

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF ATKINSON  
2023 DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
Saturday, February 4, 2023  
Atkinson Academy**

**2023 WARRANT**

**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 fourth day of February 2023, 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 2023-4 through Article 2023-19. Warrant Articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV, except for 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:

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 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, Bob Worden, Selectmen: Dave Paquette, Beth Cacciotti, Bill Baldwin and Greg Spero; Town Administrator John Apple, Assistant Town Administrator, Angela Wesson, Town Clerk, Julianna Hale, Deputy Town Clerk, Kari Bodycote; Supervisors of the Checklist: Karen Trasatti and Catherine Zerba, Budget Committee Chair, Wendy Barker,; Budget Committee Members: William Smith, Peter Torosian, Mark Sakakeeny, Sam Butler and Robert Malo; and a total of **103** registered voters were there throughout the day. Also present were non-voters including an audio-visual crew and our Cable Coordinator, David Williams and others.

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

**Call to Order:**

Moderator Jim Garrity called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. A prayer followed, led by Pastor Jim Thomas of Atkinson Congregational Church in Atkinson then the Pledge of Allegiance led by Peter Torosian. Information is available at a separate table for those groups advocating for warrant articles. The Moderator then asked those sitting up front to introduce themselves

representing the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk's Office, and the Budget Committee. Representative DeSimone in the audience. Snacks were available for sale from the Atkinson Women's Civic Club.

The Moderator, James Garrity, reviewed the purpose of the meeting, how it would run and the Moderator's Rules and rules of debate. Our work today is to decide the wording, including dollar amounts on the ballot for March 14, 2023. He reiterated that what is voted on today will be on the March Town Election Ballot. He let residents know that the TRSD Deliberative Meeting would be taking place next week. Over 80% of your tax bill is decided at the TRSD Deliberative Session. We're here to discuss the policy – not the person or the process. This included his requirement to refer to any speakers as "My Good Neighbor" and limit the floor-time to 3 minutes. Come to microphone and state name.

Moderator Garrity noted the non-voters present who have permission to speak but cannot make an amendment or vote: Library Director, Karen Brown, Police Chief Tim Crowley, Fire Chief Brian Murray, Highway Agent Matt Sullivan, Assistant Town Administrator, Angela Wesson, Town Administrator, John Apple, Charlotte Scott from SoRock, David Williams of ACTV and other Town Department Heads.

This meeting was public and was recorded on Livestream and Facebook for those who could not attend the day's session. Non-registered voters may attend this session but not vote. Moderator reviewed Amendment and Secret Ballot process.

Announced Master Plan Committee Forum to be held April 9, 2023.

Atkinson Women's Civic Club provided food and beverages for donations. This year coffee and tea are free. Hot dogs & chili are back. He shared the AWCC mission statement.

Moderator announced the Atkinson Lions Club, March 25, 2023, fundraiser – Eagles Tribute Band.

Reviewed warrant paperwork. Moderator spoke to a math correction on the bottom of page two. Summary of Warrant Selectmen number should be \$8,102,700 the second number for the Budget Committee should be \$8,027,700.

**Article #2023-1 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 three candidates for three Open Seats (1-year terms) for 2023-2024 Fence Viewers: Kenneth Grant, Susan Killam, and Scott Sullivan. No objections were made and no new nominations from the floor were presented.

**Moderator presented the slate for the 2023 Fence Viewers**

**PASSED**

Moderator Garrity read the slate of three candidates for three Open Seats (1-year terms) for 2023-2024 Surveyors of Wood and Lumber: John Feuer, Edward Stewart, and Paul Wainwright. No objections were made and no new nominations from the floor were presented.

**Moderator presented the slate for the 2023 Surveyors of Wood and Lumber**

**PASSED**

Moderator Garrity read the 2023 Slate of Open Offices with the names of candidates who have filed to run for election. (See Attached *2023 Candidates for Open Seats* exhibit). Moderator announced the upcoming AWCC Candidates Night Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7pm, at the Atkinson Community Center facilitated by citizen James Garrity.

Moderator Garrity explained that Article #2023-2 cannot be amended or deliberated, as it is a Zoning article which already had their own public hearings. The Article must go on the March 14th ballot as written.

**Article #2023-02      Amend Zoning Articles III Definitions & Article V Section 530 Area, Yard, Coverage, Height & General Requirements.**

**Are you in favor of the adoption of the following zoning amendments to the Atkinson Zoning Ordinance – Article III and Article V as proposed by the Planning Board?**

**The following terms shall be added to Zoning Ordinance Article III Definitions**

Lot Coverage

- Lot Coverage area is unlimited with provision of the following site design elements and excluding them from the development area. The development area shall include: all impervious surfaces; areas occupied by stormwater management infrastructure; and non-buildable areas regulated by state and local requirements, utility setbacks and other site development restrictions. Not less than 10% of total lot area shall be set aside for open space, including required buffer areas, in the form of naturally vegetated areas and/or managed landscape areas.

Development Area

- That portion of a lot where required state and local requirements, utility setbacks, buffers and other portions restricted from development are defined and removed from the remaining lot area calculated for development.

Impervious Surface

- Any surface or structure that prevents the infiltration of water into the land surface, underlying soils and earth materials.

Building Lot:

- An area of land with suitable size to accommodate land development either residential and non-residential and that meets all required local and state requirements for such development including provision of septic facilities and drinking water.

**Amend the following chart reference and footnote description in Article V Section 530**

	<b>TR2</b>	<b>TC</b>	<b>C-I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-P</b>
<b>i. Lot Coverage</b>	Footnote #5	Footnote #5	Footnote #5	Footnote #5	Footnote #5

5 – Lot Coverage calculations to be based on development area. Refer to definition of the following terms in Zoning Ordinance Article III Definitions.

- Lot Coverage
- Development Area
- Impervious Surface
- Building Lot

Moderator declared Planning Article #2023-02 moves to the ballot as written by law.

Moderator Garrity introduced the next Zoning Citizen’s Petition, which again had a public hearing and can not be amended at Deliberative. Moderator will allow a 10-minute discussion after Article #2023-19 is completed for those who wish to make a brief comment since the Public Hearing had already taken place and no changes could be made.

**Article #2023-03 Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (By Petition)**

**Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendments to the Atkinson Zoning Ordinance by Petition of the voters of the Town?**

**Amend Article V. Section 510 – (table of Permitted Uses) as follows:**

**(This amendment includes adding Long Term Care facility as a permitted use in the RR2/SCR Zone) Add a new Permitted use:**

**OO. Long Term Care Facilities**

1. Add new use Long Term Care Facilities and Note "Y" for Yes in the RR2/SCR column, with footnote "4" to designate Site Plan approval required.

**Amend Article VI, Rural Cluster, Residential Development Section 620 Golf and Sports Complex/Residential Sub-district by adding a new Section as follows:**

**(This Amendment adds a new provision under section 620 which allows for Long Term Care Facilities to be constructed within the RR2/SCR sub district. Adds definitions in subparagraph “a” Accommodations in subparagraph “b” dwelling types in subparagraph “c” associated services in subparagraph “d” the requirement for site plan review by the planning board in subparagraph “e” and specific criteria for approval in subparagraph “f”.)**

**620:12 Long Term Care Facilities**

a. **Definitions**

<b>Assisted Living</b>	Provides supportive care for persons who require assistance with activities of daily living along with supportive services and care for persons who require assistance with activities of daily living but do not require skilled nursing and medical care provided in a nursing home or other residential care facility.
<b>Congregate Living</b>	Accommodations for persons with separate apartments, shared services and common areas where communal dining facilities and services such as housekeeping, organized social and recreational activities, transportation services, and other support services appropriate for the residents are provided pursuant to NH RSA 151:9, VII(a) and He-P 814.3 or as amended.
<b>Continuing Care</b>	A tiered approach to providing care through the aging process
<b>Long Term Care Facilities</b>	A continuum of housing including assisted living, skilled nursing, respite care, rehabilitation and hospice services.
<b>Medical Rehabilitation</b>	Provides follow up care and rehabilitation services for patients following illness, injury, or surgery.
<b>Nursing Home</b>	Means a place which provides for two or more person's basic domiciliary services, including board, room, and laundry, continuing health supervision under competent professional medical and nursing direction, and continuous nursing care as may be individually required. Per NH Administrative Rules, He-P 803.03 Definitions, as amended.

b. **Accommodations for Long Term Care Facilities are planned to:**

- 1) Provide a continuum of housing choices and care options for persons which include congregate living, assisted living, and skilled nursing, and may include respite care, rehabilitation and hospice services.
- 2) Allow for provision of associated services routinely used by persons whose health condition requires specific care.
- 3) Provide structural, building and site designs and layouts that are uniquely adapted to the needs of health challenged persons.

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

- 1) Congregate 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.

- 2) Assisted Living, distinctly not hospital or nursing home, where assistance with activities of daily living is routinely provided.
  - 3) Nursing Home, only as licensed by the State of NH Department of Health and Human Services.
- d. Associated Services allowed under Section 620:12 may consist of any of the following (specifically for residents, guests and workers at these facilities):
- 1) Dining rooms, cafeterias, coffee shops, with related preparation and serving
  - 2) Social areas, game rooms, meeting rooms, recreational and exercise areas
  - 3) Administrative offices
  - 4) Mail service and package delivery facilities
  - 5) Minor retail services (e.g., gift shops, convenience stores, barbers and salons)
  - 6) Rehabilitation and physical therapy centers, medical offices
  - 7) Banking options
  - 8) Cleaning services
  - 9) Other services incidental to the daily living of elderly residents
- e. Long Term Care Facilities under this chapter shall be reviewed by the Atkinson Planning Board under the Site Plan Review Regulations.
- f. **Criteria for approval**
- 1) Accommodations under Section 620:12 shall adhere to all provisions of the Atkinson Zoning Ordinance unless specifically exempted within Section 620.
  - 2) The number of bedrooms shall be based on the number of bedrooms allowed under RSA 485-A and associated Administrative Rules.
  - 3) Distance between structures including any projections (e.g., decks, steps, bulkheads) shall be a minimum of 25 feet.

*Approved by the Planning Board by a Vote of 4 to 2*

---

**Article #2023-04      Operating Budget**

**Shall the Town vote to 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 \$6,501,500?** Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$6,127,979, 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 Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*  
*Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 5 to 2*

Moderator recognized Chair Barker for opening remarks. Chair Barker explained that much work and communication went into this budget with lots of guidance and consultants inside and outside the Town. There were liaisons with each department and close work with the Town Administrators Office. No decision was made with any bias. While some decisions are not popular, they were made through dedication and in the spirit of elected official oaths, keeping every taxpayer in mind.

The summary slide was presented by Budget Committee member, William Smith. Reviewed each area that is up, and Health & Welfare & Debt Interest is down. Showed specific numbers.

The Moderator then recognized Chair Worden for a few comments. Chair Worden thanked everyone for their support for past three years. 2022 ended strong. The Town raised \$1.7million in grants which will have a significant impact on decreasing the operating budget for years to come. He recognized the hard work by many members of the community: all different commissions and committees and trustees. Special thanks to all department heads, employees and elected officials. 2020 thrown right in during pandemic. Lots of challenges ahead – the next year lost nine long-term employees, a Bookkeeper, Administrative Staff. Tremendous year this year to maintain a flat budget and to retain key employees. Inflation hit 9%. Utility and Insurance costs went up. Thanks to administrative team – Angela Wesson & John Apple. He then turned the floor over to John Apple, Town Admin.

John Apple: Proposed budget for 2023 \$6501500 - a 10.9% increase from 2022. Due to extra turnover in 2021, contracts, health and retirement accounts underbudgeted \$115k by contract. Must be accounted for moving forward. 2023 mandated water increase of \$93,000. Approved 2022 warrant article for new police officer implemented. These items that are mandated and budgeted for in 2023 make up 45% of this year's budget increase. Without these items the budget is only up 6%. National Consumer inflation rates averaged 6.5% to 8.5% within last 12 months. The Town experienced an average 23% increase in utilities and very high vehicle fuel costs. Wages & benefits are up 13.7% in this year's budget incorporating an 11.7% increase in health insurance premiums as well as investing in the Town's outstanding workforce. The Board looked to address the high rate of turnover over the past few years by creating an equitable pay rate rather than hiring at a higher rate. Through thorough budget preparations, all other operating costs are down by 4%. Shared a graph.

