

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF ATKINSON
2020 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Saturday, February 1, 2020
Atkinson Academy**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Atkinson, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

First Session of the Annual Meeting:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Dyke Auditorium of the Atkinson Academy, 17 Academy Avenue in Atkinson, New Hampshire, on Saturday, the 1st day of February 2020, at 10 o'clock in the morning to deliberate on the articles included in the Warrant. This session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of Warrant Articles 2020-4 through Article 2020-20. Warrant Articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV, with the exception of warrant articles whose wording is proscribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA 40:13, IV (a). Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the Official Ballot for a final vote as amended.

Second Session of the Annual Meeting (Town of Atkinson Election):

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, the 10th of March 2020, at the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main Street in Atkinson, NH, to vote by Official Ballot on the election of Town Officials and all Warrant Articles. By the vote of the Selectmen, the polls for the meeting will remain open from 7 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock in the evening.

In Attendance:

Moderator, James M. Garrity and Moderator Pro Tem, John Troy; Selectman Chair, William Friel, Selectmen, Jason Grosky, Gregory Spero and Harold Morse; Town Administrator, David Cressman; Town Clerk, Julianna Hale, Deputy Town Clerk, Bonnie Jordan; Supervisor of the Checklist Chairperson, Leslie Barbera and Supervisors of the Checklist, Ellyn Murphy and Adele Dillon; Budget Committee Co-Chairs, William Smith and Wendy Barker, Budget Committee Members, Robert Worden, Peter Torosian, Robert Malo, a total of **104** registered voters were there throughout the day. Also present were non-voters including an audio-visual crew and our Cable Coordinator, David Williams.

Pro-Tem Moderator, John Troy, sworn in at 9:45 a.m.

Call to Order

Moderator Jim Garrity called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Pastor Frank Haggerty from the Pentucket Baptist Church in Atkinson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Peter Torosian. The Moderator then asked those sitting up front to introduce themselves representing the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk's Office and the Budget Committee. He also commented that we had two of our State Representatives at the meeting, Rep. Debra DeSimone and Rep. Peter Torosian.

The Moderator, James Garrity, reviewed the purpose of the meeting, how it would run, and the Moderator's Rules (see attached). This included his requirement to refer to any speakers as "My Good Neighbor" and limit the floor-time to 3 minutes – or when the rooster crows (on his phone).

He then introduced a new sound block for the Moderator's gavel in honor of a deceased Atkinson resident and public servant, Peter Clement. Mr. Clement was a well-respected and integral leader in the Town of Atkinson and served several terms as Town Moderator, Selectman and other volunteer roles back in the late 1700's – early 1800's. Mr. Clement also built and lived in the house in which current Moderator Garrity lives. The sound block wood is from the original wood floor Mr. Clement laid in the carriage house.

Moderator Garrity noted the non-voters present who have permission to speak are Police Chief, Tim Crowley, Station Manager, David Williams and Town Administrator, David Cressman.

This meeting is public and can be recorded. It streamed live and was recorded on Livestream and Facebook for those who could not attend today's session.

Article #2020-1 Election of Officers

Moderator Garrity explained to the voters that while most officials are elected by ballot at the March Town Election, the Fence Viewers and Surveyors of Wood & Lumber are elected here, during Deliberative Session.

Moderator Garrity read the slate of 3 candidates for 3 Open Seats (1-year terms) for 2020-2021 Fence Viewers: Kenneth Grant, Susan Killam and Scott Sullivan. No objections were made and no new nominations from the floor presented.

Moderator presented the slate for vote on the floor.

PASSED

Moderator Garrity read the slate of 2 candidates for 3 Open Seats (1-year terms) for 2020-2021 Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: John Feuer and Edward Stewart. He then asked if there was a 3rd nomination from the floor, to which none were presented.

Moderator presented the slate for vote on the floor.

PASSED

Moderator Garrity read the 2020 Slate of Open Offices with the name of candidates who have filed to run for election. (See Attached *2020 Candidates for Open Seats* exhibit).

The Moderator announced the Meet the Candidates event, sponsored by the Atkinson Women's Civic Club on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 pm at the Atkinson Community Center. This is an opportunity for the residents to meet all those running for a seat in the Town of Atkinson or an Atkinson seat with the Timberlane Regional School District.

Moderator Garrity provided a synopsis of electioneering laws pertaining to the those running for office and the role of elected officials and town employees in office.

Moderator Garrity explained that Article #2020-2, Article #2020-3 and Article #2020-4 cannot be amended or deliberated, as they are Planning articles which already had their own public hearings. The Articles must go to the March 10th ballot as written. Moderator Garrity read all three articles as written.

Article #2020-2 Amend Article VI: Rural Cluster Residential Development, Sections 600:11, 600:14 and 600:15

EXISTING SECTION 600:11

600:11 Buffers Requirements:

- a. A multi-family townhouse cluster development shall have a one hundred (100) foot landscaped buffer around the entire parcel and along existing town roads to provide an adequate division of transition from abutting land uses and existing town roads.
- b. Single family residential cluster shall be subject to the following landscaped buffer requirement:

Fee simple lot ownership subdivision50'

Condominium ownership100'

The landscaped buffer shall extend around the perimeter of the entire parcel and along existing town roads to provide adequate transition between abutting land uses. Wherever possible, natural vegetation shall be retained. No construction, excepting primary access roads shall be permitted in the buffer. Septic systems, parking areas, and service roads shall be excluded from the landscaped buffer. No portion of the buffer area shall encroach onto any lot defined for construction of a dwelling within the single-family residential cluster development. (2001)

The Planning Board proposes to delete the existing Section 600:11 and replace with the following revised text.

