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2017

## Unity Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2017

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**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2017  
TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE  
LOCATION: UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UNITY, MAINE**

**TOWN OFFICIALS SEATED AT HEAD TABLE:**

**Selectman Penny Picard-Sampson  
Selectman Emily Newell  
Selectman Tony Avila  
Town Clerk, Kari Hunt**

**MODERATOR: Donald Newell**

10:04:25 Donald Newell: I'd like to call this meeting to order. First of all, now that you're all seated, please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED] If you will look at the front of your book of your Town Report, I'd like to call attention to the third page in. It's not a numbered page. In Memoriam, Leroy D. Trull, passed away this year and we wanted to take this time to remember his exemplary service to our town. He served for 15 years as a selectman and was invaluable to the wellbeing of our town. He was an active participant in life with a flair for fun. He will be missed as a dynamic resident of the Town of Unity. While we're there, if you will turn to page 48 and we'll remember others of our residents who have passed in the past year.

10:11:00 Donald Newell: Vernon L. Bagley, Jr., Mark Ryan Bickford David Harris Chase, Harold Thomas Fickett III, John Patrick Fox, James C. Hitchcock, Homer Hobbs, Elwood Bruce Hubbard, Geraldine W. Jose, Shannon Lee Kennedy Marilyn Livingstone Koziupa, Cassandra Lynn Lawler, Hanley Edgar Nickerson, Shirley Marie Parsons Harold M. Plumley, Mona L. Poulin, Kathleen McCarthy Serotkin, Emma L. Stevens, Darryl D. Thomas, Leroy Dana Trull, Donna Lee Tuttle. Please join me in a moment of silence in memory of these individuals. Thank you very much.

10:12:33 Donald Newell: Next if you'll go back to the front of your book. We're dedicating this Town Report to a couple of outstanding individuals, Dorothy "Dot" Quimby, and Patricia "Pat" Clark. I know you've all read your report so I won't need to read that passage. I'll just summarize that it would be difficult to find any two individuals in history that have been so broadly involved in activities in shaping the Town of Unity to where it is today as these two women. One of the things I appreciate, I've been moderating the town meeting for a few years and they've been there to assist me in keeping me on track and keeping things moving smoothly. One of the rules of the Moderator's Manual, which you will vote on shortly, is that we make an affirmative, take an affirmative action on each and every article in the Warrant. And, so, to facilitate that we have Dot and Pat. Occasionally Dot will fall asleep but Pat will nudge her and we'll get it done fairly promptly, and then the article is on the floor available for all of you for discussion. So thank both of you very much for your service to this community. Let's give them a round of applause. [APPLAUSE] They're also a lot of fun so that's good.

10:14:35 Donald Newell: Okay a brief introduction. We like to think our Town Meeting is a little different than the average one. Part of that is because we take these few minutes to make sure that everyone understands the process and can be an equal participant in it. So, you don't have to have been here for 30 years to have an equal voice at this meeting. I'll take these minutes to help bring you along so that if you want to take some action, make a motion, amend a motion, or speak on a motion, you will feel comfortable to do

that. How many folks are here for the first time at our Town Meeting? Wow! That's great. We applaud you for coming and being part of this. Hope you're here every year.

10:15:30 Donald Newell: And now, back to the Selectmen's point, a few folks came in after I started talking and Pat was not at the table, so you did not pick up your green card. You need to be checked in so if you'll come up front and get checked in then pick up a green card. Oftentimes that's how we'll recognize that you voted or you didn't. There is also a ballot you need to pick up that relates to an Article later on in the meeting. I would guess that this is the largest number of voters we've had at a meeting for a number of years and that's a really positive thing. The number of people that participate in their town government is a great attribute to their community. We've always been proud of those that do and today even have more. That's wonderful. I would continue except that my next presentation is about new people and so I can't have them be distracted while I'm talking to them. I've got a request that I sing a song and I think we should bring that up for a vote and I'll be off the hook! Anybody coming in late, you need to come in and get in line to pick up your green card so we can recognize you as a voter.

10:18:03 Donald Newell: I will talk about the voting process because I think everybody in line can hear that. When we get rolling along well do the ayes and nays. As long as I can hear clearly, which has it, I'll call it. If I can't then I'll go to the green cards. I'll ask those in favor to raise their green cards, and those not in favor to raise the green cards and we'll count them. If any voter has any question about how I call the vote over the course of the meeting then raise that question and we'll find a way to be absolutely certain on that vote.

10:18:51 Donald Newell: I heard an interest phrase this week on the news. I don't know who to attribute it to, but it said when you're having a discussion like we will today, you can disagree without being disagreeable. That's how we do it here. We want to hear everybody's opinion and it can be contradictory to the previous person who spoke, but it's not directed to that previous person. All the conversation is directed up front and if you can't see something else then direct it to the moderator. We don't have individual discussions back and forth on a particular issue. Everybody is talking to the whole group because, after all, what you're trying to do is convince the rest of the voters that your opinion is correct. So that is what you're doing, you're talking to the whole group but you're sitting back to the them so you'll speak to me. That reminds me, we have a mike on a stand in the middle and everyone who speaks, even Jim Kenney, needs to be at the mike. We start breaking that down to see who has the biggest voice and who doesn't, then at some point we're not going to be able to hear. Please, everyone, when you wish to speak on an Article, please go to the mike.

10:20:20 Donald Newell: All right, first-time folks, this is a quick primer on being at Town Meeting and being effective with your neighbors. If you have any question about what just happened or what is about to happen, then just stand up and say, hey you. I prefer Mr. Moderator or Don but it doesn't matter. If you stand up and wave at me you'll get my attention and I'll ask you what would you like to do, and you'll share that with me and I'll coach you on how to make that happen in this parliamentary procedure process. So, there is no excuse to not have your voice heard at this meeting. Just make sure you inform me and we'll work it out. I caution you first-time people and anybody else that just because the previous 10 people have spoken on a subject and were not in favor of it, and you are, that doesn't mean you do not speak. It's important that we hear all voices, and I've been at this long enough to see a whole crowd move after the discussion. Everybody kind of came in with a fixed idea on whatever it might be in the Article, and after discussion a minority of people have convinced folks, wait a minute, we really should look at this differently and we voted that way. That will not happen if we do not give that lone voice or few voices the opportunity to speak. And that brings me to another stand here, and that is we don't cheer an opinion. There is no rowdiness or clapping or cheering an

opinion because what that does is it stifles the other opinion, and maybe that's why you might want to do it but not here. We need to hear all of those opinions for the reasons stated. So, we don't cheer an opinion. If someone has done something wonderful like Pat and Dot, then we cheer them and we clap and raise the devil, but not on opinions. We do not cheer those.

10:22:48 Donald Newell: Okay we talked about the green cards. Keep those handy because we use those often. In questioning results, don't hesitate and there's an opportunity if for whatever reason the voters don't want their particular opinion to be known, then we have secret ballot. It's a fairly time-consuming process, I wouldn't take it lightly, but if you feel as though that's the appropriate...the interest of the group would be different if they only could vote anonymously, then that's what that's for. So, make the motion to have a secret ballot and we'll have a vote on that.

10:23:43 Penny Picard Sampson: Thank you, Don. You'll notice in most of the other towns they're recognizing the Spirit of American winners at town meeting. We do ours in the fall at the Volunteer Day but I would like to recognize Lori Grant who is our winner for 2016. We started last year recognizing. I guess I would call them volunteer employees. Last year we recognized Sherry Powell-Wilson for her stenography. She does all the town meetings. This year we would like to recognize, we call her our IT expert, and that would be Jean Bourg who has been an immense help. Come on up, Jean. [APPLAUSE]. This is a little gift from us to you. It's cheaper than hiring you. Thank you, Jean. [APPLAUSE]

10:25:11 Donald Newell: I want to say one last thing. When we get rolling, we're going to move and not because anyone's in a hurry. Well, some people are. Not because I'm in a hurry. It's just when we get moving we're taking care of business. I say this because if you don't stay attentive to what's going on, something might get moved and voted on and you don't even know what it is and you had a question. So be aware and react quickly and we'll slow it down and we'll let you have the opportunity to get to know what is going on with the article.

10:26:09 Donald Newell: Article 2 is to elect town officials for the ensuing year. We did that yesterday and the votes are as follows. For selectman, 56 votes for Penny Picard Sampson, one vote for Maxwell McCormick, one for Craig Lowe, and one for Jean Bourg. Our selectman for the next three years is Penny Picard Sampson. We can cheer that. [APPLAUSE] It's a tough assignment and we appreciate her stepping up and bringing her experience back to the table. On the School Board Director, two-year term, there were 52 votes for Najean Shedyak, and she is our School Board Director. There were no other votes. Najean, are you here? We'll applaud her anyway. [APPLAUSE] I've been there, done that and that is a very laborious position to hold. Unity Utilities District Trustee, a term of three years. There were six votes and all for Pat Clark. Pat Clark is it. [APPLAUSE]

10:27:48 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. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. I have the book here and do the voters have a copy of the one-page cheat sheet? [Yes] If you have any questions about how to do what, just let me know and I'll tell you. David Smith and others will keep me straight up if I mess something up along the way, and I appreciate that.

10:28:22 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. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:28:52 Donald Newell: Article 5, 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. Floor is open for discussion. Any discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:29:18 Donald Newell: Article 6, 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. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:29:46 Donald Newell: See we'll be out of here in an hour and a half. No problem. Article 7, To see if the Town will vote to allow a two percent discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days after the tax bills are mailed. Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:30:03 Donald Newell: Article 8, To see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of seven percent per annum on all 2017 taxes, which remain unpaid on December 1, 2017. Move and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:30:28 Donald Newell: Article 9, 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. The selectmen shall advertise the properties for sale by sealed bid and have the authority to accept or reject any or all bids, and to execute a Quit Claim deed for such property. The selectmen may attempt to sell the property back to the prior owner before advertising the properties for sale. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Yes, in the back.

10:31:05 Resident: In the last sentence, shouldn't it state "The selectmen should attempt to sell the property back to the prior owner" rather than may?

10:31:17 Donald Newell: We'll ask them about that.

10:31:18 Emily Newell: Not necessarily. That last sentence isn't actually in the recommendation from MMA. That's just what we've found works and so we wanted to reserve the right. It's not that we have to, it's that we can. When somebody's been foreclosed on we can work with them first.

10:31:48 Kevin Spiegel: How long does the property need to go without paying taxes before any action is taken?

10:32:02 Emily Newell: Three years.

10:32:08 Donald Newell: Everybody hear that? Three years. So you haven't paid taxes for three years consecutively and then it's automatic, the Town takes title. Okay, further discussion? Not seeing any further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Just to get practiced up it would

be wonderful if I hear everyone make a vote. And I say that because there'll come a time when we'll do this and it will be really close and you'll say, my goodness, why didn't I vote. So just like to get you in practice making sure we have all the voters responding to my question, is it an aye or a nay.

10:32:54 Donald Newell: Article 10: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2017 fiscal year. The assessor in this case recommends that that it be taken from surplus of \$3,600. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. See no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Does anyone know how much was rebated last year?

10:33:35 Kari Hunt: Over \$7,500.

10:33:46 Donald Newell: Just so you know because it doesn't show up in the Town Report in the financial statements so I couldn't determine that and neither could you. Just so you know, last year that was \$7,500. And so the \$3,600 is based on the average of three years so that hits the middle of it. The fact of the matter is, the selectmen are obligated to pay it anyway but at least now we have a placeholder where you recognize that there will be some rebates on average in every year.

10:34:21 Donald Newell: Article 11, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$5,000 from undesignated funds (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the current fiscal year, 2017. Moved and seconded. Any hands?

10:34:40 Resident: Don, just out of curiosity, can you give us a couple examples of unanticipated expenses and emergencies?

10:34:53 Emily Newell: We can go over on certain accounts like winter roads but other accounts like administration we can't. Let's see...we can also go over on GA. We actually don't have any good examples. The admin account, say something like an astronomical heating year or plowing year where we didn't appropriate enough. Legal, yeah, we're going to try to prevent any surprises there this year. You'll see that article later.

10:35:42 Donald Newell: Any other questions or hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:35:56 Donald Newell: Article 12, To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed one-sixth of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2018 to March 24, 2018. Moved and seconded. Any questions or hands? Seeing none will call for the vote.

10:36:13 Sydney Taber: Explain this?

10:36:27 Donald Newell: I'll repeat this, if you're going to speak to a question then I'd have you go to the mike but I assume your question is can I explain what that is, and the selectmen can but most of us know the answer. Over the past two months, of this year, had we not approved this last year, the selectmen couldn't spend any money. Because we're in a new fiscal year and they had no budget. There's lots of expenditures.

10:36:52 David Smith: The simple explanation to clear that up is that our fiscal year starts prior to our Town Meeting by two months.

10:37:06 Donald Newell: Right so without this the Selectmen don't have authority to spend money for two months. Other questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. We're really getting there. We're up to about 60% now.

10:37:22 Emily Newell: Can we hear from our representatives? It would probably be a good breaking point.

10:37:32 Donald Newell: Right there is a good breaking point before we go to Special Appropriations? How many do we have here who would like to speak to the group representing our Legislature? We have two. Great! We have to have two-thirds vote of the registered voters in the community to allow someone that's not a resident of Unity to speak. We have to vote individually. It would be expedient to vote once but we can't do that. We're going to exercise our green cards. So all in favor of having Erin speak, please raise your green card. Nice. Those opposed? You're on.

10:38:37 Representative Erin Herbig: Good morning. Thank you very much. My name Representative Erin Herbig. I'm the Representative from Belfast and several other towns that border Waldo County. I was actually recently just elected the House Majority Leader. I'm just here to let you know that you have another resource in Augusta should you have any issues with anything. Should you want to come visit the Statehouse, if you have a classroom or some kids that want to come visit the Statehouse, just know that I'm another resource there. I'll be handing out some information that has my contact information on it. Maryanne is doing a great job I can say. We just recently worked on some agricultural issues together, which was a good thing. We also have Senator Mike Thibodeau, Senate President, so between the majority leader in the house and the Senate president, I think Waldo County is very well represented right now. Just a little bit about me. I'm a sixth generation from Waldo County. I come from a poultry family, and the reason I ran for office was because I saw too many young people leaving Waldo County and the State generally speaking. Mainly the issues that I've worked on since I've been in office, I'm in my fourth term now, has to do with how we can support rural families to keep young people here. The big thing that I hear is reliable high speed internet to attract businesses and to help kids who are doing their homework at home. Other things that I am working on is to help families with child care costs.

I also care about tax credits for families, not just businesses. Say if you have a long commute, I think you should get a credit for that just like a business does. We're all working on bring tourism dollars to Waldo County. Too much money goes to Portland and I think it needs to come up our way. So those are just some of the things I'm working on. I will hand out this sheet so you can have some information on some of those bills I just spoke of. Again, my contact information is on the back. I always want to get more young people engaged. It's so nice to see so many people here today. Just remember, I'm another resource. If you ever need me, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd love to hear from you. Thank you.

10:40:34 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. We appreciate your service. And Maryanne Kinney from over on Knox Ridge. We need to exercise our arm one more time. All in favor of allowing Maryanne to speak? It's unanimous. You're up.

10:40:56 Maryanne Kinney: Thank you all. I am your representative. I am serving in my second term in the State House and I do serve on the Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation Committee, again. It is a little bit my

area of forte so I appreciate being there. As Representative Herbig said, we did just pass a minority report to help animal bedding being able to be hauled on posted roads. It will be passed in the Senate and then make it down to the Governor's office. I've been working on that in and around Maple Sunday weekend, which we're busy at the sugarhouse. In fact, while I was in here earlier, my phone rang and they needed me. I've got to rush back to the sugarhouse after this. I have been approached by many members here about the marijuana issue and I will say that the Marijuana Committee, Marijuana and Legalization Implementation Committee is working, they've been doing some tours, they've been touring medical facilities, they've been touring caregiver facilities -- all trying to figure out what to do with the recreational law. Yesterday, they finally heard their first bill, public hearing, that will move the...they wanted to have the legislation be done in the Department of Agriculture. That would be like reinventing the wheel putting it in the Department of Agriculture so the hearing yesterday was to move the marijuana legalization into BABLO, or the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. So hopefully that will get changed around so we don't have to come up with a whole brand new set of rules and regulations in the Department of Agriculture when it comes to marijuana. It is here to stay and we're trying to do it right the first time around based on a lot of conversations that are going on with the states that already have marijuana legalized as recreational product. They haven't done a whole lot yet with this but we have implemented a little bit of an extension so that it will be not until January 2018 before a lot of the implementation things will be able to...you won't start seeing retail shops popping up before next year. I'm trying to keep up with everything on that Committee. All the marijuana bills have been referenced over there, they're even referencing the medical ones that have always been in the Department of Health and Human Services. There is confusion even at the state level with a lot of what's going on with that. I'm not far away. I live just over in Knox. I did bring my cards so I'll leave these here. Anyone that contact with me and I am in the Unitel phone book so you can always give me a call. I don't know if anybody had any questions as your representative.

10:44:02 Donald Newell: Well they don't have any questions about you as a representative but maybe about you as a maple sugar producer. How many ounces of maple syrup did you raise this year?

10:44:19 Maryanne Kinney: Ounces? We've made over 1,200 gallons already this year and we will be boiling tomorrow if anybody wants to come out to the sugar house. We'd love to have you and we are there until 5:00 today. If you want a break after all of this town stuff and want to come and have some fun, come on over and visit us. We'll be open until 5:00. Thank you for letting me come and speak to you. Again, my door is open. Please feel free to give me a call and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about what's going on in Augusta.