Since 2015, the Town has seen 300 new housing units averaging a \$6k tax bill per housing unit. Since 2015, this has increased tax base rate revenue by \$1.8 million in revenue. Operating budget has increased from 2015 to 2022 by 1.5 million. The tax rate has remained level. The new units have demanded a high level of service. You can find the MS737 on the Town of Atkinson website on pg. ten of the report. Estimated amount of taxes to be raised through the operating cost minus revenues.

Moderator Garrity explained how we will move through Article #2023-04 one section at a time to allow for amendments. At the end, we will move the vote to the floor for the final total budget number as it will appear on the ballot on 3/14/23.

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any amendment, discussions, or debate on the GENERAL GOVERNMENT budget line. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve GENERAL GOVERNMENT as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity asked if there was any amendment, discussions, or debate on the PUBLIC SAFETY budget line. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve PUBLIC SAFETY as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called HIGHWAYS & STREETS to the floor for discussion. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve HIGHWAYS & STREETS as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called SANITATION to the floor for discussion. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve SANITATION as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called FIRE HYDRANT UTILITIES to the floor for discussion.

Moderator recognized Ken Grant, 19 Crown Hill Rd. I'd like to Point out we have had a substantial savings in street lighting this year. Because it's a utility; and utilities are not paid for by the town when they are on private roads or private properties. Neither do the Highway Dept maintain public roads when they are on private properties. Fire hydrants approx. 20 are on private property. It can't be changed this year, but the government should consider that water is a public utility and when it is placed on private property, it should be assessed against private property. It should be considered that the governing body has to do a mini-contract on every piece of public utility they prescribe to. It's a long-term commitment. The same should have been done for the fire hydrants. They should have been considered and approved by the governing body. Next year to consider a proper portion expense divided amongst private property like street lighting – instead of public/Town property.



**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve FIRE HYDRANT UTILITIES as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called HEALTH & WELFARE to the floor for discussion.  
There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve HEALTH & WELFARE as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called CULTURE & RECREATION to the floor for discussion.  
There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve CULTURE & RECREATION as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called the CONSERVATION section of the budget to the floor for discussion.  
There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve CONSERVATION as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity called the DEBT section of the budget to the floor for discussion.  
There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve DEBT as written.**

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity stated that there were NO amendments to this budget.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve the operating budget ARTICLE #2023-04 as written:**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-4 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article #2023-4 except for math changes.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-04.

**MOTION PASSED**

Moderator Garrity commented that the reason no amendments were entertained for this article was due to the exceptional communication and cooperation amongst all those involved.

---

**Article #2023-05 Fire Department Engine (Pumper) Replacement**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$830,000) for the replacement of a 1991 Fire Department pumper and any associated equipment and allow the replaced pumper to be disposed of by trade, sale, or bid? The funding shall be Six Hundred Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$614,225) from the Atkinson Fire Department Capitol Reserve Fund and the remaining Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$215,775) to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. No additional tax dollars are required. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA32:7 and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever is sooner.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 7 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate or amendment. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-05 as written.

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-5 moves to the ballot as written.**

---

**Article #2023-06 Police Vehicle Purchase**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to purchase and equip two new Police Vehicles with Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) coming from the Police Outside Detail Revolving Fund and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be raised by taxes and allow two current Police Vehicles to be disposed of by trade, sale or bid?

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 7 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate or amendment. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-06 as written.

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-6 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration on all Articles up to and including #2023-6.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of all up through and including Article #2023-06.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-07 Highway Shim & Overlay**

**Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$568,200) to shim and overlay the following Town roads: Knightland Road, Huckleberry Lane, Farview Hill Road, Woodside Way, Stewart Farm Road, Pope Road, Whippoorwill Lane, Stone Pound Lane, Bittersweet Lane, Page's Lane, Stage Road, Rocking Chair Lane, Cottontail Lane, Pebble Brook Road, Washington Road, and Jasmine Drive?** This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the project is complete, or by December 31, 2028, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2023-04, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 7 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate or amendment.

Moderator recognized Martin Keane, 4 Huckleberry Ln. Mr. Kean has an issue with the flooding on Knightland and Huckleberry and was looking for information about drainage. Will it be addressed? Understands the Town wants to get rid of the island but he does not agree with that. Lots of runoff from Knightland to Huckleberry.

Moderator asked Highway Agent Matt Sullivan to respond but he's out on a situation.

Chair Worden responded that the Road Agent said that this problem will be addressed. In terms of the island, bring that to the Board of Selectmen and ask for a meeting and the Board will give it full consideration.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any further discussion, debate or amendment. There was none.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-07 as written.

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-7 moves to the ballot as written.**

---

**Article #2023-08 Network Upgrades for Atkinson Community Television**

**Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for the purchase and configuration of networking equipment to be installed at the Atkinson Community Center and Kimball Library for Atkinson Community Television with the purpose of creating a robust wired and wireless network capable of handling the Audio and Visual operations of current broadcast equipment?** Such sum to be withdrawn from the Cable Capital Reserve Fund established March 20, 1993, for this purpose. No additional tax dollars are required. 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, 2028, whichever is sooner. This is in addition to Article #2023-04, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 7 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any further discussion, debate or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-08 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-8 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all Articles up to and including #2023-8. Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles up to and including #2023-8.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-09      Building Needs Expendable Trust Fund**

**Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Building Needs Expendable Trust Fund, as established March 9, 2020, Article #2020-8, for the purpose of funding ongoing maintenance and improvement issues with Town facilities, such funds to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? No additional tax dollars are required. This is in addition to the Operating Budget.**

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0  
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 4 to 3*

Chair recognizes Chair Worden for an amendment.

Chair Worden submitted an amendment to change \$50k to \$100k.  
2nd by Jack Sapia.

Floor is open to speak to the amendment.

Chair Worden speaks to current fund balance. BOS general policy making sure to keep undesignated fund balance at 10%. NH DRA recommends a minimum of 5% and maximum of 10%. Government Finance Office offers an 8% min and 17% target. Need to save for emergency. Raising building needs fund up to \$100,000 keeps safety net at 9.9%. The reason is because even though we had an injection of \$1.7 million for building needs we initially brought \$50k. Underfunded in many areas in 2022 budget had to go to that fund to pay for maintenance. Community Center \$14k system down on coldest day of the year – last night. Budget committee taught me a lot. Use your stuff to the very end. Do maintenance to get the most out of it. Unit at FD – the unit had life expectancy of 20-25 year. It went at 27<sup>th</sup> year. We got our money out of it. Can't predict when things will go. Three years ago, we had \$1.2 million we had to fix, which we haven't caught up to. Need to build a reserve to \$250k. I've been working with Exec Councilor Janet Stevens. The state will offer \$20 million to towns but need to match 15% to apply. Could get Community Center completely renovated if submit application.

Chair recognizes Jack Sapia. He stands in favor as a former Selectmen and Chair. Can't support this enough. School district felt it. No money to pull from to maintain. Invest in things now or three years ago before prices go up.

Deb DeSimone, 11 Providence Hill Rd: speak to what Chair Worden said regarding grant money. This is one-time monies. Grants may not be available next year. Need to avail ourselves now of this grant. Supports the amendment.

Brian Boyle, 24 Winslow Dr and Maintenance Supervisor. Two days ago, had a heating issue at the Community Center. The fix is \$14-\$15k. Brought in a budget of \$20k less than we spent on our buildings last year. The Building Needs Committee did lots of work. Town stepped up and did repairs last year. \$100k is a small dent from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Already spent money this year and only have \$65k left to maintain \$20 million in buildings. Supports the amendment.

Peter Torosian, 18 Pine Hill, Explain the Budget Committee's position on this. This Article does not create any new money. It's a mechanism to access the money from the Undesignated Fund. There is another mechanism to access this money. Did not have a Building Needs Expendable Trust Fund year ago. If warrant fails, the money is still available to access in an emergency, that's why budget committee doesn't support the warrant.

Sam Butler, Budget Committee, 45 Maple Ave, this was a very narrow vote. Three of us on the committee believe it makes it simpler, easier, and quicker to retrieve the money. Supports this amendment.

Deb DeSimone: if these funds are not in a designated fund, we can't apply for the grant. Must be designated for that purpose.

Wendy Barker, 10 Aspen and Budget Committee: Clarified that failed HVAC was Police not fire. Budget committee was not aware of the community center failure or the grant application. Would like information on the grant by end of this meeting.

No further amendment or discussion.

Moderator Garrity moved the amendment to the floor for a vote by a show of hands to increase the number "\$50,000" to "\$100,000".

**AMENDMENT PASSED**

Hearing no further amendments or discussion, Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve ARTICLE #2023-09 as amended:

**AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2022-09 moves to the ballot as amended.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all Articles up to and including #2023-9. Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles up to and including #2023-9.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-10      Emergency Management Communication and Information Systems  
Capital Reserve Fund**

**Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding the purchase and replacement of Town Emergency Management Communication and Information Systems; to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend these funds and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to begin this trust?** It is the intention to request Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) per year, to maintain a total of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for this trust. This is in addition to 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 2*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate or amendment.

Jack Sapia in favor of this. Give responsibility to Dept Head and BOS to make it as safe as possible for our first responders. Need to have emergency dispatch able to communicate.

David Holligan, 13 Chase Island. Deputy Chief of Fire. Call from dispatch this a.m. that the tower on HighView is not working due to the cold. Repeaters not working due to the cold. That can happen any day. Fire fighters can't communicate. To address Budget Committee's questions: Two Comprehensive plans submitted, and the Ham Operators submitted a plan. Need an improved infrastructure in this town. Establish this fund to work together with various departments to get this done.

Bob Malo, 12 Meadow Ln. I think the complication with this is there's not enough detail if the \$25k is significant enough to accomplish anything and take ten years to accumulate enough money. New technologies coming out. There is no qualified person in Atkinson to put a plan together. Put money toward a consultant to provide options and cost and then allocate the proper amount of money to spend. Not a failing solution that we'd have to re-do.

Brian Murray, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director. This is just the beginning. Studies indicated upwards of \$500k - acknowledges that the \$25k is needed to start. Currently system is down. Was up at 2 AM listening to the emergency communication that was not going through. I don't disagree that we need a study. We are working with Motorola who will put a study together to determine if we need to spend money on another study. Supports the Article.

Peter Torosian. 18 Pine Hill, we all agree we need to look at this and have experts come up with a plan. I'm against this warrant because dispatch is up for renewal. There are other repeaters out there through county. No guarantee any repeaters wouldn't have an issue with the cold. Like to know where we are at for dispatch contracts before committing this money.

Chief Murray responded that Plaistow owns dispatch. We are handcuffed. Deal with Plaistow dispatch. This plan would get us a long-term solution that would allow us to own our own infrastructure. This would allow us to go out to a competitive bid.

Selectman Baldwin spoke next. My good neighbors - there are a lot of folks in this room with expertise. Many of us have been involved in radio communication over 20 years. Atkinson has peaks and valleys. High Hill highest point, then down to Westside Dr. Go to 111 has own issues. Now DPW is part of 1st responders. Need to be prepared to have adequate infrastructure for 1<sup>st</sup> responders to do their job. Communication in the field is #1 priority equipment or can't do their job.

Jack Sapia, 5 Crystal Hill, want 1st responders to be able to get to a person's home. There are formulas out there to come up with an annual percentage to pro-actively sock away a percentage year-over-year to avoid a big sum in one Warrant Article. Supports this article.

Chris Winchell, 60 East Rd, and 1<sup>st</sup> Responder. Speaks in favor. Several personal experiences where couldn't reach dispatch.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any further discussion, debate, or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-10 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-10 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-10.  
Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles #2023-10.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-11      Adopt Optional Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28, II)**

**Shall the Town readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750?** If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged. Readoption required due to House Bill 1667 amending RSA 72:28 to change eligibility to include serving members.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

This is a technical fix as we already have this tax credit in place, but we have to re-adopt this credit due to the change in the state law that also covers active members. Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate or amendment.