PROPOSED SECTION 600:11

600:11 Perimeter Buffer Requirements

- a. The perimeter buffer serves to provide separation from and transition between abutting land uses (e.g. residential, non-residential, conservation lands) and existing town roads. Trees and other vegetation shall be retained. Trees, vegetation or invasive species deemed a hazard by the Atkinson Tree Warden may be removed on an individual basis or identified as part of a buffer management plan.
- b. The perimeter buffer shall comprise the following and any combination of the following:
 - i. Natural forest or landscape features or densely planted with trees and understory along the road frontage. A buffer management plan shall be provided as part of the application; or
 - ii. Managed forest or a combination of managed forest and other natural landscape features. A buffer management plan shall be provided as part of the application; or
 - iii. Restored buffer through replanting of trees and understory vegetation. A buffer management plan shall be provided as part of the application; or
 - iv. Natural forest or other vegetation, meadow or other landscape features such as wetlands that do not require active management to maintain.
- c. Rural Cluster Residential Developments shall be subject to the following perimeter buffer requirements:

i. Multi-family cluster developments	100 feet width
ii. Fee simple ownership subdivision	50 feet width
iii. Condominium ownership	100 feet width
- d. The perimeter buffer shall extend around the perimeter of the entire parcel being developed and along existing town roads. No grading, land disturbance or construction (e.g. structure or common facility such as playground, gazebo, pavilion, clubhouse), excepting for primary access roads, utility crossings and trails for non-motorized recreation, shall be permitted in the perimeter buffer.
- e. No portion of the perimeter buffer shall be included as part of any lot defined for construction of a dwelling.
- f. All building envelopes defined for construction of a dwelling shall have a 20-foot setback from the perimeter buffer.

EXISTING SECTION 600:14

At least fifty percent (50%) of the total land area, exclusive of roads, public or private, parking and essential services, shall be set aside as common land covenanted to be maintained as "permanent open space". (1990)

PROPOSED SECTION 600:14

At least fifty percent (50%) of the total land area, exclusive of roads, public or private, parking and essential services including stormwater management practices, shall be set aside as common land covenanted to be maintained as "permanent open space". For the purposes of this Article, permanent open space is defined as lands used for active agriculture or forestry guided by a forest management plan, natural landscapes that are actively maintained, and lands permanently protected from development (e.g. structures, construction activity, stormwater management) and uses permitted under Section 600:15.

PROPOSED SECTION 600:15

Such common land shall be restricted to open space recreational uses such as tot lot, park, swimming pool, tennis courts, playground, playfield, or conservation.

DELETE THE DEFINITION O4 OPEN SPACE FROM ARTICLE III DEFINITIONS.

Recommended by the Planning Board by a vote of 5 to 0

Moderator declared Article #2020-2 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-3 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Town of Atkinson and the Teamsters Local 633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year 2021	Estimated Increase \$ 14,482	Fiscal Year 2022	Estimated Increase \$ 13,725
Fiscal Year 2023	Estimated Increase \$ 14,050	Fiscal Year 2024	Estimated Increase \$ 14,415

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,382 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator declared Article #2020-3 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-4 Authorization for Special Meeting on Defeated or Amended Collective Bargaining Article (CBA)

Shall the Town, if Article #2020-3, is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one Special Meeting, at its option, to address Article #2020-3 cost items only?

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator declared Article #2020-4 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-5 Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Five Million Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Seven Dollars

(\$5,220,307)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Five Million Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$5,063,669), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one Special Meeting , in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a Revised Operating Budget only.

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0

Moderator Garrity explained how by law, we will go through each major section of the Operating Budget as outlined on the 2nd to last page of the warrant. We discuss the General Government heading - discuss and vote. Then move to Public Safety, etc... Then when each section is done, we vote on the overall budget as it will appear on the ballot on 3/10/20.

The Moderator turned the floor over to Chair William Smith who gave an overview of the budget since it is the Budget Committee's job to create the budget. Chair Smith provided a short presentation reflecting an overall budget increase of 2.11% over 2019. Employee Salary, Health Insurance, Computer & Automation Expenses, Police Department are up, Highway Dept. is down, Solid Waste Disposal and Library expenses are up, Debt interest is down.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion on the GENERAL GOVERNMENT line.

Selectman Jason Grosky made a motion to amend 40.41301.110.04 from \$0.00 to \$6,568 to represent restoration of a 2% Cost of Living increase & Highway & Library merit increases proposed and recommended by the Selectmen & Library Board of Trustees. 2nd by Selectman Morse.

Discussion: Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – Point of clarification: Budget Committee didn't cut out an increase altogether but adjusted it to 1.6%. The proposed \$6,568 reflects the difference between 1.6% & 2%.

Bob Worden, Budget Committee member spoke. He said he was the dissenting vote on this matter. The Budget Committee went with the average social security raise for a retired individual. He looked at 6 towns with similar population and found they gave an average of 2.6% and some give additional merit raises. Mr. Worden thought 2% was consistent with other towns of similar size.

Edward Stewart, 165 Main Street, asked 2 questions. 1) What was the % of increase that was awarded to the one department that had an approved Collective Bargaining Agreement? Town Administrator David Cressman answered 3%. 2) I understand the Board of Selectmen have the legal right to set wages & salaries for town employees and the Budget Committee does not. How are we even having this discussion? Wendy Barker responded that the Budget Committee has the responsibility to set the bottom-line. The wage increase can still come out of the budget out of any line.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there is anyone else who would like to come forward and make any amendments under General Government.

Selectman Harold Morse made a motion to amend line item 40.41506.740.01 under Finance & Administration from \$12,808 to \$22,808 to represent a down payment for scanning town records. 2nd by Selectman William Friel.

This would be an increase of \$10,000 to the bottom-line budget total.

Paul Wainwright, Maple Avenue and Chair of Conservation Committee. He has to frequently look for town records. *SUPPORT*

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee – The Committee thought long hard and had numerous discussions. Not against the project and it's time for this enhancement. Technology Committee did not provide project plan or preparation. The Committee decided to give some seed money to start this project. We need more information in order to obtain more funds. *OPPOSE*

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – We agree the need is there. We were looking at it as a phased-in project. Disagreement is the timetable to implement it. We just need to do it in steps. *OPPOSE*

Chair Smith, Budget Committee – Not good to rush new technology as there is risk. Things can go fast, and mistakes are made. We recommend an incremental approach. We feel this seed money is appropriate. *OPPOSE*

Sam Butler, 45 Maple Ave. - What is the number that was suggested by the budget committee and what is the amended increase difference?

Moderator Garrity responded that the Budget Committee allocated \$12,808. The amendment on the floor is for an additional \$10,000.

Selectman Morse asked the Moderator to allow the Town Administrator to speak.

David Cressman, Town Administrator - What the Budget Committee approved was \$5k for installation and \$5k for scanning. He said that it's not new technology it's decades old. He installed this system 20 years ago in a community that is still using it. File drawers have very little space to maintain and keep records. We will need more money for file cabinets, file drawers and space. He said he had 2 vendors come in with estimates. One estimated over \$50k to do all the scanning. The other vendor quoted \$33k just to do items in the Inspections area, another \$11k for Assessing area. Somewhere in the range of \$50k. If phasing in as suggested by Budget Committee, this will be a 10-year project. The new amendment would make it a 3-year project.

Bob Worden, Budget Committee - Saw the \$46k bid. He looked at it as phased in over 3 years in 3 divisions – Town Clerk, Planning, Selectmen. His original recommendation was \$17,762 each year over 3 years. **SUPPORT**

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – It's not necessarily new technology, but it's new technology to the town. There is a 'new projects' line in the technology budget that's already up by 27% even before this proposed amended increase. Didn't feel it was an imperative need at this time but will be in the future. **OPPOSED**

The Moderator reminded the floor that the Selectmen can move money anywhere from within the budget; but we do these discussions by line item, so the Administration knows what the voters want.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote.

AMENDMENT PASSED

The Moderator asked if there are any other questions or discussion on the General Government line.

Barbara Snicer, 22 Devonshire Road, asked the Budget Committee specifically why and where they cut the Maintenance Budget in the Buildings.

Chair Smith responded that the Committee did not cut the Buildings Budget but provided reductions from last year's increase.

Barbara Snicer asked the Budget Committee to explain where these reductions took place.

Chair Smith responded, "in a general sense, about half the buildings got increases and half got small reductions".

Karen Steele, 4 Pebblebrook Road, stated that she thinks she could clarify the confusion: In 2018, buildings were budgeted at \$123k but expenditures were \$160k. In

2019, budgeted at \$130k, expended \$152k. It seems there's a trend where the budget committee isn't funding as much as we are spending.

The Moderator asked if there is any further discussion on the GENERAL GOVERNMENT line. No further discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve General Government as amended.

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the PUBLIC SAFETY line. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve Public Safety as written.

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the HIGHWAYS & STREETS line.

Ted Stewart, Road Agent - Budget Committee cut the tree removal line within Highway and Streets down to \$2000 from \$4000. Trees should not be in our right of way. It was cut by \$2k, which equates to two days of having a tree in a right-of-way. It's a safety issue.

Edward Stewart, Road Agent, made a motion to amend the Highway Department budget to increase it by \$2000 to support tree removal services. 2nd by Paul Wainwright, Maple Ave.

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – In 2019, \$15,600 was expended. We changed that line to \$16,000. Also, the Public Utilities has stepped up and cleared trees from the right of ways. We're always looking for a balance. This was not a cut, but less of an increase. *OPPOSE*

David Shykes, Bittersweet Lane - \$2000 is so minimal it's almost a non-event. If it becomes a subject of safety then this may be too small an amount. Should be more than that. *SUPPORT*

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee then explained that it seems like a small amount, but it adds up. The Committee goes line by line and decides where money is best spent. In this line, this is an increase over last year's budget. The Committee did not give them the \$4000 increase they asked for but did give an increase of \$2000. *OPPOSED*

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – No one disputes safety. If we need to spend more money there, the selectmen can move money and find it. *OPPOSED*

Bill Innes, Hawthorne Road - I remember years ago the town was without power for 2 weeks. We need to ensure we do everything we can to address safety concerns.
SUPPORT

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote:

AMENDMENT PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any further discussion on Highways & Streets. No further discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve Highway & Streets as amended:

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the SANITATION line. No discussion.
Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve the Sanitation section of the budget as written:

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the HEALTH & WELFARE line. No discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve the Health & Welfare section of the budget as presented:

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the CULTURE & RECREATION line. No discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve the Culture & Recreation section of the budget as written:

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the CONSERVATION line. No discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve the Conservation section of the budget as written:

PASSED

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the DEBT line. No discussion.
Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve the Debt section of the budget as written:

PASSED

According to Budget Chair, William Smith, the NEW 2020 Operating Budget based on amendments totals an increase of \$18,568, subject to double-checking later, thus changing the presented bottom line to a new bottom-line of \$5,238,875.

Brian Boyle, Winslow Drive, asked the Selectmen what the surplus was for last year. Town Administrator Cressman responded that there was \$200,000 surplus on the

expenditure side. Mr. Boyle then thanked the Budget Committee for all their work and ended saying there is plenty of money to run the town.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to amend Warrant Article #2020-5 Operating Budget to total “(\$5,238,875.00)” instead of “(\$5,220,307)”.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-5 moves to the ballot as amended.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 1-5. 2nd by Peter Torosian.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Articles 1-5.

RESTRICTION OF RECONSIDERATION IS ADOPTED. PASSED

Article #2020-6 Fire Department Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, as modified March 14, 2000 (Article #2000-28) for the purpose of acquiring fire equipment and vehicles, as outlined by the Board of Engineers' Capital Improvement Plan? This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to move this article to the ballot as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-6 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-7 Fire Department Staffing

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) for the purpose of developing a long-term staffing proposal for the Fire Department?

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote to 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity interrupted the process to clarify a change on how the recommended votes from the Selectmen and Budget Committee will be reflected in future warrant articles and election ballots.

On the bottom of many warrant articles, it states the "Recommended by...". If it's a negative vote it's hard to understand. Research was done with other towns and legal counsel. Although there is no specific law that states how these are to be written, they are to be in plain, simple English.

From now on, the wording will state the result with the number of votes. This new wording is what will get written on the ballot.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion regarding Article #2020-7.

Mike Murphy, Fire Chief - Our town will outgrow the services of the Fire Dept. We need a master plan going forward regarding our staffing, administration, and future of the department. We need to get a comprehensive study done by an independent, outside, professional source. The days of volunteers are going away. Our department is aging out. We need a strategic plan/road map to save money in the long run.

Bob Worden, Budget Committee - When he looked at \$16k proposal, had 2nd thoughts. There are a lot of questions to answer about the future of the department. He looked at the proposal for the collection of data for the study. A lot of that work has already been done. Mr. Worden likes to have local people who know our area well do this work. Instead of the proposed \$16,000 request, he recommends a \$4,000 fund. **OPPOSED**

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee - A study was done a couple years ago. We discussed the need to add full-time staff. The decision was to add a couple full-time spots, which has been done. Steps have already been taken and this can be revisited in the future. He stated that this can be done for less than what's on the warrant. **OPPOSED**

Marybeth Torosian, 18 Crown Hill Drive, made a motion to amend Article 2020-7 to reduce the \$16,000 to \$4,000. 2nd by Peter Torosian.

