

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019
LOCATION: UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UNITY, MAINE**

TOWN OFFICIALS SEATED AT HEAD TABLE:

**Selectman Penny Picard-Sampson
Selectman Tony Avila
Selectman Dan McCormick
Town Clerk, Kari Hunt**

MODERATOR: Donald Newell

10:07:48 Donald Newell: Alright, do all voters have a green card? Please get one. On that subject, I'm going to ask today that when we do the ayes and nays that we do it with the green card. That takes away or reduces the miscount on how the vote turned out. I'll do a little preliminary housekeeping before starting and we do this for any new voters or people who have never been to our Town Meeting. Do we have all old timers? Very good. Some new people at the table? Cool. We will wait until they can turn their attention this way. Just a quick refresher. We'll get rolling very soon here. Things are apt to move really quickly. Are there people here who are not registered voters in Unity who would like to speak to the assembly today? [YES] We have a gentleman from The Game Loft. Any others? If we have representatives who would like to come forward to speak briefly to us and they're on the list, we would like to have you vote on them all at once.

10:11:32 Donald Newell: Let's practice with our green cards. All in favor of allowing nonregistered voters to speak to the assembly please raise your green cards. Thank you, and those opposed? It's unanimous. Erin is anxious to do that so that she can move on to the next one in Freedom. I'm going to call Erin up; she can use this mike so we can all see her.

10:12:02 Erin Herbig: Actually, can everyone hear me if I just talk like this? [YES] Yes? Okay. I'm kind of a yeller. My name is Erin Herbig and I'm your State Senator. I represent all 26 towns in Waldo County. I got elected last November so I'm in my first term in the State Senate. I live in Belfast with my two kids and my cousin, and the reason I do this every day is because I want my two kids to have a future here in Waldo County. I grew up around here. I come from a poultry family. I didn't necessarily see a future for myself but now I am so happy I can raise my kids here, and I want to make sure that we continue to build our local economy such that families can continue to thrive here. What I have for you today, I'll pass these out as I'm talking, is my contact information. My phone number and my e-mail address. I'm the person you call if you need to complain about something. If you are having a problem, I might be able to help you. If there is an issue that is very important to you, I want to hear from you. If I don't hear from you, I can't help or do anything about it. You need to talk with me. On the other side of this, I have some of my priorities that I'm working on in session. I was really honored. I have been named the Chair of a new committee that is focused on economic development and

workforce investment. So basically, the future of our economy. A lot of that work and a lot of my priorities this session have to do with removing barriers that have prevented continued economic growth in the more rural parts of the State. Another thing, expanding access to reliable high-speed internet. Over the past year and half, I have visited over 130 businesses in Waldo County and 10,000 homes and that is something I have heard from so many people about because if you don't have a quality, affordable high-speed internet, you can't continue to have your business grow and you can't access [INAUDIBLE] education. And so that is one of the priorities I'm working on. I'm also looking for providing more local training for jobs in the trades. I'm talking about electricians, plumbers, [INAUDIBLE] for boat building. I would like to expand our programming at the Waldo County Tech Center for certificate and credentialing programs as well as Unity College programs. I also would like to expand apprenticeships so we can get our kids educated through jobs that are [INAUDIBLE]. I'm working on a big bill, did you all see on the news last night, to help our volunteer fire fighter departments and emergency responders, to help attract and retain these volunteers because without them it's going to cost us all a lot more money and [INAUDIBLE]. We're working on promoting small town tourism. A lot of our dollars end up supporting Portland and the southern part of the state when we've got a lot to offer up here. I take my role supporting this area very very seriously. I want to do a good job for you, so I need you to get in touch with me if you have any ideas or something bothering you or something you need help with. I'm sorry I can't stay. I do have to head to the Montville Town Meeting, which is at the same time. I will give you this information. I'll stay for a few minutes if anyone wants to talk to me about something right now but if not, please get in touch with me. Thank you very much.

10:15:25 Donald Newell: Thank you, Erin. We have a couple more things on intro and then we'll proceed with the meeting. I'm always proud to talk to people. People ask how does it work in Unity? We don't hear any stories and those big blowups and arguments. People seem to be respectful and how does that work? We just have good people. I say that to remind you. That's our character and so when somebody else is speaking we're gracious and let them speak. We don't cheer opinions. We cheer people that have done great work throughout our community, but we don't boo opinions because we want to hear every opinion in the room. That makes us a better voting body. I'll get to some things very quickly where we can exercise our cheering. We can hoot and holler and stand, anything we want to do hopefully. The mike is, as you recognize, particularly for those in the first three and four rows, have everybody behind us. If they start talking to the Chair or the Moderator, people behind most likely won't hear what they said. All the speakers go to the mike if you want to speak to an article. The motions will be made and seconded right here in front of you with Pat and Dorothy. Dorothy occasionally has a little nap. Sometimes it doesn't happen really quickly, but it does happen. And then lastly if you have any question about how do I do this with regard to a conversation on an article, just Mr. Moderator, I'd like to make an amendment. I'll know what to do so I'll help you through that. We don't have to be seasoned [INAUDIBLE] to have your voice heard with regards to modifications to these articles.

10:17:25 Donald Newell: I'm going to call this meeting to order. I encourage you to go to the Town report, page 3. Here we have a dedication to an extremely valuable member of our community for a long time. I do want to see how good you are, besides the cheering and stomping, yelling and clapping, and it's for Andy Reed. (APPLAUSE) Andy has worked very

hard for his community. He has done it for a very long time. His hair is getting a little gray but he's still right there doing it. Then just flip the page over, and not such a happy occasion here, we do need to remember when they were with us and doing all the things that they collectively did. The pictures of these folks, they were certainly critical elements of our community. Dan French, all of you remember him at Town Meeting. He would always raise a question that nobody else ever thought of. Randy was the one that surveyed the whole town and took that to the Legislature of the State of Maine, and got that survey amended at the state level so now we have very clear boundaries with our neighbors, which a lot of small towns do not have. And that's just the tip of the iceberg [INAUDIBLE]. And then Clem Blakney, a super sad day there. We all remember him for his energy and his smile and his contribution here in a leadership position in our town. I would like to read all of the names and we'll have a moment of silence. Marion Louise Thomas, Timothy H Sullivan, Alice Naomi Sprague, Shawn Joseph Shorey, Randal Leroy Reynolds, Robert Edward Raven, Gloria Pacheco, Elsie Virginia Osborn, Mona Blake McCready, Alice R. Lester, Lewis Nights, Mark Ames Huard, Alan R. Gaul, Lynn Rae French, Jean A. Cloutier, Clement Dwayne Blakney, Jr., Janet Lee Bennett, Alton "Dan" French, and one who didn't want make it to the list, certainly a big person in our community, was, Helen Gillette. She died on September 3, 2018. Let's have a moment of silence to remember these individuals.

10:20:55 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. We voted yesterday and the results of the polls were for Selectmen and Antonio Avila has 32, and a write-in, Jason Hunt had one. We elected Antonio Avila. [APPLAUSE] Please raise your right hand [TONY SWORN IN] Thank you very much. By the powers invested in me for a very short while, you are elected for your second term as Selectman.

10:22:17 Donald Newell: Now I would like to call on Penny to walk through some of the numbers that are on the poster board.

10:22:54 Penny Picard Sampson: First off, can I have Jackie Green? For the last few years, we've been giving a little gift to somebody in town that has done a lot for the town behind the scenes, purely voluntary, that never has asked for recognition. This year we would like to recognize Jackie who is our own town historian. She has done a lot to preserve our old, old records - the ones where kids nowadays couldn't read them because of the fancy cursive handwriting. Jackie, over the years, has put in a lot of time with the Historical Society and also coming into the Town Office. She also writes the little interesting pages of history. This year she wrote about the polls in our book and we would like to give you, from Unity Pond Pottery, your own little berry bowl. And, also, while I'm up here, we wanted to kind of have a straw poll to see if we might consider an earlier time next year for the Town Meeting. Is that something you people might be interesting in? Going at 9:00 or 9:30? Because it's already 10:30. I think 8:00 is a little... So, let's hear it for 9:00. How about 9:30? So, we'll consider that, and we will let you know.

10:25:16 Penny Picard Sampson: People used to tell me I'd be a good teacher based on my printing ability in front of the groups. I wanted to give you a picture of where we're at, where we stand and maybe see light at the end of the tunnel. We all know how much we love paying taxes. This is what we have for outstanding loans right now. The first roads loan, the big one. We

have a \$1,000,000 left. At \$250,000 a year. We actually use excise tax for that, that will be paid off in 2022. The town office, we have \$125,000 left, at \$25,000 a year it would be paid off in 2023. The second roads loan, we have \$575,000 left. That's \$84,000 a year we raise out of taxes. That will be paid off in 2026. The fire house, we have \$557,000 left. We raise through taxes \$41,000 a year. That will be paid off in 2032. This is kind of a plan. Once we get this paid off, we can start applying this \$250,000 a year and we could have this paid off...sorry, this paid off in 2023 versus 2026 by taking that one year of excise taxes we would pay off three years of the second roads loan. And then once that's done, we could pay this off by 2026, six years ahead of time by using that same methodology of paying these loans off. So potentially, we could become debt free by 2026, which would save us in our taxes \$400,000 a year. So, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Things we have no control over, school budget currently costs the Town \$13,000 a month, 1.356. Expect that to go up as it does every year. Even with the change in school funding, they expect that to be eaten up with organic costs of education. County Budget went up this year. What we were paying before was \$232,000. It went up \$17,000. Our annual county commitment to pay for police, courts, jail, etc., is \$249,000. There are some flies in our soup though. We're waiting on the last engineering report from the State about the Farwell Bridge. They're concerned about the pillars. Gravel roads, another concern. We keep getting these storms and washouts. They always cost us more money than anticipated. Fire equipment, natural disasters. If we have major floods like they are getting in the Midwest, we potentially eat some serious money up. And then last but not least, state legislation. There are three proposals right now in front of the State that could potentially mess up our \$250,000 a year in excise taxes. And when I'm talking mess it up, it could mess it up seriously. Surplus, it exists on paper, not in reality. We have no surplus to work with. If everybody's taxes were paid, if there were no delinquencies, we would technically have money, but we don't, which means...so because we have no surplus, we have to get a tax anticipation note each year. Last year we had to borrow \$365,000 to get us through until people start paying taxes in September, and that actually costs you more money to a tune of \$8,200 a year. That's where we stand right now.

10:31:09 Donald Newell: Thank you, Penny. Will you join me in a salute to the flag?
[SALUTE PERFORMED] There was one more vote that took place yesterday and that was for Unity Utilities trustee and there were 12 votes cast and they were all for Kevin Spiegel. Kevin, congratulations. Jackie has a question.

10:32:19 Jackie Green: That was a very nice surprise, I want people to know that Beverly Winship also has been working with me for the last 15 years on compiling the genealogy of families. My house is kind of swamped with it all. So, she should also be thanked in addition to myself, all the work she has done. Definitely more behind the scenes than even mine. Thank you.

10:33:02 Donald Newell: I've been in Jackie's house and that is true. Genealogy things everywhere. Article 1 has been taken care of. Article 2 has been taken care of. We're on Article 3.

