. I just wanted to know, the dollar figures appropriated to these Articles, aside from the School budget, are we over budget? Before we start voting on these...?

10:46:22 Donald Newell: Yes, we are. As pointed out earlier, actually, we're well over budget. The amount that we're contributing to these social service agencies is minuscule by comparison to what we're over budget. But, we are over.

10:46:34 Kevin Spigel: Does anybody know the approximate percentage we are over budget?

10:46:45 Donald Newell: I'm going to hold on that. Emily, do you have that calculation?

10:46:55 David Smith: Don, it's not a matter of being over budget. We set the budget right here. It's a matter of are we over what the State calculated a percent increase to go over.

10:47:09 Donald Newell: Thank you, yes, we're not over budget, we're just over the Tax Levy Limit. We've got Dennis and then Jim.

10:47:17 Dennis Jones: We want to know if our taxes are going to up this year?

10:47:22 Donald Newell: Yes.

10:47:26 Jim Porter: As to the current motion, I'd like to point out Spectrum Generations, just like any other charitable organization, they receive matching funds from federal....I can't ever say it, like the Unity Foundation, they contribute money to this. If we designate this money specifically for Meals on Wheels that may limit their opportunity to get matching funds or what have you so I would be opposed to saying this is where the money has to go.

10:48:04 Donald Newell: Thank you. Emily, can you answer the question where we are in relationship to the Tax Levy Limit?

10:48:13 Emily Newell: Yes. The difference between the Levy limit is \$6,225.00 and if we voted yes to all of the Articles, which is \$2,168,500 or so, the difference is \$1,526,005.00.

10:48:44 Donald Newell: So you're saying we've exceeded the tax levy limit by \$1,000,000?

10:48:58 Emily Newell: That's with the RSU budget and county taxes. So should I take those out and then do the calculations? [Yes]

10:49:13 Penny Picard Sampson: I was fortunate enough to be put on the Waldo County Budget Committee this year. I love budgets. The Waldo County budget is going up by 1.1% this year so really kind of minimally.

10:49:29 Emily Newell: Total \$741,473, Tax Levy Limit is \$6,425.00, a difference of \$98,973.00

10:49:57 Donald Newell: I made the note to self that when this discussion come up. A lot of people like to know, what's the impact on me? If you have a \$100,000 property, and we raise an additional \$10,000 at the Town, which you're paying taxes on, your contribution to that \$10,000 is \$7.74. So for every \$100,000 that you have, if we raise \$10,000 more, you pay \$7.74 for that increase. Just so you know.

10:50:41 Joe Saltalamachia: How much go are we going up?

10:50:48 Donald Newell: Emily just said over the Tax Levy Limit it's about \$98,000 so you're looking at \$77.00 per \$100,000.

10:51:01 Joe Saltalamachia: \$240.00 if you have a \$300,000 property.

10:51:11 Dennis Jones: Not including the school budget or the county tax.

10:51:17 Joe Saltalamachia: So double that Don?

10:51:26 Donald Newell: I don't think so. I don't think school and county taxes...Penny just spoke to that. 1.1% for the county.

10:51:33 Resident: So last year, from what I'm understanding, is that the Town agreed to raise that Levy, right? And so we were obviously over last year. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to talk about what was the budget last year, that we agreed to go over on, to what the budget is this year, because that's a real impact to change our taxes. The total budget, not just what we're just raising here for the Town.

10:51:59 Emily Newell: If county and school stayed the same, as I understand they're not going up, and what our budget looks like this year compared to last year, it's \$54,000.

10:52:11 Donald Newell: But we do know what the county is, but not the school?

10:52:23 Penny Picard Sampson: And that's not entirely accurate because we're still waiting for our Auditor's Report but, for instance, the cemeteries, we drew \$10,000 from one of our town's...so that was raised through taxes, and most likely we'll be able to do that again this year. It could actually be even less so there are some places that money comes from, other than taxes, to pay for budget costs. What she is doing is just based on raising taxes.

10:35:15 Jim Porter: Mr. Moderator, I believe this is a very important discussion, however, there is a motion on the floor. We need to proceed voting on it and have discussion afterwards.

10:53:16 Donald Newell: Okay, so we have an amendment to the main motion to put a note with it or not. So the amendment is to add a note to the \$500.00 that would let Spectrum Generations know our intent is to fund Meals on Wheels. That's the motion on the floor. Further discussion on the motion?

10:53:35 Resident: Just a quick question. Working for a nonprofit myself, my understanding is monies given to a nonprofit, though designated, nonprofits can do whatever they want to it regardless. That's my understanding.

10:54:17 Donald Newell: Like I said in the beginning, you're not going to be able to be absolutely certain that that's how it is used. What we're doing is adding a note to it so that they know that Unity greatly appreciates Meals on Wheels and would like to add some funding to that program. If they can't do that or it doesn't make sense to them then they won't. It's just giving them information about how we're thinking of the agency. Other questions? I didn't see any further hands so we're going to call for the vote on the amendment to put a note with the funding for Second Generations letting them know the purpose and use that for Meals on Wheels. All those in favor, aye? Opposed, no? We're going to use green cards. All those in favor aye? And those no? I think I need to count. So those in favor, please raise your green cards, and please leave them up long enough to be counted. That's 27, and those opposed? The noes have it. Now back to the main motion with the amendment raising it to \$500.00. Further discussion? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:57:04 Donald Newell: Article 11, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$400.00 for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion.

10:57:36 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to make an amendment that would change the amount requested from \$400.00 to zero dollars. Do you want me to explain?

10:57:57 Donald Newell: Moved and seconded.

10:58:04 Penny Picard Sampson: So last night I did a little research. I cannot find the financial statement for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft. I did some digging and we kind of envision The Game Loft as a bunch of high school kids getting together after school, playing some games and having some snacks. It should be cheap enough you would think. For Searsport, Belfast, and Mt. View, they service 202 children total between the ages of 0 and 18 years. They receive annually \$40,000 as part of the tobacco settlement from the Department of Human Services. They receive support from the USDA and The United Way, and both United Ways, United Way MidCoast Charities and United Way of Eastern Maine. They also receive support in their food program from local restaurants and the Waldo County Garden Project. They are supported by private foundations, individual donors, municipalities. The Town of Troy just passed \$200 for them. I looked into their corporate sponsors and in the last 6 months alone

they received \$11,500 from Hannaford, \$8,500 from a game corporation, \$1,500 from Bank of American, \$2,500 from Bangor Savings Bank. They have directors, a board of directors, they have an annual retreat for their directors. So without seeing a financial statement from them, I would really like to know where that money is going. It's not guaranteed that the \$400.00 that they've requested goes to Mount View. It could be sent to a program overall which includes Belfast and Searsport.

11:00:39 David Smith. Rather than amend it to zero and then vote again, isn't it easier for her just to say we're against the motion and we can vote on it to defeat it.

11:00:52 Donald Newell: Absolutely. However, we do have the motion made and seconded and on the floor and I'm going to stay with it. David's point is well taken but if you accept this motion then I'm going to go with it, and then vote on the main motion as defeated provided there is opportunity for conversation. Any other thoughts on lowering the number from \$400.00 to zero?

11:01:26 Lauri Roming: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I agree with all of the [inaudible] with the group today. I can tell you because I believe in full disclosure. I work with the Unity Foundation and I oversee their financials. They spend between \$150,000 to \$175,000 a year to run the programs county wide. In addition to those 200 that are regular students for the Town, there are another 200 that drop in and out so that's 400 students. There are 14 currently in the program at Mt. View. They range in age from 8 to 17. The money aside at the moment. I would like to offer that these kids are learning problem-solving skills, teambuilding skills, mentorship skills, and finding a safe place to be. If you break down \$400.00, which is \$28.57 for each student, and while I agree that there are no guarantees that the money is spent to serve Mt. View kids, there is also no guarantee that the money from Searsport is going to Searsport kids. I would urge that the vote to defeat the amendment to zero, I speak very much in favor of the \$400.00

11:02:59 Resident: Point of privilege, could you please ask the speakers to give their first and last name for those of us who don't know who they are.

11:03:05 Donald Newell: Lori Roming. Will do that. Please provide your first and last name when you go to the mike. I'll just call your attention, I'm not taking a position but just calling your attention to the letter from the Superintendent of Schools. I found it interesting that he called out in a fairly short report, in order to best support student learning...in addition, RSU #3 has a robust after-school program that enhances learning opportunities for [inaudible] students creating an advantage of high-quality programming like The Game Loft. So the superintendent recognizes this is a high quality program. Further discussion? Are we ready to vote?

11:03:52 April Turner: I would like to ask permission to speak.

11:04:12 Penny Picard Sampson: I forgot to mention earlier that they were the one agency that didn't show up to the budget meetings. I forgot to mention that part of my research last night, there are three separate programs that they offer that they receive fees from in addition to the donations they get.

11:04:48 Donald Newell: April has requested the opportunity to speak on this Article. We will need a two-thirds vote so if you would just raise your green cards if that's okay. Thank you very much.

11:04:56 April Turner: I in no way intended to speak on this. I have a child in The Game Loft program. Let me tell you about him. At 10 years old he was diagnosed with ADD, which is a form of Asperger's. He struggled every day with school. He would shut down, he wouldn't talk and when he did talk he had a really bad filter. If somebody came up and said do you want to work with me it was no, no way ever. The only thing he didn't know how to say was I don't like working with people. So at 10 years old he found The Game Loft. If you were to ask him to come up to speak he would say he finally found his people. People that would welcome him in, talk to him who didn't care if he flapped, who didn't care if someone stopped talking, who didn't care who walked away. He didn't know how to handle situations. I don't have the financials. They've made such a change in his life. If I could ever ask anybody to work towards a program for kids, this is a fantastic program. I would say go to Mt. View when they're there, volunteer, and see what the kids are doing.

11:06:42 Charlie Schaefer: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I'm Charlie Schaefer. I represent one of nonprofit organizations who have requested money. When you receive a letter from the Town, it states specifically if you want money for your organization you must do four things. First, you must submit a letter requesting it. Second, you must submit a financial statement. Third, you must submit a petition signed by 75 registered voters. Four, you must attend a Budget Committee meeting. There were six organizations who were there including myself. If these people can't submit a letter, can't submit a financial statement, can't come to the meeting, it sounds to me that they don't care what we do. The letter is very specific that you're not going to receive any money unless you meet these requirements.

11:07:45 Lucia Picard: I wasn't sure if this was made clear earlier but when the Budget Committee met earlier this year, was it also stated that The Game Loft was funded by the RSU school budget as well? So we're already paying for the programs?

11:08:16 Penny Picard Sampson: The budgeting process is in the process right now.

11:08:22 Donald Newell: So it has been funded previously, the budget committee is meeting now so we don't know if it will be this year. Seeing no further hands, will call for the vote and let me explain exactly what we're doing. We have a motion to amend to change the figure from \$400.00 to zero, and that's what we're voting on. All in favor of the motion to amend signify by saying aye. Those opposed. The motion carries. Now the main motion amended, which as amended is the same thing. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries. Thank you all very much for your contribution. That was very well done.

11:09:10 Donald Newell: Article 12, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,362.00 for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye?

11:09:29 Penny Picard Sampson: I think I had my hand up. If you'll notice on Article 12 the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended \$4,500.00 instead of the \$7,362.00 for Waldo Community Action Partners. I would like to make an amendment that we change the figure from \$7,362.00 to \$4,500.00, which is the same amount that we expended last year. [Moved and seconded.]

11:10:17 Donald Newell: We have a motion that is moved and seconded. Discussion?

11:10:25 Blaine Parsons: Could you explain what this program is because some of us don't know what it is.

11:10:37 Resident: Permission to speak? I'm not a resident. I represent Waldo Community Action Partners.

11:10:58 Donald Newell: Do I have permission for us to hear what this gentleman has to say? Thank you very much. You're on.