Peter Torosian asked if the amount is the same? The answer is Yes.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any further discussion, debate, or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-11 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-11 moves to the ballot as written.**

---

**Article #2023-12      Adopt All Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28-b)**

**Shall the Town readopt the All-Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall equal the same amount as the optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28?** If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged. Readoption required due to House Bill 1667 amending RSA 72:28-b to change eligibility to include serving members.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Another technical fix requiring re-adoption.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any further discussion, debate or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-12 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-12 moves to the ballot as written.**

---

**Article #2023-13      Discontinue the Technology Committee**

**Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Technology Committee, established March 9, 2010, Article #2010-35?** This Committee was established for the purpose of managing the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and IT budget for the Town. These tasks have been adopted by administrative staff and contracted support services.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate, or amendment.

Chair recognized Selectmen Chair Bob Worden who thanked previous committee members for their service. He recognized Vice Chair Cacciotti for leading the team to create and launch a new website.

The Moderator spoke about Wendy Barker being a pioneer on the Tech Committee as well. He then explained how back in 2010, Todd Barbera came to Mr. Garrity and asked if he should start a Technology Committee because we had no technology. This committee ran with it and brought it to where we are today.



Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate, or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-13 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-13 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all Articles up to and including Article #2023-13.

Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of all Articles up to and including Article #2023-11.13.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-14      Center School Lease and Occupancy**

**Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter a five (5) year lease agreement, per RSA 41:11-a, III, beginning in 2023, with the Atkinson Historical Society for the use of the building located at 16 Academy Avenue for the purpose of a museum as the original one room schoolhouse, formerly known as the Center School and the Family Mediation Facility?**

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Chair recognizes Ellen Beckwith, representative of Atkinson Historical Society. As the town of Atkinson looks forward to the future, the Atkinson Historical Society has the responsibility of preserving and treasuring our past. This past year the AHS has worked tirelessly in doing so.

In 2021, we became aware that the former Center School, most recently known as the Family Mediation Center might be torn down. This building was originally one of five one room schoolhouses in town and was used from 1880-1949. Following the closing, it served the town as the police station, town hall offices, and most recently the Family Mediation Center.

Representatives met with the selectmen and asked for time to research its history further. With advice from other local historical societies, we met with the NH Preservation Alliance. A representative toured the building and encouraged us to apply to the NH Division of Historical Resources to gain recognition as a historical building. In August of 2022 the Center School was placed on the NH Register of Historic Places. To keep the community informed, we created a Facebook presence – Friends of the Center School, Atkinson, NH. Numerous old pictures were posted of children in front of the school, and we asked readers to help us identify possible friends and relatives. We are also collecting oral/written memories from former students who attended the school.

The history of one room schools in Atkinson goes back to 1850 (almost 175 years ago) when the North End School was built at the corner of Westside Drive and Island Pond Road. At one time, there were five one room schoolhouses. All are now gone except for the Center School, and it is now the last remaining one. Recently, we again met with the NH Preservation Alliance. They

spent a couple of hours evaluating the building with preservation in mind. We were excited to see that the entire building has a tin ceiling above the present dropped ceiling, that some doorframes are rounded and that a row of three hanging light fixtures are above that dropped ceiling. We anticipate a report in a couple of weeks outlining what needs to be done to return the building to the one room schoolhouse that existed until 1949. Our long-term goal is to restore and reopen for viewing and tours like the Kimball House. We expect that it will be open during other town events such as Memorial Day and Labor Day. We anticipate that the children at Atkinson Academy will visit to experience what it was like to go to a one room school. We also expect that smaller groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other town organizations might want to utilize the facility. Like other one room schoolhouses in NH, the plan is to only have it open during the spring, summer, fall months, and by appointment, closing it down in the winter. Therefore, heating the building will not be necessary.

The historical society is committed to restoring the building through fundraising and applying for grants. Because the building is owned by the town of Atkinson, the selectmen have sponsored this warrant article, offering us a five-year lease to achieve our goal. It is important to note, that no money is attached to this article. This gives the historical society time to work through the challenges that we face. We have been slowly looking into what is available but cannot proceed further until the warrant article is passed. Our plan is to restore the building as much money allows. Please support this article by voting yes on Warrant #14.

Moderator asked how much will the Town charge for the lease? Chair Worden responded with \$1. Moderator handed over a \$1.

Peter Torosian – what plans does the Society have to fundraise to restore the building?

Kate Rochford, President of Historical Society. Looking at several options. State organizations like Moose Plates, local Casino's and making applications and researching others. There will be a mechanism for donating. Once we have a lease, we'll see the thermometer go up. Trying to determine how much money we will need. Met with the NH Preservation Alliance to work on that.

Moderator Garrity asked if there is any discussion, debate, or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-14 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-14 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-14.  
Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles #2023-14.

**MOTION PASSED**

Broke for lunch at 11:40pm. Will take 20-minute break.  
Resumed 12:04pm

Moderator Garrity Reviewed the TRSD Voter Guide.

---

**Article #2023-15      Modify the Conflict-of-Interest Ordinance**

**Are you in favor of the following modifications, as proposed by the Conflict-of-Interest Committee, to the Conflict of Interest Ordinance last revised March 17, 2022, which are as follows:**

**Insert the following section(s):**

Section 1.c – Related Statutes:

RSA 669:7 Incompatibility of Offices

**Insert the following into existing section(s):**

Section 1.d – Definitions:

Petitioner      Any person who submits a formal complaint under this Ordinance.

Town            The Town of Atkinson as a legal entity, including all of its departments, Boards, commissions, and committees.

**Change existing Declaration of Policy and Section II Purpose and replace with:**

~~Section II Purpose. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials and employees by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of the Town thereby regulating conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflict; and also requiring disclosure by such officials and employees of private financial or other interest in matters affecting the town that may be or appear to be a conflict of interest.~~

1. Introduction

a. Purpose

This Conflict-of-Interest Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority of RSA 31:39-a. The purpose of this Ordinance is to inform Town Members who are involved in the oversight, administration, and/or provision of service for the Town, how to avoid Conflict of Interest as it pertains to their role in Town business. It is also to inform Town residents of their course of action should they suspect a Conflict of Interest involving a Member of Town government.

b. ~~Declaration of Policy~~

The proper operation of democratic government requires that ~~public officials and employees~~ Members be independent, impartial ~~and~~, responsible to the people; ~~and that~~

government decisions and policy be made through the proper channels of ~~governmental~~ government structure; that public office. Any Member must not ~~be used~~ use their position for personal gain; ~~and so~~ that the public will have confidence in the integrity of its government ~~members~~ Members to perform their duties without conflicts between their private ~~interests~~ Interests and those of the citizens they serve. In recognition of these goals, ~~a Conflict of Interest~~ this Ordinance for all town ~~officials and employees~~ Town Members is adopted in accordance with RSA 31:39-a and supersedes all previous issuances of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance.

**Strike Section I Election of Conflict of Interest Committee, replace with the following:**

**2. Conflict of Interest Committee (this Committee)**

**a. COI Structure**

Membership: Unless otherwise provided by law, no person shall serve on this Committee who does not have their domicile within the Town. (RSA 669:6). No Member of this Committee shall hold any Town, School District, County, State, or Federal elective or appointed office, Board membership, commission membership or trusteeship. No Member of this Committee shall be employed full- or part-time by the Town. Family of Members and contractors and contractor's employees who provide services to the Town shall not be allowed to serve on this Committee. This does not prevent a member of this Committee from volunteering unpaid services to the Town, where no Conflict of Interest is created.

Number of Members and length of terms: This Committee shall consist of five Members serving staggered three-year terms.

Vacancies: Should a vacancy in this Committee arise, the remaining Members will appoint, through a vetting process, a Town resident to serve out the remainder of the term.

Officers: This Committee will have three officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary) serving one-year terms. They will be selected annually, by this Committee's majority, at the first Committee meeting following the annual town election.

**Modify the language in Section III Investigatory Power, as follows:**

**b. Section III Investigatory Power:**

~~The Committee, only after~~ Only when a petition is filed under Section A, shall will this Committee take action to address the petition. Section 2.c., ~~Procedures For Inquiries and for Submitting an Alleged Violations~~ Violation, may require ~~of any member of town government~~ of any member of town government to that a Member, Respondent, or a Petitioner, appear before ~~it and give such~~ this Committee to ~~provide additional information as it, so that this Committee may require in relation to this office, perform its function and performance. The~~ provide additional information as it, so that this Committee may require in relation to this office, perform its function and performance. The ~~as it relates to the submitted petition. This Committee shall will~~ as it relates to the submitted petition. This Committee shall will give at least forty-eight (48) ~~hours~~ hours written notice of the general scope of the inquiry, which is to be made to any person ~~Member it shall will~~ Member it shall will require to appear

before it. ~~under this section. The~~ This Committee, for this purpose, may administer oaths and require the production of that evidence be provided.

**Modify the language in Definitions, as follows:**

**Board-** Any ~~board,~~ committee, or commission, permanent or special, established by the Board of Selectmen or, New Hampshire State or Federal law.

**Compensation-** Any consideration, money, gift, ~~thing~~ item of value or economic/financial benefit conferred on or received by any person in return for services rendered or to be rendered by himself him/herself or another person.

**Conflict of Interest (COI)-** A situation, circumstance, or financial ~~interest~~ Interest, which has the potential to ~~cause,~~ or the appearance of, causing a private ~~interest~~ Interest to influence or interfere with the proper exercise of a public duty.

**Entity-** Any person having an ~~interest~~ Interest.

**Family-** Includes spouse, parents, stepparents, grandparents, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, brothers, stepbrothers, sisters, stepsisters, in-laws, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and partners. Relatives are by blood, marriage or adoption as listed within this paragraph. For the purposes of this Ordinance, those who reside in the same household are included in the definition of Family.

**Interest-** Any legal or equitable ownership or right held directly, or indirectly, jointly, or in part, at any time during the term of office, or within the previous twelve-month period. The specific ~~interests~~ Interests of an ~~official or employee~~ a Member of the ~~town~~ Town that are subject to this ~~ordinance~~ Ordinance as being in conflict are as follows:

- ~~A.~~ Ownership or title in a stock, security, investment, certificate, partnership, venture, trust, royalty, lease or other equity, which entitles the owner to business rights or profits.
- ~~B.~~ Creditor entitlement in a note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of such entitlement.
- ~~C.~~ Ownership of land within 200 feet of any land being discussed by the ~~town.~~ Town.
- ~~D.~~ Acting as an agent of a person or company in dealings with the ~~town.~~ Town.
- ~~E.~~ A ~~town-member~~ Town Member acting for the ~~town~~ Town with a person or company who is an employer of the ~~member,~~ Member and/or ~~family,~~ as defined by Section IV. Definitions. Paragraph: a Member's Family.

**The Jurisdiction-** This Committee is deemed to have jurisdiction when ALL three of the following conditions are met:

- ~~A.~~ -The Respondent is a Town Member
- ~~B.~~ -The ~~Petitioner~~ Respondent is ~~an entity with~~ has an Interest as described above.
- ~~C.~~ -The Petitioner identifies the infraction in ~~the this~~ the this Ordinance to the best of their ability. If necessary, this Committee may assist in identifying the correct specific infractions of the Ordinance, even if not specifically mentioned by the Petitioner.

**Member of Town Government (Member)**- Any elected or appointed official, ~~board member~~ Board Member or ~~town~~ Town employee, whether full- or part-time, permanent, or temporary, including those employed by the ~~town~~ Town and paid by federal or state assistance programs ~~and including~~. This includes but is not limited to ~~all town employees, Selectmen, the following~~ Members of:

- Budget Committee ~~members,~~
- Board of Selectmen
- Cable Television Committee ~~members,~~
- Checklist Supervisors, ~~Committee members,~~
- Conservation Commission ~~members,~~
- Rockingham Planning Commission ~~members,~~
- Kimball Library Trustees,
- Planning Board ~~members,~~
- Recreation Committee ~~members, the~~
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector, ~~the~~
- Town Moderator, ~~the~~
- Treasurer, ~~the~~
- Trustees of the Trust Funds;
- Water Resource Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment ~~members and members of any~~
- Any other town boards Town Boards, commissions and/or committees, including those yet to be established.

**Respondent**- A ~~member~~ Member of ~~town~~ Town government named in a petition submitted to ~~the~~ this Committee as an inquiry or alleging a violation of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance in relation to his/her official duties.