Chief Murphy - We went out and got pricing which came back at \$22,000. Some of the work proposed was already done, just as Mr. Worden had referenced. We reduced the quote to \$16,000. We can't do the plan halfway. If we do it right, it's a 10-15-year plan. **OPPOSED**

Phil Sherwood, Sunset Drive - We'd be tying their hands if this is brought down to \$4,000. Putting \$16,000 toward this could save us money down the road. **OPPOSED**

Bill Innes, Hawthorn Drive - Overall the town doesn't do a good job looking forward. Things are changing too quickly. We need to do a better job planning. **OPPOSED**

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee - opposed to My Good Neighbor who just spoke. Budget Committee does look at the future and growth of the town. We don't appropriate money without some sort of data or project plan to support it. The Fire Dept is well

organized and we are always presented with a plan for spending. Budget Committee is not against FD Staffing. We were presented with a plan a couple years ago to begin phasing in fulltime vs. volunteer positions. It has been done and if it needs to continue, I agree with Mr. Worden that we should get local talent in to get the outside support and spend only \$4000. **SUPPORT**

Peter Torosian - disagree with the statement that the town doesn't plan. Budget from 18-19 went up 6%. If this amendment passes and the Department feels they need more funds, they can come back and revisit in future years. **SUPPORT**

Charlie George, 6 Upland Rd - The Town made the right decision to spend the money to hire Consultants for Police Chief Crowley. When it comes to fire safety, you want to make sure you plan. **OPPOSED**

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to amend the article as written.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any more discussion or amendment to this article as it was originally written.

Barbara Snicer, Devonshire Rd, made a motion to amend the article for housekeeping purposes. She asked to add the following language to the end of Article #2020-7 as it is currently written:

"This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until these projects are complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5 the Operating Budget."

2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of Article #2020-7 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-7 moves to the ballot as amended.

Article #2020-8 Building Maintenance Designs

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be used to further develop the recommendations of the Building Assessment Survey currently underway? This would include but not be limited to preliminary architectural services, feasibility studies, cost estimating, land surveying, in-depth testing, specialized consultants. These services will be enlisted under direction of the Building Needs Committee and the Selectmen to accurately create the 1, 5, 10- and 20-year Capital Improvement Budget and Plan

for the Town of Atkinson and all of its Physical Assets including buildings and land.

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until these projects are complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5 the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity called for discussion or amendments on Article #2020-8.

Ken Grant, Crown Hill Rd, asked if the Building Needs Committee is a statutory committee and if this article is worded correctly.

Moderator Garrity responded that it's appointed by the Selectboard as an Advisory Committee. In terms of the article being written correctly – we can vote on any language we want. If it's incorrect and/or illegal, the DRA will tell us we can't do it after the fact.

Bill Smith asked the Moderator that if this is an Advisory Committee, will the funds be spent by the Advisory Committee or by the Selectmen who appointed the committee?

Selectman Grosky responded that the Selectmen have final say where the money is spent.

Charlie George, Upland Rd. – A lot of volunteers turned out for this committee. It began in April 2019. Whole list of things needing to be done. It's being done slowly and methodically. We are looking for money to perpetuate to Phase 2. This is a 10-20-year plan to develop a solid plan for today and tomorrow. He also wanted to correct a number he heard that the town's buildings are valued at about \$7 million. The Library alone is valued at \$3.7 million. The total for all buildings is more like \$12-15 million in asset value.

Moderator Garrity asked Mr. George if the Building Needs Committee would be open to a gentle wording amendment to clarify the accountability and control of the Selectmen.

Bill Innes, Building Needs Chair, made a motion to amend Article #2020-8 as follows:

In the 3rd sentence of the article, strike the words “under direction” and insert the words “by recommendation” and insert the words “decision by” between “and” and “the Selectmen”. 2nd by Selectman Friel.

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee said the reason the Budget Committee didn't recommend the warrant is because they haven't seen an outline of this project. The Selectmen gave them \$25,000 in 2019. We would rather see results from 2019 money spent before putting more money against it. **OPPOSED**

Moderator Garrity called for a vote to amend the article as written.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee – point of clarification. I asked the Building Needs Committee if the Rockingham Planning Committee would be part of this project since we already pay them a fee and when they helped us with the Master Plan. I wanted to know if they would be part of this project to try to find a way to bring this to fruition without paying the \$50k. I haven't gotten an answer to that yet. *OPPOSED*

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of Article #2020-8 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article 8 moves to the ballot as amended.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restricting reconsideration of Articles 6, 7 & 8. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Articles 6, 7 & 8.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-9 Building Needs Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding ongoing maintenance and improvement issues with Town facilities; to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to Expend these funds upon the recommendation of the Building Needs Committee; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to begin this trust? It is the intention to request Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) per year, to maintain a total of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for this Trust. This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Bill Innes, Hawthorne Drive, made a motion to amend the article by striking the words “upon the recommendation of the Building Needs Committee;” from the article. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Mr. Innes explained that the Selectman have the ultimate decision-making in the process. Moderator Garrity reiterated that if in 20 years, the Selectmen want to spend from this fund and there is no Building Needs Committee, they can still do so.

Moderator Garrity explained that when establishing an Expendable Trust Fund, it originates as a warrant article. People who have custody of the fund are the Trustees of the Trust Fund. The expenditures must be appropriated unless agents are named and

this case, agents are named. The Selectmen are the agents and the ultimate decision makers.

Mr. Torosian clarified that if the Selectmen want to spend that money any way they want, they can.

Moderator agreed and added that it would still be the case if this amendment wasn't made.

Ken Grant, Crown Hill Road – The amendment would take away the recommendation and open it to no specific source. *OPPOSED*

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator asks if there's any discussion on the amended article.