11:11:21 Michael Hallundbaek: Good morning and thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Michael Hallundbaek. I'm relatively new with the Waldo Community Action Partners. One of the things that I've noticed in the few years that I've been with the agency is that there is somewhat of a lack of understanding of the nature of what the agency does. Waldo Community Action Partners is one of many many hundreds of community action programs around the country. This agency is actually your agency. It was founded 51 years ago with the purpose of administering and being the agency of government and state programs that are supposed to help the needy people in the community and supposed to build programs to help people get out of poverty. So what we are is we're a private nonprofit organization. We have a board of 21 members or volunteers. They are by designation, they to be divided into separate groups. We have participation from the private sector, public sector, and from the low income and they are equally divided up. What we do is we are basically government contractors. So we access government program, tax money that has already been paid by the federal government and state government is assigned to go back into the community. Through our certifications we are allowed to dip into those funds and bring money back to the county. In this county last year we provided services in the value of 6.6 million dollars. Out of that \$326,626 went to residents of Unity. I appreciate the opportunity I was allowed to distribute a piece of paper, it looks like this, that I put on the chairs to just try to help you understand what we do and why we're doing it, who we're doing it for and why we're asking for money. The 6.6 million dollars is 96% coming from federal and state programs. The other 4% is coming from private contributions [inaudible]. We ask all the towns in Waldo County for a contribution of 2% of the revenue of the value of the services. So 3% for transportation. We're probably going to review that. I'm not sure why it's there, it's been there for a long time but that comes down to 2.2%, which is why when the value of services is \$326,000, our request is \$7,362.00. Last year that number of services provided was 24,000 or \$100,000 more. So it's the same 2.2%, which is \$9,274.00. So it's up and down. The reason we're asking for this is because of a few reasons. One is that the 96% of the money that we're able to raise through our programs from public sources are earmarked. We can only use them for one thing only so they are completely restricted in every sense. The same reason is that many of the programs that we're running require matching funds and that's the 4% that we're

going out to try and find every year. The matching fund for transportation in the county and some of that transportation is for the elderly served by Spectrum Generations. Those same people [inaudible] a lot of them, if not all of them we're serving with transportation, heating assistance, the electricity lifeline programs which are to tide people over. But for transportation specific because of the structure of our agency and because of our designation by the Maine Department of Transportation as a designated service provider, we're able to match vehicle funding for instance. In the State of Maine 80% of the vehicle and we have to pay 20. There are a lot of programs like Head Start that really help people and families get out of poverty and that requires matching funds. The third reason we're asking for contributions is that the programs that we're able to tap into never call it a need, the phone calls we get. So I'm going to stop talking now. I appreciate the opportunity, we're very grateful for the support that the Town of Unity continues to give the agency. One of the latest programs that we were able to do because of town funding in part was that we were able four years ago to take a very large contract out of the hands out of state for profit and bring it back to Belfast and hire 17 fulltime people. If anyone ever has any questions, please ask.

11:17:50 Donald Newell: Thank you.

11:17:52 Kevin Spiegel: My name is Kevin Spiegel. In regards to Charlie's point about the four criteria that they have to meet prior to requesting money, I would like to ask the Selectmen to let the rest of us know which of these organizations met those obligations prior to us voting. That will help me.

11:18:21 Donald Newell: Thank you, Kevin. Penny, did they meet all the criteria?

11:18:24 Penny Picard Sampson: I've got the information right here. Waldo CAP met all criteria.

11:18:34 Lori Grant: Penny, I was at that Budget Committee meeting and so the Selectmen at that time explained their recommendation. Could you maybe do that?

11:18:43 Penny Picard Sampson: Another part of that discussion that Lori and I had last night is why we recommended \$4,500 versus the \$7,300, and so we kind of figured it's a sweet spot. There are people who want to give no money and there are people who want to give all the money so the \$4,500 was kind of like a compromise to the people who don't want to give any money, something they can live with, and the people who want to give everything can live with. Based on the Budget Committee talk, I broke down some of the numbers and I won't give you all of the numbers but I'll give you a couple of examples. He talks about a percentage of the value that Waldo CAP is asking from the Town. If you look at this printout, if you look at transportation you take the \$82,769, break it down by vehicle miles, that's \$1.34 per mile that they're charging. Seventy two individuals, that's \$1,149.57 per individual. That's what they're basing the numbers on. On Head Start, they say the value of the program is \$121,244.00. It served 10 households of 13 children, which breaks down to \$9,326.46 per child. That's an almost college tuition amount. And then at the very bottom when you get to the community-wide community projects they give a total figure of \$43,929.00. Some of the projects that are listed doesn't come from their funds. Its stuff that I donated, for instance, when



I worked for MBNA/Bank of America, each team had to do a Thanksgiving basket and Christmas basket. It didn't cost Waldo CAP a cent. The Cinderella Project, same sort of thing. They organize it but they're not paying for the dresses. That's why we recommend less than the full amount.

11:21:46 Michael Hallundbaek: It's important to understand that is many of the programs you're giving totals from, we don't set the numbers. We are expected in a degree that's created, available to the funders. We don't even set down the administrative costs. We have to be approved by the IRS and through the programs to these numbers are a percentage are numbers probably 80% of the programs are given to us, and the transportation numbers, that's not our charge, it is the cost.

11:22:28 Gail Chase: I'm Gail Chase, a resident of Unity. I serve on the Budget Committee and every year as some of you already mentioned at the meeting, we spend a lot of time trying to allocate a very small amount of money to a lot of organizations. I think as Penny just said the last time she spoke as true a statement as I've heard we're looking for an amount to assist organizations assist us and our residents. That's not going to put others at risk because of property taxes. That's really what that boils down to. Calling it a sweet spot is a little shocking at first but that's honestly and truly how I think of it. The other thing I think is although I appreciate the work that is being done analyzing agencies' financial statements, we don't know what goes on inside these agencies and the question that I ask myself is could I do this work. Could I do this work in my life and could I do this work. I don't mean like of a nature to be able to do social services. I mean, the way I live today in Unity am I volunteering to take people to the Muskie Center in Waterville. Am I making meals for my neighbors? Am I taking in a difficult teen a couple times a week to give the parents a break? Am I housing a woman who's being stalked? And every single time an agency speaks about what they do, I think, well, charity begins at home. What we do at this meeting is we force people to give charitably and that's not acceptable. Well if we don't do together it doesn't get done. Charity may begin at home but is it happening at home? Am I doing this? When I heard about New Hope for Women I thought well I could offer a woman a place to stay, I have enough room at my house, and I could do that for a while. But then I thought, my God, she's being stalked and I live out in the middle of nowhere. That's not safe for me, for her and I keep coming up with reasons why I cannot do this work that's being done and needs to be done. We have children who need help. We have elders who need care. Some of us are taking care of elders but most of us, we're not doing it. We don't have the means, we work full time. Whatever the reasons are, we're not doing it. As a community for \$10.77 or \$12.00 or \$45.00, what we're doing as a community is helping those who need help. That's why I sit on the Budget Committee, I think of that and that pushes me to try to help as much as I can without taxing us to death.

11:26:08 Donald Newell: Gail, are you speaking against the motion to lower the amount to \$4,500 or in favor?

11:26:19 Gail Chase: Good point, Don! As a member of the Budget Committee I support the reduction and I stand by that again trying to find where it is that more of us are comfortable than fewer of us are comfortable.

11:26:43 Donald Newell: Other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. Let me explain where we are. The main motion has been amended to change the figure from \$7,362.00 to \$4,500.00, so we're voting on the amendment to change the figure. All in favor of that amendment signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we're voting on the main motion as amended. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thanks again, great conversation, lots of input, very well thought out.

11:27:26 Donald Newell: Article 13, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,266.00 for the Dorothy Webb Quimby Library for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. You're very quiet, Dot! The floor is open for discussion.

11:27:48 Trevanion Grenfell: My name is Trevanion Grenfell. My mother used to preach right here at a church downtown. She was also an adjunct at the college, and then I went to the college back in 2011, and now I'm back as a standard resident in Unity. It's interesting. When I was at the college I felt like the library was a very welcoming lively space but then when I moved back as a resident I stopped feeling that way. It felt like I was kind of interrupting the campus and I realize this is not directly on topic but it seems related enough that I wanted bring it up. I would love to see closer ties between the community and the college. Especially the library. The library is an incredible resource. It may have a lot of subscriptions and access which is rare for a town our size. I'd really like to see a stronger relationship and the college library feel like a more welcoming space. I'm going to support giving the college the full requested amount. I realize that that's earmarked in certain ways. I'd like to see more of a relationship with the Town and I think having a stronger bond funding what they use at the college would be great. I would also totally support a note on this funding felt that it would be great if it felt more streamlined as more access appropriate for the Residents to be at the college.

11:29:29 Penny Picard Sampson: No worries. I'm not going to ask for an amendment. I did want to answer Kevin's question earlier which is what the college library submitted. They submitted the petition, they submitted a letter, and they were at the Budget Committee and she's on the Budget Committee. We did not receive financials but I am not uncomfortable not having Unity College's financial statement. It's easy enough to find. To address Trevanion, the Town of Unity is working on making better relationships with the college. We've talked about the library before, we talked about it at the Budget Committee. I spent an hour last night talking to Joe at over at the Shop N' Save and we've got some ideas that once we're going to start rolling on here pretty soon. I just wanted to let you know that.

11:30:45 Donald Newell: You must've been up all night. You spent six hours with Lori on the phone and you worked with Joe. You've got some long nights going on.

11:30:55 Andy Reed: They don't have to but I'd like to see those associated with the college stand up.

11:31:14 Donald Newell: What's your point, Andy? [LAUGHTER] I think where so many of us are here because of the college. Were it not for the college I would not have moved to Unity and there are hundreds more like you. Having been on the Admission Department of Unity College back in the 70's, I know who came as a student for a number of years.

11:31:53 Donald Newell: Anyway, we're back to Article 13, moved and seconded as read. Is there further conversation? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:32:57 Donald Newell: We're on page 67, Article 14, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:33:58 Penny Picard Sampson: They met all of the requirement.

11:34:02 Donald Newell: They met all of the requirements. There you go, Kevin. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:34:14 Donald Newell: Article 15, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the ACO/CEO/LPI/EMA Incidental Account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:34:27 Resident: Can you explain what that is, please?

11:34:33 Donald Newell: If you want to go to page 26, at the bottom, for those of you who have page numbers. I think Sam will have page numbers in there next year for all of us. Code enforcement officer in there, a licensed plumbing inspector in there, an incidental, what's ACO? [Animal Control Officer] That's what that is all about.

11:35:03 Resident: I have a question, Don. What happens to the unexpended money from that account?

11:35:16 Donald Newell: The unexpended money from almost any account goes back into the surplus. Great question.

11:35:26 Resident: Mr. Moderator? I am unclear about the motion having any dollar figure?

11:35:33 Donald Newell: I intended to read \$1,000.00 with that motion. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:35:53 Donald Newell: Article 16, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$73,750.00 for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:35:55 Emily Newell: It's really good when Don goes through the book because he finds things that we should have done different, for example on this one, last year part of this Article was funded by the administration fees, roughly \$9,510.00, and we didn't structure it that way this year and I don't really know what to do about it but we don't need the full amount because we should have \$10,000 coming from admin fees.

11:36:56 Donald Newell: So we should vote to raise \$63,350 and appropriate from admin fees the \$10,000.

11:37:13 Emily Newell: Raise \$63,350 and appropriate from admin fees \$10,000.

11:37:17 Donald Newell: So there is a motion on the floor to amend the Article only to the extent of how we raise the money. Do we have a second? Do you have any questions about that?

11:37:26 David Smith: Can you just say the numbers one more time because I didn't hear them add up to quite the figure?

11:37:38 Donald Newell: Okay, that's because they don't. Yeah, \$63,750 and \$10,000.

11:37:49 Emily Newell: I want to change my amendment to reflect that.

11:38:09 Donald Newell: Okay. If you wonder why I was a little late coming in today I had two of these things I was trying to figure out. It's important because otherwise we would have had to raise through taxation an additional \$10,000.00 that we didn't need to do, and I know having heard from a few of you that you wouldn't be all excited having to do that. So we have a motion to amend the Article. Any further questions on that? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. It's a little unusual because we don't normally speak to how we're raising these monies. They are noted there for you and with just a few exceptions it's raised through taxation. There will be a couple more of these as we go along but by and large there is no other place to go but taxation. So now we're back to the main motion as amended and I'll call for the vote on that. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Thank you very much. [Motion carries.]

11:39:17 Donald Newell: Article 17, to see if the Town will vote that the revenues derived from the Fire Department charges, refunds, grants, and contract payments shall become a part of the Fire Department Maintenance & Operations and the Firemen's Compensation Accounts addition to funds appropriated by the Town. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. See no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. The members of the Fire Department could've been a little more robust there!

11:39:52 Donald Newell: Next, Article 18, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$130,000, \$115,050 for the following Fire Department accounts for the ensuing year. That's requested by the Fire Chief for salaries, and there are two numbers there and the right one is \$18,200.00, I believe. That is what was requested by the Chief and I'll talk about that. We'll get back to that. The fire truck fund is \$20,000, and the maintenance and operations is \$51,800.00, and the fire house loan payment \$40,115.50. The motion is \$130,150.50, and the figure that is added in there is \$88,200.00 because that was what was asked for and I've been consistent all the way through in making the motion based on what was asked for and encourage folks to make amendments for any adjustments that we need to make. The gross amount, the total amount is \$130,115.50, and that is made up of \$18,200.00, \$20,000.00, \$51,800.00, and \$40,115.50.

11:41:36 David Smith: Well first I just wanted to make sure that as a previous Article #16, where some of that's coming from fees, I wanted to make sure you're not trying to raise \$20,000 for the fire truck fund as \$10,000 has to be raised with \$10,000 coming out of TIF. I just want to make sure that that's properly reflected.

11:42:13 Donald Newell: Yes if you'll look at the Fire Truck fund on page 68, it is indicated there that those are coming from TIF. That is described there.

11:42:22 Resident: I think what he's saying is you have \$20,000 as your figure there, you're actually putting that in your budget and the only budgeted amount would be \$10,000, as the other \$10,000 is coming from a different source.

11:42:36 Donald Newell: Not exactly. They need to have a budget of \$130,000 and maybe that is what we just did. The Town needs to be authorized to appropriate the total funds and then we talk about where they're coming from. The other one, we did the same thing. We had the total figure but we simply amended where it's coming from. So we've left the total where it was, \$73,715.15, and then down where it's coming from we change that to \$63,750.10, so we're doing the same thing here. We're doing a total amount and then we're just being careful where that's coming from. In the case of the fire truck fund the report has it clearly \$10,000 from TIF, and \$10,000 raised from taxation. The story here is that David made his request and the Selectmen recommended a high figure. So he has that \$18,700 on the top there, which really doesn't belong there, and you'll see it down below. I'll let one of the Selectmen speak to why in the Budget Committee, why they recommended \$500 more than what was requested.

11:44:01 Emily Newell: I would like to make an amendment to change at least this portion of the total figure from \$18,200 to \$18,700.

11:44:17 Donald Newell: That amendment is to change the total from \$131.15 to \$136.15, the sub-amount and add the additional \$500.00 for the total.

11:44:42 Emily Newell: We wanted to give the Fire Chief a raise. He just doesn't get paid enough for what he does. There is a lot of personal liability there along with the actual time that he puts in. We thought it was due time to do that. Just to update you, we have added a position at the Fire Department, a paid position to help with administrative issues down there. The State requires that we do more tracking of the different calls we have and they have a lot of requirements of what kind of training people have, how often, there's certifications and keeping all of that corralled is quite a bit of work. So part of the salary budget, \$2,500, is for that.

11:45:47 Donald Newell: So looking at page 29, just in case you're curious, the total salaries from last year was \$16,780.00. What is being asked this year is \$18,700 if you approve the amendment. Further discussion on the amendment?

11:46:13 Dan McCormick: I just have a quick question. We're voting to add a \$500.00 pay raise but we've also created another position that is going to take the work load off. Am I correct in that?

11:46:43 Donald Newell: Correct. That's why I gave you that back number of sixteen-something so you know the total increase. Correct. Other questions?

11:46:53 David Smith: Just to address that a little bit. I don't want there to be any confusion about anything. The \$500.00 that is being discussed, and again, they chose to bring it up because they wanted to give me a little bit of raise, but that is not what was in my request. You'll see it was different from my request, Budget Committee recommendations. That's where the \$500.00 came from. The other additional funds that I asked for this year, you'll see we spent about \$1,600.00 or so last year on the salaries, on compensation for firefighters. We did more than what was in the actual budget, we had to transfer some funds out of our Operations budget to do that. We've had to do that for the last couple of years. So I've been trying to bring that fund up to reflect the actual cost in compensation and then also as Emily mentioned, I had discussions with the Selectmen and the Fire Department over the last year or so as far as the need to get a lot of other things done in terms of paperwork and the requirements of the job. Basically, I first told the Department, and I told the Selectmen, I wasn't going to be able to continue with the position as Fire Chief because of the number of hours that are required from it, and the fact that we had a tremendous number of requirements that we weren't meeting in terms of documentation and State-mandated fire report and a number of other things. I wasn't comfortable having those things not being met and so I told the Department and Selectmen that I wasn't able to continue long term. We started looking at solutions and one of the things that the Selectmen suggested was would be able have somebody else in the Department cover some of those functions if there were some funds available to do that. So that's one of the things that we pursued as an option and one of my officers, Captain Parsons, expressed an interest in being available to take on some of those additional responsibilities, and so there is a little extra money in there as well. The Fire Chief's position in this town, as in a lot of towns, isn't really adequately funded for the number of hours that needs to get put in. I understand that. Most everybody in the fire service, volunteer fire service in these little communities is not here because of the money. You look at the number of hours being put in by the administrators of the Department and by the firefighters themselves, nobody is here for the money. We're trying to do as good a job as we can for the citizens of the community. The fire service has changed a lot over the years. We get called for a lot more than just fires. We get called for pretty much anything. When people are having a bad day and it's not law enforcement called, it's usually the Fire Department that gets called. If you look at my report each year in terms of the types of calls we go to, what our responsibilities are, it gives you an idea what sorts of things we're responding to. Administratively there are a tremendous number of requirements now in place that we have to meet. It's not like the old days where you just showed up, put on a rubber jacket and fought a fire. The documentation through Bureau of Labors standards and the other requirements that we have to meet is fairly high. There is a tremendous amount of paperwork and we appreciate the support the Town has given us over the years. We're trying to do the very best we can. I'm doing my very best to keep our operations budget as low as possible, and the operations end of the budget has not increased over the last several years. We're doing the best we can. I'm a taxpayer just like everybody else. I don't like my taxes going up but we've got certain requirements that we've got to meet and we're trying to find the best way to do that. If you have any other questions don't have hesitate to ask.

11:51:46 Penny Picard Sampson: One of the things I've been working on the past year, I've been utilizing this little book and it's from 2013, so it's a little outdated Salary Survey Reports

most of the towns and cities throughout Maine. We have been paying our Fire Chief \$3,300 a year. That was a heck of a bargain. Towns our size are paying \$5,000, \$10,000 and more for a fire chief. So you know we added in the \$2,500 for the Administrative Assistant's position, plus getting Dave up to \$3,800 comes to \$6,300 total. So that's still kind of at the low midrange of what salaries are for fire chiefs in similar or even smaller sized towns. That's why we adjusted the rate.

11:53:07 Bruce \_\_\_\_\_: Just to make a point. We have a volunteer fire department. They are incredible and do a tremendous job for the Town. If we did not have the volunteer fire department, we would see an immediate reassessment of the fire insurance and you wouldn't want to pay the difference. It would be incredible. It would go up easily a third.

11:53:38 Donald Newell: And we already deal with a fairly significant savings in our insurance rates because of Bruce's point, which is a great one. Seeing no further hands, will call for the vote, and what we're voting on is each of those subcategories. We're voting on the amendment which raises the figure to \$130,615.50. That's the total of all of those subcategories. So we're voting on the amendment to increase that to \$13,615.50. All those in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we'll vote on the main motion as amended. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:54:36 Donald Newell: Article 19, to if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for E-911 for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:55:05 Donald Newell: Article 20, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$29,575.00 for the Town Office loan payment for the ensuing year. That is the amount of the loan payment. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:55:31 Donald Newell: Article 21, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,500.00 for electricity for the Town lights for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:55:49 Donald Newell: Article 22, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,587.82 for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:56:42 Donald Newell: Article 23, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to Penobscot Energy Recovery Co., otherwise known as PERC, for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

11:57:02 Tom Aversa: I just had a comment on going up on the fee for trash, rubbish. I was wondering if to raise the tags for the bags up to \$1.50 if that would cover that?

11:57:25 Donald Newell: Do we know the answer to that?

11:57:30 Tom Aversa: It's just a suggestion to pursue in the future.

11:57:36 Donald Newell: Emily, the Selectman, the question on this, last year we raised, the total fund raised was \$3,000 and \$2,526 came from MRC, and we raised \$52,473, so we're raising, voting here to raise \$23,000 more than we did last year. Is that because there will not be MRC funds this year?

11:58:07 Emily Newell: No, we should have the same fund.

11:58:13 Donald Newell: So you anticipate that we might receive the same monies for MRC?

11:58:18 Emily Newell: I don't know how much it will be.

11:58:22 Donald Newell: The reason I raise this question is that it's the same one that we had earlier where we're raising \$20,000 more than last year, and if that's not necessary maybe we don't want to do that. Now understand that if we raise \$20,000 more than we then it goes to surplus, so it isn't like we wasted it. It's there but we do try to govern ourselves each year not to tax the citizens more than necessary. I think what we ought to do is adjourn for lunch.

11:59:06 Charley Porter: You want to raise the price of stickers, how much more chasing in the woods do you want to go for this garbage. We end up paying for it out of our pockets.

11:59:27 Donald Newell: We've had that debate many times, and that would be a contentious one if we go down that road. The Selectmen would have to decide whether to do that. I would entertain a motion to adjourn for lunch. Motion made. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? Motion carries. We are re-adjourning in 45 minutes.

12:00:00 Adjourned for lunch.

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12:51:53 Donald Newell: [Auctioned leftover food items] We have a new Town Clerk! I'll ask her to speak very briefly and then we'll just have a round of applause. Samantha, locally known as Sam, and I asked if that is okay with her and she said absolutely. She has been with us since last year for a portion of the year in training, and now she's our Town Clerk. We all love her to death and we'd love to have her come up and just say hi and tell us what she thinks about our community.

12:52:40 Samantha Mank: Out in the hall I told Charlie I was going to personally show off his dedication page and he goes, ugh, you'll have to do that too. Thank you, Charlie. Anyway, I got here in August. I live in the community and have been to a couple of meetings now. I see most of you often in the Town Office and I was just mentioning how exciting it is that I can look out and actually recognize people and have something more to say. It's really great to be here and I was expecting something hideous and contentious today and I've been really pleased that it is so nice and respectful and love each other and this is just a great thing. I'm going to go back and sit quietly and smile and hope that the rest of the meeting goes the same. [APPLAUSE]



12:53:51 Donald Newell: And that reminds me. I always go and pay particular note to the dedication and I didn't do that. So if you look at page 6, and again that's right after page 5 in those books that have numbers, you'll see our dedication this year is to Charlie Porter. I'm going to read it. Charlie moved to Unity from New Jersey with his wife Judith and children, Diane and James, and James is here today. He bought the hardware store on Depot Street from Proctor-Bowie and it soon became a hub of activity. Charlie also made an immediate impact by joining the Unity Fire Department and continues to be involved there. In 1997 Charlie was appointed Code Enforcement Officer and has worked diligently in service to the town attending many training sessions and many many planning board meetings and many Land Use Ordinance Committee meetings, and so. Charlie has been an integral part of the town we value and we value his experience, knowledge and dedication and service to the community. Let's hear it for Charlie Porter. [APPLAUSE] No speech, Charlie?

12:55:37 Charlie Porter: No!

12:55:42 Donald Newell: Being a moderator is one thing but being a code enforcement officer - that is a tricky job and not one that you go out and make friends. How am I doing? We have a retiring select person in Chris Rossignol. Chris has been stalwart for two sessions?

12:56:19 Chris Rossignol: Three years 9 months.

12:56:24 Donald Newell: Three years and 9 months. How many days? [LAUGHTER] We always appreciate people who come out and volunteer. We really appreciate that. Would you like to say anything to the people of Unity?

12:56:43 Chris Rossignol: Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

12:56:52 Penny Picard Sampson: That makes me the senior member at the Town Office. We appreciate your patience.

12:57:08 Donald Newell: Back to business. When we left we were talking about Article 23, rubbish disposal tipping fee. We're fortunate to have a representative here from the Municipal Review Committee for all of this business. She says she's an expert at trash talk. I asked her about this and she said that the \$20,000 in change that we got last year is likely to decrease because the Review Committee has made a decision a number of years ago that there was an end point of this contract, and that it was probably a good idea to wean the towns off this fund so that when it all of a sudden comes to an end the Town wouldn't be without \$20,000 or whatever their amount was. So I asked her what would be her guess because she doesn't have all the data as to how much our reimbursement would be for this year, and she looked it up and said the change in \$4 per ton. The Selectmen looked it up and it's 900 something tons, 1,000, so if you round that off to 1,000 tons that we're getting \$4.00 per ton less money, that's \$4,000. So what the Selectmen are going to move is that the funds in that Article rather than raise the whole \$85,000, they will raise \$70,000 and appropriate from the reimbursement \$15,000. We're anticipating \$16,000 but just not the whole [inaudible], we'll make that \$15,000. Do I have that motion? Okay so we'll move to amend how to raise the money by \$15,000, and it is seconded. The floor open for discussion. Again, rather than raise whole \$85,000 when we know that we're going to

be reimbursed, we're fairly confident that we'll be reimbursed \$15,000 or a little better, and so we'll rely on \$15,000 and raise simply \$70,000 through taxation. Any further comments on that amendment? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we're back to the main motion as amended, and so we're going to raise \$85,000, \$70,000 through taxation and \$15,000 from reimbursement from the reimbursement from MRC. Any further discussion? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:00:21 Donald Newell: Article 24, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring for the ensuing year \$3,630.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

13:00:40 Resident: What happens if we don't?

13:00:44 Donald Newell: Then we end up having to pay that money and probably have a special town meeting to ask the people to do the right thing. We don't have much choice here. We have to maintain that whole landfill site. We have to do it. Last year we actually spent \$45.00 more than we had. We expended \$3,545.00 and we raised \$3,500.00, and that's why they have asked for an increase in cost.

13:01:19 Emily Newell: There is testing every other year.

13:01:27 Donald Newell: Not seeing any further hands, all in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:01:31 Donald Newell: Article 25 , to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,116.64 for Curbside Recycling Pick Up for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:01:52 Lynn Warman: I don't if other people are experiencing the same thing. On the back roads they don't always take ours, even if we try to separate it out into the 19 different categories they want it separated in. We take it out to the end of the driveway, leave it all there, go back at the end of the day and get it and go to recycling center. I'm not the only one who has experienced this.

13:02:26 Donald Newell: If you're talking to others who are experiencing this, tell them to make sure to get the information to Sam who would communicate back to the Select people who can talk to our provider and see what is going on.

13:02:40 Penny Picard Sampson: With the last complaint I talked to Sullivan's and then it was better for a while and now it is kind of back to the way it was. So I'll have to let them know again. He's not on the truck so if his employees don't do it he's not going to know about it unless I know about it. Please complain.

13:03:12 Donald Newell: As to the question at hand, the amount raised last year was \$8,356.92. Any further hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:03:33 Donald Newell: Article 26, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$584,000.00 for public works for the ensuing year. That figure is made up of \$370,000.00 for summer roads, \$212,000 for winter roads, and \$2,000 for the sand and salt shed. Moved and seconded. Before we open it up, I want to look at my notes here. Last year's funding was considerably different than this. The funding source for summer road, road assistance is \$35,128.00 but for that last year we received just under \$46,000.00. Was that road assistance? And is that obviously going down considerably? [Yes] Isn't that just wonderful. So excise tax, you've incorporated that at 236, last year you were planning on 262. I'm sorry, this year it is going up. So that is off-setting to some extent--all of it, all of the loss that we have as a result of road assistance and then some. So the amount raised is essentially a little less money than last year. Now the roads, last year we did \$210,000 approximately and we took in \$20,000. Was that a grant? I'm doing this so we all know. I raise these questions. I figure the voters want to know too.

13:06:01 Emily Newell: This was carried from 2014.

13:06:05 Donald Newell: Oh so you carried \$90,857. Tell us about carrying because in all other towns it goes to surplus and then you designate where it's coming from the next year. Is there a different policy with regard to roads?

13:06:15 Chris Rossignol: It does now we don't carry anymore. The accountant suggested that we stop with the carrying process to clean up our accounting. So this year we actually started doing that. It goes back in surplus and is then pulled back out of surplus.

13:06:49 Donald Newell: Do you have a surplus figure incorporated in this Article? So that didn't happen here.

13:07:01 Emily Newell: We didn't carry this year. There are only a few exceptions where we carried.

13:07:11 Donald Newell: Right but because we didn't carry, what Chris was just saying is appropriate from surplus instead of carrying.

13:07:26 Chris Rossignol: That would be the raised part.

13:07:31 Donald Newell: What we're hearing from the Select people is we don't have an Auditor's Report yet so we don't know exactly what our surplus is. So the Select board is a little leery about appropriating surplus until they know what they've got. The way this Article is structured, we would raise all of the money and, hopefully, that's a substantial amount that can go back to surplus. So what you see in front of you is what it is. We're going to have \$262,644.79 coming from excise tax, and the rest of that figure will be raised. The floor is now open for your questions.

13:08:22 Sydney Tabor: What is the road assistance?

13:08:29 Donald Newell: Road assistance, what is that? Is that a State of Maine? [Yes} It's a State of Maine grant for roads. That just went down.

13:08:34 Chris Rossignol: It's based on the number of miles of roads we have in the State as a percentage of their tax to that.

13:08:42 Donald Newell: So based on the number of roads we have relative to other communities and funds they have available. This year didn't work out as well. The total figure is \$584,000. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:09:08 Donald Newell: Article 27, now before I go there, we have another Article later on that talks about roads. I just want to know from the Selectmen, if that \$1.5 million dollar Article is approved, does it influence these figures.

13:09:32 Emily Newell: These figures don't change.

13:09:36 Donald Newell: Okay, no it doesn't.

13:09:38 Andy Reed: It may not affect the figures, however, I think in Article 41 it indicates a \$250,000 payment in September, if we borrow the funds. So I think that the monies in this Article here, \$250,000 out of \$370,000 would be in payment of Article 41. So people don't realize and think that we're going to have \$250,000 in additional repair and maintenance that that's going to be taken care of in Article 41.

13:10:18 Dennis Jones: Can't you bring Article 41 up first?

13:10:24 Donald Newell: We already approved this one. We can go back if needed and you can move it out of order. I'm a little reluctant to do it. Some folks may have taken a long lunch and are coming back to get in on that one. It would be up to the voters. If you vote to move it it's a 2/3 vote to do that. Okay, so Article 27, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,170.40 for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:10:50 Penny Picard Sampson: You'll notice in the Article that the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended \$18,500 versus \$19,170.40. I would like to amend the Article to reflect \$18,500.

13:11:40 Donald Newell: We have a motion to amend the figure from \$19,170.40 to \$18,500, correct? It has been moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:11:52 Resident: What's the reason for it?

13:11:57 Penny Picard Sampson: A couple of different things. We're still waiting from the auditor to find out how much we can take from one of our funds to go into this. The reason for,

it's about \$700.00 less roughly. We moved the sexton's salary. I was able to renegotiate it for a lower amount, but then still moved the sexton salary over to town official salaries. If we added what the sexton used to make plus the \$18,500, it would be above and beyond what we had requested last year, and we didn't spend all of it. So basically we're just requesting \$700.00 less so it stays about the same. Does that answer your question?

13:12:59 Alicia McCormick: I can't think of anything else. What is the sexton's salary?

13:13:09 Penny Picard Sampson: It had been \$4,500. We renegotiated it to \$2,500. I had done a review over several towns and the next closest town I could find was Belfast and they have 20 cemeteries and they paid their sexton \$2,000. We have been paying our sexton \$4,500 a year for 10 years, so I didn't want to chop it off at the knees and he does good work. We have no complaints with his work but we kind of had to line up the salaries a little bit better. He is getting a little bit more than the Selectmen, and more than the fire chief.

13:13:57 Lynn Warman: Tony didn't mind the reduction because when Rod McElroy first hired him to do the job, he had a lot more work to do in the cemeteries and he realized and agreed with Penny to take the pay cut because he doesn't have as many responsibilities now that he did. A lot of the cemeteries have been repaired and things are being done and there isn't so much work to do. It was worth it when we paid him that much but he doesn't do as much anymore.

13:14:34 Penny Picard Sampson: And I just want to add to that that one of the reasons he doesn't do as much is because Lynn Warman takes on a lot of that responsibility as a volunteer.

13:14:47 Donald Newell: Not seeing any more hands, will call for the vote. We're voting on Article 27, [the amendment] on the amendment, thank you, to lower that figure from \$19,170.40 to \$18,500.00. All in favor signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Now we'll vote on the main motion as amended with that new figure. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:15:24 Donald Newell: Article 28, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the Snowmobile Registration Refund from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to be used for grooming trails, with matching funds, under the supervision of the Selectmen and the Project Director. Moved and seconded. \$3,500.00art 28: Not seeing any hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:15:45 Donald Newell: Article 29, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500.00 for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:16:09 Sydney Taber: What does this pay for?

13:16:14 Donald Newell: If you'll look at page 35 you'll see a summary of that. Kanokolus beach and recreation. Portable toilets, hardware from Mac's. Paula Maxim does swimming lessons. Putting in the docks, Brian, he puts the docks in and takes care of them. So something to do with moonshine down there too. [LAUGHTER]

13:17:08 Andy Reed: Part of those funds go to the person tends the boat ramp and the State gives us funds. We have to go once a year to a milfoil seminar. I did it this year. What it is does is it protects the lake because anybody putting a boat in our out is inspected. We have a lot of bass fishing tournaments. They usually have two people who inspect the boats. If we get some milfoil or some invasive species in the lake, it's going to cost a lot more. One of those things is the lake, I think we've done a survey through the Town, about a third of the taxes, real estate taxes coming to the town are from people from or near the lake so it's a very important asset and we can't let it get contaminated. The Lake Association in three towns monitors that.

13:18:17 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands will summarize. We're voting to raise \$3,500 for Kanokolus Beach total package. All those in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:18:37 Donald Newell: Article 30, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,686.00 for dues for Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. That is funded with TIF funds so we'll appropriate those monies and that's part of that motion. Seeing no hands on that we're ready to vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:19:08 Donald Newell: Article 31 , to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,070.00 for the contract fee for Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:19:37 Donald Newell: Article 32 , to see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,000.00 from TIF funds for professional services, administration, consulting, marketing and traffic calming associated with identifying and advancing business growth within the Town. Moved and seconded. We're doing so good. Floor is open for discussion. I'll give you a little bit of, even though I'm seeing hands, the Economic Development Committee was just pulled together and have met, I believe, four times so that Committee is starting to get their arms around how to best allocate these funds for the long-term prosperity of the community. The next meeting, we will be reporting out once we get a little further down the road.

13:20:42 Chrissie Hunter: Is that why there is such a big difference from last year and this year, we're just getting started?

13:20:49 Donald Newell: Yes and we have totally revamped our TIF Program to make it reconcile with State law. The whole thing is changed up and now we're just getting to work on that new TIF Program.

13:21:10 Trevanion Grenfell: Is there any kind of stipulation in that as to what kinds of businesses that funding is going to, advocating and supporting.

13:21:17 Donald Newell: Absolutely. So the question, which you didn't hear was are there any regulations regarding how those monies can be allocated by the Town, and what expenses can we pay with them. I'd suggest we pay for the roads, right? The answer is absolutely yes. There

are already regulations. These funds are there because of TIF, and TIF is rather specific about the various opportunities that you might have to use those. I don't have all those possibilities on the tip of my tongue but I can tell you that the idea is to make our community more prosperous, to help businesses get better, those that we have, to be more productive and hire more people, and to attract other businesses. If you read our Comp Plan, the old one and the one we're working on, other businesses that will be synergistic, other businesses that will work hand in hand and fill necessary gaps with businesses that we already have. You can broaden that definition a bit because the more attractive and appealing our community is, the more likely business will locate here. The more people who come to this community to do some shopping, the more likely other business will want to be here. Right now, best guess would be around 14,000 people come and shop here in Unity. We have a population of 2,100, so that's 12,000 folks that come to us from away. That's powerful stuff and what we want to do is even expand that a bit more. So anything, even traffic columning things, to people looking at us from away to see about setting up a business here, having our traffic slowdown in the retail development district increases the odds that somebody will stop at their business and having it more appealing and attractive does too. We can spend some money on the fire department because as we develop business, we're likely to develop buildings that require different fire department apparatus, techniques, that increase overall risk and, consequently, we can dedicate some of those monies to the Fire Department. I think it's \$10,000 that's in the budget. That's all appropriate under that program. So that's the best answer I can provide.

13:24:09 Dennis Jones: Is this money going to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

13:24:15 Donald Newell: No. It's budgeted for the community and the Economic Development Committee will make recommendations to the Selectmen as to how that might be spent. We just had to establish a preliminary budget under the rules of the TIF Program and the State Budget Program. We had to put something out there so that we could live within it. Chances are we will not spend all those monies this year but we could if we get the right program. One of the things that's coming up is the Revolving Loan Fund that we need to develop a package. Andy is helping us with that, and probably we will partner with a bank, but there will be a revolving loan fund to help new start-up businesses to come to Unity to start up. It's also available for existing businesses if they make a case for growing their business because they're going to add employment, then that would be a good foundation for the Town to be able to provide a small loan that that business would pay back over time. We're working on it. Okay back to the motion at hand. We have moved and seconded as read. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:25:44 Donald Newell: Article 33, to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$642,500 established for the Town of Unity by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. Sam tells me that we are greater than the property tax limit. Sam, do you have that final number? It's moved and seconded thank you very much. So I'm going to try to provide the number as to how much we're over that. Select people, remind me, do we need to vote how much we're going over or do we need to vote that we're okay with going over it?

13:26:37 Samantha Mank: We just have to approve we're going over. I have \$73,974.00.

13:26:42 Donald Newell: That's what I thought, the way the Article is written. Seventy-three thousand, nine hundred seventy four dollars is the amount we're over the Tax Levy Limit. Given that some of those monies come from other sources.

13:27:15 Emily Newell: I computed that in already.

13:27:20 Donald Newell: But my point is that some of that increase we don't have as many dollars available from those other sources as we did last year. Now the Town needs to allow itself to go over that limit or not. Your Articles, we've debated all of those. So now we decide go over. If we don't we need to go back to the Articles and trim \$74,000.00 off.

13:27:51 Resident: If I remember earlier that we went over last year. Is that the difference from last year's amount over to this year's amount over, or is that the difference?

13:28:05 Emily Newell: That's the difference of what we're raising here today from the Levy Limit.

13:28:13 Resident: So last year's actual increase in taxes is going to be how much? Do we have that as far as this?

13:38:23 Emily Newell: At the beginning of the meeting that number was \$54,000 or so. It's down to \$2, 2928. He asked, yes, I'm going to repeat it, he asked what was the difference in tax monies raised from last year to this year. That's the figure, \$2,900.

13:28:57 Donald Newell: My understanding of that law is we have the opportunity set this year's amount of money raised, this year's spending, as the base or not. I don't see this in the Article so it may be something to look at next year but we want to write the Article so that when we agree to go over the limit you set that base and then next year if you're exceeding the Levy Limit, it's because you're exceeding the percent increase based on taxable property and income over the new base. That's just something to make a note of. But now we're not increasing the base. We're just authorizing the Town to go over the Tax Levy Limit. Further questions:

13:29:15 Tabitha Littlefield: I'm just curious. If it was the intent of the Town to not exceed the Tax Levy Limit for the next year, would the Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend massive cuts in different areas so that we could know...what do we have to cut, what is absolutely necessary, what could we make cuts on if it was the intent of the Town to not exceed that limit? Would a motion have to be made in order to do that? Would there have to be an Article in there?

13:30:26 Donald Newell: You can't do that [motion]. You can definitely suggest that to them [article] and they'll take that into consideration. Thank you. What's the other half's name, who is the other person who is the future voter?

13:30:44 Tabitha Littlefield: [Holding an infant] This is Azalea.



13:30:49 Donald Newell: Azalea. Well that's a pretty name. Welcome Azalea. We look forward to you being a voter one day. So I don't see any further hands so will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:31:01 Donald Newell: Article 34, to see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all 2016 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2016. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:31:21 Donald Newell: Article 35, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. 506. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. You want to know what that is? Being in the real estate business if I have a closing and it's after the books are closed but the bills aren't out yet, we have the option of giving the sellers money to the buyer and the buyer pays the whole tax bill, or we take the seller's money and give it to the Town and the Town not only pays their portion of the tax bill when it's rendered. I can tell you with a few years of experience that the former giving the money to the buyer doesn't work particular well because when tax time comes they take it out of the \$1,000 in their settlement statement and they call me, why do I owe the whole bill. So it's wonderful when Town authorizes that so that the attorneys can send those monies to the Town and adjust the bill. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:32:54 Donald Newell: Article 36, to see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days after the tax bills are mailed. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Sam, do you receive an additional portion in the amount of taxes during that grace period? That 30-day period?

13:33:07 Samantha Mank: Well, we must.

13:33:10 Emily Newell: Part of that is because people who have it tied into part of their loan.

13:33:24 Donald Newell: That's something to remember for all of you who are buying houses. Notify the escrow agent that there is a 2% discount and that they need to be taking it. They've got the money in the rest of the account and if they don't pay it in time you don't get it. You just need to make contact with them the first year and every year after that you need that bill paid within 30 day of receipt.

13:33:46 Penny Picard Sampson: Interesting point, the Town of Freedom just did away with that 2%. There are whole different trains of thought on that. I wouldn't recommend it because it doesn't incent people to pay their taxes right off.

13:34:02 Donald Newell: It would change how I pay my taxes.

13:34:09 Donald Newell: Article 37, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town, to sell or otherwise dispose of, real estate acquired by the Town, for nonpayment of taxes thereon, to be advertised for sale by sealed bid; the Selectmen shall have the authority to accept or reject any or all bids, and to execute a Quit Claim Deed for such property. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:34:09 Alicia McCormick: This seems rather vague to me. I would like to know whereupon how many years of nonpaid taxes? It's open ended. Is there a current policy in place?

13:35:01 Donald Newell: There is a strict law in place. You would have to be three years of taxes not paid before the Town can take an action to take the property for nonpayment of taxes. So you cannot pay this year, next year, and the year after and then you're in trouble. There is obviously a significant cost to not paying taxes. Not only do you pay interest but you also pay service fees where the Town has to execute a lien the property each time, and then those have to be discharged. All those fees come back and are paid by the landowner so it's not a good idea to not to pay taxes. It's done to protect the consumer. There is plenty of time. You would have to have a certified letter.

13:36:10 Tabitha Littlefield: Why do they do this by sealed bid? Why don't we have the property sold at fair market value and use the funds to fix the roads. I'll tell you. If you hire me to market it, and a lot of these properties they don't have a lot of value and the processing cost of trying to market it and get what you say, a fair market value, you're probably going to come out behind.

13:36:41 Tabitha Littlefield: So making the bigger profit on the property all depends....

13:36:48 Donald Newell: It all depends on the amount of demand out there. It turns the property over fairly quickly, if you get a reasonable bid, and it doesn't infer additional costs in the marketing process.

13:36:56 Tabitha Littlefield: Do we have a guideline helps determine what a fair bid is?

13:37:04 Penny Picard Sampson: We did this year just start taking a minimum bid so you can't buy an acre of land for \$20.00 because you're the only bidder.

13:37:16 Bruce \_\_\_\_\_: [Inaudible] quit claim so that doesn't make it very valuable on the open market.

13:37:27 Donald Newell: Well, the comment was we're only offering a quit claim deed and that doesn't make it very valuable on the open market. Not necessarily. There have been a whole lot of foreclosures, I do know over the last 10 years, ever since 2006, and those were all quit claim deeds. What the buyer does prior to closing or he is making that bid is he is having an attorney run the title. As long as the title was good before the Town took it, and the Town took it according to due process, then to title attorney will insure that property. It will provide title insurance. It won't have much in ultimate value.

13:38:05 Dennis Jones: Does the Town put a lien on your property after one year of not paying taxes?

13:38:14 Donald Newell: They do.

13:38:20 Alicia McCormick: So these properties that you have put up for a sealed bid, how are they advertised?

13:38:22 Donald Newell: There are rules on that.

13:38:26 Chris Rossignol: I think its three commonly read papers, the Bangor Daily, the Republican Journal and whatever, and locations around town.

13:38:51 Donald Newell: How about on the web?

13:39:02 Emily Newell: We put them on the Unity page.

13:39:05 Lynn Warman: How many tax-acquired properties do we get each year?

13:39:12 Penny Picard Sampson: One this year, one last year. We don't want to own property. We're not in the business of owning property so we'd really rather not. We try to do the best we can with people. I think that's probably why we only have one per year. I think that's pretty good for a town our size.

13:39:41 David Smith: I think most years we haven't had any.

13:39:49 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:39:56 Article 38, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$5,000.00 from undesignated funds (surplus) as they deem advisable to meeting unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the current fiscal year, 2016. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. How much did we spend last year?

13:40:26 Donald Newell: Article 39, to see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6th of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2017, to March 25, 2017. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Do you know why we do this? Because Town Meeting doesn't come until the 25th, and [inaudible] no monies they are authorized to spend. All in favor of Article 39 signify by saying aye? And, no? Motion carries.

13:41:27 Donald Newell: Article 40, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town to continue as a member of the Municipal Review Committee, otherwise known as MRC, organized as a Maine nonprofit corporation and acting as a regional association pursuant to Title 13B and Title 38 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended (and specifically Section

1304-B(5-A) of (ii) to adopt, ratify and confirm the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Restated Bylaws of the MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk at the Town Office. To authorize the Town to execute and deliver a Municipal Joinder Agreement with the MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk at the Town Office (the Municipal Joinder Agreement) pursuant to which the Town will become a Joining Member of the MRC (as defined therein) and deliver its municipal solid waste for disposal to a waste management facility being developed by Fiberight, LLC and/or its affiliates (collectively Fiberight) in Hampden, Maine, or other waste disposal facility. 4. To authorize the MRC to take certain actions on behalf of the Town as set forth in the Municipal Joinder Agreement, and 5, to authorize a majority of the Selectmen or their duly authorized designee or designees as a representative of the Town to execute and deliver the municipal Joinder Agreement on behalf of the Town and to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town in conjunction therewith such other documents and to take such further actions as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to effect the transactions contemplated by the Municipal Joinder Agreement (EP-02016984-v5) (The municipal Joinder Agreement; Draft Restated Articles and Amended and restated MRC Bylaws are available at the Town Office).

13:41:29 Emily Newell: I want to ask Barbary from MRC to do this.

13:44:13 Donald Newell: We'll need a vote from you to allow Barbara to talk to us from the MRC? You got it. Come on up, Barbara.

13:44:25 Barbara Veilleux: Hi folks. My name is Barbara Veilleux. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). For those of you who may not know what that is, we are an entity that was created in 1991 to oversee our member town's interests in all of the facility [inaudible] PERC interests. We have 187 communities, of which your community is one. We have a nine-member Board of Directors and we are elected each year by our member towns. Why are we talking about this today? In 2018, the PERC contract we have now expires. Currently they are getting four times the market value for the electricity they generate. We estimate that that loss in revenue is going to be approximately \$20 million dollars a year. The only other way that PERC has to [inaudible] is through our tip fees. So back in 2008 the MRC started to work with PERC to try to come up with some other arrangements, maybe through [inaudible] the plant, make some changes because we knew that our communities couldn't afford what they were proposing. They wanted us to guarantee 165,000 tons and a tip fee of \$110.00 a ton. At that point, negotiations broke down and PERC issued memo to the MRC which stated they were going to start planning the decommissioning of the plant, and the MRC should make preparations for our communities. So at that time the MRC Board issued a request for expression in interest in 15 different companies submit proposals to us. We spent the next two years going through those proposals and most of them want an estimate of 200,000 to 300,000 tons of material per ton. Collectively, our 187,000 tons. The rest of the tons that go to PERC are coming in from out of state. You may not be familiar with what is called the GAT, which is guaranteed annual tonnage each year, the town has to estimate how many tons of trash you're going to take to PERC. If you fall below that you are possibly subject to a penalty from them. In this new arrangement we have negotiated with Fiberight that that would be pooled. So the MRC collective towns have to guarantee 150,000 tons to them. If we fall below individually, you would not be penalized unless you for some reason breached your contract and

approximately the only way you could do would be say a landfill that opened up next door was a cheaper option and you just decided that, sorry, Fiberight, we're not going to take our trash to you, we're going to go to the landfill. That would be a breach of contract. In that kind of situation, you could be subject to a penalty but, otherwise, we're going to pool. It's a much better arrangement. The options that you have, let me back up a little bit. The Fiberight process uses new technology in a way that's being used in Europe. It's a combination of different types of processing. The first thing it does is recovers recyclables out of the trash so folks who don't recycle and just happen to throw them in the trash, this process can pick those things out. It cleans them so that there is a very high value product at the end. It uses an anaerobic digestion process to process organics, and it makes a biogas and there is a gas pipeline right on the site and Bangor Gas [inaudible] buying the gas from the plant. There are some other companies that are also interested in buying the engineered fuels. This facility fits the needs of our communities. They are willing to work with us. We only have to guarantee them 150,000 tons. MRC tried to be very conservative in this arrangement. We wanted to be sure that we could actually give them the tons they need to process. We are not going to allow any out of state waste, and that's actually in our DEP permit. So as far as I'm concerned, and other Board members, that was a big plus for us. It provides flexibilities in the types of products they been produce so if the market for one product is down, they can switch and make a different product. That give us a lot more opportunity for revenue stream. And also the revenue sharing for this is much different from the current plant. In PERC plant agreements we have a net revenue sharing so whatever their expenses are for the plant comes off the top and then we share what's left. In the Fiberight process as far as revenue sharing, we don't care what Fiberight has to pay. If they have some expense that's on them. We will share in just revenues that are generated and after a certain percentage the communities will share in that. We're very excited thinking this is a real opportunity for the towns to have a much better revenue producing project. The options you have at this point is either PERC or the Fiberight project. Right now the PERC contract that's out there, they are asking for a price of \$84.36/ton. The Fiberight project is \$70.00/ton. I don't know if you all happened to grab one of these sheets as you came in, this is a limited comparison between the two. Both contracts are adjusted annually by the consumer price index. We looked at the cost of the current PERC option over the first 15 years versus the MRC option over 15 years, you'll see that the total cost to the town, the extra cost to the town by choosing the PERC option is almost \$250,000. And there is no revenue sharing in the PERC agreement as it is written right now. For towns that sign on before May 1st, there is also, there will be a \$5.00 rebate tip fee, so you would get \$65.00 for the first three years. This has been a very great agreement and it has worked out well for our towns and we hope that you will continue to stay with MRC towns. With that I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

13:52:14 Bruce \_\_\_\_\_: Does this has allowance [inaudible] cropped off. Also, we had a company that wanted to come in [inaudible].

13:52:28 Barbara Veilleux: I didn't hear the first one.

13:52:34 Bruce \_\_\_\_\_: The first thing is some municipality has lost a fill and all of a sudden their tipping goes way down, how does that affect us?

13:52:43 Barbara Veilleux: He asked if the town loses, like a mill, and your tip, your amount of trash that you generate goes way down, is that built in? Yes, that is as a group that is part of our pooled tons so you would not be penalized for that. The MRC could be if we all dropped below 150,000 tons, but we're going to keep some of this money in reserve to help pay the increase so we don't have to come back to the communities if can help it.

13:53:23 Bruce \_\_\_\_: If a company came in our fee d went up?

13:53:30 Barbara Veilleux: If a new company comes in and you have more waste, great, the more waste the more money we make. The more of us towns that can do that...

13:53:39 David Smith: The more waste the more money we spend tipping.

13:53:43 Barbara Veilleux: But the more money you're going to get back in revenues too.

13:53:51 David Smith: I'm pretty sure the revenues don't pay more than the tipping fee.

13:53:52 Barbara Veilleux: No, that's true. They don't but they might come close.

13:53:57 Dennis Jones: You said no out-of-state waste?

13:54:00 Barbara Veilleux: Right.

13:54:01 Dennis Jones: Now if it comes in from Massachusetts and they drop it off in Portland, is that considered?

13:54:08 Barbara Veilleux: No out-of-state waste.

13:54:07 Andy Reed: Is that presort? In other words, we take the recyclables out of it?

13:54:22 Barbara Veilleux: We take recyclables out in a couple different ways. For towns with recycling programs, you can continue to do that. That was the other thing, we didn't want communities to have to change the way they do business. If you take your already sort recyclables, they will accept that at half the tip fee or not more than half the tip fee. You might be able to negotiate that. So if you have a \$70.00 tip fee, they will accept your recycling for \$35.00. That will save time. They can put that midway in. For communities that don't have a recycling program they can just put it in the regular trash and pay the \$70.00 per ton but the process will take those recyclables out and they will sell them and then you would share in that revenue.

13:55:13 Alicia McCormick: Did I understand you right that PERC wanted us to go up to 200,000?

13:55:21 Barbara Veilleux: The arrangement they wanted was 165,000 tons at \$110.00 per ton.

13:55:31 Alicia McCormick: And what is our current tonnage?

13:55:34 we're delivering about 108,000 tons, and the tip fee is \$79.50 but you get money back from that. The new contract with PERC doesn't have anything in it for revenue sharing.

13:55:52 Gail Chase: My concern with some of what you're describing is the larger picture including recycling. It was suggested a little while ago that before next meeting the Budget Committee consider absolutely what we do not have to expend. Now I'd like us to consider what we can earn, and one of the ways to earn is by supporting our recycling system, which is 25 years old this year. So by telling us that if we don't bother to recycle, just put it all in the trash, the new system that we may participate in will remove that recyclable. Will charge us for it but remove it. It sounds like its absolutely true information but I'd like us all to remember not to do that. Not to use that as a convenient way of getting rid of recyclables because it will cost us more. Everything that we turn into our recycling center is a way of reducing our taxes. I appreciate you're telling us that because it makes me feel good about the program but I'm just articulating my concerns that we all might hear, oh, okay, I didn't get to the center this Saturday, I never remember what day they're picking it up on the curb so it doesn't matter. I'll throw it in the trash.

13:57:31 Barbara Veilleux: You folks have a great recycling program. We don't want you to change that. I oversee the unorganized territories in Penobscot County where we have to travel over 100 miles one way to pick up five or six things of recycling and so it doesn't make sense for us. For you folks it definitely makes sense. If you want to increase your recycling programs that's fine, it's not against the contract.

13:58:08 Faith Carlson: You mentioned I think that Fiberight is a fairly new process. How new?

13:58:12 Barbara Veilleux: We have a demonstration plant. She asked how new Fiberight is. They have a demonstration plant in Virginia. It's not quite up to commercial scale. It's smaller than the one proposed for here. They actually took Maine trash down there to process it. I did not know this but trash in one part of the country is not the same as another. They wanted to make sure we did want have anything funky to mess up their system. We also had the University of Maine study this because there were a couple of things they knew we were not familiar with. We have a consultant on our staff who is an expert in trash. That's what he does. He has been working for the MRC for 30 years and we talked to him exclusively but there were a couple of things here that he was nervous about and so we authorized him to bring in the University of Maine and to report back any positives and negatives.

Resident: I just did quick math and correct me if I'm wrong but you said \$70.00 a ton for a tipping fee. Something out of subject but in subject, this is our page for tons from Unity for recycling. We've got 63.86 tons what they produced in recyclables. There's no page number. Anyway it shows 63.86 tons of recyclables from Unity, the Town of Unity alone this year. At \$70.00 a ton, that's \$4,470 if it had been in our trash. Curbside pickup is 10,000 alone so are we saving money recycling or not because it sounds to me like we spent \$50,000 or \$60,000 to recycle some years, and we could've spent \$5,000 if we put it in the garbage.

14:00:35 Barbara Veilleux: And I think that's something that each individual community needs to look at.

14:00:48 Resident: Am I correct? Is my math wrong because it's all right here? Does somebody know this stuff? Nobody knows anything?

14:00:58 Barbara Veilleux: In state recycling goals for towns, they wanted us to recycle up to 50 percent. They just moved that date to 2022, they are in the process of moving it.

14:01:11 Citizen: Recycling is a good thing but it sounds to me like the waste management place will recycle it when it gets there. We don't have to recycle it here other than it will cost some more money.

14:01:23 Barbara Veilleux: It will cost you more to do that though. What you need to look at is the difference. It's \$70.00 a ton to put it in the trash. If we recycle, it's \$35.00 a ton. Are you connected with the Maine Resource and Recovery Association? Did they help you with your recycling materials? The gentleman I work with is a member of that and they work with towns to help you with your recycling programs and marketing. So maybe I can put you in touch with them. There may be some options.

14:02:02 Lynn Warman: Can you just restate. Did you say that by 2022 they want us, the goal is 50 percent you said?

14:02:13 Barbara Veilleux: It has been 50 percent and we haven't been able to reach it. We've been stuck at about 30 percent. The state is in the process of changing that to 2022, which the goal is now.

14:02:29 Donald Newell: Are there towns hitting that?

14:02:33 Trevanion Grenfell: I've got two questions. The first one is how does the recycling on the site of that facility compare with the sorted recycling that we do in the Town? Do you get as much out of the garbage as you would if you were sorting it? What is the projected return per ton that we're paying \$77.00 in change? What can we expect back?

14:03:03 Barbara Veilleux: And that depends on the markets. Right now markets are at rock bottom. We all used to be able to do our recycling programs for free and get paid and now that is turning around. The one thing I did not mention is the company is going to be financed by another company called Covanta. There are 1.8 billion dollar company. They have 45 energy facilities all over the United States. They have studied this process and they are very interested. They have mostly burn plants like PERC but I think they're seeing that's not the wave of the future with the next generation. They will have more markets for us. If we have problems getting rid of materials, they recycle something like 500,000 tons of metal per year. That should help us.

14:04:01 Patricia \_\_\_\_\_. I just have a quick question. You had said that there is a minimal tonnage that they guarantee, and you have 187 communities that are a part of that. What



percentage, like if some of those communities don't go in, how low can we go and still meet that tonnage?

14:04:25 Barbara Veilleux: It's hard to say by the number of communities because it is by tons as you know, Bangor came on and were 28,000 tons. As of this morning we had 51, and we're up to approximately 70,000 tons so we're making very good progress. If we don't get the tons, the MRC will not vote to continue the process. We'd have to spend approximately \$5 million dollars to purchase the land and put a little bit into infrastructure out of the money that we're holding for town, and if we don't have think that we the [inaudible], we will vote to do that.

14:05:06 Bruce: The process phase, it's a different process, carbon [inaudible].

14:05:10 Barbara Veilleux: Boy you're starting to get into the technical, which I really can't answer.

14:05:22 Donald Newell: The question was do we get carbon credits as a result of the new process that it is much more efficient and less damaging to air quality.

14:05:33 Barbara Veilleux: I would think that the answer would be yes but I really can't speak to that.

14:05:40 Sonia Antunes: What we're saying that even if we aren't reaching 50%, when we use our sorted percentage, it's \$35.00 per ton. If we threw it in our trash, and then they sorted it, it's \$70.00 per ton. Do we know what the price would be for single sort recycling? I know that our recycling center has moved in that direction for a couple of different reasons and one of them is price. Do we know what that price is?

14:06:11 Barbara Veilleux: Single sort would be \$45.00-ish or less. It probably would be a little less because they can move it further down the line in the plant. That's something that the town would negotiate with Fiberight. The agreement with MRC is only for regular trash. If you want to take you're recycling to that, that's a separate contract between the Town and Fiberight.

14:06:57 Resident: Is anybody familiar with the program that Clinton is using? I understand that they don't have to separate plastics, they just put them all into recycling in one bucket and it's hauled to Lewiston.

14:07:33 Barbara Veilleux: That would be just single sort: If you folks want to do that you certainly can. It's a \$35.00 tip fee but you still have to have your own collection program. What do you do know. Do you have a transfer station?

14:08:03 Resident: I leave mine curbside and I sort everything out. I'll have 6-7 containers out there all separated and I do that every month but my understanding is that Clinton, they just put all those recyclables in one bucket and it's hauled to Lewiston and sorted over there.

14:08:24 Barbara Veilleux: I know zero sort is a company does that type of thing. That's something that you'd have to contact them directly to see.

14:08:37 Resident: I don't know if our town would consider that.

14:08:43 Emily Newell: It seems to me that we're debating the recycling issue and it's not really what we're talking without here. We do not have the options in front of us. We're talking about trash and we can either send it to PERC or we can send it to Fiberight. That's the decision that we need to make here.

14:09:12 Chris: Aren't we also saying that that's separate that can be dealt with later on?

14:09:19 Donald Newell: And is there some value to having that decision made known for MRC?

14:09:32 Barbara Veilleux: In order to get your \$5.00 per ton rebate and share in the revenues, you need to do it by May 1st. If you don't do it today you'd have to have a special meeting. So in order to get the \$5.00 per ton rebate and share in the revenues of the plant, you would need to commit by May 1st. So if you don't do it today, you would need a special meeting before May first to share in those two things.

14:10:09 Alicia McCormick: This question is for Emily. If we go with Fiberight or MRC, and our contract with PERC is until 2018, would we may a penalty for closing our contract early?

14:10:25 Barbara Veilleux: I can answer that. This doesn't start until that ends.

14:10:31 Alicia McCormick: Okay Well then I'd like to come out in support of Fiberight for multiple reasons. First of all I think it's insane for any trash company to want us to increase our trash and that really disturbs me and so I'd much prefer the 150,000 tons and the fact that's it's over the course of a whole group of towns that are participating. It's lower what we have to pay for a tipping fee. I think it's a good option for our town.

14:11:03 Donald Newell: Was that a motion to move the previous question. [Yes, move it!] Moved and seconded. It takes a 2/3rds vote to move the previous question. How many are on favor? You got it. Will move the question. Article 40 as read and no amendments. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? It's unanimous. Motion carries.

14:11:43 Donald Newell: Article 41, to see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to borrow through a bank loan up to \$1,500,000 for the purpose of road repair and related improvements. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. I think the Selectmen have a great presentation for you and there are some handouts.

14:11:43 Emily Newell: I need some angels to help me get these out. Do we have enough [handouts] out there? There are more copies on the counter. How many people don't have one? We're ready? Usually I'm too brief but I'm going to try to talk for a long time. I am going to tell you how some nonroad pro like me to try to figure out how much money we need for the roads. You can get lots of different kinds of numbers for what it costs to do a mile of paved road. Part of that problems depends how bad the road is, whether you just need 3/4 of an inch over the top

or if you need to do whole base. Luckily the State has helped us with a lovely computer software that does some of this math for us. What we do is we go and drive the roads. We Selectmen have driven most of them. I didn't get all the graveled ones in there but we've got all the paved ones which costs a little more money. So we go out there and they ask us serious questions, pot holes, edge cracking, roughness, drainage, alligator cracking, and they ask just how bad. They ask us how deep it is, low, medium or high, how much of the roads are these issues occurring on. So we filled out the survey and went back to the computer and plugged it all in. It tells on us where on our Road Condition Decline Curve where our roads set. We really want to be here. This is where it's really cheap to maintain our road. This is where the money we spend gives us more years of life. Unfortunately, all of our roads are more like over here except Quaker Hill, Town Farm, Ward Hill, those are over here in preventive and routine. Preventive and routine repairs would be like crack sealing, your 1/2 inch or 3/4 inch in overlay, like what they do on Depot Street every couple of years. Have I told you about the program enough? So we have to measure the width, the length - it's really an estimate. The numbers come from the State. They update it annually and put in the numbers from what jobs cost last year. They try to give us as close to a number they can knowing that that we're using this to try to talk to people about how much money we really need. They even let me talk right to the guy as much as I want to, Jerry, who answers the phone. It's great and they get back in a day. Questions like how much we think pavement is going to increase in cost over the next five years. It's about 5%. Questions like is it better to do roadwork piece meal or all at once and he says the difference is mobilizing equipment which can cost easily up to \$25,000 just to mobilize equipment so if you mobilize three times versus one time, it's an obvious difference. To look at all the data we have in the software Jerry has helped us come up with a total plan for all the roads. I'm going to show you later on, you can probably already see it, proposed work, that's just a little bit. What about the rest of the roads, what order should we do them in. What roads could be graveled? I can't make the decision. I can only look and say that's a pretty flat road, it doesn't seem to get a lot of traffic, it seems like a good spot but without a professional or someone close to being a professional looking at it, I'm not comfortable making the decision. We'll be doing traffic counting early next week so when you see those things across the road you know to drive over back and forth to make the counts go up. That will help us to know which roads are more of a priority.

14:18:55 Emily Newell: So, estimating road costs, what the program does is it prints out all of the cost of repair options. I didn't give to you because of their estimates. They're not guaranteed. I'll read some of it. And if you really want to look at it you can. So, Berry Road, 4/10ths of a mile, we want to put 18 inches of new 9.5 mm gravel, {inaudible] and 1 inch surface, \$72,000.00 plus do drainage work. It's appropriate to all the different roads. That's what we used to add it up and say we need one million and a half. Our roads, just so you'd have an understanding, there are 5-7 miles of gravel, 23-25 miles of pavement. That's range is because we got different lengths this year with our survey than they did two years ago. I would love to solid that up because the State of Maine uses that for reimbursement in our roads budget based on how many miles we have. So if anyone wants to help us measure roads.

14:20:43 Emily Newell: Okay, I'm going to tell you about our annual budget. I looked at the accounting for the four years of road budgets and highlighted in different colors what's maintenance and what's building. I'll try to get to why in a little bit. Maintenance is stuff like mowing the side of the road, culverts, cold patch. That's a big number. Building was like Town

Farm Road. I looked at that because the concept of this loan is to do as much road work as we can without raising the amount that we pay in tax dollars. So the concept is to keep some money in our annual budget that we can maintenance with. Only maintenance, we always have to do it. The building portion is used for the loan payment. So when I looked at the difference in how much on maintenance and how much on building, about a 3rd for maintenance, and 2/3rds for building. So at \$370,000, that's about \$244,000 for building. We've been given a proposal from the bank for a really sweet 2.38. I asked our [inaudible] guy, Dan Pitman, if I should look at anything else and he said of that low interest rate, that's incredible so I figured he knew. So they will give us a million and a half, because I asked them if they would, and we have amortization schedules here. One's for five years, and one's for six and a half. The six and a half would be more in our usual budget with spending \$250,000.00 a year towards that loan.

14:23:08 Charlie Schaefer: Does that mean our taxes have to go up for that?

14:23:14 Emily Newell: I'm talking about our taxes staying the same with using the \$370,000 that we raised for summer roads, that's two pieces, maintenance, and the building portion to pay the loan.

14:23:29 Donald Newell: To answer, taxes wouldn't have to go up.

14:23:35 Sonia Antunes: Just to clarify for me, we would be spending money on the loan, not raising our taxes using part of the road money to pay back the loan, getting the roads in better condition so there is this very good section and then it would cost us less in the long run. Is that correct?

14:24:08 Emily Newell: That is a good summary.

14:24:12 Dennis Jones: That's only some of the roads.

14:24:20 Emily Newell: Yes. Only some of the roads. This is not a comprehensive solution to all of the roads. This leaves lots of roads not done.

14:24:20 Penny Picard Sampson: Tell them what it would cost for all roads.

14:24:27 Emily Newell: Three and a half million. The money, and I will point to the map, the last map, Stagecoach Road, that's pavement all over it. Some of you know we've talked about can the top half be gravel but until we talk to the State and see if that's a good idea, we're using all pavement. Maybe we can save some money and do something else, if that's an appropriate place to go to gravel. And then we have the loop, which is the north end of Waning Road, Crowell, and paved part of Clark. These roads need total rebuild. Dennis could tell you about it but we're not just surfacing it. Questions?

14:25:23 Resident: Yes, Stagecoach Road: How heavily traveled is that road?

14:25:35 Emily Newell: I believe you're asking how much it is traveled? [Yes] I don't have the traffic numbers yet.

14:25:43 Resident: The reason I'm asking, I don't live on the road.

14:25:48 Jackie Bradeen: I've lived on Stagecoach Road for 48 years and I know every inch of it, every single whole. A few years ago against better judgment the road was opened through to Troy. We get many people coming all the way through from Troy, out beyond me on the dirt part of the road there are college students who are living there, and then there are at least 30-40 houses along the road. It is a residential street essentially. And there are two Amish families up there now. It gets a considerable amount of traffic. In addition to that, something that the people on the road were never asked about, it is an ATV access road and I wished that could be changed. We get bikers and we get ATVs that are 4-wheelers that are going up and down the road, not 15 miles per hour but just as fast as they can go. The Stagecoach Road gets a considerable amount of traffic. There are places there, which I do not think would be appropriate to be gravel without a great deal of construction because I think that it would be wet. There are already wet places on the dirt side of the road, which Dennis has fixed two or three times, already down there, the Amish driveway, it is always wet there. My concern is that the ambulance and fire trucks be able to come in or will they have to go to Troy and come in the back way. I'm not saying it necessarily needs to be tar. I'm saying it needs to be built well. It has plenty of gravel. I walk it every day.

14:27:59 Emily Newell: I am doing traffic studies. We are. I'm going to finish what I planned to say.

14:28:15 Charlie Schaefer: I live on the Stagecoach Road. About twenty three years ago, my wife and I bought a farm up there on Stagecoach Road. It's a nice residential area with not much traffic, just the 20 or so homes up there. Then in the late 1990s or somewhere before 2000, the Selectmen decided to open the road up down below us, towards Troy, the swamp area, it was blocked off, you couldn't go through. Someone decided to clean that out. I took a survey of the 20 home owners up there and they did not want that opened up but the Selectmen in their infinite wisdom opened it up. The people down there, like Randy Reynolds, we don't use the road but once we opened it up we got tons of traffic coming from Troy coming through. Renting apartments on the other side, four-wheel drive trucks coming through there, and that's when the road started going to pot. We've got all this traffic coming from Troy. We folks here are paying to repair a road for people from Troy to use. I would like to suggest to the Selectmen that if we're going to repair the road, to close it off again and take it back to swamp. It's not necessary for our people to get up there.

14:30:00 Emily Newell: I want to tell you what it will cost overall. The amortization schedule, go to the one on the right, the bottom figure, \$121,291.03. That's the total cost. Other costs to get the loan are [inaudible]. That's the money that is actually going to the road. Now we're proposing that we do this so that we can get some roads more into our happy place, where we can be doing seal coating, seal cracking, and things to extend the life. We need to get some of the roads here. The warning, the downside of this, I'll tell you it's not a perfect solution, all of the roads won't be fixed and while loan lasts six and one half years, the work will take two, three, and then for the rest of the time, there will not be any road work down while other roads like

Barry and Bryant all need help. This isn't the end of the discussion. We need to talk more about how we can save money on maintenance and construction, other ideas, how we can raise money.

14:31:48 Penny Picard Sampson: So if we do not get a loan, at our current annual budget of \$370,000.00 how many years would it take just to do the north end of the Waning Road, at our current rate of rebuilding?

14:32:27 Emily Newell: Less than two and one half years....more like six and a half. The reason being we're getting all of the money that we would be building road for 6-1/2 years, we're going to get all of it right now. The short answer should be 6-1/2 years so you could do all of the work. You asked for North Waning?

14:32:43 Penny Picard Sampson: Yes because that was our number one priority.

14:32:50 Emily Newell: Right, we have \$244,000 to work with. We've got to use top coat on Town Farm while we're talking about it. That would be done with the loan too, topcoat the Town Farm. It's going to happen whether we get the loan or not. Let me finish then I'll answer your questions please. We use the highest cost. Well we ran out of money the first year. Two years to do North Waning with our current budget. Can you guys line up at the mike to keep track of who's next?

14:33:38 Sonia Antunes: I'm sorry. Just to clarify one more time, if this goes through what it means is that all the work being done now, our taxes don't go up and in the end it is cheaper. Cheaper in the sense that the roads will be in good condition and easier to maintain.

14:34:07 Emily Newell: It's cheaper in three different ways. It's cheaper in that you mobilize just once. Cheaper in that we pay today's pavement costs. Cheaper in that Chris has the more technical way of saying this but so when we pave the road piece meal, there are different layers of the road and the lower layer was not really meant to be a wear surface, and that's the scenario. When we do piece work because we don't have the money to do it all at once, we're going to have to use a better product, that we're going to leave there for a year, so it doesn't wear out too much so we're paying for a better product as our base that we'll later cover with top coat.

14:34:52 Sonia Antunes: This sounds great but what's the downside?

14:34:55 Emily Newell: The downside is you pay \$121,000 in interest, that's money that doesn't go to the roads. There is savings. What the actual savings, what the difference is, I don't know. Downside is for three and a half years we're watching no work get done, and the obvious downside is that this doesn't fix everything. It's great but not enough. I will speak in favor of this.

14:35:35 Jackie Bradeen: For 20 years nothing has been done and that effort was to keep taxes low, and we need to pay. I think we need to do two things. We need to borrow this money and raise taxes. I don't want to pay more, I live on a fixed income, I'm a retired person, but somewhere we have to catch up on what we need to do and pay for it. That's the reality that I see. You cannot always push it down the road. I can seem us coming back in a year or two and

the people on the other roads who have not had any work done are going to be livid and I don't blame them. Maybe we should borrow three million and raise taxes, or two million, some combination of raising money and taxes. We need to pay.

14:36:39 Emily Newell: It would be really cool if we all left the room to do a straw pull to see how much you'd be willing to increase your tax bill by.

14:36:51 Chris Rossignol: Just one real big problem created with doing all of our roads at one point in time. Most of us are here because of our kids. We'll be taking that cost of doing all the roads at the same time and passing it on to them down the road to do all the roads at the same time. That was my concern in tackling that, in doing all of our roads in one shot.

14:37:30 Charlie Schaefer: This loan, it's 2.8%. Is that from a bank?

14:37:36 Emily Newell: That's from a bank called The First.

14:37:44 Charlie Schaefer: Do you have something in writing that they will meet these terms?

14:37:50 Emily Newell: Yes. They have two conditions, that it be approved by the voter body, and that we provide financial statements, our Auditor's Report, which isn't in yet but that we provide it when it is.

14:38:01 Charlie Schaefer: I'm in favor of this loan. Two point three is a pretty good rate. As long as you got some guarantee.

14:38:09 Emily Newell: I do. They want to see that our total indebtedness is not over a 10 million, and so our total would be two million.

14:38:22 Tom Aversa: Hi, this is sort of a general question. Why does Depot Street never get done?

14:39:04 Emily Newell: It's a State road. We talked about that actually last Thursday when we got three DOT guys to come sit and hang out with us and they explained that we're at the bottom of the list, projects are already committed along Route 1. Options for us is they do have sort of a grant program where they'll pay half if we'll pay half. They estimate that cost to do the road plus a small shoulder paved, would be a million so if we want to do \$500,000 to have it be the way it should be.

14:39:45 Tom Aversa: The second part of my question is I know you guys have looked into it, i'm not aware whether we have a good grader or grader operator, I mean so many rural communities have gone away from paving and into other options.

14:40:00 Emily Newell: You mean as far as gravel maintenance?

14:40:03 Tom Aversa: Gravel or something no pavement.

14:40:10 Jim Porter: It's been suggested that perhaps if we borrow the three million and take part of that and invest it, we might be able to balance this out over six years using the investment to also so we can get the work done. I'm not a money person.

14:40:47 David Smith: What are your money market and CDs paying now? Unless you're planning on going to Hollywood Slots.

14:41:01 Emily Newell: The investment is building good roads that are in the happy place on the curve.

14:41:07 Tony Avila: Is that a fixed rate?

14:41:10 Emily Newell: The 2.38 is a fixed rate.

14:41:14 Gene Paquet: I live on the Fisher Road. It was recently ditched and most of the pavement has gone to the wayside. My question is if this proposal, 1.5 million, is this going to be just concentrated on this map, you know, the Stagecoach Road, and Waning Road, and what happens to the other roads that are in the reconstruct and rehab status?

14:41:37 Emily Newell: I can answer that in two ways. The rest of the road plan hasn't been agreed on by the Select board so whether they're able to determine what happens next, we don't have an answer for that yet.

14:41:55 Gene Paquet: But as far as the maintenance, we would have used up all of the money to pay the loan back to pave these other roads, and let the other roads go bad?

14:42:03 Emily Newell: Yes, most of the money would go to the roads that are highlighted. I say most because there is some wiggle room, \$25,000 to \$50,000 but some of that could be eaten up by engineering costs too. The potential for savings, if we can find a portion of many of these roads that could support being gravel. So with the potential savings there, that could be used in other places but what's on this map, that's the million and a half.

14:42:35 Donald Newell: Just on the Stagecoach, Waning, and Crowell. So the remainder of the highway on the reconstruct will just be like patched like they have been.

14:42:51 Emily Newell: We can solve it with more money.

14:42:59 Resident: I trust this proposal. I just keep wondering what the interest rate we're paying on the current Town debt of \$681,000, if this is an opportunity consolidate and leverage our new debt for that lower rate.

14:43:15 Emily Newell: Good question. I don't know the answer to that.

14:43:19 Donald Newell: I'm not the moderator for a second. We have to be careful when we talk about what happens to the rest of the roads because if we don't borrow this money, [inaudible] rebuild happens to the rest of the roads either. So we're not changing that a bit.



We're just hastening the reconstruct of the road that are designated and my understanding is those roads that are designated may be modified based on the traffic study that they haven't completed yet, and based on additional consultations with the professionals from the DOT. Either way, we have underfunded our roads for a long time. Our roads have decreased in their state for a long time and we can continue down that path if we want to, or we can raise more money. What Emily is doing is recommending, or what the Select board is doing and recommending is trying to at least move a portion of our roads to that high level of condition where the cost, to extend their life and to take care of them is much cheaper. Once they get to the stage of some of the portion of the road, Stagecoach road and others, they're very expensive to maintain. The potholes, the cold patch won't stay in them. It's just extremely expensive to maintain. There is no question that we have to raise more money. This is step one and, personally, I believe if I had my county report, that we have a figure of 1.5 million in the Article. [Yes] So you're not going to raise 3.5 today because I know that we're way behind and it's not getting better. I do agree with Chris's point that you have to be careful with doing a one-time fixup because they do mature at the same time. Like when they do clear cuts, they all mature 30 to 50 years later, you know, so you have these long periods of time with no income. The same thing with roads. You have long periods of time and then, bam, you've got to go back to the same took, which is not necessarily a bad thing but it is something to consider. I'm totally in favor of the 1.5.

14:45:56 Bruce \_\_\_\_\_: One of the things I'm hearing here is improving our roads in Unity. A little earlier I heard about thousands of people from out of town coming in and doing business in Unity. This helps that effort out tremendously. I heard about improving our community to attract business and people. This is a first step in doing that so I'm in favor.

14:46:32 Emily Newell: Does anyone want to move to vote?

14:46:37 Dennis Jones: The roads that are, like the Stagecoach Road, you're saying you're going to reclaim it and repave it as far as the top of the hill. What are you going to do from the top of the hill?

14:46:50 Emily Newell: The figure is to do the same thing there, reclaim, add material, pave.

14:47:01 Dennis Jones: The whole thing? [Yes]

14:47:03 Emily Newell: Potential savings there.

14:47:06 Dennis Jones: I agree. Some of our roads, one in particular, Stevens Road, it could be paved versus reclaimed and all that. It's in good shape, other than it needs to be paved except for a couple of a few little spots. The Stevens Road, I don't live on it, I travel on it a little bit but you could put a counter on it, that's going to be way more than Crowell, Clark, and Waning. It's one of the main hubs in Unity. It's our worst road. There are potholes this big around. It could be paved, not reclaimed. It isn't going to cost us no \$258,000. But if you let it go six years it will cost you.

14:48:11 Resident: I just want to finish up saying while the interest rate is low, the prices of tar is low, the price of oil, you can count on that going back up, the price of labor goes up. So, if we could do all the roads at once and get this behind us, I think it will save the taxpayers a lot of money down the road instead of always just do a little bit at a time and it costs more down the road than it does now. We should do all we can.

14:48:47 Penny Picard Sampson: I'll tell you what a lot of our surrounding neighbors doing. They're all borrowing money and they're all paving their roads. Burnham, for instance, they just had they're Town Meeting. They were looking for 2.4 million dollars for their roads. They line itemed their roads so they didn't get approved but they were still well over a million. They're still at two something. Palermo just \$850,000. Freedom just took out big loan. So they're all jumping on the bandwagon too. It's probably a good idea that we do it. There is going to be a lot of road construction going on over the next couple of years.

14:49:36 Jackie Bradeen: Can we amend the amount?

14:49:46 David Smith: Down but not up. You'd have to have another Town Meeting.

14:49:38 Donald Newell: This one is written right in there. This one is crystal clear. This has been a good presentation. The trouble is if you wait very long these conditions are going to change. This is a perfect storm right now to do this sort of thing.

14:50:35 Jackie Bradeen: That's what I want to do, amend it up.

14:50:38 Donald Newell: I cannot do that.

14:50:41 Emily Newell: We have a couple of Articles that didn't make it on here anyway so we would like to have a Special Town Meeting to fund the GA, comp plan, and something else.

14:50:57 Jackie Bradeen: I think it would be good to wait and see what the person from the State has to say and then have one of the conditions of this meeting today that we have another Town Meeting to see what the options are more clearly. He will have a better idea of what parts can be gravel and what parts can be tarred. I'm not against my road becoming gravel except for Murdock Hill. It is built well and it's not a swamp in the spring. We might just want to table it today. Go for the million and half and have another Town Meeting.

14:51:33 Donald Newell: Quite frankly if you vote for this today and the Selectmen move forward with it, when we have that Special Town Meeting in the next 30 days you haven't closed that loan yet and so you could just work it into 3.5 or whatever we decide. I don't think [inaudible] except that they will not be able to hold the rate after another month or two. I want to answer the question on the other funding, the other loans. Sam has researched that. We have a fire house loan, we have a rate of 2.585, however that is a decreasing rate and as time goes on, 2018 it's 1.480, 2019 it's 1.740, and 2020 it's 1.990. So, for whatever reason, that's in the contract as we move down the rate. The Town Office, it 3.25. Now we have a motion to move the previous question. That's not debatable. It does require a 2/3rds vote. So use your green cards please. Those in favor? Those opposed? The motion carries. We're going to call for the

vote. Are there any questions about what we're voting on? We're voting to approve a bond or a note in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the purposes stated. All those in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:53:33 Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our work today. Thank you very much.

[Town Meeting concluded]

**Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Powell-Wilson, Notary Public**