**Modify the language in Prohibited Conduct as follows:**

**Section V**

**3. Member Conduct**

**a. Prohibited Conduct:**

~~A. Participating in prohibited conduct establishes a Conflict of Interest with the town. It is in violation of this code for any member to:~~

~~(1) Any Member subject to this Ordinance who suspects that his or her personal or financial advantage may be considered a Conflict of Interest, real or perceived, must disclose all material to their respective Board, Committee and/or supervisor. If the facts demonstrate that a real or perceived Conflict of Interest exists, the appropriate committee, Board or supervisor will ensure that the Member recuse him or herself from involvement in a discussion of, or vote on, the issue at hand. The Committee, Chair and/or supervisor will ensure that such recusal is documented in the official minutes of the applicable meeting or business situation.~~

It is in violation of this Ordinance for any Member to:

- In his or her official capacity, introduce, discuss, deliberate, approve, or vote upon any matter in which he or she or any member of his or her ~~family~~ Family has an ~~interest~~ Interest known to said ~~member~~ Member.
- ~~(2)~~ Knowingly enter any discussion, testimony, or deliberation without first, publicly and for the record, stating all dealings, ~~interests~~ Interests, relationships and possible conflicts that may exist between said ~~member~~ Member and his or her ~~family~~ Family, the principals and the issue under deliberation, as may be known by the ~~member~~ Member.
- ~~(3)~~ Knowingly participate in ~~town~~ Town business and giving preferential treatment or consideration based on personal relationships, which may adversely affect the Town.
- Knowingly participate in Town business without disclosing all potential ~~conflicts~~ Conflicts of interest-Interest.
- ~~(4)~~ Knowingly use town property or labor for personal use. No Town Member, or his/her Family member shall accept or use Town property, services, or labor personally, or make the same available to others unless such use is available to other residents upon request on equal terms; unless necessary to carry out his/her assigned duties.
- ~~(5)~~ Knowingly use town Use Town property or labor to influence the political cause of any candidate for public office or any political party.
- Receive or distribute political advertisements or promotional materials while conducting Town business.
- Use any confidential and/or proprietary information acquired through or by virtue of his or her official position for his or her financial benefit or for the financial benefit of any other person or business. The foregoing does not apply to information available to the general public.
- ~~(6)~~ Otherwise Other than as provided by law for the proper discharge of his ~~or~~ her official duties, directly or indirectly request or receive any ~~compensation~~ Compensation from anyone other than the ~~town~~ Town in relation to any particular matter in which the town is a party or has a direct and substantial ~~interest~~ Interest.
- ~~(7)~~ Otherwise Other than as provided by law for the proper discharge of his/her official duties directly promise or offer such ~~compensation~~ Compensation as referred to in this ~~code~~ Ordinance.
- ~~(8)~~ Knowingly accept a gift with a value in excess of five dollars (\$5.00~~);~~) or allow acceptance of such a gift by a ~~family~~ Family member from any individual, group or corporation knowingly dealing with an area of ~~town~~ Town government in which the ~~member~~ Member has an ~~interest~~ Interest or jurisdiction. ~~The foregoing does not apply to gifts from family members.~~
- ~~(9)~~ Knowingly give false information concerning dealings, ~~interests~~ Interests, relationships and possible conflicts to the various supervisors, boards, commission and committees and the Board of Selectmen.
- ~~(10)~~ Knowingly fail to cooperate with ~~the~~ this Committee or other investigating authority in the investigation of any complaint alleging a violation of the tenets of this ~~code~~ Ordinance.



- ~~(H)~~ Knowingly sign a purchase order where there is a prior or present financial ~~interest~~Interest with the vendor(s).
- ~~B.~~ No elected or appointed officer or employee Member, whose salary is paid in whole or in part from the ~~town~~Town treasury ~~shall, will~~ appear in his/her official capacity on behalf of a private ~~interest~~Interest before any ~~town~~Town board. ~~Selectmen, however, may appear without compensation on behalf of constituents or in the performance of public or civic obligations.~~
- ~~C.~~ No elected or appointed official or employee Member whose salary is paid in whole or in part from the ~~town~~Town treasury ~~shall will~~ represent private interests, other than his- or/ her own; in any actions or proceedings against the ~~interest~~Interest of the town in any litigation to which the town is a party.
- ~~D.~~ No ~~town official or employee~~Member shall claim to act on behalf ~~of~~ the Selectmen, boards, committees, or departments without prior authorization from said ~~body or department.~~Board.

**Modify the language in Section VI Exclusions as follows:**

**Section VI**

**b. Exclusions:**

Exclusions to prohibited conduct include but may not be limited to:

- The prohibition against gifts or favors ~~shall~~ will not apply to an occasional non-financial gift, which is insignificant in value; or an award publicly presented in recognition of public service or any gift which would have been offered or given to him- or/ her if he- or/ she ~~was~~ were not a ~~member~~ Member.
- Unsolicited advertising or promotional items or materials of nominal intrinsic value such as pens and calendars.
- It ~~shall~~ will not be a violation for elected members to accept donations for the express purpose of financing a political campaign, provided that such contributions are reported in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to such donations or services and/or financial value.
- ~~B.~~ The ~~mere~~ purchase of goods or non-professional services (services from other than attorneys, engineers, architects, and surveyors) from a person or business in the ordinary course of that person's or business's retail or service business ~~shall~~ will not prevent a member from introducing, discussing, approving, or voting upon a matter which relates to that person or business.
- ~~C.~~ Those actions taken as part of the legislative process of making a law or laws which affect the community in general are exempt from the provisions herein. Legislative actions concerning the granting of specific contract awards and/or actions designed to benefit one (1) identified or identifiable individual specific group of individuals are not exempt.
- ~~D.~~ Nothing in this ~~ordinance~~ Ordinance ~~shall~~ will prevent political candidates or parties from holding public meetings in town buildings; or prevent members from exercising and carrying out the responsibilities and obligations of their office or position of employment.

**Modify the language in Section VII Procedures for Inquiries and Alleged Violations as follows:**

**Section VII**

**c. Procedures for ~~Inquiries and Submitting an Alleged Violations.~~Violation**



- ~~A. Any Entity, person or business may petition the this Committee to make a ruling on investigate a situation which they feel may or may not constitute a conflict~~Conflict of interest-Interest.
- ~~The person submitting a petition must complete a current Conflict of Interest petition form. The petition must be submitted to the Committee within one year after the alleged violation has occurred.~~
- ~~(1) A petition must be in writing, signed and dated and include the name and, address and contact information of each petitioner.~~Petitioner. Each Petitioner must then sign and date the petition to make it valid. Business owners submitting a petition must also include the name and address of the their business.
- ~~The petition must be placed in~~ filed **WITHIN ONE YEAR** after the alleged violation occurred.
- ~~Anyone wishing to submit a sealed envelope marked "Conflict petition, can find the form and instructions for submission on the Town website. Hard copy instructions and information regarding this Committee are available at the Town Hall. Anyone may contact the current Chairperson or a Member of Interest this Committee", for the most up to date information on filing a petition.~~
- ~~(2) The petition must be mailed to: "Conflict of Interest Committee, P.O. Box 452, Atkinson, NH 03811". The original petition shall remain on file in the Town Hall, under the exclusive control of the Committee.~~
- ~~(3) The person submitting the request for information or the petition of alleged Conflict of Interest must complete a Petitioner Information Form.~~
- ~~B. The This Committee will first review the inquiry or alleged violation and determine if it is within the jurisdiction of the Committee's authority. If the petition is found to be within the Committee's jurisdiction, the Committee will proceed with an investigation and hearing if deemed necessary.~~
- ~~C. After review, evaluation, and appropriate investigation the Committee shall, within thirty (30) days of the petition having been taken up by the Committee, This Committee will make a finding on the inquiry or alleged violation. If petition within 30 days of receipt. If the Committee finds it necessary, this Committee may vote elect to extend its investigatory this period up to a maximum of ninety (90) days from when the matter is first presented to the Committee as an agenda item.~~
- ~~D. Pursuant to RSA 31:39a, violating this code shall be grounds for recommending disciplinary action to be taken by the Board of Selectmen if found by the majority vote of the Committee.~~
- ~~E. Findings as to employees shall be forwarded to the respondent and Selectmen for appropriate action in accordance with applicable personnel policies and procedures and union contract requirements. Findings shall include supporting arguments.~~
- ~~F. Findings related to the CENSURE of an appointed or elected member shall be forwarded to the respondent and Board of Selectmen. Findings shall include supporting evidence.~~
- ~~Findings related to the REMOVAL of an appointed or elected member shall be forwarded to the respondent and Board of Selectmen with supporting evidence for referral to the Rockingham Superior Court. The Rockingham Superior Court shall have jurisdiction over any removal proceedings instituted under and Ordinance adopted under this section as per RSA 31:39 a.~~

- ~~G. The Selectmen shall have forty five (45) days from the date a finding is the petition was submitted to the appropriate office to act on the Committee decision. Such an extension may be necessary to allow proper time for the evaluation, review, and investigation of the petition.~~
- ~~H. Any member alleged to have violated this code is entitled to a public hearing. After this Committee determines it has jurisdiction over the matter and conducts its investigation, it can conclude that the matter deserves further action in the form of a hearing. The hearing will be held in a non-public setting. The hearing shall occur with notice to the Respondent no less than seven (7) days prior thereto. notice posted in two (2) public places seven (7) days prior thereto. When appearing before the Conflict of Interest Committee, said member the Respondent may call witnesses on his or her behalf and may retain representation by legal counsel at his or her own expense if he or she so chooses. RSA 31:104 provides protection to a person acting in his or her official capacity in good faith and within the scope of his or her authority. This could include payment of legal costs. At notification of non-public hearing, each party must notify the others, in writing, if they will be represented by legal counsel. Pursuant to RSA 31:39-a, if this Committee, by majority vote, finds that there is a violation of this Ordinance, it will be considered grounds for recommending disciplinary action to the Board of Selectmen.~~
- ~~I. Findings related to Respondents who are Town employees will be forwarded to the Respondent and the Board of Selectmen for appropriate action in accordance with applicable personnel policies, procedures, and union contract requirements. Findings will include all supporting evidence and arguments.~~
- ~~Should a Member or Members of the Board of Selectmen be the subject of the complaint, the findings will be forwarded to the Superior Court.~~
- ~~Findings related to the CENSURE of an appointed or an elected Member shall be forwarded to the Respondent and Board of Selectmen. Findings will include all supporting evidence and arguments.~~
- ~~Findings related to the REMOVAL of an appointed or elected Member will be forwarded to the Respondent and Board of Selectmen. The Rockingham Superior Court will have jurisdiction over any removal proceedings instituted under this Ordinance and adopted under this section as per RSA 31:39-a.~~
- ~~The Board of Selectmen will have forty-five (45) days from the date a finding is submitted to the Board of Selectmen to act on the Committee's findings.~~
- ~~When appearing before this Committee, the Member may call witnesses on his or her behalf and may retain legal representation/counsel at his or her own expense if she/he chooses.~~
- ~~Nothing in this code shall be construed to Ordinance will prohibit any person from petitioning the Superior Court to remove a member Member of government on the ground.~~
- ~~Even if a Petitioner requests that the violation in question warrants removal.~~
- ~~J. A respondent may request that the Committee make a ruling on any a petition that is be withdrawn or invalidated. If such a request is made, the, this Committee shall can complete an investigation pursuant to the procedures described herein in this Ordinance.~~

**Modify the language in Section VIII Distribution of Conflict of Interest Ordinance, Section IX Reporting and Exemption period as follows:**

**Section VIII**

d. Distribution of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance:

~~A. Each member and employee Member, as defined in Section 1.d. IV. Definitions, shall be furnished with given a copy of this the Conflict of Interest Ordinance including amendments within (30) days of hire, appointment or election date and shall include a signed/receipt date. The Town Clerk's Office will provide the Ordinance to all Appointed and changes prior to assuming Elected Officials when they take their respective duties of office or employment. Copies of the Conflict of Interest, amendments and changes can be obtained from the Town Clerks Office. Oath of Office. The Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator's Office will be responsible for providing the Town Employees during the on-boarding process. The Town Clerk's Office and the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator is responsible for re-distributing this Ordinance whenever it's amended. Failure to be furnished or obtain a copy of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance with amendments and changes shall not be grounds for relief from observing and eompliance with the ordinance, amendments, and changes complying with the ordinance. The most updated Conflict of Interest Ordinance shall be available on the Town of Atkinson website, the Town Clerks Office and in the atrium at Town Hall.~~

e. Review Cycle for the Conflict of Interest Ordinance

The Conflict of Interest Ordinance will be reviewed yearly by this Committee to ensure it is in compliance with any changes made at the Federal, State or Town level.

