

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF ATKINSON
2021 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Saturday, January 30, 2021
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 Atkinson Academy, 17 Academy Avenue in Atkinson, New Hampshire, on Saturday, the 30th day of January 2021, 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 2021-3 through Article 2021-23. 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. *****Covid-19 Safety Protocols will be enforced: Masks/Face Coverings are required in the Atkinson Academy Building. Social distancing will be enforced at the Deliberative Session in the Atkinson Academy Building.*****

Second Session of the Annual Meeting:

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, the 9th of March 2021, 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; Selectmen Chair, Jason Grosky, Selectmen: William Friel, Gregory Spero, Bill Baldwin and Bob Worden; Assistant Town Administrator, Andria Hanson; Town Clerk, Julianna Hale, Deputy Town Clerk, Kari Bodycote; Supervisors of the Checklist: Ellyn Murphy and Catherine Zerba, Budget Committee Co-Chairs, William Smith and Wendy Barker; Budget Committee Members: Peter Torosian, Raymond Fournier, and Robert Malo; and a total of **64** 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 10:01 am. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Pastor Jim Thomas of Atkinson Congregational Church in Atkinson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Selectman Bill Baldwin. Moderator thanked all those who assisted in the Sept and Nov elections. Moderator reviewed social distancing and sanitizer protocol due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic. The Moderator then asked those sitting up front to introduce themselves representing the Selectmen, Assistant 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. This included his requirement to refer to any speakers as "My Good Neighbor" and limit the floor-time to 3 minutes. He again reviewed the Social Distancing protocol.

Moderator Garrity noted the non-voters present who have permission to speak are the Library Director, Police Chief, Tim Crowley, and other Town Department Heads.

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 #2021-1 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 2021-2022 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 3 candidates for 3 Open Seats (1-year terms) for 2021-2022 Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: John Feuer, Edward Stewart and Paul Wainwright.

Moderator presented the slate for vote on the floor.

PASSED

Moderator Garrity read the 2021 Slate of Open Offices with the names of candidates who have filed to run for election. (See Attached *2021 Candidates for Open Seats* exhibit).

Moderator Garrity explained that Article #2021-2 cannot be amended or deliberated, as it is a Planning article which already had their own public hearings. The Article must go to the March 9th ballot as written. Moderator Garrity read all the Article as written.

Article #2021-2 Amend Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendments to the Atkinson Zoning Ordinance?

Insert into the existing section the following:

Article III: DEFINITIONS

Assisted Living	means it provides supportive care for senior persons who require assistance with activities of daily living
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Congregate Senior Living	Housing for senior persons with separate apartments and shared services and common areas
Continuing Care	A tiered approach to providing care through the aging process
Dwelling Unit	(for Long Term Care Facilities) one or more rooms for cooking, sleeping and sanitation
Senior Person	A person having reached the age of 55 years
Senior Household	A household with at least one senior person
Independent Living Facility	Dwelling Unit intended for independent living, which may include additional services
Long Term Care Facilities	A continuum of housing for seniors ranging from independent living through assisted living, to skilled nursing, and may include respite care and rehabilitation and hospice services
Medical Rehabilitation	means it provides follow up care and rehabilitation services for patients following illness, injury, or surgery
Nursing Home	means is provided full time care and monitoring for persons unable to live independently, exclusively for seniors

Insert into the existing section the following:

Article V: Section 510 - Permitted Uses:

a. Long Term Care Facilities

Note "Y" for Yes, in every zone, with footnote "4" to designate Site Plan approval required

Add the following new Section (4200) into:

Article IV – General Provisions

4200 Long Term Care Facility Developments (2021)

4200:1 Developments for long term care are planned to:

- a. provide a continuum of housing choices and care options for senior persons which may range from independent living, congregate senior living, assisted living, and skilled nursing, and may include respite care and rehabilitation and hospice services

- b. allow for provision of associated services routinely used by senior persons
- c. provide structural, building and site designs and layouts that are uniquely adapted to the needs of senior persons

4200:2 Dwelling types allowed under this section may contain combinations of the following and a single development may include multiple structures.

- a. Single dwelling unit structures, detached or attached
- b. Multi dwelling unit structures, up to 8 dwelling units per structure
- c. Congregate Senior Living structures that provide efficiency apartments with kitchenette, 1 or 2 bedrooms, sitting area, full bath along with the following communal areas: dining, indoor and outdoor recreation, social interaction and entertainment, containing up to 100 units per structure
- d. Assisted Living, distinctly not hospital or nursing home, where assistance with activities of daily living is routinely provided
- e. Nursing Home, only as licensed by the State of NH Dept of Health and Human Services

4200:3 Associated Services allowed under Section 4200 may consist of any of the following (specifically for residents, guests and workers at these facilities):

- a. Dining rooms, cafeterias, coffee shops, with related preparation and serving
- b. Social areas, game rooms, meeting rooms, recreational and exercise areas
- c. Administrative offices
- d. Mail service and package delivery facilities
- e. Minor retail services (e.g. gift shops, convenience stores, barbers and salons)
- f. Rehabilitation and physical therapy centers, medical offices,
- g. Banking options
- h. Cleaning services

- i. Other services incidental to the daily living of elderly residents

4200:4 Long Term Care Developments under this chapter shall be reviewed by the Atkinson Planning Board as Commercial uses under the Site Plan Review Regulations. They can be allowed on any suitable parcel situated in any zone.