10:33:21 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.

Any questions, any hands? Will call for the vote. All in favor raise your green cards. And those opposed? It's unanimous. Thank you.

10:33:39 Donald Newell: Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectman, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:33:54 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. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor with your cards? And those opposed? Thank you very much, it's unanimous

10:34:17 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. paragraph 506. Moved and seconded. Green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:34:43 Donald Newell: Article 7 . To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days from the original postmarked date. Moved and seconded. All in favor green cards? Those opposed? I'm not going to invite people to talk. I'll pause and then if anybody has a question just let me know.

10:35:13 Donald Newell: Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 9% per annum on all 2019 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2019. Moved and seconded. All in favor? Those opposed? The motion carries.

10:35:34 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 Quitclaim deed for such property. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.S.R.A. paragraph 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). The selectmen may attempt to sell the property back to the prior owner before advertising the properties for sale. Moved and seconded. Any hands, question? All in favor raise your green cards. And those opposed? Motion carries.

10:36:40 Donald Newell: I'm going to stop. Does everybody know what that Article is all about? Some don't. The underlying principle is we try to take care of people who have been here a long time and are over 65 and have lost their house. This article is to provide back to those people, they lose their house, that's already happened, we're not able to sell it back to them then we sell it to somebody else, those proceeds of selling to somebody else we'll give back to that homeowner.

10:37:52 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 2019 fiscal year.

Moved and seconded. Questions? Hands? All in favor? Those opposed? Thank you very much.

10:38:09 Donald Newell: Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$5,000.00 from undesignated funds (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the current fiscal year, 2019. Moved and seconded. Moved and seconded. Any hands? All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. There are some voters out there I'm not seeing green cards. You're either in favor or opposed. It's wonderful to have everybody voting.

10:38:47 Donald Newell: Article 12. To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6 of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2020 to March 23, 2020. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands, all in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you very much.

10:39:13 Donald Newell: Article 13. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. paragraph 2953. Moved and second. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:39:41 Donald Newell: Article 14. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to dispose of town-owned personal property, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable. Moved and seconded. All in favor? And those opposed? Motion carries. I told this would move along pretty good.

10:40:05 Donald Newell: Article 15. Shall the Town accept any and all gifts raised through various fund-raising activities and donations received by the Recreation Committee, and appropriate them for their intended purposes, as recommended by the municipal officers? Moved and seconded. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:40:35 Donald Newell. Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$700.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. Let me just see the numbers here. We're going to move the Article as printed with the number that is in there, and the source of funds will be what is down below. In this case it is raised from taxation. I'm suspecting that the Selectmen and Budget Committee [INAUDIBLE] where the source of funds were from. Is that correct? [YES] For purposes of the motion, the motion includes the request and the source of funds will be what you see down below and you can see that in some cases the amount recommended by the Selectmen is different from that recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion is on the floor.

10:41:45 Charles Schaeffer: I would like to amend the \$700.00 to \$600.00 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

10:41:56 Donald Newell: There is a motion on the floor to amend the Article by reducing \$700.00 to \$600.00. Do we have a second? Moved and seconded. Discussion on the motion to amend. Seeing none will call for the vote on the motion to amend. All in favor? And those

opposed? So now the motion reads the same except the figure is now \$600.00. Is there further discussion on the motion as amended? Will call for the vote on the motion as amended. All in favor? Those opposed? The motion carries.

10:42:28 Donald Newell: Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$871.00 for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:42:41 Lynn Warman: I'd like to make a motion that we go with the Selectmen's recommendation of \$300.00.

10:42:50 Donald Newell: Okay, the motion is to amend the figure from \$871.00 to \$300.00 in the Article. Discussion on the motion to amend? Okay we'll call for the vote on the motion to amend. All those in favor of that motion please signify with your cards. And those opposed? Okay we need to count. I'm going to ask you to do that again. All those in favor?

10:43:15 Kari Hunt: Alright, raise your cards up a little higher. We're voting in favor to amend. Twenty-one.

10:43:38 Donald Newell: And those opposed? Twenty-seven. The nays have it. The floor is open for discussion on the original motion as read.

10:44:15 Penny Picard Sampson: I make a motion to go with what the Budget Committee recommended, which is the same amount as what we gave them last year.

10:44:22 Donald Newell: The motion on the floor is to amend the figure from \$871.00 to \$500.00. Moved and seconded. Any discussion on that? All in favor of the motion with \$500 as the amount raised, please signify with your cards. And those opposed? The motion carries. And now back to the main motion as amended. Any further discussion on that? All those in favor? And those opposed? Motion carries.

10:45:12 Donald Newell: Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? And those opposed? The motion carries.

10:45:32 Donald Newell: Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:45:53 Donald Newell: Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Maine youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

10:46:08 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like a motion to amend the amount. I know the Selectmen originally requested \$100.00 but I would to make motion to amend to \$250.00.

10:46:24 Donald Newell: Okay. There is a motion, I'll give you an opportunity to speak. We have a second for the motion. Thank you. Alright, any comments on the motion to amend? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor of that motion to amend to \$250.00. Green cards. Eighteen. Those opposed? The motion is defeated. So, we're back to the main motion as read. Any further discussion on the main motion? I think you're good. All in favor signify with your cards. Those opposed? The motion carries. Unless you were going to plead for \$1000.00.

10:47:40 Donald Newell: Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,440.53 for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:48:04 Lynn Warman: I would like to recommend that we go with the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendation of \$2,000.00.

10:48:07 Donald Newell: Okay, we have a motion to amend the \$10,440.53 to \$2,000.00. Moved and seconded. Discussion on the amendment?

10:48:28 Pat ____: I represent Unity on the Waldo CAP Board of Directors. I do have material in case anyone would like to see the mission statements, the budgets, etc., to see what programs there are and also to see what programs are available in case you know someone who might want to do things. I'll put these on the table so if people want them they are available. If people need them hand them out.

10:49:04 Donald Newell: Are you going to speak on the amendment? No? Okay. Just checking. Anybody else? Seeing no further hands will call on the motion to amend which changes the figure from \$10,440.53 to \$2,000.00. Any further considerations? All those in favor? Green cards. And those opposed? The motion carries. We approved the amendment. Now we need to vote on the Article as amended. So, any further discussion on the Article as amended? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:50:00 Donald Newell: Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,200.00 for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:50:23 Donald Newell: Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for the Community Grants. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion.

10:50:35 Resident: What is it?

10:50:38 Penny Picard Sampson: The Article is a house keeping article. The community grants are grants that are awarded, a maximum amount of \$2,500.00 to various groups. Last year it was the Unified Riding Club down here at the intersection of the Prairie Road and the snowmobile trail. They have to apply for it. They have to show how it will be economically advantageous to the community, and they also have to show us after it is all said and done, like improvements,

attendance that would show economic value. So, we've done these before. We use the previous monies, like I said it's like a housekeeping article.

10:51:35 Donald Newell: And the total spent last year was \$5,968.00?

10:51:36 Emily Newell: Can you clarify the source of the funds?

10:51:43 Penny Picard Sampson: It's from TIF.

10:51:47 Donald Newell: Does everybody know what TIF is? Tax incremental financing. So, if certain buildings are in the TIF districts, then any improvements to those buildings during this TIF program are not taxed but those revenues come back to the Town for purposes like this. That's the short version.

10:52:09 Dennis Turner: That's still taxpayers' money, right?

10:52:15 Donald Newell: It is. There is a long dissertation about how it can be used.

10:52:21 Ton Aversa: Why the difference, we spent \$5,000 last year and \$25,000 now.

10:52:27 Penny Picard Sampson: We carry it over from year to year, so we don't have to [INAUDIBLE] keep bringing the article back to the Town. It's just money that sits until somebody applies for the grant.

10:52:45 Donald Newell: You might spend the whole thing in one year?

10:52:49 Penny Picard Sampson: If we had 10 applicants we could.

10:52:57 Resident: Could that TIF money be used anywhere else or are we tied in how it can be used? As I understand it's comes under a state program? Is that right? [YES] Can that money be voted to be used for say a fire truck?

10:53:13 Penny Picard Sampson: That's other TIF money. There's lot of things that TIF money can be used for. You'll see a later article that will be asking for \$10,000 from TIF towards a fire truck.

10:53:27 Resident: What I'm getting at is if we didn't approve this, could this \$25,000 go to the fire truck.

10:53:33 Penny Picard Sampson: No, there is a limited amount that we can only use for certain things.

10:53:39 Donald Newell: There are occasional meetings around this subject where all of these details are talked about. You might want to try and catch one of those. It is very important that more of our citizens are aware of what it's all about.

10:53:56 Pat Haley: Would this offer [INAUDIBLE] Unity Ambulance [INAUDIBLE] volunteer....

10:54:08 Penny Picard Sampson: They could apply for a grant. I don't know how it could be economically....it would have to improve the economics of the Town of Unity. In the fire truck case, it is necessitated by growth within the TIF District. So potentially, yes, Ambulance Corp could.

10:54:39 Donald Newell: Further questions. We're still at the \$25,000. The floor is open. Seeing no further hands, we're going to call for the vote on the original motion. All in favor? Those opposed? Thank you very much.

10:55:00 Donald Newell: Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Park and Recreation Committee. Moved and seconded. It comes out of surplus. All in favor of the Article? Thank you very much. Those opposed? Motion carries.

10:55:45 Donald Newell: Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$284,000.00 for Summer Roads for the ensuing years. (This includes \$250,000 for the first road loan). Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

10:56:02 Alisha McCormick: I don't really need the mike. I just want to know, with what you've mentioned earlier, you talked about severe weather causing erosion, is \$34,000 going to be enough to address those damages?

10:56:22 Penny Picard Sampson: The \$34,000 is for planned maintenance. It's hard to put money away for the sky is falling or what might or could happen. So, this is planned maintenance. If something does happen, we would have to address it at the time. But how much money would you put away; you know. If something happens down the road maybe would've, should've, could've.

10:56:50 Donald Newell: If you'd allow, I'd like to rephrase that. Let's say another \$50,000 that gets approved then the taxpayers have already approved that \$50,000. So that comes out of their pocket and goes into a surplus fund waiting for a disaster to happen. That's the cutting edge of the decision on the Select board.

10:57:16 Donald Newell: Because the figure is \$284,000 you can't raise more than that.

10:57:39 Penny Picard Sampson: I didn't mean to scare you, Alisha.

10:57:43 Blaine Parsons: The question is, according to Penny's presentation there is no surplus. If the Article is going through, there is stuff coming out of surplus. How is it coming.

10:58:14 Dan McCormick: This is just basically money that was appropriated last year to surplus and not used. It was appropriated but it's still there. It just wasn't used. It just is getting basically rolled over. It's not out of the unicorn fund.

10:58:54 Resident: I think from one of the comments though, if we're not going to raise more money and there is no surplus, when the disaster comes, where do you get the money? If you don't have any extra reserve, then \$34,000 is peanuts in the road game. How are you going to find surplus later when something happens because it's going to happen? The roads are already washing out.

10:59:21 Dan McCormick: At that point, if the roads were beyond what we could afford, we would have to look into financing another loan to pay it. It would have to be approved at a special town meeting.

10:59:43 Resident: But that would mean borrowing again.

10:59:57 Donald Newell: Yes.

10:59:59 Resident: With interest.

11:00:03 Andy Reid: In a major disaster we would get some funds from the federal government to help through that.

11:00:30 Charlie Schaeffer: I call the question.

11:00:32 Donald Newell: We have a motion to call the previous question. Moved and seconded. There is no debate. We need a two-thirds vote to call the question. What that means is we stop any further conversation. All in favor of the motion to call the question raise your card. Those opposed? Motion carries. We're back to the main motion. All in favor of the main motion as it was read. Please raise your green cards. Those opposed. Motion carries.

11:01:06 Donald Newell: Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$212,000.00 for Winter Roads for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Don't see any hands so will call for the vote. All in favor? And those opposed? Motion carries.

11:01:56 Donald Newell: Article 27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$84,360.80 for the Second Road Loan for the ensuing year.

11:02:09 Dennis Jones: On our winter roads, public works winter roads, it said maintenance improvement. Tell me what they are. \$8,900 - is that insurance or what is it? Page 65.

11:02:54 Donald Newell: Page 65 is a summary of expenses.

11:02:58 Dennis Jones: I was just wondering what maintenance and improvements was.

11:03:07 Donald Newell: You were reciting a figure of \$8,900. Maintenance and improvement.

11:03:16 Kari Hunt: Washouts that we had and snowbanks.

11:03:36 Dennis Jones: Who did the money go to?

11:03:40 Kari Hunt: I don't have that written here.

11:04:00 Dennis Jones: Oh, you're talking the year before? The books closed February 16th. I was just wondering why it didn't specify who it was. If that's what it's for.

11:04:44 Penny Picard Sampson: We would have the receipts at the town office like who specifically got what but for the bookkeeping... then it goes into a category. The receipts are at the town office.

11:05:09 Donald Newell: The article we're on is 27, right? That is specifically to make a loan payment. On this particular article. Back to the main motion as read, any further discussion on it? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

11:05:53 Donald Newell: Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,600.00 for the Sand and Salt Shed Maintenance. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:06:03 Resident: What do they plan on doing to it?

11:06:08 Donald Newell: What's the plan?

11:06:10 Dan McCormick: That's basically to fix the gate and fencing that's already there. That also pays for the electricity and other maintenance that needs to be done on the building.

11:06:35 Resident: Who damaged the gate? If somebody damaged the gate to the building, they should be paying for it.

11:06:38 Dan McCormick: We don't know. It was long before my time as Selectmen so I'm not sure what happen said to the gate.

11:06:53 Penny Picard Sampson: It's on Tony's list of things to do, and has been for like three years. We'll get there.

11:07:06 Donald Newell: Back to Article 28 as read. Any questions about the Article? Any hands? All in favor raise your cards. Those opposed? Motion carries.

11:07:18 Donald Newell: Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,396.00 for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the ensuring year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:07:34 Charlie Schaeffer: Why the increase? It went up by \$4,000.

11:07:39 Donald Newell: The report in the book was rather explanatory that one of the large items that they used to sell there is no longer salable. China has cut it off. I forget the actual

definition of that type of plastic. But that's the problem. They can't sell the material that they used to be able to sell. Is there more to that?

11:08:09 Kari Hunt: The report is on page 25.

11:08:25 Donald Newell: There is another part to that on 63. Okay. Other questions?

11:08:28 Gail Chase: I'll just comment. I noticed in the report that we can now turn in batteries and fabrics and a lot of things that I was unaware of. Perhaps if we do that it will reduce cost of it.

11:08:49 Dan McCormick: The fabric is new. You've been able to take batteries, fluorescent bulbs and that sort of thing over there for quite a few years now.

11:09:02 Donald Newell: Don't put the batteries with the fluorescent bulbs. I don't see any hands. Are we ready to vote? All in favor green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

11:09:20 Donald Newell: Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$68,500.00 to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to whomever MRC (Municipal Review Committee) designates for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:09:45 John McIntyre: Alright, that just comes out of raising funds and the rebate from MRC?

11:10:00 Donald Newell: Correct. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor your green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

11:10:13 Donald Newell: Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$77,400.00 for Solid Waste Pickup for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded.

11:10:27 Nancy ____: It appears to me that Articles 32 and 33 are relevant to 31 and I'd suggest that we address the three articles together.

11:10:40 Donald Newell: Thirty-two and 33? That's something that I cannot accept as moderator that we debate all three together. I can tell you that if you make a decision on 31 and then go to 32 and look back...Tony, can you trim this back a little. If you made a choice, voted on an answer to 31 and got to 32, that doesn't work. You don't need that much because you're going to raise... Anybody that voted in favor of 31 could ask for a review. That is another way. A reconsideration. Thank you. We need to look at these individually.

11:11:51 Kari Hunt: I can clarify. The effective trash stickers or Articles 32 and 33 will not affect 31 this year because the funds from the collection of trash stickers for the 2018-2019 year is what is being used to pay for the contract this year. In 31 you have your sticker, you have your dumpster sales. Unfortunately, you're going to have to raise those monies this year to cover the contract. So, 32 and 33 will be what you want to do for the 2019-2020 year. Does that clarify that for you, Nancy? You're welcome.

11:12:40 Tom Aversa: I think I have an idea but I would like someone to clarify dumpster tipping to me?

11:12:42 Kari Hunt: So, when a person rents a dumpster and they have it dumped that person is responsible for paying the tipping fee from the trash that is in their dumpster.

11:13:02 Tom Aversa: And then that goes to this?

11:13:05 Kari Hunt: And then the Town collects those funds and it used for trash, the curbside pickup.

11:13:13 Lynn Warman: Whatever happened a few years ago when we had a lady stand up to tell us that we were going to have this zero-sort trash program. Stuff was going to be all divided. Ever since everything has been going to a land fill.

11:13:31 Kari Hunt: Currently, our trash is being sent to Crossroads because Fiberight, which is the facility that is being built in Hampden, did not open yet. They foresee that to be open in April.

11:13:50 Lynn Warman: I don't believe them. We put that other outfit, PERC, out of business, and they were using the trash to make electricity and stuff. We put them out of business and our trash is piling up in Maine somewhere. That's disgusting.

11:14:09 Kari Hunt: So currently the trash is going to Crossroads, which is in Norridgewock. PERC is still open. We are currently paying \$70 per ton for trash going by Crossroads. If we went with PERC, we would be looking at \$125 a ton. So, when it comes down to the cost... hopefully, Fiberight does open and we'll see a difference there.

11:14:41 Lynn Warman: When we talk about things like this, we need our own people from the recycling center coming here to talk. They can't because they're always busy on Saturdays, but it would be really nice if one of them could be here to represent what they're doing.

11:15:01 Kari Hunt: I'll make a note and will ask for a representative to attend next meeting.

11:15:12 Wendy ____: The raise in the money, is that [INAUDIBLE] Sullivan is asking for?

11:15:24 Kari Hunt: Yes, correct.

11:15:30 Penny Picard Sampson: Sullivan's contract was, he wanted us to put it out for bid, which we did. I contacted all of the surrounding trash pickup companies in central Maine. Only two were interested in picking up garbage in the Town of Unity. One was Sullivan's and one was Bolster's. The cheapest came in, there was only a couple thousand dollars. We are happy with Sullivan's. They pick up on holidays, they have two days to pick up plus dumpsters, so we ended up going with them. The other bid that came in was right there with them. Sometimes the cost of doing business can bite ya and that's what happened this year.

11:16:24 Kevin Spiegel: Can someone explain why the cost more than doubled?

11:16:32 Kari Hunt: The contractor asked for an increase. We have equipment maintenance, insurance, cost of fuel, all of that. Minimum wage going up. Do bear in mind that for the last I think 10 years he has been picking up trash for [INAUDIBLE - \$40,000?]

11:16:58 Charlie Schaeffer: [INAUDIBLE] I am positive they are residents here.

11:17:03 Kari Hunt: John (Benda) is a resident. Diane (Hauser) is a resident. Diane has been here for years. There has been a shift in appointments so John (Benda), I believe is a rep, and Elizabeth is the rep. Brian (Duguay) stepped down. Diane is an alternate rep. Both Elizabeth and Diane have been attending the meetings. They were just appointed last month or the month before, so they are kind of new to the process. They show great interest in our recycling center.

11:18:00 Charlie Schaeffer: Maybe we can get one of them to be here next year.

11:18:05 Kari Hunt: That is my plan.

11:18:09 Andy Reid: Last year [INAUDIBLE] go from house to house to pick up our recyclables That was close to a \$9,000 contract. We eliminated it because we were paying too much. In talking to people over at the recycling center, they said we're getting more trash from Unity than we did when it was house to house pickup. The recycling center is excellent. If anybody has been over there, they come out, they help you, they thank you, and it's very easy. Go to some other places and try to do something like that it's trying to work through, I don't know what it is but it's bad. My son-in-law in Vermont he used to try to recycle over there and it's horrible. He paid by the pound to get rid of the stuff. We're trying to do the best we can. We had a lot of discussion with the Budget Committee concerning the Sullivan contract. We're trying to look at other ways to see if we can reduce our cost for the Town and Sullivan is working along with us. We don't have the figures back yet have we?

11:19:49 Kari Hunt: The figure he gave me doesn't make a bit of sense.

11:19:57 Andy Reid: Okay. We can work more on that.

11:20:01 Kari Hunt: He says that dumpsters would be about 250 tons. I just didn't think that sounded right.

11:20:13 Andy Reid: We've got to do more work on that. Every time you see a red dumpster, that's Bolsters, that is in the Town of Unity, that is costing the Town of Unity zero because they pick it up. The person that puts the trash in that dumpster pays Bolster for that. He pays the tipping fee. So, you take the College and what they have up there, that costs the town zero because they take care of it themselves. They don't pay taxes, but the thing is it's not costing us. That's a savings every time someone says I'm going to do it myself and pay Bolsters or some other company. My neighbor has another company. That doesn't cost the town anything. That's reducing our cost.

11:20:52 Donald Newell: Any further hands? Looks like we're ready to vote. The Article is, shall we raise \$77,400.00 for solid Waste Pickup for the ensuing year? All in favor, green cards? Those opposed? The motion carries.

11:21:11 Donald Newell: Article 32. To see what sum the Town will vote to charge for trash stickers. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:21:29 John Dowdy: Is this the time to move to maybe bring it up a little bit since we're paying more? None of us want to raise taxes but we're going to pay it one way or another. Can we maybe entertain raising the sticker price? Should I make a motion? Does somebody have a recommendation to help me on this?

11:21:54 Donald Newell: Somebody must have done some research on this.

11:21:57 Kari Hunt: So, because I can only talk about trash stickers right now. I have done some research. The question to you guys is whether or not you want the people that are paying for the service to continue to pay for it, or do you want to continue to have it come through taxation stickers and dumpsters. So, if you want it to continue with taxation, stickers, dumpsters, you could raise it \$150.00, a \$1.50 per person. [LAUGHTER] Sorry. I will give you a number, \$23,500 is the average sticker sales last year. If you raise the stickers to \$1.50, you would collect hopefully \$35,250.

11:22:54 John Dowdy: But we're raising our cost another \$25,000?

11:22:55 Kari Hunt: You're raising it almost another \$30,000. If you raise it to \$1.75 in trash stickers, you'll collect \$41,125. If you raise the sticker price to \$2.00 a sticker, you would collect \$47,000. Again, it's based on the average number of stickers sold last year. So that's as far as I went because when you talk with the Budget Committee somebody recommend \$2.00 but there was fear that once you get that high that people are going to start throwing their trash along the side of the road, that people may not get stickers. You're looking at a good number of \$1.75.

11:23:44 Penny Picard Sampson: There is that fine line between what people will pay and what they won't, because they'll start throwing their garbage out, and some people will try to sneak it into other towns. Personally, I would not have a problem with \$2.00 a bag because it would only cost me \$8.00 a month extra but I would kind of like to hear from everybody else.

11:24:18 Charlie Porter: Ladies and gentlemen, I will guarantee you if you go to \$2.00, \$1.75, our woods is going to be full of this stuff. I'll be running ragged. This is a guarantee because I have seen it in other towns.

11:24:51 Lynn Warman: The price has been low for several years and it's still showing up in the woods. We have cams to catch these suckers.

11:25:07 Charlie Schaeffer: I make a motion to \$1.50 per sticker. Moved.

11:25:20 Donald Newell: Do we have a second on the motion? Moved and seconded that the price be moved from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Floor is open for discussion on the amendment.

11:25:31 Resident: That doesn't quite cover the cost of the increase?

11:25:40 Donald Newell: Not even close.

11:25:41 Kari Hunt: May I please talk about dumpsters? I have to. In order to present this, I have to talk about (next time I'm not listening to you, Penny) why I'm putting them in the same article. My presentation is this. If you put stickers to \$1.75, do not get offended quite yet. If you raise the tipping fee on the dumpsters to \$15.00 per yard, you will have enough money to pay for your trash pickup. I'm sorry, \$15.00 for 2-yard dumpsters. You would have enough. Again this is where I said you need to make the decision whether or not you want to raise the money so the people who are using the service pay for it, or do you want some money to come out of taxation.

11:27:00 Jim Buckle: If you get a dumpster from Bolsters, you don't pay the sticker?

11:27:08 Donald Newell: I've got a motion on the floor. Are you speaking to the motion to amend? I'll be back to you later. I've got to take them in order here. The motion is to move the figure to \$1.50 and that's what we're talking about right now. Are we going to approve this motion to amend or are we not? Does anybody else want to speak to that?

11:27:29 Lucia Picard: I just want to hear Kari explain that one more time. What we would have to pay.

11:27:31 Kari Hunt: So, our contract is \$77,000. I'm rounding numbers at this point. If we raise trash stickers to, I'll do these numbers again. If you raise trash stickers to \$1.50, based on the average sticker sale, we would collect \$35,000 in sticker sales. If we raise the dumpster fee to \$15.00 per 2-yards, you would collect \$38,000 still leaving you a little bit that you have to raise. If you raise stickers to \$1.75, you would collect \$41,000 leaving a tipping fee on a 2-yard dumpster at \$15. You would be just at the point where you need to collect so you're not raising taxes. Is that clear? So, my suggestion is \$1.75.

11:28:37 Donald Newell: You're going to vote not in favor of the \$1.50.

11:28:46 Resident: You're saying we should vote against Charlie's proposal? [YES]

11:28:54 Tom Aversa: I just have to say that Jim's point is [INAUDIBLE]. Do we get the tipping fee if people go to Bolsters? [NEGATIVE]

11:29:06 Jim Buckle: So, wouldn't this encourage people to do business like further away from town?

11:29:11 Kari Hunt: No comment.

11:29:14 Resident: Can you make the stickers easier to use? What's with the stickers, man? Just give me one easy piece, not three parts. Just an easier sticker .

11:29:31 Donald Newell: Okay, we're back to the motion to amend the price to \$1.50. Any further discussion on the motion to amend?

11:29:43 Larry Swanson: What's the cost of a 2-yard dumpster now? You're say \$15, what is it now?

11:29:53 Kari Hunt: \$7.50 per 2-yard.

11:29:56 Donald Newell: Doubling. No further hands. We've got a call on the vote to amend to \$1.50. Right now, raise your green cards. All in favor of the motion to amend to make the sticker price a \$1.50. All in favor of that raise your green cards. And those opposed. That motion is soundly defeated. The floor is open for discussion.

11:30:27 Alisha McCormick: I'd like to make a motion to move to \$1.75 per sticker.

11:30:36 Donald Newell: Okay we have a motion to amend the figure to \$1.75. Any discussion on that motion to amend?

11:30:41 Dennis Jones: Really, attacking the people with the dumpsters pretty hard. You're doubling the price on them.

11:30:48 Kari Hunt: That was only a recommendation. Don't get offended yet.

11:31:01 Donald Newell: Any other questions or comments? Then we'll call for the vote on the amendment. Are we going to approve \$1.75? All in favor, green cards. And those opposed. One dollar and seventy-five has it.

11:31:12 Penny Picard Sampson: When will that go into effect?

11:31:22 Kari Hunt: Monday. However, if you already have stickers, they are fine. If you buy stickers at Depot and at Shop N' Save, you will have no price...So Depot and Shop N' Save, they buy a package of stickers. I'm not making them throw them away or charge you more. Once the fee goes up and they come in and get new ones, they will then have the new price . Mac's Hardware also sells stickers; however, those will be going up on Monday because they do not buy our stickers. We have an agreement with them. They sell and they collect the money and bring the money to us. So, the two places that will be affected are the Town Office and Mac's Hardware. The other places will be affected after they sell their sticks will be Shop N' Save and the Depot.

11:32:40 Donald Newell: Now we're back to the main motion as amended, which means if you vote yes then it's done. Then we'll talk about the dumpsters. Any questions? Alright, all in favor of the sticker going to \$1.75 please raise your green cards. Those opposed? That motion soundly carries.

11:33:08 Donald Newell: We're now moving right along to part three of this debacle. Article 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to charge for dumpster tipping fee per cubic year. [Year?] I couldn't help it. It should be yard. Per cubic yard. Moved and seconded.

11:33:37 Maureen Haley: Hi, so, this is not covered in Article 30? Didn't we already raise money? I don't understand the difference between the two.

11:33:59 Kari Hunt: So, we have to pay to get rid of our trash. We have to pay to collect our trash. When we pay, in Article 30, right now we're paying Crossroads, right now we have to pay for trash to go away. The dumpster? Can you repeat your question, Maureen?

11:34:38 Maureen Haley: I feel like we're being asked to pay for another tipping fee.

11:34:50 Kari Hunt: No, you're not. If you don't have a dumpster....the people who have a dumpster, they're paying for the tipping separately.

11:34:58 Maureen Haley: Out of their own pockets?

11:35:05 Maureen Haley: They are paying out of their own pocket, yes. How does that affect you? Because you need to set that rate because it affects your trash pickup because Sullivan picks up dumpsters at the same time they pick up your curbside pickup. So that affects us because that trash that's going in the dumpsters goes in with our trash in one vehicle and then goes to Crossroads. Does that make sense?

11:35:32 Jim Buckle: You don't sticker the bags in the dumpsters.

11:35:37 Kari Hunt: You do not sticker the bags in the dumpster. The people that own the dumpsters rent them for a monthly cost. Then it is dumpster owner's responsibility to pay for the trash that they are throwing away.

11:35:49 Maureen Halley: But it is the Town's responsibility to get it out of town?

11:35:55 Kari Hunt: Yes. I do bill the dumpster accounts separately so Sullivan's records who they are collecting and how many times they have collected and the yardage...the size of the dumpster they have. And based on that is what they get for a bill.

11:36:18 Emily Newell: Can you help me compare the cost of the per yard to per sticker? How many stickers were to trash do I have to have to make a yard of trash?

11:36:33 Kari Hunt: That is an excellent question.

11:36:37 Dan McCormick: The standard formula is three bags of your 30- some odd gallon bags equals a yard.

11:36:49 Penny Picard Sampson: Dan and I did a cost analysis. He has a dumpster and I throw out like a big bag of trash per week and it's essentially the same cost.

11:37:19 Jackie ___: If you're going to raise the stickers then you should raise the dumpster fee too because if they can get six bags in one of those dumpsters then they should pay more.

11:37:39 Resident: Doesn't it make sense to raise it by the same ratio?

11:37:49 Donald Newell: So, Kevin, what is that per year? I don't have my calculator.

11:38:10 Jim Buckle: \$5.25.

11:38:12 Donald Newell: The new number would make that \$5.25 to raise it to make that an equitable increase on the bags.

11:38:22 Kari Hunt: So, increasing it to \$5.25, are you saying \$5.25 per yard? Okay, if you do that, you're still going to have to raise money through taxation.

11:38:36 Alisha McCormick: Even at \$1.75 a bag, and you raise it to \$5.25, we're still going to have to raise? Again, I'm only rounding numbers, another \$10,000 out of taxation.

11:38:54 Donald Newell: Somebody should be able to compute what would be the percentage increase in both of those figures in order to accommodate the increase in contracts. Somebody helps me here.

11:39:13 Alisha McCormick: Jim, you got it buddy. If you raise it to 15, I'm telling you right now, ask my husband, we need to check out the price of Bolsters. I'm not trying to be mean but if you dump it all on the people who have dumpsters, they're going to dump Sullivan's. We have to have a sweet spot for the tipping fee as well as a sweet spot for the bags.

11:39:44 Kari Hunt: I respect that.

11:39:48 Donald Newell: We heard earlier, maybe in a different context, that somebody who goes to a vendor account outside of our contract, that's a good thing. So why isn't that a good thing?

11:40:06 Alisha McCormick: Because then you won't be getting that tipping fee towards the cost of trash pickup either. So, you've got to be really careful. Maybe Kari can explain that better.

11:40:21 Kari Hunt: If you leave the town, that's less money that the town is getting for dumpster collections, which means ultimately, you're still affecting your taxes and your taxes are going up. It's great that somebody wants to shop around because that's their right. It's their budget, it's their money but, at the same time, when we start losing business, we're not getting the money which ultimately affects the Town's budget.

11:40:57 Donald Newell: I'm going to test you again on that. You said earlier that the cost, the tipping fee, did not pay the total cost of the fee when you go to PERC? [Correct] So if you eliminate that tipping fee, you just made money.

11:41:17 Kari Hunt: No, you save money.

11:41:23 Donald Newell. You save money, you made money. It all depends on how you say it.

11:41:30 Kari Hunt: If it totally eliminates, yes, essentially, yes, you are making money, but you still are having to pay PERC.

11:41:41 Resident: It went somewhere else.

11:41:47 Alisha McCormick: Does the contract change though, the fee that we pay Sullivan's, you have less tippage? [No.] So that's what's not changing because your contract is what it is.

11:42:02 Kari Hunt: The only place that changes is when the trash goes to PERC so it's actually less tonnage going to PERC then, yes. We are not spending as much but that doesn't...the tipping there doesn't affect PERC. We're getting back to the contract with Sullivan's where the dumpster and stickers we're currently paying for are curbside pickup.

11:42:35 John Dowdy: I'd like to make a motion that we increase dumpster to the same ratio as stickers or \$5.25 a ton.

11:42:53 Kari Hunt: Are you saying per yard? [Yes] So you're saying on a two-yard dumpster it would be \$10.50 per dump? Per tip, sorry.

11:43: John Dowdy: So whatever yardage, it's going to be \$5.25 per yard. We are going to have to raise taxes with that. Maybe next year we can ease into this a little more and not do it all at once but make it even. That's my motion, \$5.25 a yard for tipping. Moved and seconded.

11:43:29 Donald Newell: We have a motion to amend on the floor and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. That would be \$5.25.

11:43:35 Andy Reid: We've had quite a lot of discussion on this at the budget meetings. What we're trying to do is trying to get a figure that is going to be the best for the businesses in Unity. We've checked with some of the other dumpster people that haul the trash. We're trying to find the best solutions to help the people who have trash in Unity that have dumpsters. We all agree that you can stuff a lot more in a dumpster weight wise than you can in a plastic bag. So, if somebody is having a renovation of their house and they have a 5- or a 10-yard dumpster, there's a lot of weight there. We had one company who were in Unity, they are no longer here, and we paid that company alone for their dumpster, before we went to a fee per yard, it cost the Town of Unity \$5,000 a year just for that business. So that's why we had to come up with some way of being able to recoup the cost of trash [INAUDIBLE] sending it to PERC. So, what we're trying to do is [INAUDIBLE]...that's what we trying to do. I can't through an engine into a plastic bag

but I can throw it in a dumpster. I can put cement in the dumpster. What is the best. We're trying to do the best for the community.

11:46:00 Donald Newell: From a moderator's point of view, you guys have done the homework. We haven't but you're asking us to pick a figure. You might as well just drag something out of the air here. We don't know all the parameters and trying to calculate it on the fly. Where is the proposal? What do you guys suggest we do?

11:46:17 Kari Hunt: I like your proposal and I would go with that. I just ran the quick numbers based on the average tonnage that we had, or the average yardage, sorry. Next year we would have to raise \$10,000 in taxation provided what we collected this year for stickers and yardage.

11:46:44 Andy Reid: We went to Sullivan's and the question was how much weight is there in the dumpsters and he said I can't tell you. What we did is said what towns do you only pick up dumpsters and don't pick up house to house trash. We went to Sullivan's and we said can we get a list of total yardage picked up from Unity, do you know by the number of dumpsters you have in yardage. You're going to take that to PERC and they're going to weigh your truck, and then going by how much weight is in that truck then looking at the figure of 150 yards [INAUDIBLE]

11:47:48 Kari Hunt: I asked him and he said 250 tons, which is a lot.

11:48:00 Donald Newell: We need to know how critical it is that a decision be made today because it sounds like there is data out there that would really inform the voters. We can come back and have a special meeting and vote on this unless you guys can make a recommendation based on thorough analysis. Otherwise, we're just shooting in the dark here. How urgent is that needed? How long is it going to take to get the data. We need to know that to make the decisions.

11:48:57 John Dowdy: Let's raise it some and come back again and revisit.

11:49:03 Penny Picard Sampson: We've got to have another meeting. We don't want to have two more special meeting.

11:49:15 Resident: I'd like to see you raise it some now. Raise the dumpster to \$10.50 or whatever it is, and then once you get your data we would be able to see how far off that is. We should attempt to do something in the meantime.

11:49:45 Charlie Schaeffer: I call the question. [Seconded]

11:49:48 Donald Newell: We have a motion to call the question. Moved and seconded. That's not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote to pass. Five twenty-five is the current amendment on the floor. All those in favor of limiting debate please raise your green cards. Those opposed? We're going to vote. So now we're back to the main motion as amended, which is \$5.25 per yard for the dumpsters. Any questions about that? We're voting on the amendment. We have that figure of \$5.25. Any questions on that? Please raise your green cards. It's unanimous. It's unanimous minus one. Not to point out any voter that intend to do that. So now we're ready to

vote on the main motion as amended. I don't see any hands so we'll call for the vote. All in favor, green cards. Those opposed. Alright, the motion carries. Thank you very much. You guys are great. We had a lot of different opinions on that. Am I going to break for lunch? We want to do one more.

11:51:10 Donald Newell: Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,880.00 for Landfill maintenance and Monitoring for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:51:48 Dennis Jones: How come more than last year?

11:51:53 Kari Hunt: I think you had some mowing done there and that comes out of it, and then we have annual testing that has to be done at the landfill and I'll open up a can of worms but DEP has also contacted us and they've done something...I don't know if there is more maintenance to be done or not.

11:52:17 Penny Picard Sampson: Actually, last year was kind of an anomaly. It was lower because usually it has been in the \$3,600 to \$3,700 range.

11:52:33 Kevin Spiegel: Every other year testing is done. We do have testing every year and then every other year.

11:52:48 Donald Newell: Any other questions? Seeing none, all in favor raise your green cards. Those opposed. Motion carries. We're going to adjourn for 45 minutes. Twenty minutes to the hour we'll be back.

[ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH]

[AUCTION OF BAKED GOODS]

12:53:29 Donald Newell: Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,100.00 for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. Made and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

12:54:30 Donald Newell: Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to accept a gift of \$1,500 from Friends of Lake Winnecook and appropriate for the purpose of an attendant at Kanokolus Beach and Boat Launch. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? And those opposed? Motion carries.

12:54:53 Donald Newell: Article 37. 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. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you.

12:55:22 Donald Newell: Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500.00 for Fire Department Officers Salaries account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

12:55:36 Nancy ____: I'm questioning why the salaries for all the fire department are not all lumped together the way they have been in previous years.

12:55:54 Dan McCormick: Yes, just for the sake of clearing it up for bookkeeping purpose, the fire calls have been moved down to maintenance and operations. Just because if they have an overage, you really shouldn't be moving money from your maintenance and operations up to salaries because they were not budgeted for it. This is the stipends not including the fire call pay for the hourly guys.

12:56:29 Resident: Can you guys just elaborate what we went through with the difference in pay from this year where you guys designate the salaries?

12:56:51 Blaine Parsons: In previous meetings, correct me if I'm wrong, Penny, we've been doing it wrong for years. They dictate the salaries and administration pay. I have figures of what I think should happen this year. Like here we spent \$8,100 for salaries this year. The recommended is \$7,500.00.

12:57:50 Dan McCormick: The numbers that I have in front of me, you're talking about a breakdown for each position what it pays?

12:58:09 Blaine Parsons: Basically, what I'm asking, so everybody is clear with it. I'm clear with it and you're clear with it, is we suggested a salary for years for the Chief, Assistant Chief, and Second Assistant, and the admin over the last four or five years. In that meeting that we had was that we were doing it wrong. They wanted some clarification so the townspeople would know where we're going going forward and how you guys set our salaries.

12:58:46 Dan McCormick: Oh, okay. That's something different. That would be you, Penny.

12:58:52 Penny Picard Sampson: We found out, like a lot of towns, we've been doing things wrong the last several years meaning that municipal officers set salaries. So, in the past we're somebody would suggest from the floor that we give the clerk a three percent raise. That wasn't ever supposed to happen. It's supposed to be set by the municipal officers, figured in the budget and then you, being the voters, approved the budget up or down. A lot of towns still do that wrong, but it is the state law. The breakdown, what I think Blaine is trying to get it, is \$7,500 is \$600 less than the figure last year for the same position. [Correct] We gave the fire chief a \$700 raise from \$3,800 to \$4,500 although he had requested \$6,500. We gave the first assistant chief, we had just doubled it last year from \$459, we increased it to \$1,000. We left the second assistant chief at the \$900. We had a few years, when Dave Smith was significantly behind in his paperwork the opportunity to hire an administrative assistant and we guessed it would be about \$2,500. That was to keep up with compliance paperwork, which he, at the time, was a couple years behind. It is now my understanding that that compliance paperwork, it is our

understanding, not mine, that that compliance paperwork is now all caught up and complete through to July. We did not fund the administrative assistant to the amount they requested of \$2,500, and set it at \$500.

13:01:37 Blaine Parsons: So based on the \$7,500 you broke it down, you've got \$4,500 for the chief, which I'm fine with that, first assistant, and I know we can't discuss per protocols; however, Pat's doing a lot of stuff with the college setting, it's requiring more hours this year where he is going up and doing an emergency action plan with the college. We were up there this week doing inspection on the buildings with the public safety director, and we're working comprehensively with the college to get their emergency action plan in place as they don't have one at this time. We also went ahead and did a few building inspections the other night and found several violations. Instead of trying to get the fire marshal in and go that route, we're trying to work with them where they are a huge asset for the town as far as providing business to the stores and stuff like that. So that's where I have raised Pat's pay up to \$1,500. What I want to go over is, right now, with my figures, it only adds up to \$6,900. My question is, where is the other \$600 going to go? That's the only question I have.

13:03:08 Donald Newell: Thank you, Blaine. Other questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:03:18 Charlie Schaeffer: You all have probably been reading in the papers the mess in Thorndike between the fire department and the selectmen there. Also, I understand China is having some problems with their fire department. I just wanted to say I'm very thankful to Blaine and all of the fire people here, and also for our ambulance and emergency medical people who support our town, and the way the selectmen get along, and we don't have the problems like Thorndike and China. Let's give those folks a hand. [APPLAUSE]

13:04:42 Donald Newell: Next up is Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$73,161.70 for the Fire Department Maintenance and Operations account for the ensuing year. (This figure includes 17,800 for FF wages and 1,361.70 for payroll expenses). Moved and seconded. If you look at the recommendation below my understanding is that those figures - you should add to those figures the number in that parentheses of \$17,800 some odd thousand 361.70. That totals \$19,161.70. So, the fire department recommended the \$79,161.70, the Selectmen recommended whatever the two of those are added together, \$211,070. The Budget Committee recommended \$73,161.70. Just so you know. Am I right? Those are the real numbers? [Yes]. As you are considering this, you can see what the actual recommendation and requests were. The floor is open for discussion.

13:05:37 Emily Newell: Could you say that again those number?

13:05:44 Donald Newell: So below the actual article you have Fire Department recommended \$60,000. You need to add \$19,161.70 to that. That will add the fire fighter wages of \$17,800 and the payroll expenses associated with that. That includes it in the Article, \$73,161.70. Interestingly, the Article puts a cap on it. We couldn't approve more than more than \$73,161.70 even if we wanted to because it's in the Article. We don't get to go above what is stated. But I just wanted you to know what the actual recommended numbers were. So, \$79,161.70 and then

whatever the additional is. You can figure it out for the Selectmen recommendation, and the Budget Committee recommendation is \$73,161.70.

13:06:50 Alisha McCormick: So where does those 17,800 for fire fighter wages and payroll expenses, where does that come from. It is a confusing article.

13:07:13 Donald Newell: It will come from taxes.

13:07:18 Alisha McCormick: But we're not raising #73....I'm confused.

13:07:20 Donald Newell: We're raising whatever that adds up to, 50, 67, 211. The 79 is what the Fire Department requested, \$79,161.70 is what the Fire Department requested. You with me? [Yes] You take the \$60,000 and \$19,161.70 to it, and you get that number. We can't approve that any way. The Budget Committee recommended \$73,161.70.

13:08:00 Penny Picard Sampson: Your budget is the same.

13:08:16 Dan McCormick: Yes, basically the \$73,161.70 is your number that you're approving, the \$54,000.00 plus the fire calls plus the taxes. That was done just to clean up, so we didn't have to [INAUDIBLE] the salaries. We just kept the two separate. [DISCUSSION] All of that altogether, plus the \$54,000 is \$73,161.70.

13:09:24 Donald Newell: Does every understand where these numbers are coming from now? I don't see any hands. We have people lined up.

13:09:29 John Dowdy: What these recommendations and my math is \$67,211.70, and won't the Fire Department recommendation be \$79,161.70? Did I get that figured out right?

13:09:56 Blaine Parsons: So, this has been the discussion with the Selectmen, and we've been pondering this back and forth. Some heated and some not. We've been over a big part of this. The biggest thing with me, I've got to break down, my assistants will be passing out right now, everything right down to toilet paper for the year. So last year, just to give you an idea, there is no room for error on this. Last year, fuel altogether was \$3,684.12 is what we spent last year, just fuel not including the maintenance for the furnace, that goes in the building fund. They allotted me \$2,900. We've done a delivery in February, a delivery In March so we're already \$200-\$300 past what we were last year. Just to give you an example, I didn't account for any breakdowns, also I didn't account for the breakdowns or anything like that and we do have a fire truck that is down right now. We are trying to go through MMA for the insurance side of it, it split a tank. Rough figure worst case scenario, it could be up to \$17,000. Just keep that in mind. We try to cut numbers where we could. We did allocate a lot more money for training. I've worked Waterville fire school and the Waterville Fire Department to start with the Fire 1 and 2 programs, that is \$1,200 per person. When they come up they are Fire 1 and 2 and nationally certified, which gives us more trained fire fighters who do their jobs better. Basic fire school is just what it is. You need more training than just basic. A couple of questions that the Selectmen had were why are we putting money into college kids. At the end of the day, the college kids are the only ones who are willing to, take this training and, also, they are the younger generation that

are going inside for us. I've sent my crew to several out-of-town calls and I get from other fire chiefs condemnations [] from all the chiefs how they work, how they're trained, and what I don't want to end up having to go backwards in the training and getting into a situation like other towns around us are - a lack of training and then have a big thing. I've been working directly with the Selectmen trying to iron this all out. You take a look at the numbers. I've got everything broke right down to where I'd like to spend the money, and a little more than what the Budget Committee recommendations are but that's not accounting for emergency break downs. We're going to have those with the age of our equipment.

13:13:25 Gail Chase: This is a general question in looking at all the details. Penny, can you give me an explanation of something that you said a little while ago, first to this article and in respect to salaries. You said that the Town had been doing things wrong, that we were not allowed to, from the floor, suggest a raise for someone. And then you said so you present the budget and then we vote on it up or down, which we currently don't do. We vote on every article and we vote on salaries on every article. I'm sure you meant something, but I just don't understand what we actually do makes sense with what you said.

13:14:09 Penny Picard Sampson: For salaries, what is set by the Maine Municipal Association is set. You can discuss them. I'm on the Waldo County Budget Committee also so salaries come up. We can discuss what is set by the Commissioner, but we have no say. We just have to vote yes and approve the money. If you don't approve the money, then the people don't get paid.

13:14:42 Gail Chase: So, when it says how much the Town will raise and appropriate for x, the question is how much and you're saying that we actually don't have the right to answer that question?

13:14:57 Penny Picard Sampson: You can ask questions all you want.

13:15:00 Gail Chase: No, I mean we can't vote the way the article may be written. Does my question make any sense? Anybody? So, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate x, and say somebody said I think this guy is doing a great job, I want to increase by \$10,000, which I thought was a legal motion. You're saying that we cannot, in fact, do that?

13:15:21 Penny Picard Sampson: We cannot increase salaries.

13:15:24 Gail Chase: Okay. That's very odd because the warrant is written different. I'm just trying to understand.

13:15:37 Kari Hunt: Hold on. So, each of these articles that have a dollar amount in them, those are capped articles. You can go under that, but you can't go over it.

13:15:55 Gail Chase: Thank you. That's different.

13:16:01 Kari Hunt: Like the trash, going back to the trash as an example, that was left as an open-ended question because there was no value in there so you can increase it, you can decrease it. You can do whatever you want but if I had put in there, to see if the town would authorize

\$1.50 for stickers, you couldn't increase it. You could only decrease it. So, in this case with Fire Department salaries, you're capped at \$7,500.00.

13:16:25 Gail Chase: So, if someone said I want to make a motion to reduce that to \$6,500, that is legal. [Yes] You probably said that earlier and I just didn't get it.

13:16:40 Donald Newell: Other questions or comments?

13:16:44 Resident: I have two thoughts on this. The first one kind of is general [INAUDIBLE] it feels like some of the other departments are struggling like is talked about and ours [INAUDIBLE] and I think this is an opportunity for Unity to support the larger community by supporting their fire department. The other one is more of a more immediate one, we had a structure fire in Unity last night and they responded. I'm just going to say from personal experience when your house is on fire and your pets or your loved ones are inside, you're not going to want to be wondering where the fire department has to cut corners because we didn't give them the budget they needed to maintain their equipment.

13:17:51 Resident: [INAUDIBLE-NOT AT THE MIKE]

13:18:04 Dan McCormick: This is basically just based off the Budget Committee's recommendations and the Selectmen's, and based off previous years budgets. That's what the numbers were factored on. It's on there, for the \$60,000. That's what they recommended, but that's not what ended up on the Warrant.

13:18:44 Resident: Was that just a clerical error - what should have been on the Warrant?

13:18:49 Dan McCormick: No, the Selectmen and the Budget Committee said \$54,000:

13:18:58 Penny Picard Sampson: One of the questions, I'll answer for you. In looking at, and I'm just using round figures, last year they spent approximately \$54,000. That included \$6,000 to paint the fire house. So, you take away that \$6,000 because they don't need to paint the fire house again, that should have left \$48,000 which would have left everything exactly the same. But they asked for an increase of \$12,000. So the Budget Committee said let's just leave it the same at the \$54,000. Their training expenses last year were just a little over \$2,000, which has been the typical amount spent for the last several years but then this year they asked over \$7,500 for training. So even with the paint being done, that would've covered the extra in the training, so we felt that the Fire Department budget was a little bloated. To be honest with you.

13:20:10 Pat Haley: A couple questions on some items which I want to point out with training, why we had to go up because it had been underfunded for so many years. There is a thing from the State that mandates now such as Bureau of Labor standards, and also our fire fighters have to be trained to go inside the buildings now. Now we have to use some outside instructors because if you don't have the certificate for classes, the classes didn't happen with the State. So, we could have one of our long-time fire fighters teach, which is great for drills and stuff, but you can't certify somebody because they don't have the certification and they're not allowed to give your fire fighters a certificate. They aren't not qualified to do that. That's where you see the

\$7,550. We're seeing other towns, they're getting a few issues with that because they haven't been doing that. That also would affect our mutual relations because we have to have trained fire fighters to go to other towns to receive mutual aid. You have to be able to offer something to get something. Also, there are some set prices in here too, \$10,000 for insurance. There is nothing we can do about that. Another one is annual pump tests that is listed in there for \$3,000. Our ladder truck is due to be certified, to be tested, that's \$5,000. There is \$18,000 right there. When we go through this, [INAUDIBLE] about the only place we're going to be able to cut is in the training budget to make up for these other expenditures such as fuel, which they didn't plan on enough in the line item.

13:22:59 Dan McCormick: The one thing I'd like to address the UL in section you wanted, we actually called the UL section underwriters and they said it would be \$1,500.

13:23:21 Blaine Parsons: That is just for their UL test. [INAUDIBLE] That's what they quoted.

13:23:37 Dan McCormick: That was what it was to have it services?

13:23:43 Blaine Parsons: To pull all the cables off, look at all the cables, [INAUDIBLE] plus the service of the ladder, and inspection of the ladder.

13:24:03 Dan McCormick: Because Waterville and Fairfield said between \$1,500 and \$1,700.

13:24:15 Blaine Parsons: Waterville and Fairfield have regular services on their ladders, and they have brand new trucks.

13:24:27 Nancy ____: If we're unable to raise the \$73,000 figure, I move the question. We may not raise the \$73,000 figure as that's our cap. I move the question.

13:24:54 Donald Newell: Okay, we have a motion to move the previous question. Is there a second, we need a two-thirds vote by holding up your cards. And the noes? We have it. We have limited debate and now we're back to the main motion of raising \$73,161.70. Not seeing any further hands, I will call for the vote on the motion. Raise your hands. And those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you all very much.

13:25:30 Donald Newell: Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Fire Truck Fund for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:25:49 Jim Buckle: How much money is in the fire truck fund?

13:25:58 Kari Hunt: Altogether, \$68,000.

13:26:00 Pat Haley: I just want to do a point of interest this. It says \$10,000, that sounds like a lot of money, but I think Alisha can help me out on this. During the Budget Committee meeting, we learned that a fire truck costs roughly in the \$500,000 range so even \$10,000 every year, it would be 50 years before replacement for each fire truck.

13:26:45 Andy Reid: We've been raising \$10,000 and taking \$10000 out of TIF for quite a few years. A couple years ago, I said I'm the skunk in the woodshed but we had to cut. We cut, like I said, house to house pickup of \$9,000. We cut the fire department the \$10,000 to raise for a truck. If you look at what Penny put up there on the wall, they're looking at a new truck in 2025. The thing is, and I hope I'm not wrong, but once we get these loans paid off for the highway, which we really went overboard on as far as I'm concerned, then the Town would be more than willing to borrow some funds, and I'm sticking my neck out here, to get a fire truck. By that time, we should have maybe \$80,000 or \$90,000 saved up for the fire truck. That was the thought of not putting \$20,000 a year in. I just want to put it in your heads that come another three or four years, we're going to be looking at buying a new fire truck. That is one reason why Penny and the Selectmen are trying to cut that money down that we're paying each year to get these loans paid off.

13:28:39 Blaine Parsons: The other thing with the fire truck, myself and Pat and other officer are starting to get a plan together to consolidate fire trucks. We currently have six trucks in the station. We're like every other small-town Maine fire department. During the days we're limited on manpower so we're fortunate with the college kids here during the day. They run a lot of our calls as most of us work out of town. The other thing here that I'd like to mention is we getting the plan together to eliminate three trucks to make two at this point. It's a long-term plan obviously. We've got like I said six trucks. We've got three trucks coming up on 30 to 40 years old and that's where we're looking. I'm looking at all the grants so I'm going to need you guys support and just to go out a little bit. We are getting outdated on our air packs. We're five-generations of air packs behind right now and I can't even get parts for some of them. Going forward, I've got a Steven King grant all written for 50k, and I've got the funds for about seven packs, which we'll replace our packs with the most updated equipment providing we get the grant. So, we're working to try to get free money but just keep in mind that we're going to be looking at packs as well in the near future.

13:30:11 Penny Picard Sampson: Just a side note, we met with the First National Bank regarding our investments a couple weeks ago. The CDs, I think, on the fire trucks were getting about 1%, now which is a good rate for CDs believe it or not. The first offer is 2.5% to move the CDs over to money market. So, Kari called Bangor Savings to see about what the penalty would be for moving our CDs out and they were all wondering why are you interested in taking your CDs out. So, when they found out that she was looking at moving it to a money market at another bank, they offered her a much more lucrative deal on our current CDs so that, hopefully, will start generating a little more money for us. Good job, Kari.

13:31:24 Donald Newell: So, we're at 40 and I don't see any more hands. It looks like we're ready to vote on that. We're voting to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the fire truck fund for the ensuing year. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:31:45 Donald Newell: Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,115.50 for the Firehouse Loan Payment for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded motion is on the floor. Not seeing any hands, those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:32:08 Donald Newell: Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for E-911 for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:32:21 Blaine Parsons: I want to say one thing. I do appreciate everyone supporting the fire department including the Selectmen. I know you guys work as hard as we do. I just want to thank you guys for supporting us as much as you can. We know that budgets are tight. Thank you everybody.

13:32:55 Donald Newell: Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Constable for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. It's coming from surplus.

13:33:17 Penny Picard Sampson: The reason we can take that out of surplus is because we actually don't spend the money. It's a formality.

13:33:26 Jim Buckle: Why don't you spend it?

13:33:32 Penny Picard Sampson: We haven't had to.

13:33:40 Jim Buckle? We don't have a constable or he's too rich to take the money?

13:33:44 Penny Picard Sampson: We have two constables.

13:33:38 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? It's unanimous.

13:33:52 Donald Newell: Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded.

13:34:04 Pat Haley: Can I make an amendment for that? [Yes] I would like to amend that figure to \$1,000. The Fire Department Association just bought one through a State program, which the town can do. It ran \$800 in change with all the attachments. I gave the Selectmen the bill that we received. No tax dollars were used to buy it. [Would you speak into the mike please?]

13:35:04 Alisha McCormick: Can I ask where the AED is going? Sorry your wife wants to know.

13:35:18 Dan McCormick: That's going to be located at the Town Office. It's good to have one on hand and they do save lives. They're very easy to use. It's something that I very strongly believe in because I've seen them used before. That's all we can do. We can't put it on the outside of the building as it needs to be charged and vandalism and theft. It's better to have it inside half the time than not have one at all in my opinion.

13:36:02 Donald Newell: I want to ask some questions before you speak. Pat, you moved to reduce the figure by a 1,000. We already have the defibrillator.

13:36:14 Pat Haley: No, it is one just like it.

13:36:22 Donald Newell: So, you thought it might cost \$2,000 and you're able to get a deal?

13:36:31 John Dowdy: I will just state, as an ambulance attendant here, we do have, you call 911 and we bring our equipment. The benefit of the Town Office having one, which is a benefit of any public building having it, is three minutes is the ideal time to get an AED on a person who has gone down. The ambulance, fire won't likely be able to get to the Town office in three minutes. Your pads will expire roughly every two years.

13:37:26 Blaine Parsons: I just want to piggyback off what Don was saying, three minutes is the ideal figure. I've personally had to use it and up at the College as a security guard up there. I fully support this. I think we can get it cheaper than \$2,000.00 and I'll work with them to get them whatever they need.

13:38:34 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. Seeing no further hands, I'm sorry, motion to amend that figure to \$1,000, so that's where we are. All in favor of the amendment? Those opposed? Thank you. That passes. Now we're voting on the main motion as amended. All in favor of that? Thank you very much. That's approved.

13:39:24 Donald Newell: Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$78,046.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:39:40 Charlie Schaeffer: Is that for all salaries across the board?

13:39:47 Penny Picard Sampson: Pretty much, yes. Kari's contract calls for her COLA increase. The deputy clerks, both of them, one of them got \$1.00/hour and one of them got \$.50/hour. Code enforcement officer and animal control officer, selectmen...who else? That's it for salaries, I think. Our registrar of voters, health officer, they are all listed at the front of the book.

13:40:48 Donald Newell: Seeing no further hands are you ready to vote?

13:40:50 Pat Haley: I was just wondering what the Selectmen's salaries were last year and what they are going up to this year?

13:41:05 Donald Newell: That's on page 60. Top of page 60. Does that answer your question, Pat? Further questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:42:10 Donald Newell: Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,500.00 for Assessing Services for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, green cards? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:42:35 Donald Newell: Article 47. 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.

13:42:45 Charlie Schaeffer: Could you explain those acronyms.

13:42:48 Donald Newell: Animal control officer, code enforcement officer, licensed plumbing inspector, emergency management.

13:42:55 Resident: What is the ACO salary this year?

13:43:09 Penny Picard Sampson: She was given a raise to \$4,000.

13:43:15 Pat Haley: How do you get in touch with animal control? We've had a couple accidents [INAUDIBLE] with an animal inside the vehicle. We didn't know who it was.

13:43:33 Dan McCormick: The ACO's number is on the town website or during town business hours you could always call Kari. After hours she lists a cell phone on there as well you can reach her at. And according to Penny the communications center at Waldo has her numbers.

13:44:13 Blaine Parsons: The only question I have to piggyback off Pat - so we call the ACO, Crystal Nichols? So, okay, I've personally called her a couple of times on a personal thing, not fire department related, and she's been in Houlton. Do we have anybody else? Say she is on vacation.

13:44:33 Penny Picard Sampson: The Selectmen are responsible if animal control is unavailable and, yes, I've gone out on animal control calls. I'm a little familiar with it.

13:45:02 John McIntire: The contact information for the ACO is on page 16.

13:45:08 Donald Newell: Thank you, John. Seeing no further hands, assuming we're all ready to vote, all in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:45:12 Donald Newell: Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$67,000.00 for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded.

13:45:20 Charlie Schaeffer: Why are we voting for \$9,000 more than the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend?

13:45:37 Kari Hunt: Because Kari is getting a new computer. No there are some other expenses. Oh, turn your page to 76, and there is \$9,000 of admin fees as well. So, it's \$58,000 plus \$9,000. But there is an increase because Kari is getting a computer.

13:46:18 Donald Newell: So next year we can't have any articles go over the page. Any further questions? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:46:26 Donald Newell: Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for Legal Fees for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:46:42 Blaine Parsons: Motion to amend that to the \$3,200 because they only spent \$3,100 this year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing none will call:

13:47:06 Kari Hunt: Wait, I do. So, this is also if there is any legal stuff that comes up and we drop it to \$3,200, we would end up coming back to a special town meeting if we need any more legal fees. This also covers any ads that go out, any expenses accrued with deeds on tax acquired properties.

13:47:41 Penny Picard Sampson: So even though we're as a municipality protected by the Maine torts claim, etc., people can still sue you and they will sue you. We've been sued. If the fire department goes out on a call and the house burns down and they decide that you didn't get there fast enough, they could sue you and we're still going to have to provide money to defend that action even though they have no cause, which would bring that action forward. It does happen. It also covers any of our... not when you have to hire an attorney. That isn't paid for by MMA. If you find, what's the word I'm looking for, culpable, or something that is what the insurance is for. But the actual process of being sued, you need an attorney for....we also have regular legal fees which are figured into this. We've been dealing with the College on a memorandum of understanding about the Field of Dreams, and that's cost us several hundred dollars in attorney fees. So, it could potentially and has come very close to the \$5,000 mark previously. Last year it was a good year. We only spent \$3,100.00 and that little bit of a difference went into surplus.

13:49:28 Jim Buckle: For Article 11 you could use up to \$5,000 more from surplus to cover those unforeseen expenditures, right? Why raise money if you don't have to.

13:49:44 Penny Picard Sampson: We did have to use some of the unanticipated, I'm getting tired. Like last year we went over on the cemetery because somebody decided to go stone tipping in our Douglas cemetery, so we had to use some of that unanticipated money. The unanticipated money is just for that. Unanticipated if the furnace blows at the Town Office or fire station. We need to have that available.

13:50:23 Jim Buckle: You're anticipating more legal issues this year?

13:50:30 Penny Picard Sampson: Hopefully not. One never knows. We're still in negotiations about the MOU.

13:50:40 Jim Buckle: Unforeseen things. Here is another opportunity to cut some bucks.

13:50:47 Penny Picard Sampson: Legal fees are not unanticipated. We are anticipating legal issues.

13:51:02 Donald Newell: Okay, seeing no further hands, we have a motion to amend the figure from \$5,000 to \$3,200. We will vote on that motion to amend. All in favor. And those opposed? I'm going to have to count. Please, all in favor first? And those opposed? The ayes have it. So now we have the main motion with the new figure of \$3,200 and we're back open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote on the main motion as amended. All in favor? And those opposed? Motion carries.

13:52:08 Donald Newell: Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,421.88 for the Town Office Loan Payment for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. See no hands will call for the vote. All in favor. Those opposed? It's unanimous.

13:52:33 Donald Newell: Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,200.00 for Electricity for Town Lights for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded.

13:52:46 Nancy ___: I'm wondering why if the town lights replaced with LEDs, will we still need the same amount for lights?

13:52:58 Penny Picard Sampson: That's been my little pet project for the last year. We didn't have the new contract in place, nor did we know exactly when the lights would be replaced when this article was written. They gave me a week's advance notice that the lights were being replaced and they have been as of just a couple weeks ago. They did miss one at the intersection of Main and Depot. I was going to suggest an amended figure, the reason being we know the electricity is going to be less. We have the wattage amounts per hour or kilowatts per hour, but I don't know how to do the math on 41 lights at different wattages per light. It's not in my brain to do that. What we do know is that the lease per light, because we lease the actual streetlight from Central Maine Power, and each lease per month is now \$8.49 versus the old sodium lights range anywhere from \$10 to \$29 a month. I asked for a copy of the old contract so I could match up the account numbers, and figure out each light at 12 months at the old. Unfortunately, I don't have that and can't get it until next week. In the interim until next year, I would feel comfortable knocking like \$700 off it, and ask for \$7,500 versus the \$8,200 and we'll see where we come out at the end of year. Last year we had already decreased from \$8,600 down to \$8,200 so this would be an additional \$700. I would fully expect once everything is in place for a year, we'll have a more accurate number, but I didn't have a whole lot that I could work with as far as numbers until next week.

13:55:33 Donald Newell: Is that a motion to amend? [Yes} Okay, so the figure now is \$7,500. Any further discussion on the motion to amend. Seeing none will call for a vote. All in favor? Those opposed? The main motion now is \$7,500 instead of \$8,200. Any further discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously.

13:56:03 Donald Newell: Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,400.00 for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:56:15 Charlie Schaeffer: What is the status of our cemetery committee now?

13:56:22 Donald Newell: Lynn is retiring.

13:56:27 Penny Picard Sampson: We need volunteers, just like for every committee and department in every other town, we're low on volunteers. I almost talked Aunt Rosemary into joining the Cemetery Committee. That's kind of where we're at. We're still looking for people to join right now down. I think we're down to five or six people.

13:56:54 Charlie Schaeffer: What is somebody wants to buy or sell a plot?

13:56:58 Penny Picard Sampson: We handle that at the Town Office anyway . If it's okay with you, Don, I'd like to point out, out of that \$16,400, that \$9,400 is being raised, \$7,000 is coming from perpetual care interest so our investments did very well last year so we're able to withdraw half of the investment increase amount to pay for some of your cemetery upkeep.

13:57:34 Donald Newell: And we got Kari to renegotiate with the bank? Just asking. We're at \$16,400. Any further discussion? Hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

13:57:58 Penny Picard Sampson: Article 53. 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. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed. Motion carries.

13:58:16 Donald Newell: Article 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,769.00 for dues to Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:58:30 Charlie Schaeffer: What do we get for our money?

13:58:36 Gail Chase: I don't work there anymore. I can't tell you a thing! They work through KVCOG to obtain road signs, probably salt and sand, culverts...

13:59:04 Kari Hunt: Yes, salt, culverts, the road signs. There were a couple other things. They research for the best price for us. [Gail explaining more - inaudible]

14:00:07 Donald Newell: Thank you, Gail. I don't see any other hands, so we'll call for the vote. All in favor? Opposed? It's unanimous.

14:00:20 Donald Newell: Article 55. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,384.36 for the contract fee for the Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion: Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

14:00:45 Donald Newell: Article 56. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for General Assistance for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor? Those opposed? That was unanimous.

14:01:08 Donald Newell: Article 57. Shall an ordinance entitled "False Alarm Ordinance" be enacted? Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

14:01:24 Resident: I find the wording in the ordinance inconsistent. We talk about a false fire alarm within the text but down in the fees we call them nuisance alarms I just want to say I find that inconsistency disturbing.

14:02:00 Emily Newell: I wasn't able to attend the hearing. Is there any feedback from the hearing resulting in change to the ordinance or is this the same draft?

14:02:14 Penny Picard Sampson: The examples which have been read could include. There's a technicality.

14:02:26 Emily Newell: That was the one change from the hearing?

14:02:31 Penny Picard Sampson: That and the consistent usage of the false fire versus nuisance.

14:02:39 Emily Newell: Is the most current draft in the book? [Yes] It still has false and nuisance in there. Did you just say that you fixed that?

14:02:56 Penny Picard Sampson: It appears to me that whatever we fixed at the hearing...

14:03:01 Kari Hunt: It was a typographical error. I didn't even realize the word should be could.

14:03:18 Resident: Instead of first nuisance alarm it should say first false alarm. All of the nuisances should be changed to false.

14:03:39 Blaine Parsons: First of all, I appreciate the Selectmen were trying to come up with some sort of thing to correct that false alarms. There's a distinct different between false alarms that were actually false as they should, burned popcorn turns the fire alarms on. That alarm is acting as it should. As they've got it written right now, that's up to the fire department to judge this and control this. However, when this originally went out, and we've talked about this and I just want to make you aware of it, is the fire department has no involvement with making this originally. We have talked to the Selectmen since then, told them our concerns, and I just want to put that out there. I think it's well intended. For certain businesses we roll all the time to, but the fire alarms themselves are acting as they should. We could go on to a cooking lesson, cooking popcorn 101; however, it's the nature of the beast. But my true feelings about it is I think there is still some work that needs to be done to it. I'm not finding fault with them. How it is starting to create but I'd like to fine tune everything and get more involved with the ordinance to get it straightened out. I understand that the funds...that if we get to a point where we're doing fines that it will go to help with the fire truck, some portion of it. I'd like to work everything out.

It's not for the homeowner, the businesses. We went to Mac's Hardware, it was a system issue, we went four or five times to the building at night. He was just as upset about it as we were. The thing of it is, other than certain businesses, they take care of us in other ways - donations for fishing derbies and stuff like that. If anybody has questions, I'm all for what the town has got going on with it. We just want to make sure everybody understands, and we do the fine tuning in the right direction.

14:07:06 Emily Newell: I'm going to advocate to turn this down. It's not because the concept is one that I don't agree with. I think the concept is fine. It's doing the wrong thing for the wrong reason. The last thing I want to see is somebody not understanding they don't fall into that category and not calling. I encourage you to not pass this version of the Ordinance. We should talk about it more.

14:08:12 Dan McCormick: This was done as a direct response to meetings we have had with Blaine and the Fire Department over a lot of calls they were responding to and it was creating a lot of extra manhours. We were trying to help them remedy the situation by giving them a tool to use. It's not perfect but it is a work in progress. We have changed some stuff. There are obviously some things people are concerned with, but this was done to try to help them.

14:08:53 Penny Picard Sampson: The wording was taken from a Jersey City. But actually, taking direct wording from their ordinance.

14:09:10 Blaine Parsons: I just want to say from the fire department we appreciate you looking into this. We'll schedule a couple of public meetings and just get everything where the public is happy with it and not hurt us in the long run.

14:09:33 Resident: I was just looking over the responses and wonder where the false alarms are included.

14:09:43 Blaine Parsons: The alarm activations are usually false alarms [INAUDIBLE]. I used to work security. I worked nights. The fire alarms would go off. When I was on duty, security, I would carry my fire radio with me and as a fire officer I would cancel the fire truck. Correct me if I'm wrong but if this goes through, who is going to be enforcing this. It's going to be up to the fire chief and fire chief's designees on their reports to turn into the Town Office as a nuisance alarm. It's not really going to affect a whole bunch of people but it's going to hopefully tighten things up so we're not being called [INAUDIBLE]

14:11:31 Penny Picard Sampson: I'm just going to throw this out there. This proposed ordinance has been out for at least two months. We had a public hearing on this back on February 21 with plenty of time to change the wording. Yes, Kari forgot to put in false but that's not a big deal. This all should've, could've, would've been addressed way before today if the Fire Department had serious concerns with it. They could've given us their own suggestions. It's no skin off my teeth whether or not this ordinance passes. We got the ordinance basically at the request of the Fire Department because of false alarms at the College, particularly 28 last year, which is why we looked into doing an ordinance. The ordinance was drafted after looking at several from several cities. This was the simplest one. Maybe we should've gotten a more

difficult more complicated one, but appeared to be the simplest one, which is why it was the one that was chosen. If you want to turn down the ordinance, that's fine with me.

14:13:03 Donald Newell: It's starting to sound like it's us and them. We were doing really well up until now. I just try to urge everybody to continue to work together. So far today we've done beautifully. Back to where we are. The ordinance is what it is. We've had a recommendation to turn it down and then go to work to make it better or there were other recommendations to k go ahead and tweak this down the road. It's really the voter's decision how we're going to manage this thing forward. Any further thoughts or questions?

14:13:44 John McIntire: So, we're going to have a special town meeting anyway in June, correct? [Right] So if we were to take this back and work with the Fire Department and get something worked out where everybody's happy with and bring it back in June. Right, if it doesn't fly today let's bring it back in June. I'll work with you too, Penny.

14:14:33 Charlie Schaeffer: Move the question.

14:14:35 Donald Newell: Do we have a second on the motion? Moved and seconded. We're just voting on that to stop debate. All in favor of that, green cards? And those opposed? We have stopped debate and now we're going to vote on the question and that is do we accept it as is or do we turn it down and go back to work. Yes, accept it as is? How many want to work on this, and we bring it back? It's unanimous. The Article is defeated.

14:15:20 Donald Newell: The last Article, 58. Shall an ordinance entitled "Balloon Release Ordinance" be enacted? Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

14:15:35 Charlie Schaeffer: How do you enforce this ordinance? An ordinance is no good unless you can enforce it.

14:15:53 Penny Picard Sampson: That is what the CEO is for.

14:16:00 Charlie Porter: I am not certified to go around and check balloons or catch balloons.

14:16:11 Lynn Warman: Who started this whole idea of the balloon ordinance?

14:16:18 Penny Picard Sampson: So, I know some of you think its kind of funny and silly and all that, but I've been to a couple balloon releases. Quite by accident, I was at Wiscasset Raceway a couple years and they let 200 or 300 balloons with strings, you know, send them to heaven. We all know that they really don't go to heaven. They end up on the ground somewhere and there are many, many documented cases, all you have to do is go through your Facebook feed daily, and you'll see turtles and birds wrapped up in the strings of the balloons. You'll see them doing autopsies of marine life that are filled with plastic waste. Turtles, I think the balloons floating on the water are little fishes, they get them in their bellies and eventually die. People don't consider balloon releases littering because they go in the air and then away. If I took a couple hundred empty balloons and threw them out my car window in front of your house, I can betcha every one of you would be mad. So, what it does - it's also setting a

precedent. We would be the first community in Maine to ban this, mass balloon releases. Let's be stewards of the environment. Also, it's a baby step towards what other people are looking at doing. If we can't pass something like a balloon release, I don't know where we stand on the environment.

14:18:18 Alisha McCormick: My problem with the Ordinance is the wording, intentionality is a judgment call, and the number of 10. I think it's how do you prove intentionality? If we have a birthday party where there are 40 balloons and the kids all walk off with a balloon and half of them end up in the sky are you going to slap the cuffs on me? I just think you can't prove intentionality in an ordinance because that's a judgment call.

14:18:47 Lynn Warman: We need a cigarette butt ordinance.

14:18:55 Penny Picard Sampson: Well then let's draft one.

14:19:04 Blaine Parsons: I'm all for saving the animals and everything but there are certain circumstances and I did it at the public hearing as well. Twelve years ago, we had a set of triplets that died in a fire. They liked dolphins and I'll be the first to admit that I had 100 balloons in the air. There are certain things that you just do to honor their wishes. That's all I have to say about that.

14:19:35 Wendy ___: I just recently read where a college did some research on the environment and the releasing of balloons and they were interested [INAUDIBLE] community and then an environmental college consider a proposal like this.

14:19:56 Donald Newell: That is correct.

14:19:58 Pat ___: When you go back to intentionality, I think it's the kind of event, as an event you know balloons will be released, 100, that's the intention. I agree with Blaine in terms of what we may have done at the time, like when the triplets died. We've learned so much about what the danger is now, what happens to those balloons, it's different than it was.

14:20:44 Resident: [INAUDIBLE]

14:20:57 Charlie Porter: Moderator, can they speak in the microphone so we can all hear them.

14:21:22 Donald Newell: How many people need that repeated/ Okay, I think we're going to move on.

14:21:22 John McIntire: I agree with Alisha that intent is a judgment call. Change the wording intent to deliberate release of balloons. Then this thing is fairly clear. It doesn't say who is enforcing it but at least it tells the Raceway when they reopen, no, we don't want you releasing 100 balloons or any more than 10. I would offer that as a motion to change that from intent to deliberate.

14:22:01 Donald Newell: Can't do it.

14:22:14 Dennis Jones: Can we move the previous question.

14:22:22 Donald Newell: We have a motion to move the previous question. Nondebatable. Moved and seconded. That means we're going to stop debate. We need a two-thirds vote. All in favor, green cards. And those opposed? Motion carries. So now we're accepting or not the balloon release ordinance. So, if you're in favor of that, show me your green cards now. Keep them up there since I'm going to have to count. Are you in favor of the ordinance? Twenty-six. Those opposed? Fifteen. The ordinance passes.

14:23:52 Donald Newell: Thank you very much. You've all been great.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Powell-Wilson, Notary Public