~~C. All members of Town government shall be given a copy of this ordinance within seven (7) days of data of hire, appointment, or election and within (30) days shall sign as received.~~

**Section IX**

f. Reporting

~~As Town Leaders, Selectmen, Department Heads, and Committee Chairpersons All Town Members are encouraged **required** to immediately report any identified conflicts of interest or perceived Conflicts of Interest.~~

**Strike this sentence completely:**

**Exemption period:**

~~Any member elected, appointed or engaged before July 1, 1997, shall be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance for a period of thirty one (31) days.~~

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity recognized Dave Pancoast, Conflict of Interest Committee member.

I am David Pancoast and I am a Member of the COI Committee. I am here today to introduce the Warrant Article we have put forward to update the COI Ordinance. The original Ordinance was approved in 1997 and has been amended over 10 times in the past 25 years. In 2022, our committee took the time to review the Ordinance and to draft a major overhaul. The updated Ordinance is more reflective of the needs of the Town and how the Conflict-of-Interest Committee operates today.

The goals for the revision include the following main objectives:

- Provide a table of contents to make content easier to find.
- Eliminate all out-of-date provisions and ensure that all content accurately reflects current RSAs.
- Ensure the writing style is clear and concise. For added clarity, we also updated the definitions and the capitalized specially defined terms throughout the document.
- Organize the information in a logical flow.
- Provide specific references to NH RSA authority.
- Give instructions how to file a petition.
- Require distribution of the ordinance.
- Lastly, require an annual review cycle for the Conflict-of-Interest Ordinance to ensure that it follows current RSAs and town policies and procedures.

This revision reflects many hours of effort on behalf of the committee members, Town Administration and the Municipal and Town Attorney. The Conflict-of-Interest Committee is proud to present this updated ordinance to the residents of Atkinson to serve as a guide to Town Members on how to avoid conflict of interest as it pertains to their role in town business.

The Warrant we have proposed is very lengthy, but we have tried to structure it so that it is easy for you to see the proposed changes. We have also provided a full clean version of the DRAFT on our town website, along with the current ordinance so that if you would like to review it in detail you may see both documents side by side. If there are any questions, my fellow committee members and I are here to answer any questions you may have.

Leon Artus, 114 Maple Ave. Made a motion to take the whole article off the warrant. Last year I put forward a Warrant to strengthen the COI Committee. I asked for money from an independent attorney. COI under old ordinance required only to look at cases brought forth by citizen in town in conflict. How can people with no legal degree make decisions without attorney help on anything in the ordinance? Last year, my Warrant was turned down and then the Chair of COI amended my article which weakened it. The problem with Mr. Pancoast's article is that they went through the Town Counsel which makes no sense. The Town BOS directed them to Town Counsel. That's a Conflict of Interest.

Moderator Garrity told Mr. Artus this Warrant Article can not take the Article off the Warrant.

Mr. Artus read minutes from 1/3/23 COI Meeting.

Moderator said he has two minutes left.

Mr. Artus said the Committee has turned over their responsibility to the Town. Which is a Conflict of Interest. It's dangerous – it's like a murderer being told they have to use the Prosecution to defend them.

The BOS directed the COI members to meet with specific contractors related to the Fire Dept. Conflict of Interest shouldn't be directed by BOS to meet with anyone.

Moderator interrupted and recommended he file a petition with the COI.

Mr. Artus stated this is "a dangerous warrant article".

Dave Holigan asked if there are any substantive changes.

Michelle Hooper, 11 Sleepy Hollow Rd and the Secretary and Member. Substantive changes are how members are selected. Found some major errors to fix. Recommend compare each old and new draft side by side. Mentioned that Mr. Artus can submit petition.

Leon Artus, Maple Avenue. She said what is printed here wasn't included in what was included last year. Is she saying this is incomplete?

Moderator will allow an answer.

Michelle Hooper clarified that this ordinance includes the 2015 changes. Just makes things clearer.

Jack Sapia spoke about differences between committees and boards. The COI has a process to follow but the COI has no authority.

Deb DeSimone makes a motion call the question and move to vote. 2nd by Bob Worden.

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

**MOTION PASSED**

Hearing no further amendments or discussion, Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to approve ARTICLE #2023-15 as written.

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-15 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all Articles up to and including #2023-15. Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles up to and including #2023-15.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-16 SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth (By Petition)**

**Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Fifteen Dollars (\$7,015, approximately one dollar per person) for the purpose of to support the community wellness services of the SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth?** SoRock provides critical resources to youth and families to reduce substance misuse and support mental health through education, programming, and the leveraging of local, state and federal resources for the benefit of the Towns they serve.

*Not Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 3 to 2  
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a Vote of 7 to 0*

Moderator recognizes Jane Kowalski.

Jane Kowalski, 5 Wellington Circle, retired teacher and mental health counselor, and mom of teenage daughters, member of SoRock Steering Committee SoRock for four years. Monthly meetings. Promote wellness and resiliency with goals of preventing substance misuse and mental health stigma. Currently being supported by seven surrounding towns. Uniform request of \$1 in each town. Hope to be supported by Atkinson in 2023.

Police Chief Crowley: Don't know all programs they run but what I understand is we get back four to five times what we put in.

Jane K – read a letter from Kelly Binette social worker from TRMS. 25 years in Mental Health Field. Need for work greater than ever before.

Bob Malo, 12 Meadow Ln and from Budget Committee – share slide. Three years ago, we were getting 12 requests from various organizations. Came up with a form to make a uniformed process to those requesting donations. A contribution line is to show support and encouragement only. SoRock is only org that came to BC with completed form and specific dollar amount. More than 50% of the money goes to salaries. Charity Navigator - 85-95% going to cause not salary. For SoRock, less than 20% to the cause. Just a facilitator/coordinator. Families can just Google for help. Primarily mental health and substance abuse. Hampstead Hospital offers what this organization offers. Most of the work they're doing is with schools. Schools should have tons of money in their budget to fund these organizations based on the Moderator's comment about 80% of tax dollars going to the schools. For these reasons, BOS and BC have voted "no" three years in a row.

Moderator recognizes Charlotte Scott – from SoRock – Moderator asked what does Atkinson get out of SoRock.

Charlotte asked to be able to clarify the form that was up on the screen. Originally, we had a grant in the budget provided \$125k. Only get the grant for ten years; we have aged out. Exeter Hospital and State help funding. Provide workshops not just information. Youth Summit. Workshop for educators to learn resiliency skills. Twelve-page document on back wall. Salary line pays for Charlotte's parttime position. I work beyond my hours. Can't do all that happened if I hadn't existed to bring all the resources here.

Jack Sapia, I'm shocked and disappointed. Budget is reflection of the value of the community. Value children and seniors. 300 people a day are dying of Fentanyl. No greater responsibility than the safety of our children. The job of the Budget Committee is to do what taxpayers want. Instead, they took a line item out for our children. Supports the Article.

Deb DeSimone, Providence Hill, Family Mediation & Juvenile used to get \$5k. No more. SoRock picked up the work of the Family Mediation. Sununu Detention Center is closing. 144 bed unit for kids with Mental Health issues. We no longer need 144 bed facility. Youth diversion agency and SoRock helped lower the need for the 144 beds. Unlike Hampstead Hospital, So Rock has no fees and does not require health insurance. SoRock keeps kids out of the system the right way. Some kids need further mental health care, that's why Hampstead Hospital is there and the Detention Center. Gone from 144 kids in facility to 12. Supports this Article.

Mike Boucher, 19 No. Broadway and current School Board Member. The School District has a large budget, but it is very tight. The schools can't hand out money to other organizations. Having SoRock helps address the Mental Health issues these kids have. TRSD has only a small number of mental health professionals on staff. Additional help should be provided. \$7k is nothing. Supports the Article.

Dave Holigan, 13 Chase Island. Would like to go back to the slide. Has a problem with how approach these issues. We're not making widgets, we're helping people. Been serving in these types of organizations. Wow - one paid salary gets 10-15 volunteers. What's the value of those 10 or 15 people?

Charlotte ended with \$125,000 of in-kind services. Maybe \$125k of in-kind salary & services. Bring all those resources to the table. DEA meeting – fake pill problem - four out of ten were deadly. Six out of ten is deadly this year. Getting awareness out is my job. Our kids are getting hands on these pills with no legitimate medicine and killing them immediately. Marijuana 90% THC levels. Work with children, adults, relative caregivers, etc... We're everywhere.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-16 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-16 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration Articles #2023-16.  
Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Articles #2023-16.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-17      Decreasing the Number of Board of Selectmen Members (By Petition)**

**Are you in favor of decreasing the Board of Selectmen to three (3) Members?**

*Not Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity explained that this Article can not be amended in any way. It's driven by RSA.

Moderator recognizes Ken Grant Chief Petitioner. Ken also mentioned that the Article cannot be amended. Companion to this Article passed in 2014 when increased BOS from three to five. I was in favor at that time. I expected synergy with more members. Taken every big issue to an ad hoc committee. More decisions must be made. Very competent and professional dept heads but not from Atkinson. Needs of residents not being addressed because they're not from town.

Dave Kiley, 7 Knightland, is recommendation part of the warrant article? Can we change it? The Select Board recommends the Conflict-of-Interest Article. It seems the BOS voting on this Warrant Article is a Conflict of Interest. David asked the BOS to discuss at next meeting and consider removing any recommendation vote on this article to avoid what appears to be a clear conflict of interest.

Moderator: Legally, the Selectboard can make a recommendation on any warrant article – no exceptions. Layman smell taste – they are talking about reducing the Selectmen, and they are Selectmen, are they voting out of their own self-interest? They could vote at their next meeting to remove their recommendation should they choose to do so but they do not have to.

David Kiley – I would like to request that they review the Conflict-of-Interest Ordinance that they approve of and comply with it.

Leon Artus, Maple Ave, stated that it's illegal for Board of Selectmen to offer recommend/not recommend warrant articles.

Moderator Garrity responded No - Legislature changed law in 2014. RSA 32:5 Va– further clarified in lawsuit in 2013 and added “any” before warrant article. Cited a Superior Court decision. Governing Body can insert recommendations on any Warrant Articles including non-money articles. Budget committee does not get that power. Only BOS.

Leon cited an article from NHMA. Moderator Garrity asked what date that article was written. Leon couldn't tell when.

Moderator explained that he's researched this for years. They can recommend/not recommend any non-money article and if they want to, they can change their recommendations or remove all together after Deliberative Session if they vote to do so.

Bill Friel, Kelly Ln, I have been a selectman on a three-member board and a five-member board. There was a period when two out of the three Selectmen were in the hospital, and the town shut down until one got out. Having a five-member board brings more dynamics to the board. Vote against this article.

Peter Torosian, 18 Pine Knoll Dr, the Warrant is on the ballot in March. I would respectfully ask the BOS to consider removing recommendations. It would be a better look.

Moderator Garrity – reviewed the 2013 & 2014 Annual reports where the BOS recommended and not recommended on each occasion. Annual Report citing Article #2014-30 to increase BOS to five members. For that year, the BOS did not include a recommend/not recommended vote.

Jack Sapia- if BOS can change or remove recommendations after Deliberative, can Budget Committee as well? Moderator replied Yes. Every year, both Boards have the power after Deliberative.

Jack Sapia was dead set against five. Now changed his mind. We have more responsibility and more people. Three people can't get the job done these days. I agree with Mr. Friel. Support five members.

Lenny Hall 14 Winslow, you clarified that the BOS could change recommendations for non-monetary. Can both BC & BOS change recommendations on non-money as well? Moderator Garrity- replied YES.



Lenny Hall – very important what the Boards put for recommendations.

Moderator Garrity – any changes or recommendations must be made by Tuesday a.m. to get ballot to printer.

Dave Paquette, 4 Juniper, asked the Moderator to provide the RSA that allows for changes to recommendations after Deliberative if nothing was amended.

Moderator Garrity said he would provide that to him after this meeting.