10:45:09 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE] Emily, anything else that we should take care of now? [No] Article 13, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$600.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. The amount requested by the Agency is \$600.00. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee both recommend that we raise \$600.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:45:29 Maureen Haley: What kind of services do they provide?

10:45:43 Donald Newell: Is there anyone here who can speak on behalf of Broadreach? The question is what type of services do they provide.



10:45:57 Penny Picard Sampson: I'll just read you some of what they sent to us. The Broadreach Behavioral Health Program coordinates essential services for children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses. They took care of 17 Unity residents this year, and 12 unity preschoolers received critical early intervention and education. And they also raised community awareness around preventing child abuse, neglect, and substance abuse.

10:47:15 Maureen Haley: Are these services provided through the school? Does the school system also provide these services? [No]

10:47:56 Melissa \_\_\_\_: There are two pre-k classes here and in school. They're a collaboration of Waldo CAP, head start, and RSU 3. We do provide services.

10:48:20 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Article 14, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$830.0 for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. The request by the agency is \$830.00, the Budget Committee and the Selectmen both recommend that we raise \$500.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

10:48:48 Lynn Warman: I would like to see us go with what the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended, the \$500.00. So, do I make a motion to that effect?

10:49:07 Donald Newell: Let me just pause for a second because we have two lines below it, it's going to be confusing if we don't do that and, so, I think that's what we're going to have to is we'll have to move to amend or, yeah, we'll have to move to amend. Because the figure in the Article is \$830.00 and what you are in favor of is \$500.00. So on this and future articles that's what we need to do. Thank you very much.

10:49:41 Lynn Warman: I would like to make a motion that we change it to the \$500.00 that the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended.

10:49:51 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. So we have a motion made and seconded to strike \$830.00 and replace it with \$500.00. The floor is open for discussion on the motion, the amended motion.

10:49:57 Sydney Taber: I was just going to ask why the Selectmen recommend \$500.00 versus the \$830.00.

10:50:14 Donald Newell: That's fine. That's germane to the amended motion. Do we have someone who can speak to that? Two people can speak to that. Oh! There are two people that were served by those funds and so what is your justification for not approving the \$830.00 that they requested? That was the question.

10:50:48 Penny Picard Sampson: Last year the Town contributed \$500.00.

10:50:56 Donald Newell: Last year the Town contributed \$500.00. Okay. Budget Committee, any different thoughts there?

10:51:01 Andy Reed: Our only thought was we did \$500.00 last year. We're trying to keep the expenses of the Town down so that's what our thought was.

10:51:18 Sarah Oliver: Just to give people a point of reference, if we funded the \$830.00 and if you have property valued at \$100,000, then it would cost you \$.62. If you have property of \$200,000, it would \$1.24 for the year.

10:51:38 Donald Newell: That's a nice placeholder to keep in mind as we go along. We often ask what's the impact on my tax bill if we approve certain articles. I'd like to translate that to just one number because it's hard with two. If we increased an appropriation by \$1,000 and you had a \$100,000 property, it would cost you as a taxpayer \$.75. So \$.75 per \$1,000 raised for a \$100,000 of value that you pay taxes on. That's the number and as we go along if somebody wants me to translate that to the article on the floor, will do that.

10:52:38 Penny Picard Sampson: We can use that calculator for every article that requests money and it will tell us how much it's going to cost us. It may seem like just a little bit but those little bits add up. We only have so much wriggle room. Things that we can change. Some expenditures are fixed. We can't change them. We can't change the amount we need to pay the Fire Department. We can't change the loan for the Town Office. Some things are going to grow organically, your energy costs are going to go up so that's more expensive. There are very few places where we can cut money. We don't want to cut them out. We're not questioning what they do but we have to look at the big picture. Think about your taxes. Were you happy when you got your tax bill last year. I don't think there's a person here that was happy with their tax bill. So it thought it might only cost a dollar, it costs somebody else \$5.00, it costs somebody else \$10.00, and you keep adding those up, it comes out to substantial money. You take \$830.00 over 10 years and that's \$8,300.00. So if you look at the big picture and the fact that we really can't take money from other places, this is one of the few places we can save ourselves a few dollars.

10:54:30 Donald Newell: There are two sides in looking at that. The big elephant in the room is what we pay the schools. County? Yes. School and county. Those are the big ones. Okay, back to the Article as amended. We didn't vote on that. Thank you. I need to vote on the motion to amend before we can have discussion so we're going to do that. We had a motion to amend by striking \$830.00 and replacing it with \$500.00. We can we can discuss that. We just can't move off that subject. The subject is do we change it from \$830.00 to \$500.00? That's good, keep me straight.

10:55:48 Ruth Swanson: I wanted to know why they wanted the \$850.00 instead of the \$500.00. What comment was that, why did they want more?

10:56:02 Penny Picard Sampson: They always ask for \$850.00 every year. Some towns give them nothing.

10:56:16 Donald Newell: If you guys can't hear any conversation, just let me know. I'm going to let it go a little bit but if anybody cannot hear what is said then make sure we know and we'll get that done.

10:56:23 Jim Buckle: So I guess I'm wondering like how we really feel is we're going to raise \$3,000 for dogs and cats later but, hate it all you want but they're like the people in town who are paying the taxes and if we have women who need help, especially given some of the circumstances in the country right now, this might be a good time to pitch \$330.00 on a 2.4-million-dollar road budget. This is quibbling over pennies. It seems

like we can find \$330.00. If we don't find it here, we'll write half the check [INAUDIBLE] to cover it. This is garbage that we're going to treat dogs and cats better than the women of this town.

10:57:16 Donald Newell: Thank you. No clapping please. We don't do that. If you want to get up and speak to the same thing you can but there is a lot of emotion wrapped in there and that's not going to help us make the best decision. Yes sir. Your hair turned a lot whiter or something. I didn't pick you up quick enough.  
[LAUGHTER]

10:57:29 Ted Swanson: It does when you get this age. My thoughts are is anybody asking for money from our town, the taxpayers, they should be asked or demand that somebody comes here and explains it to them instead of sending a letter or have Penny have to explain it. That kind of a thing. That way we might know a little bit better. Just my thoughts.

10:58:09 Penny Picard Sampson: I prepared myself for the animal comment because we hear it every year. The \$3,000 that we spend on the Human Society is a contractual amount. We have to provide services and, if you think about it, it's a problem caused by people so it's not for the animals, it's for the animals that the people didn't take care of.

10:58:50 Tabitha Littlefield: I'm on the Budget Committee and I just wanted to make note that New Hope did not come and represent themselves to the Budget Committee either, just like they didn't show up today to say anything about what they provide. We know that the services they provide are good and they are helping people. In keeping with Penny's point and keeping the taxes down, we need to also recognize some of the people that these charities are funding to help, the people they're reaching out to, are often people the people who are losing their homes or in danger of losing their homes, because they cannot afford to pay their taxes. Our taxes are way too high in Unity, so please keep that in mind. We want to help people, which is why we're still funding it, the \$500.00 or why we recommended the \$500.00. We want to help but at the same time we don't want to hurt those who are in danger of losing their homes. On that note, Penny, can you tell us how many homes were taken away because people couldn't pay their taxes in 2016?

10:59:52 Donald Newell: You're off the subject.

10:59:59 Mary Leaming: How can we end the discussion?

11:00:06 Donald Newell: You can move the previous question.

11:00:10 Trevanion Grenfell: I just want to say, I can't believe we're discussing this. We're talking about a dollar or two a year of our taxes to support safety for women in our community. Domestic abuse is a problem caused by people so that argument that it's like dogs or cats are problems caused by people just seems insane. I can't believe we're even talking about \$6.00 over 10 years on your tax bill to make this town more safe for the women in our community, and we're debating trying to save a few bucks on this? Give me a freaking break.

11:00:41 Donald Newell: I assume you're speaking not in favor of the amendment?

11:00:44 Trevanion Grenfell: I think we should give them as much money as they ask for.

11:00:51 Donald Newell: Any other hands? Yes?

11:00:54 John McIntire: I would have to echo what Tabby said, being on the Budget Committee, I think that the \$830.00 would have gone through in a heartbeat if t somebody had shown up for New Hope For Women. It's not that we don't support it, but apparently the \$330.00 difference isn't enough to get out here and ask for it. I would echo what others have said and, personally, I would give them whatever they ask for because I know personally instances where they've been useful but here we are and thank you, Penny, for pinching pennies.

11:01:44 Jim Kenney: May we move the previous question?

11:01:50 Donald Newell: We have a motion to move the previous question. What that means is we approve that motion we'd limit debate. We'd stop debate. That requires and two-thirds vote of the voters and it doesn't require a second. If you will get your green cards. Everybody understand what we're doing? If you're in favor of stopping debate on the amendment, then you're going to vote aye. You will raise your card. If you're not in favor of that, continue to debate then you'll say no. All in favor of the motion to limit debate please raise your cards. And those opposed? That motion carries. So now we're going to vote on the amendment which is to change the figure from \$830.00 to \$500.00. Everybody understand what we're doing? We're going to approve the amendment. All in favor of approving the amendment signify by saying aye. Opposed, no? Let's see the green cards. The ayes have it but I want to be sure everyone agrees with me. Those in favor of the amendment please raise your green cards. And those opposed. The ayes have it. The noes have stronger voices but the ayes have it. So now we're voting on the motion as amended. Any question about that? You can have more discussion if you want now we're back to the main motion as amended. You can have further discussion if you wish. [Request to read the Article as amended] Article 14 as amended, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for New Hope For Women for the ensuing year. That's what we're voting on. All in favor, aye? Opposed no? Motion carries. Thank you all very much. That's what we're here for is to have conversation

11:03:54 Donald Newell: Article 15, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. The requested amount was \$750.00, and the Budget Committee and the Selectmen both agree that that money should be raised, \$750.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Yes, sir. Now you're the gentleman that's not from Unity, correct? [Correct] What's your name, sir? [Doug Wescott] Doug Wescott is not from Unity and would like to speak on this article? And so we'll need to have approval for you to speak on this article so let's do the green cards. All in favor please raise your greens cards? And those opposed? You're up, Doug.

11:04:23 Doug Wescott: Yes, I'm a Board member of the Seabasticook Regional Land Trust and we're asking for \$750.00. We conserve natural habitat and working farms and woodlands in the Seabasticook River watershed. Although we've moved our office lately to Vassalboro, we're still a strong presence in Unity. We started a speaker series last year that has been very successful with high attendance and that will remain here for the foreseeable future. We recently completed purchase of the Rhines wetlands and woodlands preserve, which help connects two other properties we own in Unity, and now have 1,500 acres in a large area of natural habitat. We conduct hikes and other events on the properties we have. We have a strict policy to pay all of our taxes, property taxes, on the properties we own throughout the watershed even though legally

we're not bound to do that. We completely understand the increasing pressures on the tax payers in town so that's one of the policies we maintain. We would appreciate \$750.00 as we have gotten in the past year.

11:06:07 Donald Newell: I'm going to ask a couple questions for the group and anytime you don't want your moderator to do this sort of thing just let me know and I'll cut it out. I sense a couple questions. Can you hunt on the properties with SRLT?

11:06:20 Doug Westcott: Our policy is, yes, hunting is allowed. We'd like you to check in with us so we know you're hunting on our property but yes.

11:06:29 Donald Newell: Do you have any trails that you invite the public to use?

11:06:32 Doug Westcott: We do. We do have trails on our properties and our policy is to keep it improved and to add trails to them.

11:06:43 Donald Newell: Any other questions of Doug?

11:06:48 Dick Booth: I have a question as to what other funding sources do they have? Is the federal government providing them money, is the state providing them money? That kind of thing.

11:07:11 Doug Westcott: We have multiple funding sources. We get some federal money and some state money. One of the initiatives that we partner with is the Alewives Restoration Initiative for China Lake which supplies municipal water for Waterville, Oakland, Winslow, and Fairfield. We've got quite a bit of state money for that. We get grants from private foundations and we have individual supporters who believe in our mission and help us out. It's a wide range of funding sources.

11:07:54 Judy \_\_\_\_: I just want a little clarification on the hunting issue because it was my understanding that there are a few properties that the grantors or donors made that as a provision that that could not happen. I don't want people to think that just because the name is on it that they can hunt.

11:08:18 Doug Westcott: Yes, that's absolutely true. I'm glad for the correction. People that donate land to us, they can donate with some restrictions and, as an exception, I can't think of the properties now, I can't list the properties. We do have some properties like that, where hunting is not allowed but our policy is if we own the land is to allow hunting.

11:08:49 Donald Newell: Thank you. Any other hands? Are we ready to vote? Okay. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thank you very much. Thank you, Doug.

11:08:55 Donald Newell: Article 16, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Requested amount is \$300.00, and the Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend that we raise \$300.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:09:18 Resident: Can somebody tell me what Spectrum Generations is and what they do?

11:09:29 Penny Picard Sampson: Spectrum Generations is basically your Meals on Wheels. Last year, for the Town of Unity, they served 798 meals, the services were for 63 unduplicated Unity residents.

11:10:00 Lynn Warman: I'd just like to mention that those are not free meals. People pay for those meals, around \$6 apiece and many times they just throw them away because they didn't like what was in them.

11:10:14 Penny Picard Sampson: I haven't seen that to be true. Back when I was in college, when I worked for the old Homestead, they use to do Meals on Wheels and those were some pretty nice meals that they then. [Did they pay for them?] Not that I'm aware of. It came from this.

11:10:30 Lynn Warman: The ones that come to the Leisure Homes, they pay for those meals.

11:10:39 Penny Picard Sampson: I'm not aware of that. They might. I don't know that for a fact. They also are aging and disability resource specialists. Last year they provided 60 hours of outreach counseling on topics including elder abuse, prescription drug coverage, and long-term care. For instance, I had to call about my father-in-law's, what do you get when you're old and retired [INAUDIBLE]. No no no [LAUGHTER] Social Security, Medicare, there we go! They were booked solid. They had no appointment left to meet with them because they help so many people trying to figure out their Social Security and Medicare.

11:11:34 Donald Newell: You can see where my head is. Okay, I don't see any further hands. Are we ready to vote? We're on Article 16, Spectrum Generations, all in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:11:51 Donald Newell: Article 17, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$300.00, the Selectmen recommended \$0.00, and the Budget Committee recommended \$300.00. Moved and seconded. I'm going to call the...the motion is for \$300.00 and, so, if the Selectmen want to amend that then any one of them could make that motion to amend.

11:12:26 Tabitha Littlefield: Again, I'm on the Budget Committee. I just wanted to read the portion of our Budget Committee Minutes so that everybody could understand. We struggled with this one, okay? We struggled with this one because we were very divided. It was a really tough call. The man did come and represent The Game Loft to us. It was represented by its founder, Roy Estebrook, who is also the owner of the shop, All About Games in Belfast. He explained the services that they provide for Maine youth to us. One of our members raised the question why the line in their budget for salaries and benefits was such a large portion of the money raised by the contributions. It was over \$132,000 out of a total of \$152,000. When they claimed, this was part of her question, they claim to be run primarily by volunteers. Roy explained to us that most of their people that work with children are volunteers, there are one full-time and five part-time employees. The question was also raised what the \$21,560 in their line items, which is pretty much the rest it, for occupancy was what it was actually for. Roy explained this is the rent for the building used for The Game Loft in Belfast. One of our members asked who owns that building and he answered that he does. So he pays himself rent. When asked if he is paid through the organization, he told us he gets \$19.00 an hour to work for the organization. He was asked to give a detailed explanation of what takes place in the Mount View program and he did. The school budget also funds them. I just wanted you to know we were very divided on that. It was real real close.

11:14:26 Donald Newell: We have a gentleman with us who wants to speak on behalf of The Game Loft. You can speak from here. I need to get you approved first. Michael Robertson is here and he'd like to speak to this

issue. He's not a resident of the Town of Unity so we need to approve him to speak to us. All in favor please raise your cards. Those opposed? It's approved. Go ahead, Michael.

11:14:58 Michael Robertson: Good morning and thank you for having me. My name is Michael Robertson and I'm the Director of Operations for The Game Loft. I'm basically here just to answer any of your questions but let me give you a brief overview of what we do. At The Game Loft we serve over 400 kids annually that come through our doors, and 200 of them are enrolled members. We have 15 kids that we serve on a very regular basis from Unity itself, and they are engaged in their community, they do volunteer work, and they are very active in their community of interest, which is The Game Loft. And having kids out of isolation and into a community of interest is very very healthy for them and prevents a lot of devious behaviors; alcohol abuse, drug abuse, criminal activities. We served over 4,000 healthy snacks last year to all of our kids. We've served over 3,000 meals and we just want to continue doing what we do to the best of our ability. Now I'll answer any questions.

11:16:08 Jonathan Dowdy: Yes quick question on your background. Do you run background check on all volunteers? Do you have a policy on that?

11:16:15 Michael Robertson: We do have a policy. We do run background checks through First Advantage on every volunteer comes through the door. [Thank you] We have over 100 adult volunteers. We run five days a week with special events on the weekends. We just could not do what we do without our volunteers. When you have 50-75 you're serving at one time, a very small staff of five is pretty stretched.

11:16:53 Penny Picard Sampson: Their USDA meal reimbursement last year was \$12,359.00. They also received food from the Waldo County Reentry program gardens. My question to you is are there any cheaper rents. We're paying close to \$22,000 towards rent for the program that the man owns, so he's paying himself rent. We're paying his mortgage. It's not listed as an asset that I can see on any of the financials. Is there a cheaper place you could find?