4200:5 Criteria for approval

- a. Developments under Section 4200 shall adhere to all provisions of the Atkinson Zoning Ordinance unless specifically exempted within Section 4200.
- b. The number of senior person bedrooms shall be based on the number of bedrooms allowed under RSA 485-A and associated Administrative Rules.
- c. Distance between structures including any projections (e.g. decks, steps, bulkheads) shall be a minimum of 25 feet.
- d. The occupancy of dwelling units in the development shall be limited to senior persons 55 years of age or older.
- e. Plans for developments under this section shall meet all requirements for Site Plan Review, see Article V Section 510 footnote #4, unless specifically altered below.

4200:6 Specific Site Plan Requirements for Section 4200

- a. Parking Calculations: refer to Site Plan Review Regulations.
- b. Screening and Buffering
 - i. Landscaped Buffer as defined in Zoning Ordinance Article IV Section 600:11 and the following requirements shall apply:
 - ii. Buildings, parking areas, and traffic flow will be at least 100 feet from property boundaries in Residential Zones and 75 feet from boundaries in Non-Residential Zones and within the SCR district, on the sides and rear of the parcel.
 - iii. Screening shall be required by way of vegetation, or berms or fencing that provide a visual barrier and may be placed within the buffer.
 - iv. Parking and traffic circulation will not enter the buffer except for primary and secondary access ways.

- v. Buildings will be set back from the front lot line by a minimum of 75 feet.
- c. Green space within the developed areas, excluding the Landscaped Buffers, will be a minimum of 10% of the developed area. Green space may consist of paths and landscaped court yards. Tree strips will be placed along interior roadways, and within parking areas per our Landscaping regulations in Site Plan Review Regulations. Recreational areas and walking paths will not encroach into the Landscaped Buffer areas.
- d. Outdoor lighting will illuminate parking and walkway areas and will be designed in such a way to have minimal effects on neighboring properties.

Moderator declared Article #2021-2 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-3 Long-Term Borrowing Planning & Deferred Maintenance of Town Facilities

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000) for the purpose of completing deferred maintenance and planning of Town Facilities, including health and safety issues at Town Hall, the Town Garage and the Police Station; replacing the failing siding at the Library; fire alarm upgrades at several facilities; repairs and upgrades at Woodlock Park and the Town Cemetery; closing and disposal of the Family Mediation building; repairs and upgrades to other Town buildings and grounds; to authorize the issuance of not more than Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended for a term not to exceed five (5) years; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,625), for the estimated first year's interest payment on the bond? A 3/5 (60%) ballot vote required.

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

Selectman Bob Worden made a Motion to move this debate and discussion for this article to the end of the day after Article 2021-22.
2nd by Bill Baldwin.

Discussion: If the bond article passes, along with all articles on the warrant, it would put the budget over the “no greater than 10% as recommended by the Budget Committee”. He suggested we wait until all articles are decided to determine the financial impact.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion about moving this Article? There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the motion to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

MOTION PASSED

Discussion and voting regarding Article #2021-3 will take place after Article #2021-22.

Article #2021-4 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 Three Hundred Two Thousand Two Hundred Ten Dollars (\$5,302,210)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Five Million Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand and Thirty-five Dollars (\$5,232,035), 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 to 6 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 3/9/2021.

Moderator Garrity recognizes Selectmen Bob Worden to present an amendment on behalf of the Selectboard.

Selectman Bob Worden made a Motion to amend a line in Elections & Registrations under GENERAL GOVERNMENT. 40.401402.360 from \$0 to \$1000 for correct number for cleaning.

Chair Smith interrupted the motion stating that the budget committee would like to give their budget presentation. 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. 6 volunteers over the course of the year to balance the needs of the town vs. the tax burden. Chair Smith provided a short presentation reflecting an overall budget increase of 1.2% over 2020. (Requested slide presentation. AV said it was not possible to provide.) Chair Smith continued without his visual presentation. Atkinson saw significant increases in the past year due to COVID. He explained how other towns reduced budgets this year due to impact of COVID expenses. Many townspeople have lost their jobs and are not in a financially secure position. The Budget Committee does not feel an increase after an expensive year makes sense. If all warrant articles pass by the general voters in March there will not be much room to add more spending increases here at Deliberative. If folks add the additional increases today, they may not

be allowed. This meeting cannot allow town spending more than 10% above the Budget committee's recommendations. Should all articles pass and all are voted in on 3/9/21, that would trigger the 10% rule of not allowing to go 10% over the proposed Budget by Budget Committee. In which case, Articles requiring funding will be cut starting from the last Article on the Warrant and go up from there to meet the "no greater than 10%" threshold.

Budget Committee Member Peter Torosian explained the process used in reaching this number. Public Meetings were held. Each Department Head proposes their budget. The Selectmen propose their budget. The Budget Committee proposes their budget. It all takes place in public hearings. No secrets. Expecting 2021 will not be normal either. Many departments will have less demand for their services. Not cutting programs, just to get us through 2021. During COVID, the Budget Committee unanimously agreed to seek level funding.

Budget Committee Member Bob Malo explained while 1.2% increase over 2020 – it is a 6.2% increase over last year. In spring of 2020, BOS asked that every dept head reduce budget by 5% due to Covid revenue and expense uncertainty. Which means the 2020 budget was really 5% less than what we based this budget on.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion on the GENERAL GOVERNMENT budget line. Chair recognized Selectmen Bob Worden.

Selectman Worden made the motion to change line #40.41941.360.00 (*original amendment had incorrect line # as 40.401402.360*) from \$0 to \$1000 to provide the correct number for cleaning. 2nd by Selectman Gregory Spero.