Dave Holigan also believed it was not legal for the Budget Committee to change their recommendations if not amended. He would like to move the question to the ballot.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-17 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-17 moves to the ballot as written.**

---

**Article #2023-18      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 the Town Clerk-Tax Collector to serve for a term of three (3) years, to be held by one individual, effective at the next annual meeting occurring after the vote of approval?** Voters at the 2020 town meeting supported studying this issue, leading to the creation of a town clerk-tax collector study committee which recommended combining the offices. A majority of voters at the 2021 town meeting supported combining the offices.

*Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 3 to 2*

Moderator Garrity explained why this Article is back on the ballot this year. He allowed an amendment to this article that made it illegal. It was reviewed by Town Counsel. It is illegal, it was a nullity; the RSA to combine offices is very clear. Moderator spoke with Attorneys and NHMA and presented it to the selectmen. Came up with clean language that follows the RSA. If someone picked up the language and put it back on the ballot this year. You voted for it three years ago. You voted for an illegal article. If you want to do it, you must vote for it again this year the right way. This Article cannot be amended.

Deb DeSimone, 11 Providence Hill Rd. Wants to thank the person who brought the state to allow people to bring kids to work. Deb did her research to find out what it would cost and population. 31 communities out of 237 towns that have a combined office. Most of those communities have a population of under 6000 people. One has 24,000 people and one has 9,100 people. The cost of combining offices will be increased. There will be no cost savings. It will give residents 40 hours access a week vs 20 hrs. week. I worked very hard over the past 25 years to bring the best customer service. 70% are paid through ACH. Very little foot traffic so there is no customer service. Budget

Committee has tried to keep budget low and not make unnecessary expenditures. This is unnecessary expenditure. Good luck to whoever runs. They'll do a great job.

Deb DeSimone, 11 Providence Hill Rd., I'd like to make an amendment to delete or remove the non-bolded language printed in the Article. 2nd by Mike Turrell.

Moderator Garrity explained that you can play with the un bolded language but not the bolded language.

Jack Sapia, "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Supports the amendment. Should be direct.

Jason Grosky, 18 Indian Ridge, recommends voting against the Amendment. It's background as to why it's on the ballot again. It's not editorialized; it's fact. Against the Amendment. A voter would want this information. Vote no on the amendment.

Ken Grant, 19 Crown Hill, supports the amendment to keep the ballot short.

No further discussion about the amendment.

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

**AMENDMENT FAILED**

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-18 as written.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-18 moves to the ballot as written.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-18.  
Chair Bob Worden 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-18.

**MOTION PASSED**

---

**Article #2023-19      Tax Cap of Three Percent (3%) (By Petition)**

**Shall the Town of Atkinson adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than three percent (3%)? This petition warrant article proposes the Town of Atkinson's Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee will be limited to raising the budget for the Town of Atkinson to no more than three percent (3%) from the previous year. If approved, the tax cap shall be in effect for the next fiscal year.**

*Not Recommended by the Selectmen by a Vote of 5 to 0*

Moderator Garrity explained that since this is a Citizen's Petition, he asked the Budget Committee to speak at the microphone as citizens, not as Budget Committee members.

Chair recognizes Peter Torosian, 18 Pine Hill Drive, as a citizen not as Budget Committee. There are 72 signatures on it. A lot of discussion on this out there. This is simply a petition to create a safety net on behalf of citizens and tax payers to prevent tax increases. Prior to last couple years, on average, we presented approximately a 3% increase until last couple years. Past couple years, it's been over 10%. Looking at spending more money and bigger increases.

This is a tax cap to raising taxes. If there's a year with crisis, the Selectmen have the option to buy down the tax rate. This goes into effect prior to the warrants. We're in inflationary times. Towns been growing over 100 years. Housing market is slowing down. No guarantee of additional revenues. It's a cushion to alleviate taxes getting too unaffordable. Every year, we've had a surplus. This year, we have a surplus. That can be used to buy down the tax rate or buy other things. Lots of discretion to spend from that fund.

Asking body to support this. Balance needs of taxpayers with needs of the town.

This isn't something new. Massachusetts brought in Prop 2.5. Derry has this. It's being used.

Dave Paquette: the Petitioner and most people in the room and those at the Public Hearing may be misunderstanding what this Article might do. This cap is not before Warrant Articles. The RSA states that it's a tax cap that increases the amount to be raised by taxes based on actual amount tax's raised based on last years. The Budget Committee just signed that the estimated taxes to be raised for this year is \$3,831,400. The DRA provided a breakdown of our taxes, and the tax rate breakdown of the Municipal Tax effort was \$3,754,739. What they put on their 737 is 2% higher than last year. That is what this Article would put forth. It's way less than the 3%. Most people are talking about Operating Budget. The Article, as written, is about revenue. The operating budget is a small part of that. The Budget Committee hardly ever mentions revenue in their three months of talking about their Operating Budget. They are only talking about operating budget and expenses. They should be tallying about what they need to spend vs. what they need to raise. There's \$3 million that is revenue not taxes. Only \$3.8 million is what they're asking to be raised by taxes. Tax cap is hard to understand. If they pass this, I'm not sure if the Budget Committee even knows how to calculate it. Looking at timeframes because it includes the warrants and they're approved the third Tuesday. The MS737 must be posted by the end of the month. If the Warrants are approved – and if they're over 3%, they won't have the time to correct it. When it comes to warrants gives only a week. I recommend someone amend the article to 30%.

Moderator recognizes private citizen, Beth Cacciotti, who has a slideshow. Printouts available on the side table. Opposes the 3% tax cap. It's an arbitrary number. BOS brought down the tax rate in November 2022, by \$250,000. Beth's presentation attached to these minutes.

Karen Steele, 3 Pebblebrook, would like to offer an amendment to change the 3% to 30%. 2nd by Jack Sapia.

Moderator opened the floor to the amendment of 3% to 30%.

Karen speaks to her motion. Those who spoke before me did it well. We are not a senior citizen living on a fixed income but growing. Encourage all Good Neighbors to vote yes on the amendment.

Bill Smith 30 Devonshire Rd., talk to taxpayers they're taxes are too high. Low spending leads to low taxes. Higher spending leads to higher taxes. Seniors on fixed income are at risk of losing their houses. How can we balance the needs of the town with the taxes to pay. We have revenues and other sources. We are asking to keep at 3%. 30% makes it a useless measure. Does not support the amendment.

Peter Torosian, 18 Pine Hill Dr. Looked like in the presentation they were co-mingling funds that goes to school and county. I understand the rule that the intent can be changed. Against 30% amendment. The Board has said we trust the voters. If we pass this amendment, we're not giving the taxpayers to vote on something meaningful.

Tom Kelly speaks to support the amendment. Sat and watched budget committee meetings. I know they do a thoughtful job in putting the budget together. The 30% gives some wiggle room to adapt. Lots of dynamics and changes. We've got wars, inflation, etc... On a personal level – ever look in mirror and say, “Who is that person?”. How do we adapt and evolve? We are constantly evolving. As a small town, it would be nice to go back to 1950. Unfortunately, we can't. I'm comfortable that we have a Process that has integrity, and we need to allow it to grow as it needs to grow.

Jack Sapia, we have a process, and this article gets in the way of that process. Limits data gathering and gives more power to budget committee. We have the ability here to make the budget what we want. It removes some of the power from the legislative body and governing body. The process works. Yes, you may have a couple years of uptick, but would it have been better to have seven years at 3% and 2 years at 10%, maybe better off saying every year at 5%.

Moderator: Point of information. If it passes, it allows the BOS & BC to limit what they present but doesn't limit power of legislative body. If this passes, and we are in Deliberative, we can do whatever we want. Only limits what the Budget Committee can present.

Dave Kiley, 17 Knightland Rd., I'm not for amendment. 30% is 10x is to get people to vote against something ridiculous. That's the intent of the change. It's problematic.

Karen Brown, Director of Kimball Library, I would like to speak to the impact of this 3% passing. Nothing to cut in Library budget. This is not like a personal budget. There's nothing to cut. Line items are level funded or increased through fixed costs that no one can anticipate. The library would be looking for more than 5% to cut. Couldn't begin to operate. Would reduce buying library services by 80%. Be forced to look at personnel. This would mean 16% cut in hours. 95% of those surveyed report coming every single month. Six days/wk. serves everyone from birth to death. Library is equalizer. Seniors come to the library to read the newspaper. Successfully fosters early love of reading. Kimball Library is successful civic institution. 3% cap would result in deep cuts that would do long lasting damage. Impact hardest on seniors and families with children.

John Ottow, 33 Ridgewood. For the amendment. Good system and it works. Kept taxes low. My good neighbor says 30% is meaningless. He's right. But it puts the responsibility back in the hands of the BC and BOS. Keep system in place. Good town and keep it that way.

Brian Boyle, 24 Winslow Dr. In favor of amendment. Don't want to ask the Board of Selectmen to pick what is essential vs non-essential.

Ken Grant, opposed to this amendment. Every survey out of from Master Plan complains about taxes. 80% of this community is in favor of reducing property tax.

Jason Landry, 25 Sawyer Ave, resources and town continue to grow. Putting a tax cap at 3% might restrict what is needed. Each Department Head has more experience and background and knowledge. Teaching us what we need to catch up to be where we need to be. Supports amendment.

No further discussion about the amendment.

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

**AMENDMENT FAILED**

Deb DeSimone – 12.27 Plaistow 19.01, Hampstead 16. Our tax rate is not that bad. The statement “people cannot pay their taxes” is not true. There is a poverty abatement. In 25 years as Tax Collector, we've had 1 person has applied for that. This year we have 27 elderly exempts. Issue is not there.

Peter Torosian, 18 Pine Knoll, concern is that people are hurting. If we continue to go up 12%, we will have tax increases and with inflation, we will have people struggling.

Deb DeSimone, introduce an amendment to Article 19, replace all un bolded print with the words “3/5th majority vote required to pass”.

2nd by David Murphy.

Ms. DeSimone speaks to the motion in favor of transparency. People need to understand that a 3/5 majority is required according to RSA.

Jack Sapia, clarifying that 3/5th majority is required to get this to pass. Moderator said yes. This warrant does require the 3/5<sup>th</sup> majority so therefore supports.

No further discussion about the amendment.

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

**AMENDMENT PASSED**

Moderator asked if there is any further discussion, debate, or amendment. There was none.

**Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to move ARTICLE #2023-19 as amended.**

**PASSED**

**Moderator declared Article #2023-19 moves to the ballot as amended.**

Greg Spero made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-19.  
Mr. Paul Wainwright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Moderator Garrity moved the vote to the floor by a show of hands to restrict reconsideration of Article #2023-19.

**MOTION PASSED**

Went back to article #2023-03. Short comments. No debate.

Karen Steele, 4 Pebble Brook Road

There is no debate about the need for more long term care options in the area: Senior Living, Assisted Living, Nursing Homes. There would be many benefits to having long term care facilities here in Atkinson. But I have a real concern:

Section F, “Criteria for approval”, part two, reads “The number of bedrooms shall be based on the number of bedrooms allowed under RSA 485-A and associated Administrative Rules.”

RSA 485-A is titled “Water Pollution and Waste Disposal.” This means, that as long as there is enough water and sewerage capability, they can build as many units as they want, and the Town has zero say.

If this article passes, it will allow UNLIMITED DENSITY – an unlimited number of beds. This is bad legislation for the town and for the taxpayers.

At the Planning Board’s public hearing, the Fire Chief said that Greystone in Salem has only 65 beds and they had over 140 calls last year. He said that by adding 100 beds in Atkinson, the number of calls for emergency services, for our entire town of over 7,000 residents, would increase 25%. There was also discussion that the tax revenue a 100 bed facility would provide and that it would NOT cover the cost of the increased services needed.

When the new tax revenue acquired does not cover the cost of required increased services, then the taxpayers are subsidizing the business. And with unlimited density, this Zoning article is basically a blank check, and the taxpayers will have to pay up. I encourage my good neighbors to vote NO on Article three.

Moderator asked if the Planning Board would like to speak.