11:17:36 Michael Robertson: Thank you for that question Penny. Prior to me becoming the Director of Operations, I was the Chairman of the Board of the Maine Youth Alliance. When we organized that organization, we applied for 504(c) free status, I did a very extensive comp of rents in the community so we were above board. The average rent for the building that size that we occupy is about \$1,800 a month in downtown Belfast. So at \$1,050 a month it's fairly reasonable. All of our service is 100% free to families and kids. No. We do run a monthly or bimonthly weekend event that we call our Magic Tournament, which is a youth board fundraising event. We have a Youth Board of Directors. They have their own fundraisers. We do a car wash here in Unity every year. They have their own bank account. They have a president, treasurer. If you've ever seen a Game Loft kid they're usually wearing a Game Loft t-shirt. That is a free shirt for those kids. That is provided by our Youth Board. That event, there is a fee for that but it's open to the entire public as well.

11:19:14 Resident: My question is, you said 15 children from Unity come to the Game Loft? [Yes] Are they responsible....children from Unity responsible for finding their own transportation to get there, which would limit how many kids from this town potentially participate.

11:19:35 Michael Robertson: The kids that attend from Unity are usually the middle school and high school kids. They are at the Mt. View School and they get transportation back from late buses. We do have a

handful that come to our Friday night program in Belfast where we will provide transportation home. Mt. View school complex provides a bus on Friday afternoons and buses kids into Belfast and we, with our new van, donated by Darlings auto group, we take them home. We also provide transportation for kids from Liberty, all 13 towns in Waldo County.

11:20:12 Resident: I think The Game Loft is a terrific program and anything, as he said, that engages young people in the community is wonderful and I support The Game Loft. My problem with this Article is that the school budget has aligned supporting The Game Loft and it feels a little bit like double dipping so I would like to move that we change the Article, we amend the Article, to raise zero dollars. [Seconded]

11:20:56 Donald Newell: We have a motion to amend and we're just amending the number. We have someone who would like to speak to that.

11:21:12 Michael Robertson: So we do receive some in kind donations, so to speak, from the Mt. View Middle School where I'm allowed, through the secretary of the middle school, to order office supplies. I can order paper and binders and pencils and pens and stuff that is direct to the Mt. View program. It's really not a lot of money that I use because I don't need a lot of things for that program.

11:21:42 Donald Newell: Any other comments on our motion to amend? Seeing no further hands we'll have a vote on the motion to amend.

11:21:50 David Smith: Does it make sense to amend the value down to zero and then have to vote on an Article that just reads zero because whether your vote for it or against it when it's at zero, you're not providing any money. Wanting to get to zero you're basically just voting against the measure.

11:22:12 Donald Newell: It's all true. I did consider that in the moments that was being made. I really want to encourage people to make their motions to amend. Yes it's going to be a little bit confusing but the outcome will be crystal clear. As David Smith has pointed out, if you approve the motion to amend then it's going to have a second step that you have to reconsider. It's now the figure is zero and you're going to be asked to vote yes on a zero figure. We're supposed to have an affirmative action and so it gets real gray for sure. I wouldn't disagree, David, that's a good way to handle not to except that motion but I did and another time I might not. So if you will bear with me, we're going to go through this procedure of voting on the motion to amend. We have a motion seconded that says the figure will be zero as the amount, no longer the original motion, and we're going to call for the vote on that. Remember this is not an affirmative motion because if you're in favor of The Game Loft, you've have to vote no on this particular amendment. Everybody with me? So if you say yes that means that you do not want to fund this program. I'm going to have you use your green cards and those in favor of the motion to amend, which would strike the \$300.00 and insert 0 please raise your green cards. And those opposed? The nays have it. Now we're back to the original motion. Further discussion on that?

11:24:17 Tabitha Littlefield: I just want to point out to everyone that this is a very very clever marketing approach for the All About Games store because if he can get kids to play games then he will sell games.

11:24:39 Michael Robertson: I just have to make crystal clear that we are a 501(c) nonprofit and we are completely separate from the for-profit store that is downstairs. Our kids are usually some of the most impoverished kids in the county and cannot afford to go down to that store and buy games. We provide all of



the games, we provide all of the magic cards for the teenagers, we provide all the [INAUDIBLE] Pokeman cards for our young-lins. We provide everything for these kids to have a safe and engaging environment.

11:25:12 Penny Picard Sampson: So one of the parents of one of the kids that attends The Game Loft sent a message to me last night on Facebook wanting to know if I had seen something posted to their Facebook page, and I'll read it for you. We need your support. The Unity Town meeting is this Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m., and the Loft is requesting \$350.00, it's actually \$300.00, from the Town to help support our program. There may be a person or two who for some reason are not fans of the Loft at the meetings speaking out against the work we do for the kids. We need Unity residents to attend the Town Meeting and cast your vote to support the Loft, support the 15 kids we serve from Unity, and support the 200 kids from all over Waldo County. We invite you to share this post. The part that I took exception to was that we were speaking out against the work we do for the kids. Nothing is further from the truth. It has nothing to do it with the kids. It has to do with taxes. It has to do with trying to control costs. There is nothing that keeps anybody in this room from making a private donation to The Game Loft.

11:27:00 Resident: How do you do that? Is there an address?

11:27:01 Penny Picard Sampson: Yeah you could probably find it right on Facebook.

11:27:09 Resident: Can we move the question?

11:27:14 Donald Newell: Unfortunately the last one happens, that takes precedence. Sorry Alisha and the gentleman behind her. We'll see what happens with the move the question. We have a motion to move the previous question. You've been through this, it means we're going to limit debate so if you're in favor of stopping debate and calling for the question, then you will vote yes. I'll ask you to use your green cards. All in favor of limiting debate signify by raising your card? And those opposed? The ayes have it and so I'm required to call for the vote. The vote is on the original article as drafted, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. All in favor? And those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you and thank you all very much. New people come to your meeting. One of the benefits of getting new people to come to our meeting is that we get reeducated on what these programs are doing and what they are serving so thank you very much for being here. Thank you all for contributing that valuable information.

11:28:31 Donald Newell: Article 18, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,854.00 for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. They requested \$8,854.00, the Selectmen recommended \$4,500.00, and the Budget Committee recommended \$2,000.00. We've got a motion and seconded. I'm trying to just facilitate this without having to make a motion to amend so the moderator is going to accept that motion as funding at \$4,500.00. So the motion made and seconded on the floor is that the Town raise \$4,500.00 for Waldo County Action Partners.

11:29:24 Resident: Point of order. How did you make that determination, that you pick a number out of the line up?

11:29:32 Donald Newell: That's a good question. I need to have a figure in there and the figure, we could start at \$8,854.00. Okay. Given the way we've structured this, it does make it a little vague so we'll find a different way. We're going to go back. As we read these, I'm reading it and so we're going to vote on the

\$8,854.00 and it will keep it crystal clear. That's what is in the Warrant and so that's what it is unless you the voters amend it. You've got the advice of your Budget Committee and your Selectmen and so we'll go from that. Pat, are you okay with the motion at \$8,854.00? Thank you very much. It's on the floor and open for discussion.

11:30:19 Lynn Warman: It's not that we're hard hearted and we don't want to fund anybody's charities. It's that this particular year...it took a whole month of income for Brian and I to be able to pay our taxes. A whole month. One-twelfth of our income for the year. We did not send our kids to public school, we home-schooled them, and when they came to be a part of playing basketball or playing baseball outside, softball, we couldn't come in and use the bathrooms because we weren't supporters of the school. What idiot would think we weren't supporters of the school when 70% of our tax money goes to the stupid school. So I just want people to know it's not that we're hard hearted and we don't want to give to these things. It's that this town is already above its tax levy limit. Year after year we've spent money like drunken sailors and at some point we need to get back to reason with our spending, and people can give to whatever organization they want to give to privately. I have organizations that I give to but I don't come and ask the town to do it. You're spending other peoples' \$.75 or whatever you want to call it. We're fine with you spending your own \$.75. If somebody here wants to give \$8,800.00 to this organization, good for you, go for it. But I don't want to and I would like to make the recommendation that we cut it back to \$2,000.00 that the Budget Committee recommended.

11:32:23 Donald Newell: We have a motion to amend the Article by striking \$8,854.00 and inserting \$2,000.00. Do we have a second on the motion? It's seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Alicia, do you want to talk about that amendment?

11:32:37 Alicia McCormick: Sure! I actually would support that amendment. I'm Alicia McCormick and I'm on the Budget Committee. We did work very hard to cut where we could cuz we don't like our taxes either. We think they're too high and so we work really hard to try to lower those numbers. The reason that the Budget Committee went and recommended \$2,000, which is less than the Selectmen, is for multiple reasons but the main reasons are that this organization, while it does lots of good for our area, is one of those quadruple dipping agencies. They take tax money from your Waldo County budget, from your state budget. They have money coming in from everywhere and on top of that Waldo CAP charges for a lot of their services. It is actually now, for some of its transportation services, a for profit, which for me muddies the water of a nonprofit organization. There are some questions and some problems that I have with that organization and I do believe me, correct me if I'm wrong, Tabby, they did not show up to the Budget Committee this year. Is that correct, Tabby? I'm pretty sure they did not show up. They were not there. They did not show up to argue their cause to us and explain their quadruple dipping of your taxes. So you're paying for this particular organization multiple times through all of your taxation in the State of Maine. That's why we went with \$2,000.00. We thought that was still showing some support for the wonderful work they do but not taxing your taxes. I would definitely be in favor of this motion to amend this Article to \$2,000.00.

11:34:31 Donald Newell: Thank you. Are there comments?

11:34:36 Penny Picard Sampson: I would also support that motion for the \$2,000.00. The reason I think the Selectmen, correct me if I'm wrong, Tony, who never speaks [LAUGHTER], the reason we said \$4,500.00 was because that's what we got people to agree to last year without too much of a fight. I'm certainly in favor of \$2,000.00.

11:35:16 Donald Newell: Go over to the mike please. Are you a resident?

11:35:23 Tabitha Lowe: My name is Tabitha Lowe. I am a resident and I also happen to be the Community Projects Manager at Waldo Community Action Partners. I'm here today mostly just to let you know that we're gracious for the support that we have received from the Town of Unity, as well as the other 25 towns in Waldo County. And also, to answer any questions that you might have and talk about what we do. We offer a variety of services. We have a transportation program, we have fuel assistance, emergency fuel assistance, food assistance, Head Start, and we actually are starting a new program this year that works on foreclosure mitigation, budget counseling and [INAUDIBLE] with people one on one. I believe we've already reached out to several of the towns to begin talking about helping people who have tax liens on their property, help them move out of that in a positive way. We do a variety of things and I'm mostly here to answer any questions that anybody has.

11:36:14 Alicia McCormick: Are all of your services free?

11:36:20 Tabitha Lowe: We do offer small fees for our public transportation service. I believe they average about \$2.50 per way and I know that if we don't already have a flex route in place it is by mile so some of our programs, such as our public transportation, which is a public service that anybody can use, not just low income, there is a small fee in that case. Most of our programs don't charge any fee whatsoever, like the budget counseling that we're doing, the foreclosure mitigation, Head Start, fuel assistance. I think transportation is actually probably, sorry the public transportation, is the only one that does have a small fee.

11:37:09 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. Questions of Tabitha?

11:37:10 Resident: Yes. Is the Director of Waldo CAP's annual salary still over \$100,000.00?

11:37:20 Tabitha Lowe: I actually don't know what his annual salary is. I can find that information for you if you want to give me your information. I don't believe it is. I do know that we do a wage study every three years and what we've found is that CAP agency is on the lower end of the scale compared to the other CAP agencies in the State of Maine. We can't afford to pay a lot.

11:37:42 Resident: Can you go [INAUDIBLE] the fees again?

11:37:49 Tabitha Lowe: The transportation fees? [Yes] Okay so our transportation program has a bunch of different things that it does and depending on the program. For instance, we have a Ride With Pride program, which offers a transportation voucher to those who are elderly or disabled. That allows them to purchase a voucher at 50% of the cost of the full price. For example, if somebody that was disabled had to rely on a taxi cab to get to work every day, what they could do is buy a voucher from our transportation Ride With Pride program at 50% of the cost so they're essentially getting the price of the taxi cab for 50%. We're not making any profit on that but they're able to get the ride for half the price. And then in speaking to the fees for the public transportation which is open to anyone. We actually lose money on that. It depends on where you are. So we have flex routes so, for example, if you live in Unity and you're going to Waterville, that's not as far say if you live in Unity and you're going to Bangor or somebody like that so where you are along the route, it's kind of a sliding fee schedule, which we have on our website. It's usually about \$2.50 depending but if you live in Belfast say and you're going to Searsport, it's more like a dollar.

11:39:21 Resident: The motion on the floor is to drop the figure to \$2,000.00. Can I call the question?

11:39:31 Donald Newell: Yes. We have a motion to move the previous question, which means we're going to limit debate if you vote in favor of that motion. All in favor lift your cards. Those opposed? It's unanimous. We have Article 18 amended.

11:40:04 Resident: What did we just vote on?

11:40:06 David Smith: We voted on moving the question.

11:40:07 Donald Newell: So now we're going to vote on the amendment. I told you that Dave would look after me. It gets a little hectic up here. You ought to try it someday. Thanks, Dave. So we're voting on moving the amendment, which is to strike the \$8,854.00 and insert \$2,000.00. Everybody clear? All up favor of that amendment raise your green cards please. And those opposed? Motion carries. Now we're back to discussing the main motion as amended. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote on that and that I real, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thank you again for that discussion.

11:41:11 Donald Newell: Article 19, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the MidCoast Maine Community Action for the ensuing year. The requested amount if \$1,000, Selectmen recommended \$500, and the Budget Committee recommended raising \$1,000. Moved and seconded at the \$1,000 figure.

11:41:39 Charlie Schaefer: It says MidCoast Maine Community Action. I believe MidCoast Belfast, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockland, Rockport.

11:41:49 Donald Newell: Do we have MidCoast here? C'mon up to the mike.

11:42:12 Charlie Schaefer: What proportion of the services they provide for the midcoast come to Unity? Just wondering if there is repetition with the Waldo CAP program.

12:42:21 Donald Newell: So we need to get her cleared to speak first. What's your name?

11:42:24 Jessica Tyson: My name is Jessica Tyson, the Executive Director of MidCoast Maine Community Action.

11:42:39 Donald Newell: We need to vote and authorize you to speak unless you live here in Unity?

12:42:42 Jessica Tyson: No, I live in Hallowell. Don't hold that against me.

11:42:49 Donald Newell: All in favor of allowing Jessica to speak to us today? And those opposed? You're on.

11:42:51 Jessica Tyson: Thank you very much and I appreciate the question because I do try to answer this question because we have Community Action in our name. We are a sister agency of Waldo Community Action Partners. In northeastern Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln counties we provide a lot of the same

services that Waldo CAP does in Waldo County. However, for Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties, we are the service provider, and the sole service provider, for the Women's, Infants and Children nutrition program. The WIC program, which is a prevention program that provides nutrition counseling to with women who are pregnant, women who are just postpartum, who've just given birth, and we provide nutrition counseling to children up to the age of five and that includes doing heights and weights periodically throughout the year. Participants are enrolled on an annual basis so it's not one visit, it's multiple visits where they come in and receive services. They also, the amount also includes vouchers for nutritious food. Last year we served 44 residents of Unity for a total of \$32,780. And I would say as far as our WIC program is concerned, Waldo County is our second largest service area. Knox County is our third d largest so we serve a lot of people and and throughout Waldo County. We serve all of Waldo County for WIC.

11:44:43 Lynn Warman: I thought WIC was a federal program?

11:44:49 Jessica Tyson: WIC is federally funded. We use town money to augment that funding. WIC doesn't pay for itself so we use other funding sources to help support the program. WIC is one of the programs under sequestration like other federal programs. Never will receive the full funding back so we had to make some adjustments and never did bring the program back up to the funding level that it was so we have to look at other sources.

12:45:24 Penny Picard Sampson: The first question is how do you figure the 44 individuals. If you have say a mother and two small children, is that three people?

11:45:39 Jessica Tyson: Yes. It is whoever is a participant and they're enrolled. The mother can only be breast feeding, enrolled if she's breastfeeding or six months postpartum and is working with our certified lactation counselors. So then each of the children also, up to the age of five, would be enrolled so that would be three. It's by participant and that's different than many programs because many programs like [INAUDIBLE] it's by household. Each participant gives their own food packaging. That's the difference. It's that each individual is assessed as an individual participant.

11:46:23 Penny Picard Sampson: Do you know what the other towns are giving like Burnham, Troy, Thorndike?

11:46:28 Jessica Tyson: Troy we got \$200.00 from..., Burnham we got \$600.00 from, Rockport is in Knox County but they're recommending a \$1,000.00 this year and they haven't participated before. Let's see, Troy, I think it was \$200.00. It's proportionate almost to the number of participants. There are more here in Unity. Of course, we have a clinic here.

11:47:00 Penny Picard Sampson: And its income based?

11:47:05 Jessica Tyson: Yes it is.

11:47:08 Tabitha Littlefield: There was a point in my life where I needed to be on WIC, and it was a huge help to my family. I also want to make note, when I was no longer needed it and I told them I'm done, I don't need this anymore, I want to get off, I was heavily discouraged by WIC to get off the program. They argued the more people that were on it the more funding they would get. They very much did not want me to stop getting it even though I didn't need it anymore.

11:47:42 Jessica Tyson: I'm not familiar with that because the amount of money we get is not dependent on the number we serve. We are required to meet the number in our contract, the number of participants but that's a contracted number that is based on the population. So, I'm sorry because that doesn't make any sense to me. If my staff said that I don't know. I hope that answers that. That it's not dependent on how many people participated. We go out and recruit additional people.

11:48:23 Alicia McCormick: I was one of the Budget Committee members that supported the \$1,000.00 and the reason why is I used WIC twice in my early motherhood, during difficult financial times. WIC is invaluable in that in this area especially. I don't even think as many people that could be using WIC and I think we should be sharing with our residents that this program is available and I'd like to learn more about where the clinic is. Listen, food insecurity as a teacher in this community, we have hungry kids every day, and WIC gives you those basic proteins and the basic, you know, carbohydrates and it's all those basics. It's nothing...there is no crap food through WIC. It's just a basic nutrition and I highly recommend we support this program. I think our people...we, unfortunately, live in a low-income community where the kids are hungry. That's it.

11:49:32 Donald Newell: Anymore hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. And to remind you, the Article is to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the MidCoast Maine Community Action for the ensuing year. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion is unanimous. For those of you who are kind enough to feed us, I'll let you know, although I can't predict how long we might spend on the Article. I can guess pretty closely that within the next seven or eight minutes we'll be ready. Mike Thibodeau has come in. We'd love to hear from our senators and representatives. We'd love to hear from Mike so c'mon up. Would you all give me your green cards letting Mike speak to us for a moment? Thank you very much. Those opposed? He's on.

11:50:20 Senate President Michael Thibodeau: Thank you. I won't keep us from lunch because that is one of the reasons I came. So thank you for the opportunity to represent you at the Statehouse in Augusta. It's amazing how fast time goes by. It was eight years ago was the first time I came to a Unity Town Meeting and asked you for your support. Over the last eight years I've had the privilege and indeed the honor of representing you at the Statehouse. Thank you for that. We are working hard. We're getting in to some of the more tenuous issues before the State Legislature. Be assured we're doing our very best to make sure that we make Maine the absolute best place on earth to not only live, but to raise a family and make a living in the process. So we're working hard on the issues. I want to make sure that folks, if you have an opportunity, if you have something that I can be of assistance to you when you're trying to navigate, you know, what we consider the bureaucracy of the Statehouse in Augusta, please reach out to my office and I'll try to help you as best I can with providing information. Again, thank you and I look forward to talking with you at lunch.  
[APPLAUSE]

11:51:43 Donald Newell: No matter which side of the aisle you're on, we have a great team supporting us in Augusta. Article 20, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. The requested amount by the Food Pantry is \$2,000.00 and that is the recommendation of the Budget Committee and Selectmen. Moved and seconded at the \$2,000.00 figure. I'm not seeing any hands. Will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? M&S: Motion carries unanimously.

11:52:27 Donald Newell: Article 21, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the American Legion for flags for the ensuing year. The requested amount, \$500.00, and that is the recommended amount by both parties. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

11:52:51 Nancy McIntire: I personally don't like to see the flags hanging out there in all kinds of weather. Aside from that, we've been quibbling for the last hour over pennies on the dollar that would go to help people and this is for flags. I say if the American Legion wants to put out the flags then people can pay the American Legion to purchase the flags on a personal basis rather than through our tax dollars. I would recommend that we don't...I'm sorry, let me restate that. I'm against giving the money.

12:53:42 Donald Newell: Thank you. Anybody else?

11:53:49 Charlie Porter: How many veterans are here, let them stand up and be counted.

11:53:58 Donald Newell: Charlie requested that we recognize the number of veterans here in the room and if you don't have any problem then we'll do that. Those of you that are veterans, please rise. [VETERANS STOOD - APPLAUSE]

11:54:20 Susan Piotti: I just have a question about this. Does the American Legion by them every couple years? Did we give this \$500 bucks three years ago? I just was curious.

11:54:35 Penny Picard Sampson: So every two or three years they need to replace the flags because they start looking like this. Troy approved \$500.00 to cover their flags last week during their Town Meeting. They've already spent the money. They've already ordered the flags. So we're kind of like...well they've already spent the money, it's going in town. I think going forward I think we should take care of the flags and maybe have them put it up. I think our frugal shopper over here, Kari, can find a better deal on flags. But for this year since they've already spent the money the flags need to be replaced. We were okay with it.

11:55:31 Mary Leaming: Where did the flags go?

11:55:41 Donald Newell: Mary, we have a microphone on a little [INAUDIBLE] here so the people don't holler over the crowd.

11:55:41 Resident: My question, like Mary, are these the flags that are on the main way that are on the power poles? And I didn't understand Penny's question. Are we in competition with Troy now because they bought new flags?

11:55:58 Donald Newell: So you heard the answer. The answer is we're not competing with Troy.

11:55:59 Penny Picard Sampson: I just didn't want you to think that we paid for all of them.

11:56:04 Wendy \_\_\_\_: I'm not opposed to the flags. We have one in front of our business too but we actually, probably three years ago, the American Legion came and was asking various businesses if they would give \$75.00 to buy flags and we did. We gave \$75.00 to buy flags. That's how it was being done. I don't know if that was in collaboration with the town giving money but I think that people who want to give money for flags could do that personally or as their business.

11:56:47 Donald Newell: Thank you. Mary, did you want to speak? I'm just trying to get you to be orderly. [LAUGHTER]

11:56:59 Charlie Porter: Can we move the question?

11:57:03 Donald Newell: I don't see further hands so I'm going to call for the vote anyway. Thank you. So we're talking about flags and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the American flag. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Those in favor please raise your green cards. Okay. And those not? Thank you motion. The ayes have it. Before we take a recess for lunch, what's this about Kari being a frugal shopper?

11:57:43 Penny Picard Sampson: Oh she's awesome.

11:57:46 Donald Newell: We did want to say hi to Kari. A lot of us don't know her. Our new town clerk. Maybe we ought to make a little bit of noise for our frugal shopper. [APPLAUSE]

11:57:59 Penny Picard Sampson: So we needed new trash stickers. You know your trash stickers that you spend a \$1.25 per bag of trash. She found a company, same trash stickers, saved us \$1,100.00 for the same amount of trash stickers.

11:58:24 Donald Newell: We are adjourned until 12:45.

## LUNCH

12:45:03 Donald Newell: We're on to Public Works, Article 22, page 52 of your manual. We need your attention. We're going to get back to business here. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$480,000.00 for Summer Roads for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee and the Selectmen have made the recommendations that you see and we're looking for a motion. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Maureen, I can't come up with a name fast enough. Will you come up to the mike and while you come up I want to take a moment. You see in that Article that we have raised x number of dollars, and excise x number of dollars, and road assistance and surplus. Some of you new, I want to be sure you recognize and know and understand what that means. The first word is raised and that means raised from taxation and that would include personal property and real estate. Excise tax comes from when you buy a car, hopefully a new one, you pay a handsome excise tax and that helps to fund your community and, in this case, you drive that on the roads and so the Selectmen figure that's a good place to have those funds applied. Road assistance, where does that come from? You have to be a good person to get that or how does that work? We have to use those funds for capital improvements. The last one is surplus. That is an interesting one because our surplus at the highest point in the year is not much more than 1-1/2 times that. But I think there's an explanation for why that's in there. There is x number of dollars from the loan funds for summer roads last year that didn't get used. What was it? What was it, a \$130...what was the figure? Is that the total that didn't get applied?



12:53:53 Emily Newell: The answer is yes, \$179,000 worth of work and money didn't get done but, also, we had an overpayment on our road loan of \$34,000, which we're being credited this year so, really, our road project, that isn't done and we didn't spend last year is more around \$215,000. I know that doesn't add up exactly right but that's the deal.

12:54:33 Donald Newell: So those are the various sources of funds that we're talking about here in this article.

12:54:43 Maureen Haley: Could you please define the difference between a summer road and a winter road because I don't know which one I live on.

12:54:57 Emily Newell: You live on a winter road when we're plowing it, and you live on a summer road when we're not [INAUDIBLE] it.

12:55:02 Maureen Haley: So why are they broken down into two? Why isn't it just roads?

12:55:06 Emily Newell: I don't know. Chris, do you know?

12:55:14 Jim Kenney: History.

12:55:17 Emily Newell: That's how the State talks about it. You can over expend on winter roads.

12:55:32 Donald Newell: That's because you have an obligation to the people to be able to move particularly the school buses and fire engines. Anything else?

12:55:40 David Smith: You're still a little bit confused and I think it's important for people to understand that there is no such thing as a winter road or a summer road but budgets we're talking about are maintenance in the winter time, which is basically plowing and sanding, and maintenance in the summertime, which is paving and grading.

12:56:05 Donald Newell: Ditching and culverts and all that other stuff. So another year we might change that to summer maintenance and winter maintenance. Otherwise it suggests that one road is a winter road and one is a summer road. Anyway now we know. We have a motion that was seconded. We're on the floor.

12:56:20 Jonathan Dowdy: Just curious about....did I hear that the loan payment from last year is credited to this year's loan payment? How is that working? I see the second loan here is two articles down.

12:56:42 Emily Newell: Last year when we asked for a million and a half here at Town Meeting, we promised to pay it out of the amount that we regularly raise at this Town Meeting, which is \$370,000. That is \$250,000 a year.

12:57:01 Jonathan Dowdy: So that is being paid out of this for a. ...

12:57:07 Emily Newell: We fund that first road loan out of our summer roads budget and then at another Town Meeting the people said, "please raise more money," and we said okay we're going to raise the taxes to do that and so that's why we have a separate item.

12:57:18 Jonathan Dowdy: I just want to clarify that I just want to make sure our loan payment comes out of the \$480,000 for the 1.5 million that we [INAUDIBLE] last year.

12:57:28 Emily Newell: It does. This year that loan payment, there's two here, and together they'll total \$215,839.47.

12:57:39 Pat Haley: I have one question, actually two. Starting with the \$480,000, what's that money going to be spent on. What's the breakdown of it?

12:57:55 Emily Newell: \$215,839 will go toward paying the loan for 1.5 million but it's a 6-1/2 year loan. It started a year ago so you have 5-1/2 years left on it. We expect to spend \$15,100 on maintaining gravel roads. We anticipate \$215,000 worth of work for the road project, Fisher Road, Wesley Road, Wood...somebody's ears are ringing because I'm skipping there's.

12:58:34 Pat Haley: So Fisher Road is going to be paved this year? [Yes]Okay so you answered my last question. I've asked for years, I live on a paved road and a dirt road but couldn't get answer from you or the [INAUDIBLE].

12:58:50 Emily Newell: Right, it's paved on here but it's been treated with gravel for so many years that it's gravel up here now. It's turning into a good thing. We've made a better base to lay pavement on. The rest of that money is our other or buffer or old crap or spring washout fund, \$34,060.

12:59:11 Lynn Warman: Do you have a contract that's all set for people they're just going to come and grade every spring and every fall, whether it's needed or not?

12:59:26 Emily Newell: No but they expect our phone calls.

12:59:34 Lynn Warman: My road really didn't needed to be graded last fall and it's a lot worse this spring because it was. We never get that calcium after it's graded. It's never put there. The dust is just incredible.

12:59:42 Emily Newell: The calcium treatments in years' past were quite under the amounts that are recommended and last year we tripled it. We thought we would use, let's see, we're going to use 20 tons on all the roads where in previous years we used 3 ton. Last year we used 10 and did go down your road in the spring. We wanted to get out there in the fall. We tried to schedule it with South Waning being done but when that happened, because we wanted to prioritize to get the calcium we had on South Waning because it was brand new, but that ran so close into fall we were afraid if we did go spread at that point it was going to create a muddy road. If you get it out there too close to winter it turns into a mud pit.

13:00:47 Richard Booth: There is a bridge, I don't know the name of it. It's over by Bill Allen. Has any work been done to the bridge rail on that? I've been pushing the Selectmen for several years. It's a dangerous situation. A bridge rail needs to be put on that bridge.

13:01:14 Emily Newell: As you know, a proper rail has not been put on that yet.

13:01:27 Richard booths: I didn't know that. To me it's a liability.

13:01:30 Emily Newell: We also want to see that done. We got to the point of asking for a price on it and it ended up not getting done. It's on the list again for this year. Stay after us.

13:01:47 Pat Haley: One thing I've had a question on and maybe I'm missing something here. Where it says roads were obviously the biggest undertaking, the project is not quite complete, there was a substantial amount of work done. Do you see the update provided by Emily and included in this Annual Report? Where is that?

13:02:20 Emily Newell: When we wrote that I really really thought we would have it done for you guys today. Honestly, I really did and the more I worked on it, the more cumbersome it became because I want it to be precise. It's going to be in writing and it's a lot of money.

13:02:37 Pat Haley: So you guys are asking for \$400....you're going to spend \$480,000 but you can't tell us where?

13:02:44 Emily Newell: So I did tell you what. The Roads Report is a 15-year financial plan that I'm looking at making it clear how much we're going to have to raise, from the best I can anticipate, for the next 15 years. That's a huge undertaking. It also includes the work that Chris did a couple years ago to compile the gravel maintenance plan. Yeah can I see my draft? It includes definition, the traffic count report, a breakdown of the cost of each road. If you want to get into great detail there we can't.

13:03:25 Pat Haley: I'm just concerned that if we vote on this again our road is going to be not done again.

13:03:35 Emily Newell: Your road is getting done this year.

13:03:43 Resident: You said that last year.

13:03:49 Emily Newell: I know I said that last year. I know. I'm not going to put that in writing.

13:03:52 Alicia McCormick: It's in the notes.

13:03:54 Emily Newell: Yeah. It's part of the project. So we're spending \$215,000 on the project. Is there anything N.: Is there anything I didn't answer in there? No, okay.

13:04:14 Donald Newell: Okay now we're back to calling for the question. I don't see any further hands and so we'll call for the vote. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$480,000.00 for Summer Roads for the ensuing year. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? Motion carries.

Article 23, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$215,000.00 for Winter Roads for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend raising \$215,000.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:04:46 Dennis Jones: Why \$12,500.00 more than last year?

13:04:56 Donald Newell: So the snow plowing contract is up for bid? In case they need extra salt. They looked at the average they've used in prior years and adjusted for that and those two elements are essentially that \$12,500.00.

13:05:23 Dennis Jones: Did it go out for bid?

13:05:31 Emily Newell: We're still on the same contract that we had years ago. I don't remember the process because I wasn't really involved then. We did a two-year extension on the contract because things are going quite well with the plowing contract.

13:05:52 Donald Newell: Other questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor say aye? Opposed no? Motion carries.

13:05:54 Donald Newell: Article 24, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$83,360.80 for the Second Road Loan for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend raising that figure. [You read \$83...] I'm sorry, \$84,360.80. Thank you. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thank you.

13:06:32 Donald Newell: Article 25, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Sand and Salt Shed Maintenance. Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend that figure. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:06:56 Donald Newell: I'm losing my eyes again. One of these days [INAUDIBLE] gonna come up and getcha so if you're in favor call in out. Article 26, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,893.18 for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend that figure. Moved and seconded. Thank you. The floor is open for discussion.

13:06:56 Eric Warman: My family thinks I'm a jerk for pointing this out but I was wondering between like this year, between the recycling center and the curbside pickup, we've got \$28,009.00, and on the recycling center's breakdown it showed Unity is giving 60 tons of recyclables. That's still \$166.00 a ton it costs us to recycle last year. What's our tipping fee? \$80 maybe?

13:09:14 Emily Newell: \$81.60.

13:09:19 Eric Warman: Yeah so right there it costs a lot more money to recycle. You know. Obviously. What I'm wondering is there another route we can go? Can we can no resort, tipping fee in the future? Can we ditch the recycling center and them just put it in the garbage? They talk in the past and they said the more you recycle the more you save the Town. Well the way I see it, the more you recycle the more it costs the town.

13:09:56 Donald Newell: Who is our representative for recycling? Let's ask Brian what the answer is to that. Rob McElroy always used to do a great job with that. Let's see how Brian does.

13:10:07 Brian \_\_\_\_: So part of the way it works with the local recycling center, the 60 ton that you talk about from Unity is kind of an average. In Unity, we actually recycle more than a lot of the other towns that are involved in the recycling center. Those are just broken down by population. From being on the Board and talking with the guys that manage the place, Unity is one of the bigger recyclers in the area. Part of the figures you're looking at is not just the recycling. We're able to get rid of CFL, the fluorescent light bulbs, computers, TVs, all kinds of electric waste that normally other towns costs them money to get rid of. So part of your tipping fee that we talk about is included in that price for getting rid of these commodities. People are have single sort actually pay a higher tipping fee for the transport. We get a higher dollar for separating our recycling. It is true that the more you recycle the more it brings the price down because we're able to get more revenue from those recyclables. I feel that it's important to recycle. I fee that it keeps it out of the waste stream. We are trying a new waste disposal in 2018, Fiberight, and it may come to the solution that Fiberight will basically sort the trash. Recycle what they can out of it and, yes, you can just throw it in the garbage. Is that what we're going to come to in 2018? We'll see. We'll see how more support we get at the Center. She asked what other people might pay to get rid of things like microwaves and TVs. I've heard as high as like \$10 or \$20 per monitor from some towns. CFL, the fluorescent four-foot tubes, on average they about \$2 a bulb. Smaller ones, I think, may be a dollar a bulb. It depends.

13:12:38 Donald Newell: We need to get the question.

13:12:33 Brian \_\_\_\_\_. ....what it costs for other towns to dispose of monitors, CFLs, E-waste that we take at our local recycling center. To my understanding it depends on the town and what kind of program it has set up. I've heard as much as \$10-20 dollars per monitor in some town, around \$2 per lightbulb.

13:13:02 David Smith: I'd like to speak in favor of recycling. In terms of the question, it's a very legitimate question in terms of are we getting a good bang for our buck, but I don't think that the problem that it costs more to recycle and we shouldn't, therefore, be recycling more. Selectmen, correct me if I'm wrong but I think the two figures for curbside pickup of \$9,000.00 in change is a fixed contract price. Okay? So it doesn't have anything to do with the tonnage that they actually haul, and the same with our share of what we're spending at the Recycling Center that isn't based specifically on tonnage that we bring there. Because they ultimately make money coming back from what they sell. The point really here is those costs, those two costs are not going to go up if our recycling goes up. Our tipping fees to where ever we take the garbage do go up as we put more into those. We haven't had a good discussion about recycling for 15 or 20 years probably. There was a big push years and years ago for it and there has been very little effort [INAUDIBLE] to education on that since then. As far as Deb and I are concerned, we find that we recycle a huge percentage of our household waste so there is very little that we're having to put out for garbage. As far as turning this over to Fiberight at some point, I don't think that's the right direction to go. Recycling is far more effective at the local level and those decisions made in your house, to throw things into recycling, is the best place to make that decision rather than paying somebody else to sort through all kinds of trash further down the road. I think what we need to do is utilize the recycling more and have an education program put on by the Selectmen to get people to recycle more so that our tipping fee for trash can go down. The cost per ton of recyclables that go to the Recycling Center is going to go down if we're shipping them more, so that's what I'm advocating for. We need to get more people on board in making those decisions and we've made it about as easy as we can with having that curbside pickup, but I see that there are a lot of folks not using full advantage of that.

13:15:55 Emily Newell: A couple of things I just wanted to respond to. We, as a Select board, we did talk to the Budget Committee about recycling and did pose the question is what we're doing the best way to handle

it. A full analysis hasn't happened yet. I agree it needs to happen. I just want to clarify, the Recycling Center, it's not exactly calculated if the Town brings more products that it's a direct reflection of how much we pay. They group all of the towns together so if all of the town brings more product, because they create the rate that they multiple our population by. That rate is affected by the entire tonnage that they bring in. They don't pick apart each town and say well Freedom brought more, Thorndike brought less. It's not exactly like that. It's all lumped together.

13:16:55 Donald Newell: I noted they didn't check me off the last time I was there. Where are you from? So they're not doing that. What town are you coming from and then weighing up all of the materials. It seems like that would be more expensive. [They know you] Oh they know me so they are checking me off? They are? I see. Well there you go. I should've kept my mouth shut.

13:17:30 Resident: Just a quick comment I'd like to make, and I actually did see this on the news. There are towns that don't have recycling centers and don't have recycling centers to take things such as TVs, computers, calculators, and they're finding all of this stuff just thrown on the side of the roads, and it's becoming a real problem for these towns.

13:17:56 Steve Wright: I just had a quick clarification question. The \$18,900.00 said share. Does that cover all of the different costs of the Recycling Center? Is that our share of all the maintenance costs, salaries, and all of that stuff?

13:18:12 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: Yes.

1:18:16 Judy \_\_\_\_\_: This is related and I heard someone behind me, I think it was Lynn, say the same thing as far as the curbside pickup and recyclables. The few times I've tried it they've driven right past my my stuff so maybe that's something the Town needs to address as part of this issue.

13:18:40 Jonathan Dowdy: Did I read a report that they kick back, they kick back so much to the town if it's over budget. Is that true or not? Do we ever see money from the Recycling Center coming back?

13:18:56 Emily Newell: Theoretically that's how it's set up. That's why we pay in.

13:19:03 Jonathan Dowdy: But does anything ever come back?

13:19:07 Emily Newell: No.

13:19:10 Trevanion Grenfell: I think it's worth pointing out that there's a lot of hidden costs in straight curbside pickup. It's a reason that a lot of people like recycling is that we don't want to pawn off all of the damaged from all the disposal goods we're using on our grandchildren. So exactly what the previous speaker was talking about, about people dumping monitors and stuff on the side of the road, it's better for us as a community to deal with our own messes and recycling is one way for us to do that. I think that's just worth mentioning. I also just remembered last year's Town Meeting us talking about Fiberight and this whole thing coming up and my recollection, which I'd love somebody to clarify, is that our current curbside pickup program is coming to an end and Fiberight is going to be taking over in 2018 and it's cheaper and single stream sort anyway. So in some ways it looks like we're trying to solve a problem that we've already solved.

13:19:58 Emily Newell: You're confusing two things. That's our solid waste. That's the trash. PERC is coming to an end. The facility we take it to.

13:20:11 Trevanion Grenfell: So we will have curbside pickup for recycling under the new program in 2018?

13:20:15 Emily Newell: No. Fiberight has entirely to do with the center we take our solid waste to. That's what we signed on to Fiberight with. We currently take it to PERC but the agreement with MRC, which is a group of towns that represent us so we don't have to negotiate directly with PERC. That group has decided that they recommend us also change to Fiberight to take our trash to.

13:20:41 Trevanion Grenfell: But am I misremembering that the new program, Fiberight, sorts recycling on site?

13:20:48 Emily Newell: They offer that. We did not participate because we weren't sure that was right for us.

13:20:50 Trevanion Grenfell: Got it. So that's an option. We could just have it all go single stream and do it all together.

13:20:53 Emily Newell: Yeah. There are other options too. We can do a contract with Casella to pick up recycling also.

13:21:01 Trevanion Grenfell: But that would require multiple bins, which is what we have now?

13:21:05 Emily Newell: Yes if we were to have Fiberight and Casella. There are a lot of options. It's like a big study to undertake to see what we want to do with recycling. Could I encourage the Budget Committee to do it?

13:21:19 Donald Newell: There are lots of volunteer opportunities, as you can tell, here. So let's step that up. You could even help develop the 15-year road plan. Anyway I got myself off track. We're trying to raise money, Article 26, for the Unity Area Recycling Center. Are there any further questions or comments? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:21:50 Donald Newell: Article 27, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to Penobscot Energy Recovery Co. For the ensuing year. The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend raising \$62,891.71, MRC rebates, that's probably another question, \$14,108.29, and from sticker sales, \$3,000.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for a vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:22:29 Donald Newell: Article 28, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,630.00 for Solid Waste Pickup for the ensuing year. I'm guessing the Budget Committee and Selectmen suggested from sticker sales, \$25,000.00, and from dumpster tipping, \$14,505.36. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:23:00 Jim Buckle: What's the total sales of all the stickers we sell?

13:23:06 Emily Newell: \$34,000-ish: It's in the Treasurer's report.

13:23:18 Donald Newell: Where do we apply the rest of the sticker sales?

13:23:22 Kari Hunt: Sorry, it's \$32,000.00. Trash bags, \$30,044.75. We also put some in the tipping fee. You see there we put \$3,000.00.

13:23:47 Donald Newell: Other questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:23:57 Donald Newell: Article 29, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,630.00 for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend that we raise that figure. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:23:59 Kevin Spiegel: Why did the cost triple? From what we spent last year? Expended was \$1,050.00 last year. This year you're seeking \$3,630.00.

13:24:31 Emily Newell: There are some tests that are required, not annually but every couple years.

13:24:42 Donald Newell: And if that money isn't spent it goes right back into surplus so it's not going anywhere. If that helps. Other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:24:52 Donald Newell: Article 30, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,116.64 for Curbside Recycling Pick up for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend that we raise zero. Okay. It's moved and seconded at \$9,116.64. Floor is open.

13:25:29 Pat \_\_\_\_: I would like to make an amendment that we raise \$0.00 for curbside pickup.

13:25:31 Donald Newell: I accepted that once but I've had a chance to think about it a little over lunch. Yeah, just vote no if you want \$0.00. If you want to make some other lesser figure and the Chair would accept that motion to amend.

13:25:44 Eric Warman: Hello, it's me again. I wanted to say, I've lived here my whole life. I'm the first eagle scout of Troop 233, a long time ago. I care about the environment as much as anybody else. I'm also a father with a wife and two children, 28 years old, with a tax bill of \$2,700.00 so just please think about things like that when you're voting on stuff.

13:26:21 Brian \_\_\_\_: I'm kind of curious about this subject because when discussed at Recycling Center meetings, other towns seem to pay half of what we pay for curbside pickup. Part of what the thought was maybe Sullivan's is charging because we have two separate days for pickup whereas other towns have one day. We've split Unity into two different areas as far as Sullivan's is concerned. Part of my question is has anyone enquired to Sullivan's why this is so expensive and could we do just one day a month rather than two days a month?

13:27:07 Penny Picard Sampson: I didn't know that other towns are only paying half.



13:27:15 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: That's what I learned in the past few months. When I went to the Budget Committee meeting Andy asked me to attend to give some information about the Recycling Center, that was one of the concerns, roadside pickup. Quite expensive and people have tossed around some ideas of doing away with the curbside and maybe setting something up in town for maybe some bins that get delivered. Just a thought but I think curbside is quite expensive for recycling.

13:27:41 Penny Picard Sampson: You notice the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended zero. We can get out from underneath the contract because there have been issues with them picking up recyclables. I did an online poll and there was nothing conclusive about any of the questions. Some people are just happy taking it over to Thorndike by themselves. If you look downtown on recycling day you might see two or three houses that put out their recycling. Most people take it themselves. The other thought is we could have a trailer like at the Town Office like a couple times a month but, generally, most of us were like take it over to Thorndike yourselves and save us the \$9,000.00 altogether.

13:28:37 Alicia McCormick: I just wanted to give the Budget Committee rationalization on this just so people will understand where we were coming from. Of course, we were trying to save money for taxpayer every time we met. This seems like, you know, for the convenience of having someone pick your recycling up, if you're committed to recycling, we thought, you know what, that's a real commitment if you're separating your trash and recycling people that people often would be willing to take that extra trip out to the Recycling Center to save the taxpayers \$9,000.00 out of the budget. Additionally, we have heard lots of complaints, including Dan and I have complained about it that when we have left our recycling out, it's been a complete bomb zone. It wasn't being taken care of correctly. Someone from over here mentioned that their recycling, the few times they have left it out it was just bypassed altogether. So it's not a reliable service that we've received and so that's why we felt that this was one place where we could save the taxpayer a few dollars on their tax bill.

13:29:52 Jonathan Dowdy: Living a mile from the Recycling Center it's unfair for me to say just take it there but would it not behoove the Town maybe to looking into getting a used trailer to park by the Town Office and leave there all the time for people on this end of town. I don't know how the transport would necessarily work but would the money be better spent in that direction?

13:30:14 Penny Picard Sampson: We would have to keep it locked and have it open with somebody there to watch over it because if you leave a dumpster unlocked people are going to be throwing their trash in there.

13:30:36 Ted Swanson: I do have a question. I just said I have no trouble with recycling. Admittedly I'm in town and maybe that's what my problem is. They always pick up whatever I have and they leave the empty boxes and I'm tickled to death. But I do look down School Street and I don't see anything. There's not many people recycling. Probably I could count them on one hand. I look up and down Main Street and Gary down below, he does it, my neighbor here he does it. I don't see it anywhere. I'm dismayed. I'm just thinking that those that say well, you just take it yourselves and we'll just do away with it, I'm saying how many people just put it in the trash. I mean, why go over there, just put it in the trash. If you can get a correct amount of people that are taking it over there and if you did away with it I'd probably be willing to take it over. I don't mind recycling. It took me a while to do it but I'm getting enough things that I can do it. Anyway just my comment.

13:31:59 Resident: Can we call for the vote?

13:32:03 Emily Newell: [INAUDIBLE] One hundred and three people participate in the pickup every month and roughly 150-175 households drop their stuff off every month. It's not a whole lot of households actually.

13:32:22 Donald Newell: Sorry Jackie but I had a motion to limit debate back there. Who was that?

13:32:24 Jackie Bradeen: They didn't come up here. I'm doing it properly.

13:32:31 Donald Newell: Jackie, were you ever a school teacher?

13:32:36 Jackie Bradeen: I put out my recycling every month and, frankly, I probably wouldn't if I had to take it over to Thorndike to get rid of it because I'm old all of those things. I think the problem may be a matter of education because if people aren't using it, they should be. More people should be recycling. That is the problem rather than the fact that recycling costs money. No I probably would not put it out. I would just chuck it, you know, which is too bad. Partly because you go there once a month or something and you have all this stored up in your house. I can see there being a lot less recycling done and then what will that do to change. That doesn't help anything.

13:33:50 Blaine Parsons: I'm going to do it properly. Just want to call for a vote.

13:33:53 Donald Newell: Okay we have a motion to move the previous question. All those in favor of limiting debate please raise your right hand with your green card. And those opposed? It passes. So we're back to Article 30 and the figure is \$9,116.64 [NO IT MEANS 0]. I would just encourage people who want zero to simply vote no. If you vote yes it means \$9,116.64. If you vote no it means zero, quite frankly the Selectmen have been listening and no one said it but they can terminate that contract so the discussion is not dead. So keep talking to the Selectmen. Hopefully they'll have a hearing or a meeting where just this subject can be discussed and get all the facts in front and maybe make a decision. So back to the vote. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,116.64 for Curbside Recycling Pick Up for the ensuing year. All in favor raise your green cards. And those opposed? Whoo hooo! That's what I'm talking about. I'm glad I did that green card thing. You never know how these are going to go. So the figure is zero.

13:35:36 Donald Newell: Article 31, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommended that figure. Moved and seconded. Thank you very much. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote.

13:35:52 Mary Leaming: Is this different from the TIF that we have?

13:36:07 Emily Newell: No TIF money.

13:36:13 Mary Leaming: So what is the \$4,500.00 going to be used for?

13:36:18 Tony Avila: So we're planning to make it into like more of a family function place down there. We're going to get some picnic tables, some swing sets, a little sandbox type deal. We got some barbecue

grilles lined up for it. We want to make it more family oriented figuring that we'd keep a lot of the riffraff out of there if there were more families down there.

13:36:51 Mary Leaming: So what about that TIF money we allocated? Is that in addition to \$4,500.00 plus that TIF money?

13:36:55 Tony Avila: We already spent that.

13:36:58 Mary Leaming: But I thought we spent that on some of the stuff that you're explaining? Okay so you need additional money? [YES] And you didn't want to ask for TIF dollars?

13:37:10 Tony Avila: We're trying to get some more help down there. We have an attendant down there now and stuff and we're trying to stretch out the hours and have somebody watching the place more than what we have now.

13:37:23 Mary Leaming: So I don't mean to be picky but this \$4,500.00 is going to go some like intern stuff time and sand boxes and such? [YEP]

13:37:33 Penny Picard Sampson: Swimming lessons.

13:37:38 Kevin Spiegel: The intern, if I'm not mistaken, wasn't something different. It's just milfoil inspections, right? Okay. So I would urge those in charge to find a way to patrol or fine someone willing to patrol that area to keep the riffraff and shenanigans to a minimum down there.

13:38:08 Tony Avila: We've talked to the local sheriff's department and State Police, told them to go down there and patrol it more often, which they seem to be doing. It's just...there's not too many people there all the time when they drive down and stuff. It's a hidden and secluded place.

13:38:31 Penny Picard Sampson: So last year it was brought to our attention, and we never really thought about it, out of sight out of mind and somebody complained about the trash down there. So it became me and Tony's little pet project and we were going down each two or three times a day and going down and checking at night and picking up garbage. Other people picked up garbage too. So it had become a place that we really couldn't take any pride in. The weekends were covered by the milfoil, which we help pay for but he's only there 20 hours a week. We get a lot of people down there. I did like a four-day study. I went down at random times and asked where people were from. During that four-day span, the Piottis were the only Unity residents down there. They came from all over the state to use that lake. So we know it's a destination and we want to grab on to that and make it a better place. The more people we get going there, the less problems I think we'll have.

13:39:48 Colleen Connell: I live in town for years - all my life. Maybe we'd could them to patrol that more because I go down there a lot and I have never seen a cop on that road. Never ever. So maybe we could get somebody to go down there.

13:40:07 Penny Picard Sampson: We've talked to them.

13:40:11 Colleen Connell: Okay because I go down there a lot and I've never seen anybody. I agree. We need to keep that alive because that is something that has gone in our town, it's been in our town forever. It needs to be bettered and taken care of and should be a proud thing for our town.

13:40:28 Tabitha Littlefield: Can we have someone tell a little more about the swimming lessons that are happening and how to go about all that and when it's going to take place for this year?

13:40:40 Penny Picard Sampson: It's Matt Curtis's fault that [INAUDIBLE] is going to be having a baby in June. She is still willing to do swimming lessons so it's going to be like the first week in August. We pay for that and Unity kids go for free. We're looking at inviting children from other towns. Burnham has their own swimming lessons. Thorndike, Troy, Knox don't and I know Arleen Schaeffer used to give swimming lessons there back in what the 1960s and kids came from all over. We want to draw them in again. We're looking at charging a small fee for that. I did also want to mention that in doing general assistance cases we are getting a little bit of help by having people do work down there as well. So that's definitely a help.

13:41:46 Andy Reed: The Friends of Lake Winnecook basically control the milfoil individual and we get some money from the State to do that. In order to get that money, we have to put in a grant request. We also have to attend a meeting, which is going to be early next month in Lewiston/Auburn to be able to get those funds. But that's to try to protect the lake. So far we have nothing in there. Every boat in and out is checked on the weekends. An attendant is there. We would love to have people join the Friends of Lake Winnecook. Our meeting is going to be August 5 at the Windamere.

13:42:31 Penny Picard Sampson: I just remembered what I wanted to mention. There are two schools of thought when it comes to fees. Tony and I are at total opposite ends of opinions. One way of thinking about it is you can get a year pass for \$10 or \$2 per day. The way it's set up now is supposed to be inclusive of everybody regardless of where they live. Tony's opinion is that Unity residents, because they already pay taxes, shouldn't have to pay to use the beach and the boat launch. But the money has to come from somewhere. I think we shouldn't have the discussion today but we should probably think about which way you want to go.

13:43:35 Donald Newell: I don't see anybody else at the mike. Are we ready to vote? We're talking about Article 31, raising \$4,500.00 for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:44:12 Mary Leaming: Can I say something? This is a good opportunity too, while we're talking about Kanokolus, just so you all know. Penny has been trying really hard to get a Recreation Committee going, which would include like activities around Kanokolus, right Penny? So if anyone wants to get involved, this space really could be a destination, she's right, for the Town, and it would be great to have a volunteer group thinking about managing that. Talk to Penny if you want to be a part of the Recreation Committee.

13:44:46 Andy Reid: The Waldo County Soil & Conversation District is going to meet with the Selectmen to try to put a plan to beautify that area and it's free to all towns. I just wanted to say that.

13:45:08 Donald Newell: Thank you. It sounds interesting. And Mary it's already a destination. We heard that. Now we can even make it better.

13:45:15 Donald Newell: Article 32, 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 in addition to funds appropriated by the Town. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:45:39 Donald Newell: Article 33, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,800.00 for the Fire Department Salaries account for the ensuing year. Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$20,800.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:46:08 Donald Newell: Article 34, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,800.00 for the Fire Department Maintenance and Operations account for the ensuing year. Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend \$51,800.00. Moved and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:46:30 Article 35, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the Fire Truck Fund for the ensuing year. The Selectmen recommend \$10,000.00 for TIF and \$10,000.00 being raised from taxation. The Budget Committee recommends \$10,000.00 from TIF so the figure would be \$10,000.00. Moved and seconded. Again, that's at the \$20,000.00 figure and for purposes of this article at this moment in time that would be \$10,000.00 from TIF and \$10,000.00 raised. Floor is open for discussion.

13:47:08 Andy Reed: I'm the Chairman of the Budget Committee and I'm going to be the skunk in the room today. We looked at all of the expenses and stuff and the taxes and we cut \$9,000.00 for curbside pickup. We looked at this article very seriously. All our Minutes are in the Town website. All our meetings are open to the public. What we looked at is we want to money for a future fire truck. This year I think they also bought a used fire truck this for \$9,000 that the Town took out of TIF. Our thinking was we've got a lot of money to pay back for the roads. We've got one loan to be paid off in 5-1/2 half years, right? We were thinking about \$10,000.00 this year towards the fire truck, I think there's \$47,000.00 in that account. If the community would be more acceptable to keep putting that \$10,000.00 in, and if we see a way to put more in put more in, but we'd be more apt to be willing to borrow money in the future when the fire truck is needed because we'd have one of our large loans paid off and we'd have enough money to pay that loan. Just the Town Office, we've got a loan on the Town Office, which is fairly new, two or three years old. So that's the reasoning that we went for \$10,000.00 and not \$20,000.00

13:48:58 Alicia McCormick: Could you explain the interest rate issue? That what we pay [INAUDIBLE] is 100% and how much we're getting on that fire truck because that was a big part....

13:49:09 Andy Reed: Basically we're not getting a lot of money for the money that we've got invested in the \$47,000.00 so this would give us \$57,000.00.7

13:49:22 David Smith: I just wanted folks to understand that this is something the Town started a long time ago to put funds towards capital expenditures. I think it's a great idea when they do that, particularly when interest rates are higher. It's much better to be making interest on your money rather than spending interest later on. Right now interest rates are terrible so there's not a huge advantage to the Town to do this so for the reasons that Andy said, the fire department doesn't have any heartache over this. The fire department

has been well-supported by the Town. We appreciate that support. The money that gets put in this capital account, that was done to help out the taxpayers in the long term so this doesn't...just to let you know...this does not hurt or slight the fire department if it's not funded at the traditional level. Do I think it's great to fund it, sure, but we are not going to have any heartache if the Town doesn't put that money in there. That's just something that helps the Town out later on down the road. Just to let you know, we're not going to have an issue with it.

13:50:46 Donald Newell: In the interest of full disclosure, do you have any relationship with the fire department?

13:50:52 David Smith: Oh yeah. For anyone who doesn't know me I'm the Fire Chief. Have been with the fire department 34 years and we appreciate the support. We try to do a top-notch job. It's tough. While I'm up here, I'm going to say what we really need is folks to come down and work with us to become fire fighters and for anybody who thinks that they don't have something to offer, let me assure you that everybody has something they can offer. They don't necessarily have to be a young person willing to run into a burning building. There are a huge number of things that we're responsible for. There are a lot of things that can be done by folks that are older, younger, not so able bodied, there are things that you can do to help, and there are other organizations in town that need your help as well so if you're not volunteering and being involved with these organizations that's, first of all, what makes a town work, it's also what keeps taxes down. We can't afford to even be thinking about hiring full-time people for a fire department. The only way we can get adequate people to respond to a call is to have people come down, volunteer, learn how to do the job and fill in to meet those requirements. So if you have any interest, come down. We meet every Monday night. If you know somebody who's interested, send them along. If you've got younger folks available, we've got an Explorer Program that we've started, which is run through the Boy Scouts of America for folks as young as 14 up to 18 years old, technically up to 21 years of age, so we have opportunities for folks to get into it to start learning about it at a younger age in a safe environment. So if you know folks that are interested, come down and see us.

13:52:52 Tabitha Littlefield: I want to make a motion that we appropriate the \$10,000.00 from TIF but do not raise any.

13:53:03 Donald Littlefield: Okay. Moved and seconded that we amend the \$20,000.00 in the Article to \$10,000.00 and that \$10,000.00 would be provided by Tax Incremental Financing. Floor is open for discussion on the amendment. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor of the amendment, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we have the Article as amended. Is there any further discussion? Seeing no hands will call for the vote, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Fire Truck Fund for the ensuing year. [INAUDIBLE] Ten thousand dollars coming from TIF for the ensuing year. Thank you. That's the Article as amended. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thank you, Jim. Appreciate it.

13:53:59 Donald Newell: Article 36, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,115.50 for the Firehouse Loan Payment for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend that we raise that figure. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:54:21 Resident: How much longer on that payment? [15 YEARS]

13:54:24 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. I think that pretty much covers the Fire Department part so it's okay if we take just a second and thank our Fire Department for the fine work that they do. [APPLAUSE] All of us are connected one way or another to one or more of our Fire Department members.

13:55:20 Donald Newell: Article 37, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for E-911 for the ensuing year. That figure is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:55:48 Donald Newell: Article 38, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Constable for the ensuing year. That figure is both recommended by both parties. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. See no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:56:00 Article 39, Shall an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Restricting Vehicle Weight on Posted Ways" be enacted? (A copy of the ordinance is posted together with this warrant and hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference.) Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion.

13:56:04 Dennis Jones: How long are they going to be posted for?

13:56:33 Emily Newell: No later than [INAUDIBLE].

13:56:33 Dennis Jones: Are they definitely going to be posted until May?

13:56:40 Emily Newell: Unknown. Weather dependent.

13:56:46 Dennis Jones: So if they're dry and solid...

13:56:51 Emily Newell: Once they're dry and solid, yes. And we'll definitely take recommendations on that from experts in the field.

13:56:58 Donald Newell: If we get a frost in May I supposed, I mean in late April. Can't you ride on the frost?

13:57:07 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: I'm wondering how we plan to police this? [EMILY SPEAKING INAUDIBLE]

13:57:18 Emily Newell: So far, it's Tony and me. We really need everybody to be policing this with us. If you are seeing activity that's harming the road we need to know immediately because we need to go witness it ourselves and then get law enforcement there. Law enforcement is not going to enforce this without us asking them to. We need evidence so those of you who are near operations that you know could potentially damage the road, please do advise us if you see something in question.

13:57:52 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: The other question I had is in the past it had never been posted on the Marina Road but it got posted this year. I'm wondering if that's going to continue in the future and why?

13:58:06 Emily Newell: It's gravel now. It's not necessarily why we do it. We intended to do them all. Hey Chris, why didn't we do in years past. Was it just so far gone we didn't think it would matter?

13:58:22 Chris Rossignol: I'd have to look at the list.

13:58:28 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: It was my understanding originally it wasn't posted because of the old Milmac that was there. When I moved down it it was one of the questions I had at the Town Office and I was told that it was never posted and never would be.

13:58:39 Emily Newell: Yeah, people turning over all the time doesn't help with continuity year to year.

13:58:46 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: I'd be happy to grade it if didn't get posted.

13:58:53 Dennis Jones: How does that work where I own a business on a posted road? I'm not allowed to go in and out of there with my truck? Anything registered over 23,000 pounds. Registered weight over 23,000.

13:59:17 David Smith: But if you read what's in here, you can run that truck empty without [INAUDIBLE]. You can run a bigger truck empty if it doesn't weigh....

13:59:35 Dennis Jones: I've got tractor trailers too.

13:59:50 David Smith: According to this a registered vehicle or a combination, would be tractor trailer, more than 23,000 pounds traveling without a load other than the tools necessary for the proper operation of the vehicle, so your flares and fire extinguisher and all that sort of stuff, that's exempted. You can drive that empty. You can't be hauling it full, according to what's written here.

14:00:11 Dennis Jones: What do I do with my bulldozer and my excavator?

14:00:18 David Smith: It's a legitimate question and up I'm here with another what I hope is a legitimate question.

14:00:24 Dennis Jones: I register my trucks for 12 months out of the year. I agree with Don on a warm day but if I've got to go to a job I've got to do a job. It's my living.

14:00:37 David Smith: My question, which doesn't affect me at all, but one of the things reading through this that I had a concern on so I'm hoping you can answer it, milk trucks that service the farms around here. While you do seem to have an exemption under number 5 for both milk trucks, it's listed as two-axle vehicles and I'm not aware of anybody running a milk truck that's a two-axle vehicle. The ones that go, as far as I know, to Hunter Farm and the Elwell Farm, what used to be the Elwell Farm, those are tractor trailer trucks. Are they going to be exempted to be able to get in there to pick up the milk because the way this is written currently doesn't appear to allow that?

14:01:19 Emily Newell: So this language we took from MMA and DOT rules. I hear you. The intention was for all of these items in any vehicle to be exempt for home delivery, heating fuel, agricultural aspects. That was the intent.



14:01:51 David Smith: [INAUDIBLE] home delivery truck. It doesn't work for a five-axle milk tanker trailer. Just be aware of that, unintended consequences.

14:02:08 Allison Smart: I work for the Maine Farm Bureau so I know this answer. Because I've been working with Representative Kinney on the exemption for bedding, under State Statute they are exempt. So I'm really happy to see animal bedding on here. Whoever added that, kudos to you. It is not exempt under DOT. [INAUDIBLE] opposition and testimony so unfortunately they're not for that.

14:02:36 Kevin Spiegel: If I'm not mistaken, people can file for an exemption regardless if it causes an economic burden on themselves so that would hit Brian and Dennis, right?

14:03:03 Jim Buckle: That's what I was wondering too if we could consider adding to this like fertilizer, compost. There are a growing number of small farms on the side roads. There are other things on here but if we're hauling it in late April, like we're going to be doing it in mid-April, and if we can't get our fertilizers and composts up there. We can apply for it in writing and have a bond and all that stuff but why not just add it to the list?

14:03:45 Donald Newell: You can't add it to it today. We'd have to vote it down and then bring it back.

14:03:53 Jim Buckle: Why was it left out, I guess? You just took it from the DOT?

14:03:56 Emily Newell: I grabbed it from the MMA and DOT. DOT main local roads advised that if we didn't have an ordinance like this set, our orange signs are not enforceable. We went through our records and couldn't find anything to back up our orange signs. This is from MMA, our legal counsel, and I took what they wrote and I took DOT rules that they referenced that we could use, and that's what we have here.

14:04:41 Donald Newell: So what was it that we spent on roads, Emily. What was it that the Town spent on roads upgrading them last year?

14:04:49 Emily Newell: The total project was \$2,495,000.00

14:05:14 Donald Newell: So the reason that you're seeing these changes is to try to protect your investment. No small investment. We know that people who work for us on a regular...yeah...wouldn't go out and ruin that road, put a set of wheel tracks right on the outside, which in the future is going to carry water and wipe out your investment. So that's what this attempt is to try to get a handle on this and figure out how to protect that investment as best we possibly can. There's got to be work done but as we've found in two or three of these cases today, this stuff isn't simple. The Selectman have embarked on some major projects here, which is a learning curve and they're doing well but we need everybody to get on board here and help us figure out how to preserve our investment.

14:06:09 Brian \_\_\_\_\_: I agree with protecting our investment. Back to Dave and Dennis' discussion, it says here registered gross weight of excess of 23,000 pounds. In my one-tone truck, I register it for 25,000 simply because you have to include all of your weight. Whatever you're hauling on the trailer, the weight of the trailer and whatever is in the truck. My truck loaded with sand does not weight that much but it's registered for 25,000. So in these instances, I could not go sand icy driveways on a frost-free day, according to the way this is written. [INAUDIBLE DISCUSSION]

And that was another thing is, I don't see anything, and I think it is under public utility, is the plow trucks, they would be except. [MUNICIPAL PLOW TRUCKS] Maybe not for a private contractor. Lastly, to be quite honest, the damage to our roads that we are trying to protect the investment of, the most damage I see is in front of farms mostly. I understand that they're exempt but we're all trying to basically make a living here.

14:07:46 Donald Newell: It is important that everyone hears this. For those who might have missed that, what Brian is saying, in his experience, the most damage was coming from milk trucks hauling milk on tractor trailers, right? [NO. FARM TRUCKS]

14:08:03 Trudy \_\_\_\_\_: I hear echoes about complexity that sounds like what I hear at the national level in politics. I'd like to hear from the Selectmen. I'm hearing that there are issues with this ordinance, if they think we'd be better serve to pass this and try to address the issues at a later date or vote this down and correct them and have a special town meeting to pass the ordinance.

14:08:31 Emily Newell: Maybe. If we vote this down we have to basically take down all those orange signs and then we have nothing. We've been operating on the assumption that we thought we had something on the books. I intended for this to be merely administrative. Thankfully we have people who really know there this stuff so we do need to work on it. I guess it's up to you.

14:08:53 Donald Newell: Is it your recommendation that we pass it and then tweak it, or is it your recommendation that we turn it down and come back with another one.

14:09:07 Emily Newell: I was not answering that part.

14:09:19 Penny Picard Sampson: I'll tell you a funny story and then I'll tell you my opinion. Emily gets a call from the DEP. They need to haul some I-beam up on Quaker Hill. The road was posted, she says no. I get a call from a DEP supervisor, who I just happened to go to college with and hadn't talked to in 30 years, but knew I was a Unity selectman so he called me and said, "Hey, Penny old buddy. We really need to get some I-beam up on Quaker Hill. It's for an oil spill. I get on the phone with Emily. We worked out a deal. We checked the weather. We knew when it was going to be cold enough and we worked it out with the DEP so they could get that I-beam up there when the road would be solid enough for them to do it. The following week or two weeks later, they wanted to do something else but there was no way we could let them. So we can make exemptions if it makes sense without ruining our roads. I personally would like to see it pass so we have some teeth right now and, you know, we can tweak it later.

14:10:38 Dennis Jones: That doesn't solve my problem a bit. I pay a lot of excise tax registrations. If they're going to give exemptions I'm all for it. I don't want to stave the roads up. But if I have to get out I have to get out.

14:11:02 Penny Picard Sampson: When it makes sense.

14:11:09 Donald Newell: Dennis, if you want to talk if we could get you up to the mike.

14:11:15 Jim Buckle: What was the estimated damage by trucks to roads last year? Was there a specific issue or a handful or is it just like a general issue?

14:11:33 Emily Newell: General.

14:11:36 Donald Newell: I can see them on Ward Hill Road. It's pretty clear to me.

14:11:44 Jim Buckle: What about official though?

14:11:50 Donald Newell: It's a big subject. The Town just decided to make a big investment to try to build the underpinnings of our roads and culverts so that we wouldn't lose that investment every year and resurface to keep the water out of it, and that is saving tens of thousands of dollars on automobiles. And so if you're going to make that kind of decision as a town we have to make a commitment to preserve the darn things. It's just foolhardy to do otherwise.

14:12:14 Resident: I have a question. If the Town makes an exemption for someone, like for the gentleman behind me, is that exemption, like say it's for his business and he can come and go because he lives on the road. Is that exemption for all time or when a new select board comes in and somebody on the selectboard doesn't like him for some reason, can they change it, and if that's the case that seems like a big problem to me because then you're getting people that, you know, if somebody has a personal issue with someone then they can just decide to stop them from getting that exemption and cause economic damage to them and their business. I'm not suggesting that any of our current sitting selectmen would do anything like that. I think that's a problem.

14:13:06 Donald Newell: Did you ask a question on that?

14:13:10 Resident: Yeah I asked what...if like would that exemption is given to him, that that given forever or can that be rescinded by the next select board?

14:13:21 Penny Picard Sampson: If we sign a temporary exemption?

14:13:23 Resident: No like if he gets an exemption because if lives on the road and his business is on that road and he has an exemption to come in and out because he lives there and it's his business then, end result theoretical, could that eventually be taken away by somebody else?

14:13:37 Emily Newell: The exemption would have to be specific to road weight, [INAUDIBLE] or frequency of trip. It would have to be clearly stated on the permit.

14:13:51 Dennis Jones: I agree with this posting of the roads. Don't get me wrong. I agree with it 100 percent. If I get caught on a posted road it's a \$600.00 fine, points against my DOT score, and if you get 20 some odd points, they pull your registration. You're done. So if I get caught on there with my dump truck, if I have to take it and get it inspected, and I get caught on that road, that's points off my...that's empty. Right. I guess if I'm allowed to go... Is that right? [DAVID SMITH TALKING - INAUDIBLE] If they would give me a permit, not all the time but if I have to go out, if I call the Town Office and they give me a permit to haul my excavator out, I'd be fine. I'm not going to say it happens every day because it doesn't.

14:15:09 Donald Newell: One of the things we see with other contractors doing is haul the excavator out in the morning on the frost, and then pick it up and go to work.

14:15:16 Dennis Jones: It's posted until May 15th, which some towns take it to May 15th. If it need be I agree but if it don't and they still keep it there.

14:15:31 Donald Newell: I wish we could get the Selectmen to talk here but they're not so I'm going to talk until they tell me to shut up.

14:15:39 Dennis Jones: I say vote it down. If they're not going to allow me to go on a posted road, and I would call them and try to get permission and work with them but if it's just a plain flat no...

14:15:51 Donald Newell: We've already explained that if you vote no the red signs come down.

14:15:59 Dennis Jones: It shouldn't be no but we ought to be able to do something.

14:16:06 Donald Newell: They've indicated that they're willing to work with people, as they did with DEP, work with people that are willing to work with them and minimize.

14:16:10 Donald Newell: Then you vote the thing down then. Any other thoughts?

14:16:19 Tony Avila: We don't work for DOT. We don't know what State standards are. There is other towns with posted posted road signs. I understand Dennis' issues, just like Jim is up there in the farming community. So to exempt one and not exempt the others is not right. If us three, on that level, could give Dennis an exemption. We'd have to get hold of DOT.

14:16:57 Dennis Jones: Only if I call you. I don't want an exemption for three months. Only if I have to get out.

14:17:10 David Smith: It would be on a case-by-case basis. This ordinance would give you the right to do that. I think Dennis would be happy if he had assurance from you folks that you will work with businesses.

14:17:26 Tony Avila: Yeah, we've been working with businesses and stuff and I don't see an issue as long as he understands and whoever else who wants an exemption, understands that the same day if it's not not frozen we're going to say no.

14:17:45 Dennis Jones: See I don't know. If someone has a septic problem I've got to go dig it up.

14:17:56 Emily Newell: In order to get them pumped. If you're part of the operation. We've been historically reasonable. I won't be here forever.

14:18:09 Penny Picard Sampson: I'm reasonable. I'm going to be here forever.

14:18:15 Kevin Spiegel. Correct me if I'm wrong but does this need to be resolve this minute, and can we not have a meeting later until all of these other nuances are worked out, I don't think most people in here are comfortable voting on an ordinance if all of the pieces are not known. So until the ducks are in a row my recommendation would be for the Selectmen to review some of the considerations that came up today, craft

an ordinance that addresses some of these issue, and then to have a special town meeting down the road. No pun intended.

14:18:58 Emily Newell: The hornets nest about this is we thought we had this already. But now that I've looked around and read enough stuff and gotten recommendations from DOT, you've got to make sure you do it. I went to a class where rather than just hide under a rock we probably wouldn't be having this conversation. I don't think that the signs are enforceable but the more you read things and learn that, geez, we probably ought to perfect that, we create more work for yourself.

14:19:33 Donald Newell: But the road signs come down.

14:19:37 Emily Newell: They would come down. We've made it clear that we don't have this now.

14:19:44 Donald Newell: But if they vote it up you have it. Kevin, we're not supposed to talk to individuals. Unless it doesn't matter to you then vote the thing down but we've got \$2.5 million dollars of roads sitting out there. This is March 25. This is mud season. If you're going to do damage to a road you're doing it right now. We need those signs up. If you turn this thing down, those signs need to come down because now the Selectmen are aware they have nothing to back that up. I suppose we can keep them up but they worry we don't have anything behind it.

14:20:29 Emily Newell: We thought they were legal.

14:20:33 Donald Newell: That's what they should do but I suppose we could leave them up there.

14:20:39 Kevin Spiegel: I'm guessing that if we turn around the ordinance with some editing [INAUDIBLE] at a special town meeting.

15:20:48 Donald Newell: It's going to be 42 out there today.

14:20:55 Richard Booth: I known a little bit about this subject. I'm retired from DOT. I do know that a road's worst enemy is water. If you have proper drainage on these problem areas, I haven't seen them but I'm assuming that water is in the area and that's when the heavy trucks get on them, there's water getting underneath that pavement. With proper drainage that wouldn't happen. If this could be studied and proper drainage done, then you wouldn't need these posted signs because no water no problems.

14:21:37 Donald Newell: That's another \$2.5 million. Just saying.

14:21:44 David Smith: In regard to that, a lot of our roads aren't all in the best place that they could be so we probably do need to continue posting them. We've ben posting the right along and, Dennis, I'm assuming you've been trying to aide by the law in the past so, theoretically, this isn't actually changing anything. So I'm speaking in favor of the ordinance in passing it because I think for the most part it covers what it needs to cover and provided we have an assurance from the Selectmen, which I think they just gave us, that they will do their best to work with folks to accommodate the needs of business. That isn't carte blanche yes, we'll give you an exemption any time but they're reasonably willing to work with folks to use an exemption that is provided for in here so it's within their right. As long as they're willing to do that I'm in support of the ordinance.

14:22:44 Bill \_\_\_\_\_: If I'm reading this right, if we approve this ordinance, it will be illegal for milk trucks to pick up milk at Hunter farms or Jones...no?

14:22:56 David Smith: State law covers it.

14:23:04 Bill \_\_\_\_\_: I realize State law supersedes local law but is there a State exemption for milk trucks because in here it says it has to be a two-axle, that's the only way it's exempt.

14:23:16 David Smith: That was brought up earlier and she clarified that.

14:23:19 Resident: I think while we're about damage to roads, it's just something I want to bring up because I pay my fair share amount of taxes as well. I own property on the road that Dennis is on and I too know he pays a lot of taxes. Certainly neither one of us want to have roads destroyed in any way. The posted signs are a good idea, there should be some exemptions. My point is when the water thing came up, the thing that's getting a lot of damage on the Clark Road, that back road where my house is, is from the snowplow. All the years ago that the ditches were dug out, the snowplows, for whatever the reason, are plowing the roads so much and filling in the ditches. That's going to be an expense for the Town in the future for that to be cleaned out. I've complained to the Town last year and the year before about damage being done to a spillway that I have on a pond. That's only part of the problem because this year the road was plowed in such a way that even a barrier that I had up on top of a hill got knocked off. If we want to talk about damage to the roads, we ought to be addressing also the fact that the snow plows are plowing at such an immense amount to plow the snow back that they're actually filling in the ditches. I just wanted to make that point.

14:24:55 Donald Newell: We were going to shut it off. This is the first time we've heard from her. We appreciate hearing from everybody but it's not germane to the subject.

14:25:05 Resident: I just want to add one more thing that I've heard from other towns with people dealing with getting their permits. I've dealt with some farmers that have gone through the process of getting the permit and it is taking a few weeks. If this moves forward I just want to make sure that we're proactive and kind of make sure that we're quick because sometimes it needs to be fast. I don't know what the process is.

14:25:27 Emily Newell: The process this year has been straight forward and streamlined. They call us or they stop in to Town Office. We can usually talk amongst ourselves in a day and get an e-mail back to them. Get something in writing. Some times it's same day. One time it took three days.

14:25:51 Donald Newell: We have a call to move the previous question, which means to limit debate. Get your green card out and if you're in favor of limiting debate please signify by raising your green card. Thank you very much. Those opposed? Debate is now limited and will call the question. Let me find out where I am. Article 39, Shall an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Restricting Vehicle Weight on Posted Ways" be enacted? The ordinance is here and that's what would be enacted if you vote yes, and if you vote no then we're back to where we have been for all these years. So all in favor of the ordinance please raise your green cards? And those opposed? The ordinance is passed. The article is passed.

14:26:50 Donald Newell: Article 40, Shall an ordinance entitled "March 2017 Amendments to the Town of Unity Cemetery Ordinance" be enacted? (A copy of the amended ordinance is posted together with this warrant and hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference.) Dorothy, would you please move that? You've done so well! I can feel it. [MOVED AND SECONDED] Floor is open for debate.

14:26:52 Lynn Warman: We're just asking to make some changes to the ordinance. The old ordinance didn't make sense in a couple of instances. The first one in Section 1.5, the Sexton section, sees to the digging of all graves but then it said that it was his duty to keep records. And it has never been the sexton's duty as he understood and as far as we understood, it's the Town's duty to keep records. In Section 3, we've been having a problem, I think it said all summer decorations shall be removed by November 1st, which didn't make any sense because the man who does all the cleaning up and does all the mowing and stuff, his contract is all up October 15th, so people were getting really angry their stuff disappeared, you know, and he went around and cleaned it up so we need to give them a couple of weeks so we thought we'd change it, they need to have their summer decorations picked up by October 1st, and then they'll have a chance, the people who clean it up will have a chance to work out there. The last part, we were told by the State that in Section 6, Part 2, that we should identify or define our perpetual care so we don't get in trouble with people later on telling us that we didn't do something that they thought we should. We've defined our perpetual care as mowing and lawn care at least every 10 days in the summer season, May 10th through July 30th, and then every 14 days through October 15th depending on grass height, upkeep of cemetery roads and repair of fallen headstones. The Town will keep Kanokolus Road paved through the cemetery in order to protect graves sites close to the road in the Pond Cemetery, and this goes back to the issue where the State says grave site lots should be 25 feet from the road and lots were sold too close at the Pond Cemetery so we have some grave sites that are actually between 4 and 6 feet from the road. That's why that road needs to stay hot topped. That's why we had these changes. We've been sitting on them for a few years so we was hoping to get them taken care of.

14:30:00 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. Not seeing any further hands we'll call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:30:22 Donald Newell: Article 41, To see if the voters will allow a straw poll regarding a future ordinance banning one or all of the following recreational marijuana industries: Retail stores, social clubs, manufacturing, cultivation, and testing. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

14:30:27 Charlie Schaeffer: Thank you, Don. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm Charlie Schaeffer from here in Unity. I'd like to do two things this afternoon. First of all I'd like to give you a brief overview of some of the background how it got to the point where at now so we're on the same level playing field and then I want to talk about some specifics why I feel need an ordinance. Back last November, the State had a referendum on several items, one was legalizing marijuana. It passed in the State of Maine. In Waldo County it did not pass with 759 more votes against legalizing marijuana than there were in favor. Sixteen towns voted against, of which Unity was one. Six towns voted in favor of it. Unity voted 565 votes against it to 489 for it so that's a difference of about 75 votes or 16% difference. After the 1st of December I went to meet with the Selectmen. I asked about what can we do to get some kind of ordinance here since the people showed their displeasure for having marijuana in this town, what can we do about developing an ordinance. We talked about various things, about putting a moratorium on it. While we were discussing this some other people came on board, Ruth and Ted Swanson, and Richard Booth here. Also, Lynn Warman and her daughter Tabitha came on board to help work on this issue. The State then put a moratorium on until next February. I

said, heck, it's redundant for us to put a moratorium on it if the State has a moratorium on it already. So we decided we would go for an ordinance prohibiting all of it. We've worked on this off and on. Ruth and Ted have done a tremendous amount of research. By the way, I want to say it's one of the best synopses of marijuana I've seen. I think everybody got one when they came in. Particularly, to me where it talks about page 4 and 5, the danger to the heart, brain, and the lungs, and we'll talk about health in a minute. I thank you and Ted for the excellent job you did for putting this together. So where does it stand today. The Town's Selectmen directed that we have a hearing on this issue. To have an ordinance we'd have to have some type of a hearing. We had this 17 days ago. There were 45-50 people there at the time. We voted on each one of these items. There were five provisions in the ordinance. One about social clubs. Second about retail sales. The third was about the cultivation of marijuana. Fourth about selling and manufacturing of retail marijuana products. The fifth was about testing marijuana. At the hearing, a lot of discussion of the pros and cons. A very democratic process. Don moderated it and did an excellent job. A straw vote was taken and overwhelmingly the people at that hearing were against having social clubs, for an ordinance permitting social clubs. Retail sales was about evenly divided, there were 43 to 44 votes there. The other thing shows a preference for not having an ordinance on the cultivating, testing and the manufacture. So that's where it stands today. I suggested to put five articles in for an ordinance on social clubs and the other three. They opted to lump it all together and I hope Don will take these individually so we can discuss. In addition, Ruth and Ted Swanson s put together about reasons why to prohibit marijuana. First of all, I want to make the point, this has nothing to do with medicinal marijuana. Dawson Julia and I have had long discussions on, Dawson stand up. In case you don't know Dawson, he is the owner/operator of CBD East, which is the medicinal marijuana place in town. He and I have sat down and had long discussions on this. I'm not against medicinal marijuana at all. I think most people reasonably realize it's controlled, it's necessary for people so this has nothing to do with it. Also the referendum last November said people could grow and possess up to 2.5 ounces of their own marijuana and that's fine. I'm not against what you do in your house, whether you drink liquor, what you eat or how you dress, or you use marijuana in your own house, that's up to you. That's your individual right. I'm against having marijuana in public places like social clubs. If you don't know what a social club is, it's a gathering of 6 to 8 to 10 people, whatever, who sit around and smoke joints or marijuana. They get a little bit high on THC and then proceed to go out and drive home. Okay, and have an accident.

14:35:38 Jim Buckle: Point of order, Don. Are we talking about having a straw poll or are we talking about the benefits or not benefits of marijuana? Are we going to discuss about having a straw poll, which is one subject or we can talk about how you feel about pot? With all respect, Don, but to run this on for a half an hour about demonizing pot smokers in the Town or what we want to do is not what we're talking about. Do we want to have a straw poll or not? That's the question

14:36:02 Charlie Schaeffer: We're going to talk about social clubs right now, Jim.

14:36:03 Jim Buckle: No, we're not talking about social clubs. We're talking about having a straw poll and that's what the moderator should be doing.

14:36:13 Donald Newell: Having some background so that the folks who weren't at the hearing and haven't been reading what's available in the newspapers is okay. You've gone beyond that position.

14:36:23 Charlie Schaeffer: I apologize if that's....



14:36:25 Donald Newell: That's okay. That's my job. I'm good with it and thank you, Jim, for your thoughts. We need to focus on will you allow me to poll you on each of these five different subareas to find out a general stance of where our voters stand on these subjects? I suppose if the majority of you said to the moderator we don't know what a social club is, can we get an explanation I would authorize that but short of that we're going to assume you do know what these five different subcategories are about and where going to ask you if for permission to let me poll you or not. So that's basically where we are, Charlie.

14:37:24 Charlie Schaeffer: All right. So you're going to go ahead and poll people?

14:37:28 Donald Newell: I'm going to ask them if I can. That's the article, can I poll you and if you vote no then I can't. We can't have a hearing, it makes no sense if you say I don't want to be polled. So we'll see where it goes from here.

14:37:47 Emily Newell: I'd like to speak on the method of polling. I'd like to ask that we do this by secret ballot using a piece of paper that everybody has.

14:38:01 Donald Newell: Okay. So there's a motion to have secret ballot on the issue and that requires two-thirds vote and it will require, based on the motion, that you have one of these. Yes, you can move to have the voting on this straw poll, should it occur, by secret ballot. You may detect the [INAUDIBLE] but I try not to be that strict. So does every voter in this room have one of these? Good. And if you don't you're in trouble because they were issued with your green card. Okay. We have a motion to amend to make any voting on the subject, that might occur, by secret ballot. Any questions about that?

14:39:07 David Smith: I was just going to say, you could take the vote first to see whether a straw poll is allowed. It could still be brought up then to be done on secret ballot.

14:39:28 Donald Newell: I'm good with that.

14:39:28 David Smith: No because as soon as something comes up for a question, somebody can say I'd like this done by secret ballot. If we allow him to do a straw poll, she can say let's do this by secret ballot.

14:39:41 Donald Newell: I'm going to go the other way on that one. Here's why. We're going to have a vote on whether we're doing a straw poll or not and some people are going to change that vote, depending on whether they need to do that in person. If we make it that they can do it anonymously that votes going to change. I'm going to allow that to be done so we can vote upfront how to vote on this issue. We have a motion made and seconded to have the vote be by secret ballot and it's not debatable. Everybody understand what we're going to vote on when I call for that vote? [NO]. Here's what we're doing. We have a motion to amend the article saying if we have a straw poll that straw poll will be conducted by secret ballot and it will be done by the little piece of paper that you have so you'd have to check off those ones that you would like to see restricted by ordinance and not the others, ad you put it in the box. If you don't do this then I'm going to ask that you put your hands up and tell me which ones don't like this part of the marijuana thing. So if you're in favor of voting by secret ballot, then you will vote yes, and if you're not then you will vote no. All right, all in favor of voting by secret ballot, with the ballot you have, please raise your green cards, and those opposed? Okay, now we're back on the main motion for discussion. Go to the mike. It's inherently unfair to have people go to the mike and be patient and then have somebody else

15:41:42 Richard Booth: Okay, I understand the gentleman over here doesn't want to talk about the ills of it but I have some points. I have some points.

14:41:53 Donald Newell: I'm going to rule you're out of order. The discussion is whether we're going to have a straw poll or not. We're not talking about whether it's good for you or bad for you or any of that.

14:42:08 Richard Booth: When do we talk about that?

14:42:08 Donald Newell: You may not because all it is is we going to let people go up tell us how they would like to see an ordinance drafted, and that's all we're doing. If there's an ordinance...

14:42:24 Jonathan Dowdy: This is how you talk about it.

14:42:32 Donald Newell: John, right? [YES] Thank you.

14:42:34 Sydney Taber: So again, the entire point of the straw poll is to what?

14:42:37 Donald Newell: Test the waters for where our voters are on marijuana. We know, from the hearing, as Charlie said before, that a couple of these items that we'd expect the majority of those would say we want to ban that. We don't know about the others. They were close enough where we don't know and this is a much larger cross section of the voters than we had at the hearing so we want to hear from all of these people, where do you stand right now on each of these five issues independently. That's what we're doing.

15:43:14 Sydney Taber: And from that the ordinance will be crafted?

15:43:19 Emily Newell: Yes.

14:43:23 Blaine Parsons: Can we call for a vote?

14:43:28 Donald Newell: You're there and we can. So we have a motion to move the previous question.

14:43:37 Ruth Swanson: So as I understand it, this means that if we vote...

14:43:47 Donald Newell: She's just asking a question of procedure. I'm going to table it for a minute.

14:43:50 Ruth Swanson: If we use the ballot box and we vote, that means that all of the things that are on the little piece of paper, that is essentially the way the Town has voted and is law?

15:44:08 Donald Newell: No, no.

15:44:10 Ruth Swanson: Okay. That is what I wanted to know. A lot of people think that.

15:44:17 Donald Newell: No. This is a big subject. There's lots of time and lots of discussion that will take place before anything ever becomes "an ordinance."

15:44:26 David Smith: This is just giving an opinion.

15:44:31 Donald Newell: That's right. It will save time. It will help the Selectmen to direct their committee to craft something that is most likely to be appropriate for the group.

14:44:37 Ruth Swanson: So this is just an opinion of the people in this room?

14:44:43 Donald Newell: That's it. It's just a straw poll. Just like we did at the hearing.

14:44:44 Maureen Haley: Just a question, will we get the results of this today or...

14:44:51 Emily Newell: Sure, sure.

14:44:55 Donald Newell: All right, we have a motion to move the previous question and so all in favor of that please raise your green card. And those opposed? The question has been moved so we're voting secretly. [WE DIDN'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO] Oh that's right. Hold on a second. We still have to vote that you're going to allow us to straw poll you. One more time, are you willing to allow us to straw poll you? And noes? Thank you. Here we go. Get in line.

#### SECRET BALLOT

15:50:50 Donald Newell: Okay, we're going to continue with the articles while the volunteers are counting ballots, and we'll get back to you with the results of that in a bit.

14:50:50 Sarah \_\_\_\_: I'm looking at the remaining articles and I don't see any discrepancies between what the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommended so I'd like to move to accept Articles 42 through 55 with one vote.

14:51:11 Donald Newell: Ohhhhh. We have a motion on the floor to... We've done this before and, in essence, as I said at the very beginning, I have a duty to be sure that there is an affirmative motion on every article in the Warrant. I still have to read them all, I would just have to read them all together. By the time we get done with that, we're going to have a mess. It will go fine but I can't accept the motion. If somebody can tell me where I am? [42].

14:52:25 Donald Newell: Article 42, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$70,000.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Sarah, I'm not going to read who recommended what for the reasons you state so I've just going to read the number, moved and seconded, and then open for discussion. I'm not going to say Selectmen and the Budget Committee said x number of dollars. So, Article 42 is on the floor and it's open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:52:52 Donald Newell: Article 43, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,000.00 for Assessing Services 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.

14:53:08 Donald Newell: Article 44, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the ACO/CEO/LPI/EMA Incidental Account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands...yes sir.

14:53:54 Resident: What's that for?

14:54:12 Donald Newell: I know the Code Enforcement Officer and the Licensed Plumbing Inspector, Animal Control Officer. What's the EMA? [EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION] So it's all of those. Yes, it's in the book. I can't hear you. It's another one of those situations where we put that in the account and if it isn't spent then we get to bring it back. That's what we've done for years. Hopefully we never have to spend that money. Any further hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:54:42 Donald Newell: Article 45, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$59,497.50 for the Administration Account 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.

14:55:05 Donald Newell: Article 46, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for Legal Fees for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:55:22 Donald Newell: Article 47, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$39,497.26 for the Town Office Loan Payment for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Did we already do that? It sounded familiar? Anyway, \$39,497.26 for the Town Office Loan Payment for the ensuing year.

14:55:31 Alicia McCormick: I'd like to make a motion, that we go with the Budget Committee's recommendation of raising \$29,497.26 and using from sale of the old town office the \$10,000.00 surplus towards this payment. Okay we've got a motion that's moved and seconded to provide additional funding by putting \$10,000.00 in from surplus, which essentially comes from the sale of the old town office. Okay? This is coming from when the old town office was sold those monies would go directly to principal so we wouldn't be paying interest on that anymore, and that's what this is facilitating. Any further questions about the amendment?

14:56:51 David Smith: Why do we need the amendment? The \$39,000 figure is already in the motion.

14:56:52 Alicia McCormick: We wanted to specifically designate that \$10,000.00 of it should come from that sale. Originally that was the agreement with the Selectmen that that would happen.

14:57:07 David Smith: That's just a paperwork thing.

14:57:07 Donald Newell: The Articles do need to state where the money is coming from so it's great that she brings that up so we can be clear. I indicated to the group that what was written below was going to stay in for that figure. This once is little bit more complicated. We don't need to vote on the amendment. Either way is fine. As long as the body is fine with that, we don't need to vote on the amendment. We just had clarification that the funds will come from, the extra \$10,000.00 will come from surplus and it's coming because of the sale of the town office. Is everybody is fine with that?

14:58:05 Resident: I question that just because when we typically raise money it comes out of my tax bill. This \$10,000.00 doesn't so I think it does need to be clear so it doesn't come out of my tax bill.

14:58:17 Donald Newell: It's clear all right. It's already written in there.

14:58:18 Resident: There's two different numbers there because the Selectmen are recommending one number, which is less, the Budget Committee is recommending the other number...

14:58:31 Donald Newell: That's in writing. It's the same number that the Selectmen put in plus \$10,000.00 from surplus.

14:58:37 Resident: It doesn't clarify which one it is though. That was the point of the movement, which is to clarify.

14:58:48 Donald Newell: Right. The article calls for \$39,000.00 and without the other \$10,000 from surplus it doesn't make any sense so it's pretty clear. I don't care. We can vote on it if you want. Probably that's easier if we've got dissension.

14:58:58 Andy Reed: The loan payment is 29,000.00 and years ago, when we built a new town office, I think it went through the meeting that funds from the sale of the old town office be applied directly to the new town office. That's the only thing that we're doing.

14:59:21 Donald Newell: Just because we have one dissenter, there might be others there too. There is no problem. Will ask the Town Clerk, we're going to put it in writing there that we had a motion to amend and the motion to amend was to be specific that that money is coming from raising \$29,000 plus \$10,000 out of surplus was which was ceded by sale of the town office. I know. I'm just trying to move along here. Everybody understand what we're doing now? [YES] If so, all in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Great. We got it amended and now let's vote on the Article as amended. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? We got it. Thank you all very much for your patience with me.

15:00:11 Donald Newell: Article 48, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,600.00 for Electricity for Town Lights for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Do you want to get lit or not? [LAUGHTER] Are we ready for the vote? [YES] All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

15:00:55 Donald Newell: Article 49, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,500.00 for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

15:01:06 Lynn Warman: The problem is that we have this what-if situation. What if we get a lot of rain and everything washes out and we have to do all this work? We always have \$3,000.00 more for what if this happens so that we can fix it. I wish there was a way we didn't have to do that. I don't know how else to do it.

15:01:33 Donald Newell: This one is \$6,000.00. Do we really need \$3,000.00?

15:01:42 Lynn Warman: It's 28 and 7 so it's \$3,500.00. I don't know why it's so much. What I had down was \$17,826.00 and she rounded it off to \$18,000.00. It's \$9,975.00 for mowing, \$401.16 for the flags, lot maintenance was \$1,400.00, stone and marker repair is \$3,450.00, ground work, \$700.00. Leveling, filling, and seeding, \$1,400.00. Tree removal and stumps...if we wanted to bring this down we could and if we had something happen then we'll just have to wait until...except we shouldn't cut it down to the point where if a lot washed out and someone's grave opened right up we couldn't fill it in. That's happened before.

15:02:54 Donald Newell: What's your recommendation?

15:03:00 Lynn Warman: We could cut it down a couple thousand or even \$3,000.00 and it would be fine with me.

15:03:07 Donald Newell: Would you make that into a form of a motion please?

15:03:09 Lynn Warman: Yes. I made a motion that we cut this back from \$18,500.00 to 15,000.00.

15:03:20 Donald Newell: Kari, you got that? [Yep] And we have a second. Floor is open for discussion. The new figure is \$15,000.00. See no further hands we'll call for the vote.

15:03:45 Lynn Warman: For clarification, it said that the Selectmen could spend one-sixth of the budget in an emergency in any one of these places, right?

15:03:47 Donald Newell: No, from the beginning of the fiscal year to town Meeting so January and February.

15:04:05 Lynn Warman: We have to cut back on some of this stuff so...if we have to cut back in other places to fix something else we'll just have to do that. We haven't spent it for years. You're comfortable with the \$15,000.00? [YES] Okay the motion to amend is seconded. The floor is open for discussion on it. I don't see any hands, will call for the vote on the motion.

15:04:09 Sarah Oliver: In cases like these where there's extra money being possibly raised over what will get spent, would it make sense, since that money isn't going to surplus, would it make sense to fund the cemeteries with like \$12,000 raised plus \$3,000 from surplus and if they don't use that then put it back into surplus?

15:04:46 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to make an amendment, Sarah. We have \$3,100.00 available. It's in surplus but it's designated surplus so we're allowed to take half of our cemetery interest each year and this year is \$3,100.00, which goes into surplus but it's designated so we can actually take that out and use it so we would raise whatever, \$15,000.00 minus the \$3,100.00 and then the rest from surplus technically.

15:05:22 Donald Newell: So we're at \$11,900.00? [YES] She can amend the amendment. That gets hairy.

15:05:47 David Smith: I'm not sure because that's really just a funding source I think right so it would just be a matter of...she's asking for \$15,000.00 with \$11,900 coming from, raised by taxes, and \$3,100 coming from existing interest. So as long as she's okay with that being the designated funding sources, I think we're fine.

15:06:17 Donald Newell: We're fine. Are you okay with that? Okay so we have a friendly amendment to the amendment. Does everybody understand that? It's a great point, Sarah, that if we raise all of those funds and don't spend them, it comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers and just raises our surplus, which in my opinion is not a bad thing but it's still a great point. So in this case we're not going to raise unnecessary money through taxation. We absolutely do and when we don't we end up borrowing money to pay the bills in the town because we ran out of money before the tax monies come in. That's a discussion for another day. So here we are. We have the motion, the amendment says that the figure is now \$15,000, and the source of that will be \$11,900 from taxation, and \$3,100 from accrued interest. Everybody okay with that? Alright, I'm going to call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we'll vote on the amended motion with that \$15,000 in in. All in favor of raising \$15,000 signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Thank you very much. Kari, you got all that right?

15:07:47 Donald Newell: And now we're looking at Article 50, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,456.82 for the Small Community Septic Grant Program for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Thank you very much.

15:07:57 Dennis Jones: What is this for?

15:08:17 Donald Newell: Anybody up to speed on this septic thing?

15:08:21 Jim Kenney: That is the monies that go to take the discharge from your septic tank to a receiving place. We have to pay for it. [NO] It's changed?

15:08:46 Donald Newell: I'll give you the best definition I can. There are monies for people who have a failed septic and don't have money. Don't have the resources. That fund is available to help that person because it's in the the public interest not to have raw sewerage running down the ditches so that's monies available. For whatever reason, that's not commonly known. I can tell because no one else wanted to answer that question. You got some marching orders to let people know that grant fund is there to help people to get a new septic if they need it.

15:09:29 Charlie Porter: There's very strict criteria and the average person in this room could not meet it.

15:09:43 David Smith: My basic question is where did that odd ball figure come from?

15:09:53 Penny Picard Sampson: It's grant money and I'm assuming it's what is left over. It's been in the Warrant for years.

15:10:01 Donald Newell: Been there a long time. Who knows.

15:10:07 Kari Hunt: Yes, there was a figure on it. With what little I've seen it was a larger figure and over the course of the last couple of years I've looked at it. A little bit has been taken out of it each year. I think it was as high as \$15,000 in there and I think last year a little bit was used and so this is the figure based on the numbers that I've looked at, available to us to use.

15:10:40 Dennis Jones: Can you see where it was used?

15:10:48 Donald Newell: So Emily looked into it. We have a website for the town and will you guys research that a bit. Will you put it there?

15:11:11 Alicia McCormick: I don't think we can talk about where it was used.

15:11:20 Donald Newell: We have a grant fund for a very specific purpose as Charlie indicated. And so we'll just make sure that the people are a bit more aware of it in the future. What's the best way for the Selectmen to get that information out there? How about in the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting? People check in on those. So we're looking at the Septic System Grant Program where folks can get help replacing their septic, what's that all about, if we've ever used it, a little bit about that.

15:11:47 Emily Newell: The State will give us money to help out folks who need the help but we have to contribute some funds too. We have those funds on hand in case we have to use them.

15:12:05 Donald Newell: So it's matching funds? [YES] And what people have asked is that the Selectmen provide some general information to the Unity voters so that they know it's there and how they might use it, and Penny agreed to do that.

15:12:17 Charlie Schaeffer: That money we give these people, is that a set amount like \$500 or is it a percentage of what the costs are or what?

15:12:26 Emily Newell: Case by case.

15:12:29 Charlie Schaeffer: Do you give them a set amount like \$800.00 or a percentage of what their bill is or what?

15:12:27 Emily Newell: Case by case. It depends on what kind of septic and the failure they're having.

15:12:46 Charlie Schaeffer: But it's not like 30% or give them \$500.00.

15:12:49 Emily Newell: We don't have a program set up with limits.

15:12:57 Charlie Schaeffer: Does this apply to septic systems on the lake?

15:13:03 Emily Newell: Yes.

15:13:04 Charlie Schaeffer: Because, if so, the Lake Association gives \$500.00 to anybody who replaces their septic system on the lake so I don't think they ought to be double dipping, \$500.00 from the Lake Association and also money from the Town.

15:13:14 Charlie Porter: It never happen. You will not be able to double dip. Because your income plays a big part in it. I mean, you really have to be dirt poor to get this.

15:13:44 Charlie Schaeffer: Say a dirt-poor person replaces their septic system on the lake, the Lake Association we give them \$500.00. Can they also come to the Town and get money?



15:13:52 Donald Newell: It's obvious that we don't have all the details.

15:13:57 Charlie Schaeffer: I'd like to have them spell that out, when they're out on the lake they can get \$500.00 from us.

15:14:05 Blaine Parsons: Can we call for a vote?

15:14:25 Donald Newell: They don't know that I set you up for that. We're on 50 and we need to vote. Everybody understand the Article. Thank you very much. You're ready to vote? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? You all are getting really good. It's late in the day and I'm getting a good strong aye or a no. Thank you. The ayes have that. Kari, that passes.

15:14:48 Donald Newell: Article 51, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,050.00 for the Septic Disposal Contract for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. And that one has been explained already thanks to Jim. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

15:15:08 Donald Newell: Article 52, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,730.00 for dues to Kennebec Valley Council of Governments 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.

15:15:33 Donald Newell: Article 53, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,070.00 for the contract fee for the Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Thank you very much. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

15:15:07 Donald Newell: Article 54, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,300.00 for General Assistance for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

15:15:15 Penny Picard Sampson: I'll be brief because I want to go home too. This is one of the few things that we can actually go over budget for and I thought we had last year but maybe I was wrong. We did go over last year but I asked for \$100.00 more. What we've started to do with our general assistance last year, and Tony kind of started it because he's a little more hardnosed than I am, we started work fair. We've had people working at Kanokolus. We get our steps at the Town Office stained so we're actually getting some of that back in labor which is good.

15:17:09 Donald Newell: Those of you who have been general assistance coordinating, that is a difficult task because you have got professional whiners that come on that and, yes, some people really need that help. So you've got all across the spectrum and the Selectmen have done a great job to manage that account and keep that within reason taking care of those that really need it. Thank you. We still have to vote on that. Everybody ready to vote? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

15:17:43 Donald Newell: Article 55, To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,000.00 from TIF funds for a Community Grant Program. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. That concludes our work for today. Wait, I do have a tallies. Everybody is so interested in that. Hold on just a second. The first question was, do you support a ban on recreational marijuana, i.e., social clubs in Unity and the ballot is 62 in favor of that ban, and 22 not in

favor. Sixty two in favor, 22 not. Total ballots 84. Number 2, do you support a ban on recreational marijuana retail stores in Unity, and the yeses were 35, and the noes were 49. Do you support a ban on recreational marijuana cultivation facilities in Unity, the yeses were 32, and the noes were 52. And do you support a ban on recreational marijuana manufacturing facilities, and the yeses are 33, and the noes 51. Lastly, do you support a ban on recreational marijuana testing facilities in Unity, the yeses were 32 and the noes were 52. That is the total tally. We'll have that posted somewhere. Kari? We'll have that on the website? Okay. What the web address, Kari? [Unityme.org] All lower case. Thank you all very much. You have been terrific. Turn in your green cards.

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