The Moderator explained the \$1000 is to deep clean this room after Deliberative Session today.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator asked if there are any other amendments to General Government.

- Chair recognized Ken Grant, Crown Hill Rd., who asked if the Selectboard sought legal counsel opinion or advice regarding this year's Warrant Articles.
- Selectman Jason Grosky responded "Yes".
- Ken Grant asked him to detail for which specific areas and results of the inquiries.
- Grosky said Legal Counsel was contacted regarding the Bond in Article #3, the matter of Article #22 combining Town Clerk & Tax Collector issue, Road Agent additional responsibilities, the Building Needs/Expendable trust and the Conservation spoke to counsel on their articles. Maybe more but couldn't verify 100%.
- Ken Grant asked that when we get to the Conservation Article can the Conservation share the legal Counsel details. The legal counsel would be pertinent to this audience regarding that article. The Moderator replied that he can ask but they're not required to share.

The Moderator asked if there is any more discussion or amendments to the General Government budget line. No further discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve General Government line items as amended.

PASSED

General Government moves to ballot as amended.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion on the PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE line.

Selectman Worden made a motion to change line #40.42101.210 from \$95,730 to \$97,230 to provide the correct number for Health Insurance. The increase equals \$1500.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin

Discussion:

- Mr. Worden said it corrects the amount to make good on health insurance due to an employee.
- Budget Member Peter Torosian asked why this change occurred after the Police budget was submitted. The number (the Budget Committee) used was supplied by the Police Dept.
- Police Chief Crowley said they recieved an updated number from the Insurance carrier in December.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Public Safety/Police line items as amended:

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Worden made a motion to change line 40.42107.360 from \$2860 to \$4860 to provide the correct number for the cleaning contract. The increase equals \$2000.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin

Discussion: This \$2000 is a contractual obligation to perform cleaning service during COVID-19. Not appropriate to cut cleaning and jeopardize safety of service officers.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Public Safety/Police line items as amended:

AMENDMENT PASSED

Public safety moves to ballot as amended.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion or amendment to HIGHWAYS & STREETS.

Selectman Baldwin made the motion to change Line #40.43111.210 from \$39,528 to \$42,058 to provide the correct number for Health Insurance. This increase equals \$2530.

2nd by Selectman Worden

Discussion: This increase is to fulfill an obligation to an employee.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Highway & Streets line items as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the Highways & Streets budget line #. 40.43122.110.01 from \$54,698 to \$58,761 to provide for hiring a 4th laborer later in 2021. This increase equals \$4063 (*original motion had incorrect number of \$5064*).
2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion:

- Selectman Baldwin explained that (the Town) has been restructuring the highway dept to increase efficiency and it has gained more responsibility over time. This additional staff is to ensure we provide adequate number of employees to Highway Dept. Work product will be ten-fold based on workload. Would take place in 4th quarter. Potentially could save money in the long run with the highway department doing the work rather than outsourcing.
- The Chair recognized Road Agent Ted Stewart. Ted explained that he had a great presentation with the Budget Committee, but they never asked why his labor line was not fully expended in 2020. The reason was he couldn't hire any part-time employees for almost 7 months. The department is on call 24-7, hard work in hard weather. Not many will come work for \$15.50/hr with no benefits. This increase will attract good labor with benefits as an option. Having a 5-man dept with 2 vacancies for over 6 months creates hardship. The Department went down to a 2-man department during pandemic.
- Budget Committee Member Torosian responded that "we rely on what we know". He felt the Department Head should have shared that in public meeting prior to today. The committee was unaware of all these items that are coming forward now. Would have been better if done in the prior public meetings.
- Road Agent Stewart said that he had presented it in October with Selectman Worden. First part of presentation was that we were trying to hire a full-timer. Budget Committee reacted to it by cutting it out of the Highway budget.
- Selectman Worden added that in the re-org they cut a Supervisory position of \$30,000 in expenses. This change is not a budget expansion. This is still funded even with all these articles. Revenue neutral. MS4 projects require 4 employees to meet federal guidelines and obligations. Part-timers are unreliable. Need dependable crew. Won't cost more than last year spent.
- Chair Smith - Corrected amendment: Change the difference in increase to \$4063.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Highway & Streets line items as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the Highways & Streets budget line #40.43122.220 from \$3391 to \$3704 to provide FICA for hiring 4th Laborer later in 2021. This increase equals \$313.
2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion: the FICA is for the 4th labor as result of the amendment above.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor with a show of hands to approve Highway & Streets line items as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the Highways & Streets budget line #40.43122.225 from \$793 to \$866 to provide Medicare (*original motion had incorrect title as FICA*) for the hiring of a 4th Laborer later in 2021. This increase equals \$73.
2nd by Selectman Bob Worden.

Discussion: the Medicare is for the 4th labor as result of the amendment above.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Highway & Streets line items as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the Highways & Streets budget line #40.43122.210 from \$0 to \$13,142 to provide the correct number for Health Insurance. This increase equals \$13,142.
2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion: Road Agent Ted Stewart said it was left off when the budget committee cut additional full-timers. Adjusting to account for full-timer addition in 2021.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Highway & Streets line items as amended.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator asked if there is any discussion or amendment to Highways & Streets.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve amended Highways & Streets budget line.

PASSED

HIGHWAYS & STREETS moves to ballot as amended.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion or amendment to the Sanitation budget line.
None

SANITATION line will go to the ballot as written.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion or amendment to the HEALTH & WELFARE budget line.

Selectman Spero made a motion to change the Animal Control line #40.44191.841 from \$0 to \$1.00 to provide an ability to charge cell phone stipend expenses of \$20/month. The increase equals \$1.
2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion:

- Moderator explains... if you zero out a line, it goes away. If you put a \$1 in it, it will hold that line as a placeholder.
- Chair Smith stated that this appears to be a new line. It may have been discussed with the auditors, but he will need to add the new line in to the master budget.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator asked if there is any additional discussion or amendment to the Health & Welfare budget line.

Jane Kowalski, 5 Wellington Circle, made a motion to increase the Health & Welfare budget line #44152.350.02 (line #44151-44150) "Health Agencies" from \$1000 to \$5000 to line up with the Board of Selectmen recommendation of \$5000 for FY 2021 for SoRock funding. This increase equals \$4000.

2nd by Deb DeSimone

Discussion:

- Deb DeSimone, Providence Hill Rd. Family Mediation & Juvenile Services had to dissolve due to COVID. Therefore, asked the committee to decrease that line item to \$1. That means that SoRock and other agencies pick up the slack. Savings is on Family Mediation line item.
- Budget Member Torosian asked to hear what services are received with this money.
- Jane Kowalski provided the Committee with donation information. 44% to administration of the 1 F/T Coordinator, 39% to expenses.
- Chief Crowley spoke about COVID impact on adults and kids. They got PPE from SoRock for house calls with kids in the house. They are underfunded and provide incredible action. Very valuable.
- Budget Member Torosian asked for a point of clarification. 44% admin + 39% expenses. = 83%. So only 17% goes to services?
- Jane Kowalski is a parent volunteer. This year it's a line item rather than a warrant article. She provided a long list of programs and services and tools that were provided to Atkinson this past year.
- Deb DeSimone- added more support for the amendment. It's a place for parents and kids to go.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Health & Welfare as amended:

PASSED

HEALTH & WELFARE moves to ballot as amended.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion or amendment on the CULTURE & RECREATION budget line item.

Selectman Bill Baldwin made a motion to change the line #40.45208.110.01 from \$45,469 to \$49,950 to provide the correct number for Director of Recreation & Community Services. This increase equals \$4481.

2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion:

- Selectman Baldwin said that earlier this year the Selectmen combined two positions into one. This additional workload gave an increase in the wage for new work. Moved money from one line item to the current Directors salary line item. Support to just fulfill the obligation of that salary to that employee.
- Brian Boyle, Winslow Dr., stated that if BOS already increased the wage, the budget must include it.
- Selectman Worden said the confusion is that there were 2 line items. Elder Services Dir and Comm Center Dir. We could not find anyone to fill Elder Services Director. Knowing that Noriko had outstanding skills, it made sense to combine but line items were separate. Just housekeeping to combine the lines.
- Moderator asked if the Budget went down when combined?
- Selectmen Worden said no, it was the same but now has COLA and Longevity increases.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the line #40.45208.220.00 (*incorrect line# 45208.110.01 replaced*) from \$2819 to \$3106 to provide the correct number for Director of Recreation & Community Services FICA. This increase equals \$287.

2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion: Impact from amendment above.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Selectman Baldwin made a motion to change the line #40.45208.210.00 from \$19,764 to \$21,208 to provide the correct number for Director of Recreation & Community Services Health Insurance. This increase equals \$1444 (*incorrect amount on amendment was \$1264*).

2nd by Selectman Worden.

Discussion: Impact from amendment above.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDMENT PASSED

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Culture & Recreation as amended:

PASSED

CULTURE & RECREATION moves to ballot as amended.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion on CONSERVATION line. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Conservation as written:

PASSED

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion on DEBT line. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Debt as written:

PASSED

Moderator moved to take a 5 min break to check calculations. Return at 11:40 to come up with the new proposed total for the 2021 Operating Budget.

After break, Budget Committee requested more time to work on the total. Resume voting on Article #2021-4 when numbers are ready. Moved on to #2021-5.

Article #2021-5 Police Vehicle Lease Payment

Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to complete the third and final 'lease to own' payment on police vehicles as approved in Article #2019-4 with all the funds coming from the Police Outside Detail Revolving Fund?

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0*

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Article #2021-5 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-5 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-6 Police Vehicle Purchase

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) to purchase and equip two new Police Vehicles with Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) coming from the Police Outside Detail Revolving Fund and Forty Thousand (\$40,000) to be raised by taxes and allow two current Police vehicles to be disposed of by trade, sale or bid? This is in addition to Article #2021-4 the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0*

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Article #2021-6 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-6 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-7 Fire Department Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) 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 #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0

Selectman Bob Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Bill Baldwin.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve Article #2021-7 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-7 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-8 Fire Department Staffing

Shall the Town approve the addition of two (2) full-time Firefighter/EMT's to supplement the existing full and part-time Paid/Call personnel at an annual cost, including benefits of One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$177,000), beginning June 1, 2021; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-One Dollars (\$97,261), to be raised by taxes? This is in addition to Article #2021-4, 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 to 1

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. Chair recognized Interim Fire Chief Kevin Landry.

- Currently staff is running M-F 8am-4pm. The rest covered by Call. Since Covid, been covering weekends. Decrease in membership over the years and the aging workforce. Would like to fill the additional 2 full-time positions would be able to cover 7 days/week, 10 hours/day. Presentation on screen. Hope to drop the response time by about a minute or so. If Trinity Ambulance not available, they must have someone there.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-8 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-8 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-9 Highway Shim and Overlay

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$415,000) for the purpose of shimming and overlaying the following roads: Crown Hill Rd., Amberwood Dr., Fernwood Way, Dearborn Ridge Rd., Pine Knoll Dr., Crystal Hill Cir., Murry Dr., Devonshire Rd., Lisheen Dr., King's Grant Dr., Meeting Rock Rd., and Hayden Dr.? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 3 to 2 to 1

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. Barbara Brown - Haydn Dr. is spelled incorrectly. Moderator will correct - no vote needed.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor approve Article #2021-9 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-9 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-10 Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Dollars (\$72,000) to be deposited into the Highway Capital Reserve fund for the purpose of acquiring Highway vehicles and equipment? This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 3 to 2 to 1

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Road Agent Ted Stewart spoke to support.

- Budget Member Torosian said the Budget Committee doesn't disagree with maintenance, just not through an additional capital reserve fund.
- Budget Co-Chair Wendy Barker understands that this is a long-term plan. Looking at vehicle capital plan. I felt it was quite aggressive. The lifetime of this equipment could be extended longer and at a lower cost. It will continue to increase year over year. When this expires, we'll buy new and have an ever-increasing capital plan. There is a way to extend the lifetime of this equipment.
- Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood, asked if there's enough money in the budget to ensure no worker's comp injuries.
- Road Agent Ted Stewart responded that yes, the \$9k covers routine maintenance. Not a blown motor or transmission. Still overspending the maintenance line due to non-typical issues. Computer controls in the salt causes problems.
- Richard Buba as a follow-up supports Road Agent.
- Budget Member Torosian asked if Agent Stewart has had to replace any transmissions or engines over the past 5 years.
- Road Agent Ted Stewart replied "No". Because they're not that old.
- Selectman Baldwin shared how we used to do things differently. We used to use Agent Stewart's own vehicles. Moving forward we are developing a department with the required necessities to do the job for the community. Part of this is an expense. Cannot do it without equipment. Rolling out a program to acquire a capital program with equipment. Do a rotation over time. Supports this Warrant Article.
- Budget Co-Chair Wendy Barker responded that she is not opposed to the plan and wants to see a rotation but believes this plan is too aggressive. Lifetime of equipment could be stretched out longer.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-10 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-10 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-11 Road Agent Additional Duties

Shall the Town vote, as authorized by RSA 231:63, to require the highway agent, in addition to his usual duties as highway agent, to have charge, under the direction of the Selectmen, of the care and maintenance of any one or more of the following: collection of waste, refuse and garbage; care of public dumps; care of public parks and cemeteries; public beaches; public forests; public playgrounds; shade and ornamental trees; and raise and appropriate Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) to pay the Road Agent for these Additional Duties. This sum will be added to the Road Agent's salary in recognition of performance of these duties. This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-11 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-11 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-12 Mosquito Control

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000) for the purpose of Mosquito insect control? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0*

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-12 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-12 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-13 PFAS Investigation

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to conduct as directed by NH Department of Environmental Services an investigation of high PFAS readings near current and former Town facilities on Academy Avenue? This article was initiated due to an August 31, 2020 letter from the NH Department of Environmental Services directing the Town to perform a focused site investigation of PFAS evidence-higher than State law allows-in the wells of several residents along Academy Avenue. The PFAS chemicals are called “forever” chemicals and the ones discovered in the wells are associated with PFAS chemicals used with fire foam. The Town has already started supplying the residents with bottled water and now must use a consultant to do the focused site investigation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0*

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Budget Member Torosian asked how many households effected?
- Selectmen replied 2 so far.
- Karen Steele, 4 Pebblebrook, asked why is the state not paying for this? If the Town has no control over water, why is the state not paying?

- Moderator Garrity answered because it was the town's fire foam that caused it. It's been mandated by the state.
- There was much discussion regarding the impact this article has as it relates to the town's constitutional rights under 28A. Comments and questions were exchanged about this concern between the Moderator, Deb DeSimone, Ken Grant, Bob Malo, Leon Artus and Selectmen Worden and Baldwin. 28A states "no funding no mandate".
- Deb DeSimone stated that since we have a Constitutional 28A issue, if this warrant article were amended to state the study, not the funding, then don't have the 28A issue. If just remove "as directed by DES". It would alleviate an inference of a 28A issue. Just don't want the town to be liable in an unfunded mandate issue.
- Moderator Garrity stated that we won't solve the constitutional argument today. No amendment offered.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-13 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-13 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-14 Building Needs Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding ongoing maintenance and improvement issues with Town facilities? 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 #2021-4, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. Moderator Garrity requests that we fix the typo regarding the title of the Expendable Trust Fund recommending we add "Building Needs" in front of "Expendable Trust Fund". Verified by the Trustee of the Trust Fund, Dave Paquette.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-14 as written with the grammatical change to add "Building Needs" in front of "Expendable Trust Fund".

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-14 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-15 Conversion to LED Street Lights

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an up to 5-year, tax neutral agreement for the installation of up to \$86,000 of energy saving equipment namely, LED streetlights, with annual payments of approximately \$12,000? Such payments to be

funded from annual energy savings in the operating budget. The balance of the cost to be funded by a rebate incentive from the Town's energy provider. No amount to be raised by new taxation.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.
2nd by Selectman Baldwin.
The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-15 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-15 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-16 New Equipment for Atkinson Community Television

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the purchase and installation of a new studio production environment and allied equipment for Atkinson Community Television with the purpose of replacing existing, depreciated equipment and ensuring future, full remote access to studio equipment, such sum to be withdrawn from the Cable Capital Reserve Fund established March 12, 1994 for this purpose? As of December 31, 2020, there were Two Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-four Dollars (\$217,554) remaining in the Cable Capital Reserve Fund. This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or until December 31, 2026. This is in addition to Article #2021-4, the Operating Budget. No new tax dollars will be raised.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 0

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-16 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-16 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-17 Update List of Town Forest Parcels

Shall the Town vote to designate the following small unbuildable parcels as Atkinson Town Forests, to be managed by the Conservation Commission under the provisions of RSA 31:112?

Map 4 Lot 47, a 4-acre, land-locked parcel along the state line with Massachusetts abutting (and to be added to) the Sawyer Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 2019 for non-payment of taxes.

Map 12 Lot 1-1, a 7-acre, mostly wet parcel comprising the Hovey Meadow Pond and its shoreline, and abutting (and to be added to) the Chadwick Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1992 as part of a land swap from Lewis Builders.

Map 12 Lot 2-3, a 1.8-acre, land-locked, mostly wet parcel close to (and to be added to) the Chadwick Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1978 as a donation from Lewis Builders.

Map 12 Lot 7-1, a 8.25-acre, land-locked parcel abutting (and to be added to) the Chadwick Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1992 as part of a land swap from Lewis Builders.

Map 12 Lot 12, a 2.44-acre, land-locked parcel abutting (and to be added to) the Chadwick Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1992 as part of a land swap from Lewis Builders.

Map 12 Lot 17, a 2.6-acre, land-locked parcel abutting the 2 previous parcels, to be added to the Chadwick Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1990 for non-payment of taxes.

Map 20, Lot 13-1, a 3.9-acre, mostly wet parcel on Lakeside Drive in the vicinity of both the Marshall and Stickney Town Forests, which provides a critical link in a wildlife corridor between those Town Forests, to be added to the Stickney Town Forest. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 1970 for non-payment of taxes.

This article is based on similar articles that appeared on the ballots in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Chair recognizes Jeff Nenart, Sawyer Avenue, on behalf of the Conservation Committee. Mr. Nenart provided a presentation.
- Ken Grant, Crown Hill Rd, address parcel on Sawyer land. Sawyer parcel was acquired by town for future town buildings. Historically acquired for two purposes. Remainder of the parcel was acquired by Conservation. Realizing in the future, according to record, the parcel cleared was for future town buildings. Parcel was recently acquired by tax acquisition. Still has tax liabilities. Short-sited. The value we lose is \$3500 in tax revenue. Part of bigger parcel which extends into Mass.
- Leon Artus, Maple Ave, quite a few parcels that are land locked. Does this land abut current conservation lots. Just adding to Town Forest that exists.
- Jeff Nenart responded with YES. There is no crossing other owner's properties.
- Bill Steele, Pebblebrook Rd., the parcel that was taken is already owned by the town. It's just a little piece that can be added to the Town forest. Looked through all the town maps that the town owned that we could move over to Conservation land.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-17 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-17 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-18 Enable the Funding of Conservation Easements

"Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?"

*The **bold** wording in this warrant article is specified by statute and cannot be amended at the Deliberative Session.*

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Bill Steele, Conservation Commission, Pebblebrook Rd. Just an opportunity to use easements as another method of putting land in conservation for the Town of Atkinson. Very cost-effective way. The Town doesn't own the land. It gives opportunity to land owners to donate the use of that land for conservation but still maintain ownership of the land. They can hand it down to generations. If an easement exists on a piece of land and the town can get that easement for the town but it's held by a land trust. Legal avenue to put land into conservation without having to buy the land. Easements cost money. They can be donated. They can be purchased. Still be funded by the way we fund any conservation purchase.
- There was much discussion back and forth between the two members of the Conservation Commission, Jeff Nenart and Bill Steele and several residents including Barbara Brown (against) Ken Grant (against) Leon Artus (against), Peter Torosian (against) and Selectman Baldwin (supports), Richard Buba (against). Most discussion was around understanding implications of this article (control, cost, etc) and education around the use of this additional tool used to acquire conservation land and the benefits of such.
- Moderator Garrity explained that the article can not be amended or have appropriations added per RSA.
- Ken Grant does not want to change the wording to the article but would like to add oversight and appropriations as he believes it is a violation of 28A. No quid pro quo for taxpayer's money.
- Moderator Garrity said the motion is out of order and he cannot accept it.

Ken Grant challenged the moderator's ruling. He then made a motion to override Jim Garrity's ruling that says the article set by RSA cannot be amended therefore cannot accept any amendments.

2nd by Richard Buba

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by show of hands to accept Ken Grant's motion to override the moderator's ruling.

If voter's disagree that Ken Grant can override me, you would vote NAY.

If you agree with the override you vote YEAH.

MOTION FAILED

More discussion involving maintenance and cost.

- Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood Dr. Against article. Concerned taxes will go up.
- Bill Steele – if purchasing land, we would get no tax dollars either. Just another way to obtain conservation land. Unfunded. Get More conservation land.
- Moderator ended discussion by stating that it is going to the ballot and can't overrode.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-18 ballot as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-18 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-19 Eliminate the Elder Services Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Elder Services Expendable Trust Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. Fund amount is approximately \$20.

This trust is no longer used and its elimination will not affect the other elder service assistance and transportation trusts.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-19 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-19 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-20 Eliminate the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund.

Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion. Someone asked how much money is in the Trust fund now. The answer is \$671.00.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to accept Article #2021-20 as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-20 moves to the ballot as written.

Article #2021-21 New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting (By Petition)

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Atkinson to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town of Atkinson to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to Atkinson's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

The Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Kate Delfino, 13 Wood Drive, spoke in support. Making sure every single vote matters. 2021 is the year the state legislature for redistricting. Done every 10 years after Census data. Draw new voting districts for various offices. Kate provided history and education. Process changed in 2011. Voting district maps defined behind closed doors. Only Verbal presentations were made. Resulted in several gerrymandering districts.
- Richard Buba 47 Ridgewood from Andover. This article will not do much. It is more important to vote for the right candidate to be elected.
- Kate Delfino responded by saying gerrymandering negates the votes of many voters. It's nonbinding – just a resolution. Nonpartisan. Please return to the redistricting process that was in place in 2011.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move this article to the ballot as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-21 moves to the ballot as written.

Moderator circled back to Article #2021-4.

Bill Smith The first General Government Correct line number was stated incorrectly. Should be 40.41941.360.00.

If pass, new budget number would be \$5,337,044.00 - an increase of 1.87%

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to amend Warrant Article #2020-4 Operating Budget to total “(\$5,337,044.00)” instead of “(\$5,302,210)”.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2021-4 moves to the ballot as amended.

Selectmen Baldwin made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Warrant Articles #4-#21. 2nd by Selectmen Bill Friel

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles 4-21.

PASSED

Restriction of reconsideration is adopted.

Article #2021-22 Create Town Clerk-Tax Collector Position (By Petition)

Shall the voters approve, under RSA 41:45-a, 'having the office of town clerk combined with the office of tax collector, thereby creating a new office of town clerk-tax collector to be held by one individual'? If approved, an election shall be held at the 2022 town meeting to elect one individual to serve a three (3)-year term as town clerk-tax collector. Voters at the 2020 town meeting supported studying this issue, leading to the creation of a town clerk-tax collector study committee that recommends combining the offices.

Moderator asked if any petitioner would like to speak to the article, to which no one responded.

Chair recognized Debra DeSimone, 11 Providence Hill Rd. She stated that the report was not complete. No logistical or cost analysis or factual information. Most was anecdotal. Deb disagrees with this article.

Deb De Simone made a motion to amend this article by striking the entire article except for the title and replace as follows: “Shall the voters approve to continue to maintain two separate offices for the Tax Collector and the Town Clerk. The Tax Collector position shall continue to be held by one elected individual for a 3-year term as per RSA 41:2-b. The Town Clerk position shall continue to be held by one elected individual for a 3-year term as per RSA 41:16-B.

2nd by Jeff Nenart

Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Karen Steele - Question on process; asked the Moderator if one can change the intent of the article. Moderator replied that yes, you can change intent but not subject matter.
- Budget Member Wendy Barker shared that she was part of the study committee. She does not support the Amendment on the floor.
- Phil Sherwood was on the committee and agreed to recommend the combination of the office. It was unanimous to recommend by all on the committee. If go with the amendment on the floor you take away voter choice and keep status quo. Against the amendment.

- Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood Dr., Supports Amendment. Lived here 5 years going on 6 in Atkinson. Does not see the need to change just because other towns do it that way.
- Budget Member Torosian asked if there would be any cost savings if combined.
- Wendy Barker responded on behalf of the committee that it depends on how the Selectmen decide to structure the staff. No need to change physical space.
- Dave Paquette, 4 Juniper Lane, against amendment. Small amount of people here should vote against. Let the voters decide.
- Jason Grosky rejects amendment. He submitted the petition and wants to leave it as written. Let voters decide.
- Ken Grant supports amendment.
- Leon Artus supports amendment.
- Selectman Bill Baldwin supports amendment. More work will require more \$. No cost savings. Current Tax Collector is doing a great job. It's already efficient.
- Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood Dr, stated "we are the voters to decide".
- Bob Malo doesn't support amendment.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to amend Article #2021-22

AMENDED ARTICLE FAILED

Deb De Simone made a motion to propose a new amendment by striking the date "2022" and replace it with "2024"

2nd Mr. Bob DeSimone.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion:

- Ms. DeSimone said she's doing it for Atkinson not for her job. It's the right thing for the town not thinking about it for herself personally.
- Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood stated that the voters are here.
- Sam Butler said this amendment reflects what the study committee intended. Supports amendment.
- Wendy Barker supports amendment.
- Jason Grosky is against the amendment.
- Deb DeSimone said the integrity of the town is at stake.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-22 moves to the ballot as amended.

Richard Buba made the motion to reconsider the positive vote on the amendment. Moderator asked him on which side he voted. He voted against the amendment. Motion out of order. Must vote on the prevailing side to move reconsideration.

Debra DeSimone made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Warrant Article #2021-22. 2nd by Chuck Nenart.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Article #22.

PASSED

Restriction of reconsideration is adopted.

Article #2021- 3 Selectmen request a recess. Resume at 2:10pm

Article #2021-3 Long-Term Borrowing Planning & Deferred Maintenance of Town Facilities

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000) for the purpose of completing deferred maintenance and planning of Town Facilities, including health and safety issues at Town Hall, the Town Garage and the Police Station; replacing the failing siding at the Library; fire alarm upgrades at several facilities; repairs and upgrades at Woodlock Park and the Town Cemetery; closing and disposal of the Family Mediation building; repairs and upgrades to other Town buildings and grounds; to authorize the issuance of not more than Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended for a term not to exceed five (5) years; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,625), for the estimated first year's interest payment on the bond? A 3/5 (60%) ballot vote required.

Moderator asked if there is any discussion.

- Leon Artus said the list was too open ended. Requests that the amounts be broken down by individual item. Wants Budget Committee input.
- Budget Chair Smith responded that the Budget Committee understands the need for maintenance, but the Committee doesn't agree with all that is listed.
- Budget Member Torosian responded by saying that building maintenance is already in budget and money is there. Same with building needs.
- Leon Artus repeated that instead of this article, it should be detailed by line for next year's budget. It could put us over the 10%. Against the amendment.
- The Moderator explained that you can amend dollar amount or individual buildings.
- Selectman Bob Worden showed support of the article. He flicked an empty can across the room to demonstrate the year over year of delaying of money for building maintenance.
- Resident Chuck Nenart Supports Article 3 as written.
- Budget Committee Chair Bill Smith said the amount was brought down to \$583k from original \$1.2 mill "wants". Still think there are wants on the list. It should just be about needs, not wants.

Leon Artus made a motion to amend Article 2021-3 by changing the “\$583k” to “\$0.00” and “\$2625” to “\$0.00”
2nd by Richard Buba

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to amend Article #2021-3

AMENDED ARTICLE FAILED

Richard Buba, 47 Ridgewood Dr., made a motion to amend Article #2021-3 by striking the words “closing and disposal of the Family Mediation building”.
2nd by Ellen Beckwith

Discussion:

- Barbara Brown asked if the Selectmen know how much you could get for the Family Mediation Building. Was that considered to offset cost?
- Selectman Chair Grosky replied that we don’t know value of the mediation building.
- Barbara Brown stated that as a professional Real Estate Agent, abutters want the property for \$100k. That could help offset the \$583k. Does not support the amendment.
- Richard Buba said we can fix the building up and keep it as historical at no cost. Keep it as Mayberry.
- Kay Galloway supports the amendment. It’s one of the 6 original schoolhouses in Atkinson. Supports the Amendment.
- Budget Member Torosian supports the amendment. This should not be a bond. It should be budgeted line items.
- Selectman Grosky said we’re not changing anything if take out the Family Mediation sentence. Just because something is old, does not make it Antique. Just because something is old, does not make it Historical.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor to amend Article #2021-3 showing the raise of hands with the blue voter cards.

AMENDED ARTICLE FAILED

By a vote of 15 to 14.

- Richard Buba attempted another amendment. Moderator disallowed it. Just voted down something similar. Because it’s a bond article cannot add or change language.
- Dave Paquette requested the math related to the 10% rule.
- Budget Committee estimated the budget would be over the 10% threshold by about \$112,000

Dave Paquette made a motion to amend Article #3 by striking the amount of \$583,000 and replace it with \$461,000.
2nd by Mr. Smith

- Ken Grant asked for clarification on what is impacted if the 10% cut should be triggered.
- Moderator explained the DRA would decrease the budget by eliminating warrant articles with funding associated in reverse starting with Article #16. Articles are numbered by order of importance.

- Wendy Barker asked if the \$2625 is included in the \$583k? Or just the \$583k? The math is actually \$471k.
- Jason Grosky encouraged folks to vote no on this amendment.
- Budget Member Malo said that if the article goes to \$460k you could always spend over 3 years. It won't have any impact on 2021 & 2022. More articles will be written on building maintenance. Can always add additional money in future years.
- Budget Member Torosian is against this article all together. Too many people hurting financially to have a 10% increase.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED

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

Budget Chair Smith made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Warrant Article #2021-3.
2nd by Wendy Barker

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Article #2021-3.

PASSED

Restriction of reconsideration is adopted.

Article #2021-23 Acceptance of Reports

Shall the Town accept the reports of agents, auditors and committees as written in the 2020 Annual Report?

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the article as written.

2nd by Selectman Baldwin.

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

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move this article to the ballot as written.

PASSED

Moderator declared Article #2020-23 moves to the ballot as written.

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

He announced that the 2021 Deliberative Session was dissolved at 3:02PM.

A True Record, Attest:  Town Clerk

A True Copy of Record, Attest:  Town Clerk

**SLATE FOR 2021
ATKINSON TOWN ELECTION**

SELECTMEN

(2) 3-Year Terms Open - Candidates Running:

Gregory Spero
Beth Cacciotti
Harold Morse
David Spero

TOWN CLERK

(1) 3-Year Term Open - Candidate Running:

Julianna Hale

TAX COLLECTOR

(1) 3-Year Term Open - Candidates Running:

Debra L DeSimone

ROAD AGENT

(1) 2-Year Term Open - Candidate Running:

Edward A. Stewart

BUDGET COMMITTEE

(2) 3-Year Terms Open- Candidates Running:

Peter Torosian
Wendy Barker
Sam Butler
Holly Patterson

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

(1) 5-Year Term Open - Candidate Running:

Catherine Zerba

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND

(1) 3-Year Term Open - Candidate Running:

Michael Torris

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

(2) 3-Year Terms Open - Candidates Running for 3-Year Term:

Bruce Pelletier

Karen Trasatti

(1) 1-Year Term Open - Candidate Running for 1-Year Term:

Thomas Kelley

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

(1) 3-Year Term Open - Candidate Running:

Anne Brenton

CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE

(1) 3-Year Term Open - Candidates Running for 3-Year Term:

OPEN