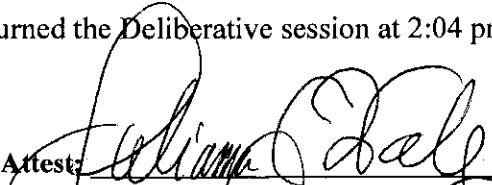
Sue Killam, 48 Westside Dr., Chair of Planning Board. Didn’t plan on speaking. Referred to RSA 485. Does this have to do with water supply and pollution control? Administered by, in no way do they ever allow for density over water capacity. Site in question does have an alternative sanitary disposal system it can be called a sewer system of sorts. Large capacity. The 405 acres in question still has a top limit. Much of the soil already consumed by the development that is there already. Saying unlimited is not the way it works - throws people off track completely. Too narrow a reading of what’s involved. Glad to have folks come to the Planning Board or watch the Public Hearing. Planning Boards can’t change Citizen’s Petitions, so it was an airing of questions.


Sue Killam noted that she wished this should not have been discussed since it was a zoning article.

Fire Chief spoke next. This facility would not create needs greater than we have right now. The needs we have right now, once we catch up with that, we can handle this facility.

Greg Spero made a special announcement. Thank and recognize Tom Kelly, ending his term as Library Trustee. On behalf of the Town of Atkinson awarded to Tom Kelley for outstanding dedication. The teamwork you've provided the Selectmen has been outstanding. Unwavering dedication and commitment to the Kimball Library and Citizen's of Atkinson.

Moderator adjourned the Deliberative session at 2:04 pm

A True Record, Attest:  Town Clerk

A True Copy of Record, Attest:  Town Clerk

## SLATE FOR 2023 TOWN ELECTION

### **SELECTMEN**

(1) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Bob Worden

(1) 2-year term open – Candidates Running:

Dave Paquette

### **MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

(2) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Taylor Haselton

Bob Malo

John Ottow

Deborah Cornish

### **PLANNING BOARD**

(2) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Paul Wainwright

Susan Killam

(2) 2-year term open – Candidates Running:

John Ottow

Hannah Rizzo

Michael Turell

(2) 1-year term open – Candidates Running:

Edward Stewart

Heidi Mahoney

### **TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND**



(1) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Hannah Rizzo

**LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

(1) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Marnie Finn  
Christine Latino  
Gene Rizzo  
Christine Duerr

(1) 2-year term open – Candidates Running:

Pamela Borisko  
Sunaina Chawla  
Marion Stanley

**CEMETERY TRUSTEE**

(1) 3-year term open - Candidates Running:

Susan Killam

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE**

(2) 3-year term open – Candidates Running:

Julie Marshall  
David Pancoast  
Chad M Perry  
Leon Artus

Atkinson FY 2023 Budget										
Account No.	Department	2020 Expended	2021 Expended	2022		2023				
				Allocated	Expended	Proposed	Selectmen	BudComm	Amount	Chg %
41301-41307	Executive	239,808	245,018	294,597	312,872	347,045	347,045	347,045	347,045	17.80%
41401-41404	Elections & Registration	197,820	172,198	181,346	178,366	200,651	200,651	200,652	200,652	10.65%
41501-41509	Financial Administration	322,454	330,418	371,608	323,653	381,316	381,316	381,316	381,316	2.61%
41531-41532	Legal Services	28,500	66,998	36,701	147,785	36,701	36,701	36,701	36,701	
41552	Personnel Admin	44,865	38,250	45,087	29,288	39,623	39,623	39,623	39,623	-12.12%
41911-41913	Planning & Zoning	19,956	15,032	22,142	19,133	27,685	27,685	27,685	27,685	25.03%
41941-41950	Buildings	103,736	94,331	175,514	166,917	155,757	155,757	155,758	155,758	-11.26%
41951	Cemeteries	62,195	63,564	71,265	68,733	114,449	114,449	114,449	114,449	60.60%
41961	Other Insurance	61,056	65,285	72,409	58,498	75,029	75,029	75,029	75,029	3.62%
41974	Advertising Regional	6,979	6,979	7,200	7,087	7,271	7,271	7,271	7,271	0.99%
	<b>General Government Total</b>	<b>1,087,369</b>	<b>1,098,073</b>	<b>1,277,869</b>	<b>1,312,332</b>	<b>1,385,527</b>	<b>1,385,527</b>	<b>1,385,529</b>	<b>1,385,529</b>	<b>8.42%</b>
42101-42109	Police Department	1,028,499	1,228,323	1,327,628	1,300,264	1,476,402	1,476,402	1,476,652	1,476,652	11.22%
42151	Elder Services	62,079	82,376	94,675	90,705	112,993	112,993	112,993	112,993	19.35%
42152	Ambulance			1		1	1	1	1	
42201	Fire Department	438,962	493,126	827,679	769,051	905,290	905,290	905,290	905,290	9.38%
42401	Building Inspections	107,058	85,259	102,578	90,667	110,431	110,431	110,431	110,431	7.66%
42901	Homeland Security			1		3	3	3	3	200.00%
42992	Dispatch	46,186	47,403	48,605	48,653	50,057	50,057	50,057	50,057	2.99%
	<b>Public Safety Total</b>	<b>1,682,784</b>	<b>1,936,487</b>	<b>2,401,167</b>	<b>2,299,340</b>	<b>2,655,177</b>	<b>2,655,177</b>	<b>2,655,427</b>	<b>2,655,427</b>	<b>10.59%</b>
43111	Highway Department	434,653	470,255	530,367	558,333	594,035	594,035	594,035	594,035	12.00%
43163	Street Lighting	47,438	47,025	51,000	44,431	34,800	34,800	34,800	34,800	-31.76%
	<b>Highways &amp; Streets Total</b>	<b>482,091</b>	<b>517,280</b>	<b>581,367</b>	<b>602,764</b>	<b>628,835</b>	<b>628,835</b>	<b>628,835</b>	<b>628,835</b>	<b>8.16%</b>
43234	Recycling	29,091	42,073	55,751	61,610	98,080	98,080	98,080	98,080	75.93%
43241	Solid Waste Disposal	591,573	579,609	575,001	599,629	570,003	570,003	570,003	570,003	-0.87%
	<b>Sanitation Total</b>	<b>620,664</b>	<b>621,682</b>	<b>630,752</b>	<b>661,239</b>	<b>668,083</b>	<b>668,083</b>	<b>668,083</b>	<b>668,083</b>	<b>5.92%</b>
43390	Fire Hydrant Utilities	17,800	17,800			93,615	93,615	93,615	93,615	
	<b>Fire Hydrant Utilities Total</b>					<b>93,615</b>	<b>93,615</b>	<b>93,615</b>	<b>93,615</b>	
44110	Health Admin	9,871	6,805	7,836	3,444	7,836	7,836	7,836	7,836	
44151-44156	Health Agencies	12,661	10,961	13,235	6,511	7,586	7,586	7,586	7,586	-42.68%
44191	Animal Control	7,091	8,043	9,903	10,100	9,968	9,968	9,968	9,968	0.66%
44421	General Assistance	1,075	150	7,000	2,038	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	14.29%
	<b>Health &amp; Welfare Total</b>	<b>30,698</b>	<b>25,959</b>	<b>37,974</b>	<b>22,093</b>	<b>33,390</b>	<b>33,390</b>	<b>33,390</b>	<b>33,390</b>	<b>-12.07%</b>
45201	Recreation	19,261	41,992	72,325	45,593	70,117	70,117	70,117	70,117	-3.05%
45202	Grounds Maintenance	39,459	38,069	60,532	70,252	92,104	92,104	92,104	92,104	52.16%
45208	Community Center	69,537	72,876	105,469	83,427	108,589	108,589	108,589	108,589	2.96%
45501	Library	472,389	490,482	529,528	529,057	574,355	574,355	574,355	574,355	8.47%
45831	Patrotic Purposes	2,251	1,383	3,975	2,899	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.63%
45892	Cable Operations	38,493	23,724	50,856	31,219	81,182	81,182	81,182	81,182	59.63%
	<b>Culture &amp; Recreation Total</b>	<b>641,390</b>	<b>668,526</b>	<b>822,685</b>	<b>762,447</b>	<b>930,347</b>	<b>930,347</b>	<b>930,347</b>	<b>930,347</b>	<b>13.09%</b>
46111	Conservation	9,825	9,793	9,934	9,860	9,934	9,934	9,934	9,934	
	<b>Conservation Total</b>	<b>9,825</b>	<b>9,793</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>9,860</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>9,934</b>	
47110	Long term debt-Principal	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	
47210	Long term debt-Interest	26,800	22,763	14,225	14,225	11,340	11,340	11,340	11,340	-20.28%
	<b>Debt Total</b>	<b>111,800</b>	<b>107,763</b>	<b>99,225</b>	<b>99,225</b>	<b>96,340</b>	<b>96,340</b>	<b>96,340</b>	<b>96,340</b>	<b>-2.91%</b>
	<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>4,666,621</b>	<b>4,985,563</b>	<b>5,860,973</b>	<b>5,769,300</b>	<b>6,501,248</b>	<b>6,501,248</b>	<b>6,501,500</b>	<b>6,501,500</b>	<b>10.93%</b>

2023 Warrant Article Summary

<b>Article #</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>BoS Rec.</b>	<b>BC Rec.</b>
2023-01	Election of Officers		
2023-02	Amend Zoning Articles III & V		
2023-03	Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance		
2023-04	Operating Budget	\$6,501,500	\$6,501,500
2023-05	Fire Department Engine Replacement	\$830,000	\$830,000
2023-06	Police Vehicle Purchase	\$120,000	\$120,000
2023-07	Highway Shim & Overlay	\$568,200	\$568,200
2023-08	Network Upgrades for ACTV	\$8,000	\$8,000
2023-09	Building Needs Expendable Trust	\$50,000	\$0
2023-10	Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000	\$0
2023-11	Optional Veterans' Tax Credit		
2023-12	All Veterans' Tax Credit		
2023-13	Discontinue Technology Committee		
2023-14	Center School Lease and Occupancy		
2023-15	Conflict of Interest Ordinance		
2023-16	SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth	\$0	\$0
2023-17	Decreasing BoS Members		
2023-18	Create Town Clerk-Tax Collector		
2023-19	Tax Cap of Three Percent (3%)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,102,700</b>	<b>\$8,027,700</b>

**NOTE**



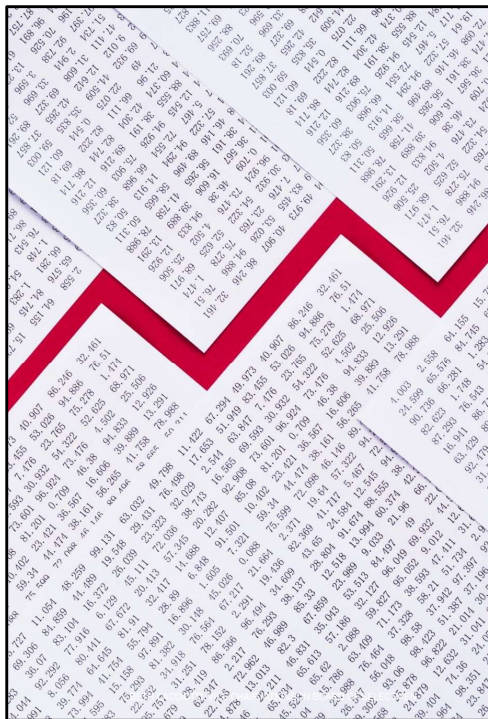
Beth Cacciotti, 44 old coach road

Good morning good neighbors. I come before this deliberative body today to express my objection to the proposed 3% budget cap idea.

First, this is an arbitrary cap number. During the Board of Selectman open hearing Monday, the arguments heard were not based on sound economic principles or the realities of the needs of a growing town with growing revenue.

Next, the Board of Selectmen have used ARPA funds extensively over the last 12-18 months to address major projects underfunded by the Town. Understand, these were federal dollars and not local moneys. Because of these funds, we were able to cut property taxes by \$250,000. Yes – the BoS LOWERED your taxes in 2022.

Let's talk more about property taxes. And, for the record, I'm not an attorney, or an accountant. But I am a taxpayer. And here's how I've come to my conclusion.