Jason Grosky, Selectmen – like his Good Neighbor said, at first, he was not thrilled to learn of the requested \$25,000 expenditure in 2019 until he learned who the volunteers are involved. All involved have the utmost integrity and character. Mr. Grosky was disappointed that the Budget Committee does not recommend Articles #8 and #9. Money is being requested for a good purpose, great use, looking ahead in 10 years. The town needs to understand and protect those \$13 Million in assets. The town has not done well setting money aside for maintenance projects. **SUPPORTS ARTICLE 8 & 9**

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of Article #2020-9 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Garrity declared Article 9 moves to the ballot as amended.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 9. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Articles 9.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Moderator Garrity declared a break for lunch recess at 11:55.

Moderator Garrity declared back in session at 12:25.

Article #2020-10 Highway Shim and Overlay

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Eight Thousand Eighty Dollars (\$408,080) for the purpose of shimming and overlaying the following roads: Millstream Drive, Woodlock Park Lane, Rose Lane, Salem Road, Fieldstone Lane, Sunny Meadow Road, Stonewall Terrace, Oakridge Drive, Deer Run Road, Abbey Lane and Brushwood Drive? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator asked if there's any discussion on Article 10. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to move this article to the ballot as written.

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-10 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-11 Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding the purchase of vehicles and equipment for the Highway Department, according to the Highway Department's Capital Improvement Plan; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) to be deposited in this fund? This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity called for discussion or amendments on Article #2020-11.

Ted Stewart, 165 Main Street – Would like the budget committee to reconsider. The debt went down because the back-ho and truck are paid off. The Capital Reserve Fund is very important and prudent. Hopes voters will do the right thing even if not recommended by Budget Committee. Mr. Stewart will come back in 2021 and try again if it doesn't pass. **SUPPORTS**

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – We voted to not recommend because we appropriate money for trucks in the operating budget. Leased vehicles have no interest to pay. A good policy to allow the selectmen to have a say in the budget. When it goes to a Capital Reserve fund, some of that control is lost. **OPPOSED**

Ted Stewart- 165 Main Street – I don't believe there is any such thing as a non-taxable lease program. Our budgets have gone up, but our tax rates went down because our revenues are higher. Doesn't make sense to make these cuts. **SUPPORT**

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee – There was no projected spending plan presented to support this dollar amount or future impact to the taxpayers. **OPPOSED**

Bob Worden, Budget Committee – The Committee recommends the Highway & Streets do similar planning as the Fire Dept. does. The Committee didn't have info in front of them at the time. Mr. Worden was not present at the Budget Committee meeting when votes took place. **SUPPORTS**

The Moderator asked if there is any further discussion. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to move this article to the ballot as written.

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-11 move to the ballot as written.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 10 and 11. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10 & 11.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-12 Road Agent Position

Shall the Town establish that, when the incumbent, elected Road Agent leaves his position, that position converts to that of an appointed, full-time town employee?

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Karen Steele, Pebblebrook Rd., asked the question what does "Leaves his position" mean? When his term is up?

Moderator Garrity shared his notes – What timing? No indication of current vs. future Road Agent? Current Road Agent term expires in 2021. If there is an election for Road Agent in 2021, and current Agent runs and loses. What happens to the newly elected Road Agent in 2021? Moderator Garrity recommends an amendment. Unless current Road Agent resigns mid-term before the filing period of next Town Election, then there won't be an election the way this is worded.

Selectman Grosky – The intention was when Mr. Stewart leaves his position, the position would become an appointed position. I move to insert the word "current" instead of the word "incumbent".

Karen Steele asked another clarifying question to understand.

Selectman Grosky explained the intention of the article. The Road Agent would stay as an elected position for as long as Mr. Stewart is in the position. When Mr. Stewart is no longer in the position – however that happens – the position becomes appointed.

Moderator Garrity clarified that if Mr. Stewart runs for re-election and loses, you must allow the elected official to serve their term. You can't NOT let the voters have what they want.

Karen Steele asked if there would be any cost associated with this change.

Selectman Grosky replied no.

Selectman Grosky offered an amendment to Article 12 to add the word "current," before the word "incumbent". 2nd by Selectman Harold Morse.

Bill Steele, Pebblebrook Rd. said there needs to be a discrete number in there - an actual year/end of term needs to be included.

Moderator Garrity moved the motion to amend the article to add the word "current" before "incumbent".

AMENDMENT FAILED

Barbara Snicer, Devonshire Road, - Is there any reason we can't add his name in and have him win until he loses or leaves.

Moderator Garrity said that would be inappropriate.

**Sam Butler, 45 Maple Ave, offered a motion to amend the article as follows:
Shall the Town establish that the position of Road Agent be converted to that of an appointed, full-time, Town employee in 2023.
2nd by Jeff Nenart, Sawyer Ave**

Moderator Garrity clarified that a Town Official is legally different than a Town Employee. Currently Road Agent is a Town Official.

Deb DeSimone- point of order. An Elected Official, although elected, the Road Agent works under the purview of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Grosky – The Board of Selectmen believe the position of an elected Road Agent is an outdated concept. Mr. Stewart has been re-elected year after year, he knows what he's doing. There are advantages for the current Road Agent to stay as elected. However, the town wants the flexibility to choose and hire a professional once Mr. Stewart leaves his elected office. *SUPPORT*

Sam Butler, 45 Maple Ave said that the amendment was just an arbitrary number. It has no reflection on the incumbent.

Peter Torosian questioned changing the intent of the article.

Moderator Garrity clarified that you can change the intent of the article but not the subject.

Bob Worden, Budget Committee – Believes this is a position move for Mr. Stewart.
SUPPORTS

Deb DeSimone, Providence Hill Rd – Just a question, if Mr. Stewart decides he no longer wants to run for office but later applies for the hireable position, can he do that?

Moderator – YES

Wendy Barker, as a taxpayer – Please clarify what, if any, salary or benefits would change if converts to an employee? Do elected officials participate in the retirement plan and medical benefits?

Moderator Garrity said yes; the current incumbent is a hybrid. He's elected and he's an employee.

Wendy Barker asked if Mr. Stewart would have to apply for the position if it becomes an employee position. Moderator Garrity responded yes.

Sue Coppeta, Murray Drive – Clarified the difference between elected & hired. If elected, you have to be a resident of Atkinson to be elected.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of the amendment on the floor.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any more discussion.

Selectman William Friel offered an amendment.

"Shall the Town establish that when the incumbent, elected Road Agent, leaves his position, the position does not convert to that of an appointed, full-time employee." 2nd by Selectman Harold Morse.

Karen Steele Pebblebrook Rd. requested more clarification on the proposed amendment. What happens if Ted Stewart loses the 2021 election?

Moderator Garrity responded that the winner would serve as the Elected Road Agent.

Paul Wainwright, Maple Ave - If this amended article goes to the ballot and it's voted down, what happens?

Moderator Garrity responded that the position stays the same as an elected position. However, that this is a good question. Always good to state motions in the positive. If I

say I do not want to convert it, and I vote NO to NO, so, does it become a yes?
Because it's a double-negative, it won't work.

Selectman Friel said the original intent of the article has been lost as he was trying to to get it back to the original article as it was written.

Moderator Garrity asked Selectman Friel if we can just withdraw his amendment.

Selectman Friel withdrew the amendment on the floor.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

There was more discussion and clarification from the floor. The Moderator asked Mr. Stewart when he's looking to retire.

Ted Stewart, Road Agent - looking to run another term. Wants to help the town transition the position to appointed. Mr. Stewart is good with the current wording as 2023.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of Article #2020-12 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any more discussion. There was none.

Moderator declared Article #2020-12 moves to the ballot as amended.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 12. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Article #2020-12.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-13 Mosquito Control Expendable Trust

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Thirty-four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$34,500) for the purpose of insect control, such funds to go to the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund, established March 14, 2006 (Article #2006-11) for that purpose? As of December 31, 2019, there were Six Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$616) in the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund. This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Dave Paquette, Trustee of the Trust funds, asked why this article comes up every year and is not just part of the Operating Budget.

Selectman Grosky replied that it's never been presented in the past as part of the Operating Budget but can look at putting it in the Operating Budget next year.

Barbara Snicer, Devonshire Rd., asked why the amount decreased from the \$49,000 it had been?

David Cressman, Town Administrator said that it went out for bid and got a lower number.

Barbara Snicer commented that it's been an Expendable Trust. It's been withheld from the Operating Budget so it won't be spent elsewhere. Maybe in the future, instead of using an Expendable Trust, just have it in as a warrant article that way if it doesn't hit the threshold of that amount, then the money can go back to the town that year rather than carrying over.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any more discussion. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to approve Article #2020-13 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-13 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-14 Control Invasive Plants on Town Conservation Land

Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000) to hire one or more qualified, professional contractors to control invasive plants in the Sawyer Town Forest, with said funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, the work to be performed under the direction and control of the Atkinson Conservation Commission? Such funds to come from the Forest Maintenance Fund established in 1991 pursuant to RSA 31:113 for the purpose of the maintaining the health of the town's Town Forest. As of December 31, 2019, there were Thirty-One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$31,657) in the Forest Maintenance Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5. the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Paul Wainright, 45 Maple Ave & Chair Conservation Commission: Oriental Bittersweet is a growing problem in Atkinson. Conservation Committee has three goals: 1) Do what we can to protect the Town's Conservation lands 2) Set a good example to

encourage homeowners to control invasives on their land. 3) Provide recommendations to homeowners on methods that they might use themselves. The Sawyer Town Forest has a major problem. Committee hired a Forester to study & recommend a solution. Mr. Wainwright pointed to the chart on the easel. Good news: The Forest has very few invasive plants in the center of the forest. Bad news, Main Street & No. Broadway sides are heavily invaded with Bittersweet. Then the transition area is yellow. The Commission wants to work first in the yellow area. That's where the \$19,000 comes in. Anything not used in the yellow zone will then move to the green zone. This warrant article does not raise taxes. There's a Forest Maintenance Fund established in 1991. Anytime a selective timber cut is done on town land, usually revenue positive, the \$1000 that comes out of it goes to this Town Forest Maintenance Fund that has about \$31,000 in it. We are asking voters to allow the Committee to spend the money that's in the bank already.

Moderator Garrity said the word "appropriate" is the key word. The word "raise" is not used – which would indicate a tax increase.

Phil Sherwood, Sunset Dr. – Great job Chair and thank you. Does the article wording have to denote specifically the Sawyer Town Forest? If we remove the words "Sawyer Town Forest", does it undermine the intent of this article? Do you have to pick a specific spot?

Paul Wainwright replied that they would be good with an amendment that deletes the word "Sawyer" from the article.

Phil Sherwood, Sunset Drive, offered an amendment to Article #2020-14 to strike the word "Sawyer" from the Article. 2nd by William Steele, Pebblebrook Rd.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any more discussion on the amendment. There was none.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-14 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there are any other amendments to this article. None were presented.

Moderator declared Article #2020-14 moves to the ballot as amended.

Article #2020-15 Town Hall Generator

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$47,800) to purchase and install a generator at the Town Hall? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 4 to 1
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any discussion on this article. There was none.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-15 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-15 moves to the ballot as written.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 15. 2nd by Harold Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Article #2020-15.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-16 Amend the Solar Energy Exemption

Shall the Town vote to amend the Solar Energy Exemption of 2009 (Article #2009-22) from:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62 for an exemption for property tax purposes from the assessed value of real property with a solar energy system for the purpose of heating, cooling or providing electricity, which exemption shall be in the amount of the equipment plus installation?” to:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62 for an exemption for property tax purposes from the assessed value of real property with a solar energy system for the purpose of heating, cooling or providing electricity, which exemption shall be in the amount of the assessed value of the system since 2009?”

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any discussion on this article.

Bob Malo, 12 Meadow Lane – My question is, if you put in a system in 2010 or 2012 or 2014, 5 years from now it will have depreciated value. However, this article says that it would have the assessed value from 2009. Should it be amended to speak to the most current assessment?

Barbara Snicer, Devonshire Rd - This was recommended by our professional Assessor to address my Good Neighbor's comment. The system still must be assessed every 5 years. It seems it was not appropriate to restrict the value of having the solar unit to its cost 5 or 10 years ago. It's kept up to the current valuation adjusted every 5 years. It will be done again in 2021.

Bob Malo responded the point is to make it the most current assessment. Otherwise you'll have to re-do this article after every assessment period?

Barbara Snicer – No. The assessment is brought up to date when it's revalued every 5 years. The system also comes up. Currently we are at 2016 values. The 5-year period for adjusting the assessment will be 2021.

William Smith, Budget Committee Co-Chair, asked if the Assessed value will go up or down.

Barbara Snicer responded that all systems in the home must be functional. All house systems while they don't intrinsically increase in value, it's all part of the house that increases or decreases in value as the market suggests.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-16 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-16 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2020-17 Keno 603

Shall the Town vote to allow the operation of Keno 603 within the Town pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 284:51

Moderator Garrity clarified that this is wording that we can't touch. It's either a YES or NO by the voters. It's an opt-in if the town wants to do it.

There is no recommendation by the Selectboard because it's not a spending article.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-17 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-17 moves to the ballot as written.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 16 & 17. 2nd by Selectman Morse.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Articles #2020-16 and #2020-17.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Moderator Garrity explained that all warrant articles are treated the same. Citizen's Petition Warrant Articles are no different. All can be amended.

Article #2020-18 SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth

(by Petition)

On petition of 30 registered voters, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate annually the (estimated) sum of \$6,901 (one dollar for each member of the Town population) to support the services of the SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth. The SoRock Coalition is a non-profit organization designed to promote wellness and nurture resiliency for the children, youth and families of Atkinson as well as surrounding communities with the goals of preventing substance misuse and reducing the stigma related to mental health issues. SoRock does this through coordinating community education, programming & resources and collaborating with federal and state agencies to help direct additional resources to the towns they serve.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 1
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any discussion on this article.

Before beginning the discussion, Moderator Garrity made a couple notations. The Article says, "raise and appropriate annually the sum of whatever".

- The Actions at one town meeting cannot be binding for future town meetings. We can't tell next year's Deliberative Session what they can't do next year.
- The words "Estimated sum of" ... Department of Revenue Administration doesn't like that. We may consider putting a real number in there.

Laura Fleider, Academy Ave – this could lower cost for the town in the long run by preventing the use of Fire & Police and will be an investment in our youth. The SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth Director is present today to answer questions.
SUPPORTS

Moderator Garrity asked if anyone wants to offer a friendly amendment to take out the word annually and estimated.

Deb DeSimone, 11 Providence Hill, said that the latest census bureau says Atkinson has a population of 7015 citizens.

Ms. DeSimone offered an amendment to strike the words "annually" and "(estimated)" and replaces "\$6901" with "\$7015".

2nd Kate Delfino

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any discussion on the amendment on the floor. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any further discussion on the amended article.

Chris Duerr, Maple Ave. stated that she would like to know more about where this money will go and what services are provided.

Moderator Garrity permitted non-resident, Tim Lena, Director, SoRock Coalition to speak.

Mr. Lena provided an overview of services provided by the organization and also explained that they had been given a federal grant 10 years ago which has expired and for which they cannot reapply. This article and funding is a way to break down community silos and pool resources together. It also will fund the part-time Coordinators position.

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee said she voted against the article. She said the Committee got information in advance of the budgeting season. This amount being requested over 50% of what we are annually budgeted for special services. She said they were not provided with enough information soon enough. **OPPOSED**

Bob Worden, Budget Committee - Will this funding allow the Coordinator's position to continue? Director Lena said Yes.

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee - if it doesn't pass, please come to selectmen in 2021.

Moderator Garrity asked if there are any other amendments to this article. None were presented.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote in favor of Article #2020-18 as amended.
AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Garrity declared Article #2020-18 moves to the ballot as amended.

Article #2020-19 Library Parking Lot (by Petition)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-five Thousand Dollars (\$195,000) to expand the Kimball Library parking area for an additional 34 spaces to a total of 71. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2020-5 the Operating Budget

*Not Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 3 to 1
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5 to 0*

Tom Kelly, 125 Cowbell Crossing - Chair of Library Trustees. Presented slide show of details of the project and Article. **SUPPORT**

Linda Jette, 3 Forest Rd provided a historical perspective. **SUPPORT**

Ted Stewart, Road Agent- if voters approve this, I believe the tax rate will still go down for 2020. Could someone give me that answer? How will this effect our tax rate?

Selectman Jason Grosky said for a person living in a home assessed at \$300,000 it will cost \$50 for one year, homes assessed at \$600,000 will incur a \$100 cost for on year.

Lara Cross, Library Trustee – When asked to present the need, it's a safety issue. It's dangerous to walk over rough terrain or up Academy Ave with a carriage. *SUPPORTS*

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee - Personally, she *SUPPORTS* the project. As a Budget Committee member, she couldn't support it based on comparison to other expenditures. She's aware of a siding issue with the Library that could cost hundreds of thousands to repair. She was hesitant to approve \$200,000 for parking not knowing what the siding repair would cost.

Alan Phair, Main Street – Could the siding issue be part of the Class Action Lawsuit to cover those costs? *SUPPORTS*

Barbara Brown – The Town needs this; not just for the Library, but for all the Town Center events. *SUPPORTS*

The topic of fundraising was raised. Tom Kelley responded by saying you can't fundraise for something that may or may not happen.

David Shykes, Bittersweet Lane – The Selectman approved the library building with a small parking lot with the promise to expand it in two or three years. That hasn't happened. *SUPPORTS*

Wendy Barker spoke regarding her Good Neighbor's reference to the Class Action Lawsuit. She has been told that the Library can't participate in that lawsuit because the way the siding was installed. If that's true, the Town can't afford to do both projects in the same year. If the Building Needs Committee has a different plan for the health & safety issue, the Budget Committee can reconsider vote.

Selectman Jason Grosky offered a correction from what is on warrant paper. Board of Selectmen vote was not recommended by a vote of 3 to 1.

Selectman Grosky offered to amend Article #2020-19 as follows:

"To strike the current wording in bold and replace with the following: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$195,000 to develop additional parking for the Kimball Library." 2nd by Selectman Morse.

Selectman Grosky wants to make sure the voters understand that the Board will not make any decisions without input from the library.

Alan Phair – Removes the number of parking spots. *OPPOSE*

Jeff Nenart Sawyer Ave. – This change leaves the project open for a different decision for placement and amount of parking spots. *OPPOSE*

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-19 as amended.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Moderator Garrity asked if there are any other amendments to this article. None were presented.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-19 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Garrity declared Article #2020-19 moves to the ballot as written.

Selectman Friel made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 19. 2nd by Peter Torosian.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Article #2020-19.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-20 Create Town Clerk-Tax Collector Position (by Petition)

Is the Town in favor of combining the office of the Town Clerk with the office of the Tax Collector, thereby creating a new office of Town Clerk-Tax Collector to be held by one individual, effective, March 2021?

Deb DeSimone, Providence Hill Rd – State of NH has 234 towns/cities/incorporated places. Researched Town Clerk/Tax Collector positions in populations close to our size using 7049-6451 populations. Did not find one combined office. This is due to the financial impact. Most Tax Collector's in those towns are part-time. If combined, it may need 2 full-time employees who will need retirement and health benefits. This town does not need the increased expenditure of \$70,000/year in raises and benefits.
OPPOSED

David Shykes, Bittersweet Ln. We are not a city and it's not cost effective. *OPPOSED*

Peter Torosian, Budget Committee – We can't support this warrant without seeing if it's cost effective. *OPPOSED*

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee - We didn't see any data on this, and it's not written as a money article, but it could have a financial impact on the town. Could someone speak to the reason behind it and the benefit to the taxpayers? *OPPOSED*

Bob Worden, Budget Committee – We have a great tax collection rate. The hours provided and on-line services for the payments offers opportunity for payment outside of the scheduled hours. Town Clerk has enough on her plate right now. *OPPOSED*

Moderator Garrity suggested converting this article to a study.

Selectman Grosky – How do we have a Tax Collector office open 20 hours/week currently staffed for 20 hours but would be required to become 2 full-time employees if combined? It was not put forward as a money saving article but not as a money expense article either. This is an issue of service to the residents. What's best for our town? *SUPPORT*

Deb Desimone made a motion to amend Article #2020-20 in entirety to say: "Is the Town in favor of creating a study committee to study the validity of combining the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's Office." 2nd by Robert DeSimone.

Selectman Friel asked: Who is the committee? How's it made up? Who's studying it? Moderator Garrity said he didn't know.

Wendy Barker, Budget Committee asked if we are going to have a study done, will that cost the town money?

Deb DeSimone requested to withdraw her amendment. Robert DeSimone withdrew his 2nd.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN.

Deb Desimone made a motion to amend Article #2020-20 to say: "Is the Town in favor of creating a volunteer study committee to study the validity of combining the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's Office" 2nd by Robert DeSimone.

Wendy Doughty, Forest Road asked who brought this article forward. Moderator Garrity said it's nobody's business. If it's a petition article, it's a public record. At least 25 registered voters signed.

Moderator Garrity asked if there's further discussion on this amendment.

Phil Sherwood, Sunset Drive said he signed the article likes the idea of expanding services. It's worth considering. It's not clear who would appoint the committee, so Mr. Sherwood suggested the Selectmen.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-20 as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there's an amendment to this article.

Deb Desimone made a motion to amend Article #2020-20 to add the words "appointed by the Selectmen". 2nd by Jeff Nenart.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-20 as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Deb Desimone requested a further amendment on Article #2020-20 by adding the words "to be reported out by 2025" to the end of the Article. 2nd by Robert Desimone.

Moderator Garrity asked if there's any discussion on this amendment.

Selectmen Grosky – *OPPOSED* and asked voters to reconsider the original article.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-20 as amended.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Moderator Garrity asked if there's further discussion on this amendment.

Russel Wolff offered an amendment to Article #2020-20 to strike the word "validity" and replace with "impact". 2nd by Selectman Morse

Moderator Garrity asked if there's any discussion on this amendment.

Peter Torosian mentioned that the Selectman already have the ability to do that.

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-20 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-20 moves to the ballot as amended.

William Smith made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 20. 2nd by Peter Torosian.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Article #2020-20.

PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Article #2020-21 Acceptance of Reports

Shall the Town accept the reports of agents, auditors and committees as written in the 2019 Annual Report?

Moderator Garrity called for a vote on Article #2020-21 as written:

ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-21 goes to the ballot as written.

William Smith made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 21. 2nd by Bob Worden.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to restrict reconsideration of Article #2020-21.

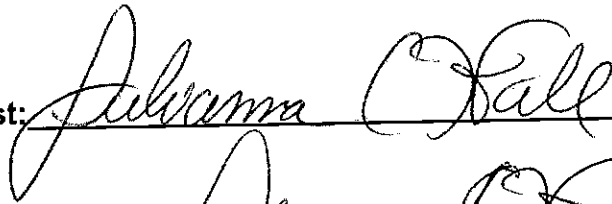
PASSED

Reconsideration restricted.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any new business. There was none.

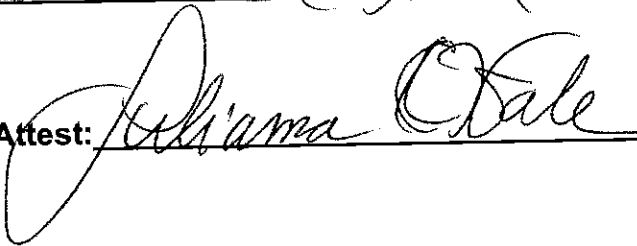
He announced that the 2020 Deliberative Session was dissolved at 2:45PM.

A True Record, Attest:



Town Clerk

A True Copy of Record, Attest:



Town Clerk

SLATE FOR 2020 ATKINSON TOWN ELECTION

SELECTMEN

(1) 3-Year Term Open

Candidates Running:

Kenneth R. Grant
Robert "Bob" Worden
Beth Cacciotti

MODERATOR

(1) 2-Year Term Open

Candidate Running:

James M. Garrity

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

(1) 6-Year Term Open

Candidate Running:

Adele H. Dillon

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

(1) 3-Year Term Open

Candidate Running:

Margaret (Marnie) Finn

CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE

- (2) 3-Year Terms Open
- (1) 2-Year Term Open
- (1) 1-Year Term Open

Candidates Running for 3-Year Terms:

Christine Duerr
David Pancoast

No Candidates for the 1-year and 2-year term

CEMETARY TRUSTEE

- (1) 3-Year Term Open

Candidates Running:

Robert P. Patutu
Susan M. Killam

MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

- (2) 3-Year Terms Open

Candidates Running:

Mark Sakakeeny
Robert Malo
Samuel C. Butler, Jr.

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND

- (1) 3-Year Term Open

No Candidates Running