Property tax rate for 2021:

**\$12.36**  
per thousand dollars  
of valuation

THE BOS LOWERED IT TO **\$12.27** ON  
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Source: Atkinson Town Representatives, "Annual report of the town of Atkinson, New Hampshire for the year 2021." (2022). Atkinson, NH Annual Reports. 116. [https://scholars.unh.edu/atkinson\\_nh\\_reports/116](https://scholars.unh.edu/atkinson_nh_reports/116)

Here's the breakdown for Atkinson:

Total tax rate for 2021: \$12.36 per thousand dollars of valuation (and the BoS lowered it to 12.27 on November 7, 2022)

-----

2020 - \$18.34

Town: 3.10 (17%)

County: .98 (5%)

School: 12.16 (66%)

State education: 2.10 (11%)

2019 – 17.67

Town: 3.09 (17%)

County: 1.00 (6%)

School: 11.44 (65%)

State education: 2.14 (12%)

Here is how that  
**\$12.36** is  
distributed:

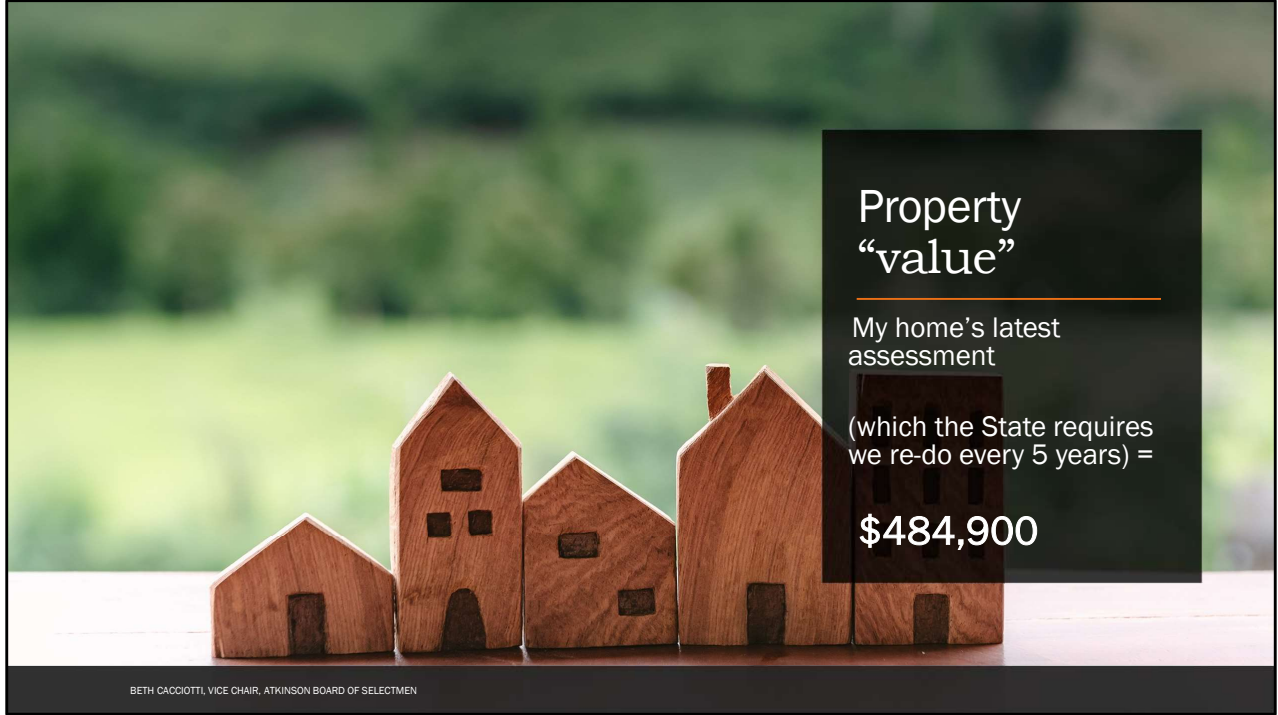
County	State Education	Local Schools	Town of Atkinson
\$0.66	\$1.42	\$8.11	<b>\$2.17</b>
5%	12%	66%	<b>18%</b>

BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Here is where that \$12.36 gets distributed:

5% goes to the county  
12% to state education  
66% to school  
18% to town

You'll note that almost the same percentage goes to State Education as goes to the town. You may want to ask your state reps what they are doing to control those costs.



Let's use my property value as an example.

My home’s latest assessment is \$484,900.



## Valuation x Tax Rate

$\$484,900 \times 12.36 = \sim \$5,993$   
for the tax year

BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Let's *ballpark* where that \$6k that I pay for that tax year goes:

\$300 to the county  
(5%)

\$3,900 to the local  
school district (66%)

\$1,080 to the town  
(18%)

\$720 to state  
education (12%)

So about \$6,000 for the tax year. Let's ballpark where that goes:

\$300 to the county

\$3,900 to the local schools

\$1,080 to the town

\$720 to state education

## What the Board of Selectmen can control

(and Budget Committee can review)

is the **\$1,080**

Let's break down my portion of the property tax that goes to the Town – month by month:

$$\$1,080 / 12 = \$90$$

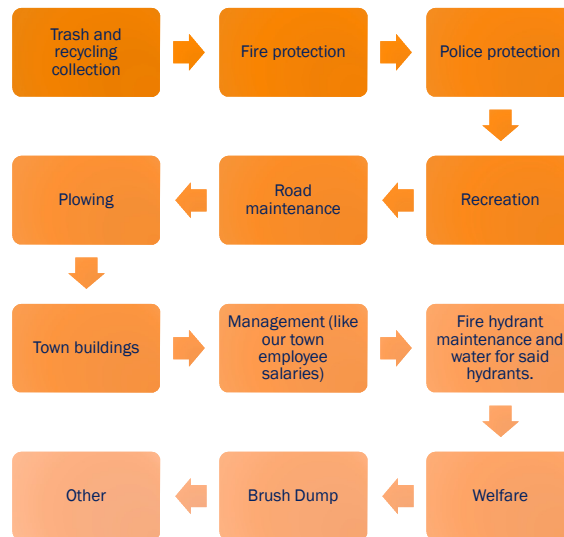


BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

So - what the Board of Selectmen can control (and budget committee can review) is the town's portion – the \$1,080.

That works out to be \$90 per month for me.

\$90 per month is our portion to pay so all residents can have:



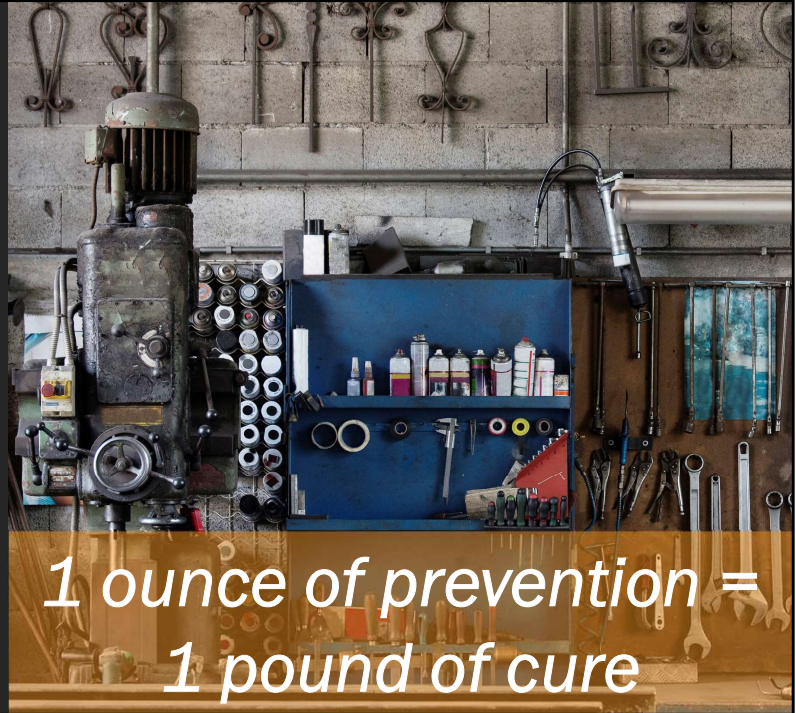
\$90 per month for my family (or whomever or however many live in my house).

And, out of that, comes ALLLLL the services you see here on this slide.

----

Other things that cost \$90 ... one average dinner out / 1 red sox ticket before service fees / less than ½ of one bruce springsteen ticket / 1 tank of gas in a decent sized pickup

Good  
management  
= even more  
cost savings  
over time



BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The “kick the can down the road” method that Atkinson has used for many years is now hitting us when the price of materials (and people) have skyrocketed. If you look at the Building Needs studies, having spent on prevention (maintenance) would keep us from spending more than double on emergency repairs.



Talking about a budget spend without discussing revenues is missing a critical part of the puzzle.

Over time, something has to give. I plan on being here in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years. Would I rather pay less to have a plan put into place now or wait until it's triple the price?



## Acquisitions – worst case

New Fire Truck = \$100,000

3,000 property-tax-paying households

Each assessed at \$350,000

$\$12.27$  (2023 tax rate)  $\times$   $\$350,000$  assessed value =  $\$4,295$  annual property tax bill.

$3,000$  households  $\times$   $\$4,295$  =  $\$12,884,000$  tax collected (in theory)

### ***Finally – let's put a theoretical purchase in perspective:***

*Let's say that we, as a town, decide that we want to put a new fire truck in service. And that will cost us \$100,000.*

*It's important to remember that this is just a high-level example of what would happen if that entire 100k needs to be raised strictly from the current taxpayer base with no new revenue or grants. It's just hypothetical worst-case scenario.*

*In this case – we would raise \$12,884,000*



## Town Portion is 18%

---

18% of that number (\$12,884,000 tax collected) = **\$2,319,300**

Let's say our entire annual budget is that same amount - \$2,319,300  
(/3,000 = \$773.10 each).

And now that we want a new fire truck for \$100,000, our budget needs  
to be **\$2,419,300**

So, take the old budget + truck and divide by households.  
 $\$2,419,300 / 3,000 = \$806.43$  each

New budget \$806.43 - Old budget \$773.10 = \$33.33.



BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Now the town would only get to keep 18% of that number – or \$2,319,300

Let's say our entire annual budget is that same amount - \$2,**319**,300.

**And now that we want a new fire truck for \$100,000, we need to raise \$2,**419**,300.**

As noted earlier for this example – worst case - we can only raise that money from the existing taxpayer base with no help from other sources.

So, take the new budget needed and divide by households. \$806.43. each.

The hypothetical increase to a household for THAT YEAR ONLY would be \$33.33. For each household's share for the brand-new fire truck. ONE TIME in a worst-case scenario.

# We already have a 10% cap per the State of NH

---

In towns with an official budget committee, the total amount appropriated by the meeting, including amounts appropriated in separate and special warrant articles, cannot exceed the total recommended by the budget committee by more than 10 percent. RSA 32:18.



BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

We have seen the results of cuts to Town services and the resident's overwhelming disapproval of that in the recent past. Fear-mongering and misleading statements made in the public space does a disservice to the town residents. My hope is that my explanation will help you to use factual data and not uninformed opinions to make your own decisions moving forward. For the good of Atkinson's future.

I stand in opposition to this measure and hope that my friends and neighbors will too

----

## **The 10% Limitation**

In towns with an official budget committee, the total amount appropriated by the meeting, including amounts appropriated in separate and special warrant articles, cannot exceed the total recommended by the budget committee by more than 10 percent. RSA 32:18. The 10 percent calculation is computed on the total amount recommended by the budget committee (including separate warrant articles), less that part of any appropriation item which constitutes "fixed charges." Fixed charges include appropriations for principal and interest payments on bonds and notes, as



well as mandatory assessments imposed on towns by the county, state or federal governments.

In official ballot referendum (SB 2) towns and districts, the 10 percent limitation is calculated based on the initial recommendations of the budget committee prior to the first session, even if the budget committee changing its recommendations after amendments are made at the first session. RSA 32:5, V(b).

**Exceptions to the 10% Limitation:**

- Vote to override, RSA 32:18-a. If a warrant article for a bond is not recommended in its entirety by the budget committee, the governing body may vote to place the article on the warrant with the phrase “passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.”
- Cost items excluded, RSA 32:19. Under RSA 32:19, amounts that are included in a budget for funding the cost items of collective bargaining agreements are exempt from the 10 percent rule.

~ END ~

BETH CACCIOTTI, VICE CHAIR, ATKINSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN