
**Loudon Town Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2012 First Session
and March 17, 2012 Second Session.**

Articles 1 – 2 were held by ballot vote on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, the polls were opened at 8:00AM and closed at 7:00PM at Loudon Town Hall on Clough Hill Road by Moderator Michael LaBonte.

Ballot Clerk Dorothy Mulkhey and Supervisor of Checklist Diane Bullock were called over to check the ballot box to verify it was empty.

The Loudon Officers for the day were Roger Matte and Robert Ackerstrom.

The Ballot clerks were Debra Mulkhey, Dorothy Mulkhey, Eileen Cummings and Charlene Morin. The Supervisors of the Checklist were Diane Bullock, Lynn Riel and Dawn Pearl.

The results are as follows:

Selectmen

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

John A. Storrs	148
Steven Ives	273

Write In _____ **6**

Moderator

Vote for not more than one. 2 year term.

Michael LaBonte	414
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Write In _____ **0**

Town Clerk

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

Wendy L. Walsh	417
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Write In _____ **2**

Supervisors of the Checklist

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

Dawn M. Pearl	394
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Write In _____ **0**

Trustee of the Trust Funds

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

George Saunderson 377

Write In 1

Library Trustee

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

Molly Ashland 371

Write In 2

Planning Board

Vote for not more than two. 3 year term.

Henry L. Huntington 297

Thomas E. Dow 349

Write In 1

Zoning Board

Vote for not more than one. 3 year term.

Ned Lizotte 344

Write In 4

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

ARTICLE 2: Zoning Amendments:

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-1

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-1 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 206.3 Uses Permitted by Special Exception to include (P.) Kennels & Veterinary Clinics and Section 207.3 Uses Permitted by Special Exception to include (O.) Kennels & Veterinary Clinics?

Reason: Kennels are currently permitted by special exception in RR & AFP Districts. This would also seem a fitting use in the Commercial/Industrial and Commercial/Recreational Districts.

YES 319 NO 95

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-2

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-2 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 206.5 Setback and yard Requirements, (A) Front Setback and Section 207.5 Setback and Yard Requirements, (A) Front Setback to read 60 feet for buildings and 30 feet for parking areas?

Reason: The Commercial/Industrial and Commercial/Recreational Districts are only 500 feet deep and the current setback of 100 feet for buildings is quite restrictive. This will promote better growth in the Commercial Districts.

YES 289 NO 126

ZONING AMENDMENTS 2012-3

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-3 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 203.2 Permitted Uses to include (J.) Greenhouses and horticultural enterprises?

Reason: Farming is already allowed in the Village District. Taking into consideration the tight space constraints you would be more likely to see a small greenhouse operation with a farm stand than a row crop operation. This is currently a permitted use in other districts.

YES 330 NO 71

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-4

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-4 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 206.2 Permitted Uses to include (O.) Farming, including the sale of products grown on the premises?

Reason: Roadside stands and commercial greenhouses are currently allowed in the Commercial/Industrial District. A roadside stand will likely need the ability to have some crops under cultivation on site to be successful.

YES 337 NO 68

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-5

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-5 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 501.1 Free Standing Signs to include Use "Farming, Greenhouse and Horticultural, Roadside Farm Stand"; Maximum Area (square feet) 24, ½ of which can be used as changeable copy area; Maximum Height (feet) 8?

Reason: There are currently no provisions within the Ordinance to address the subject needs.

YES 300 NO 96

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-6

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-6 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 501.1 Free Standing Signs to include Use "Temporary seasonal farm products for sale"; Maximum Area (square feet) 10; Maximum Height (feet) 8?

Reason: There are currently no provisions within the Ordinance to address the need for this type of sign.

YES 302 NO 98

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-7

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-7 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Special Regulations: Add Section 508 Fire Department Residential Water Supply?

Reason: This wording is currently in the Loudon Land Development Regulations. Placing the section in the Zoning Ordinance allows for stronger enforcement of the requirements.

YES 259 NO 132

ZONING AMENDMENT 2012-8

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2012-8 proposed and recommended by the Planning Board for the Loudon Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Section 301.4 Permitted and Prohibited Land Uses in Wetlands with minor changes in wording (bold italics) and reference to related regulations?

- A. **Prohibited uses** include any use that *permanently or temporarily* alters the surface configuration of the wetland by addition of fill or by dredging, except if expressly permitted in Section B below.
- B. **Permitted uses** are as follows: In all Wetlands permitted uses are only those uses which will not require the erection or construction of any structure and will not alter the natural surface configuration by the addition of fill or by excavation or dredging. *All uses must be in compliance with NH Law: RSA 482 A, RSA 482 B, NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Program Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Wt 100-900, and the Town Of Loudon Zoning Ordinance 301.6 Buffers and Other Wetland Criteria.*

Reason: To provide regulatory information for reference in an effort to avoid violations in wetland areas.

YES 264 NO 129

ARTICLES 3-11: Will be taken up at the second session of the annual Town Meeting on Saturday March 17, 2012 at 9:00 AM at the Loudon Elementary School Gym on School Street.

8:30 AM Moderator Michael LaBonte was sworn in by Town Clerk Wendy Walsh, then Moderator and Selectmen Steven Ives were sworn in by Wendy Walsh, Town Clerk.
Moderator opened the second session of Town Meeting at 9:00AM. Colors were presented by Boy Scout Troop #247, then they lead the pledge of allegiance.
Moderator asked for a moment of silence for all our Troops past and present that allow us to have this assembly.
Moderator then introduction the Selectmen: Dustin Bowles, Robert Krieger and Steven Ives. Then Ballot Clerks: Debra Mulkhey, Dorothy Mulkhey, Eileen Cummings and Charlene Morin.
Supervisors of Checklist: Diane Bullock, Lynn Riel and Dawn Pearl. Town Clerk: Wendy Walsh.
Thanked School District, the Principal Mr. Liberty, Chuck Houston and his staff and our Highway Dept. for preparing and setting up for the meeting.
Moderator read the rules of the meeting, then moved to the reading the results of Articles 1-2 and Zoning Amendments then proceeded to Article 3.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$420,000 for the purchase of a fire engine and equipment with funds to be withdrawn from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to carry said purpose into effect. *The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Moved by: Steven Ives

Seconded by: Robert Krieger

Selectmen Steve Ives spoke on behalf of this Article, stating last year we had a similar Article and with it came a lot of misinformation etc. The prior Fire Chief has since resigned and a new Interim Fire Chief was needed. Dick Wright our retired Fire Chief volunteered for that position and was introduced to the audience. Chief Wright then presented some background information as to why this article is being presented again this year. Chief Wright advised that after listening to last year's town meeting discussion on the FD Apparatus. Chief Wright confirmed that @25 years ago a fund was created to replace apparatus. Having four basic pieces of Apparatus at that time, it was decided that by placing funds in a Capital Reserve each year, we could then have funds accumulate to replace one truck every five years. This resulted in each engine being replaced after 20 years of service. This plan was followed up until last year. Last year's discussion revolved around the need for a replacement engine, and future funding for a Ladder Truck, then the current rescue truck. The recommendation is that the oldest vehicle "Engine 2" now 20 years old should be replaced. Though this vehicle has low mileage and is in good condition, as well, monies were acquired last year for repairs to this vehicle. The repairs made, will make this vehicle more valuable on the open market. The advantage of purchasing a new engine, we will gain the advantage of 20 year newer technology and reliable, as well as the engine is designed to be used as a combination fire engine and rescue unit. We could then dispose of the 32 year old rescue truck and have one less vehicle to maintain. The Chief then discussed the Ladder truck which was the main topic of last year's meeting. The Ladder truck was donated to the Town of Loudon by NHMS in 1991. It was 10 years old when acquired. The town has paid for all fuel and maintenance on the vehicle. Chief Wright advised that after several meetings with the Committee formed to look into purchase of a new Ladder truck, bids in the range of \$980,000., his personal opinion is that he cannot support a million dollar purchase such as that at this time. For now the Chief advised we continue to use the current Ladder truck. After meeting with the Board of Selectmen, and the Truck Committee on several occasions Chief Wright asked for the Town's support of Article 3.

Questions were open: Peter Pittman, asked which vehicle would be next in line to replace and how soon would that be? Chief Wright advised that in the past new purchases could happen every 5 years, and last year was the year it was proposed. If this passes they would not be asking again for at least another 5 years. Mr. Pittman asked regarding the monies that were approved last year for repairs, were those repairs done? Chief Wright confirmed they were completed and cost came to just under \$11,000, it was then confirmed that any monies left over go back into the General Fund. Roy Merrill asked everyone to note on pg 31 in Town Report amounts expended etc. and then referred to pages 28 & 29 referring to the fact that the Selectmen were not in favor of this last year. Mr. Merrill expressed concern that the FD would want to replace a truck not even knowing its mileage just because it was 20 years old. He further indicated that several of the FD trucks have very low mileage and any car dealer would confirm a dump truck or other large truck with even 200,000 miles on it would be considered a low mileage truck. Mr. Merrill referred to the Town of Gilford voting to keep one of their trucks going for a few more years. He made comparison of the two current Pumper trucks and one Ladder truck and the Ladder truck being 31 years old, and has not fallen apart yet, so we should take the two Pumpers and put them on a 25 year rotation, which would allow us to save money, then the FD could go and purchase a used Ladder truck or wait a couple more years and purchase a newer one. FD priced one last year which was too big for our town and we don't know what a smaller truck would run. Considering the fact that people are losing their homes due to foreclosures, we need to be smarter about how we spend this money. Mr. Merrill feels this is a good option. Ronald Moore stated that he agrees with Mr. Merrill on a 25 year rotation, just can't believe with the miles we put on the trucks that they need to be replaced. Robert Searles, stated last year our biggest concern was the Ladder truck, would like to ask the Selectmen to stay focused and not flip flop and now

consider a Pumper, It is an expense this town cannot afford. Steven Jakubowski, apologized if he missed when Chief Wright was speaking but needs confirmation on when would he be looking to replace the Ladder truck? Then, what would cost be for that? Chief Wright confirmed if we replaced the Ladder Truck with same type Truck it would be \$980,000. Based on passed recommendation long range use of Capital Reserve the Ladder truck was schedule for replacement in 2014. Chief Wright continued to reiterate that he feels it is most important to keep the Pumper trucks which are the first response vehicles at the forefront of our attention. The Ladder does not carry water. Chief Wright stated that he feels we really don't need a Ladder truck, the Pumpers are more important. Mr. Jakubowski asked if we have a legal obligation to keep a Ladder truck in the town due to the NHMS? Chief Wright advised, no we do not have a legal obligation. Selectmen Ives, advised that regarding the financing of the Ladder truck, later in the meeting we will be discussing Capital Reserve Funds which will include Town Office Bldg. and a Highway Grader, those if approved will hopefully cost less than what was set aside which could free up approximately \$106,000, which our plan is to hopefully start up another Capital Reserve Fund and use that money for replacing the Ladder truck. Selectmen have had many meetings with Chief Wright and we feel that we need to move forward with this article. Kim Therrien, agreed we need to move forward, understanding household budgets and money problems we all still need to keep an open mind. Deb Kardaseski, wished to clarify something Mr. Merrill said, \$32,000 was put aside to repair the Engine, this is not true \$17,000 was used for general maintenance of all apparatus in the station and \$15,000 was added to repair the Pumper, of which \$11,000 was spent. If we keep putting off doing what we need to do, the price will keep going up. We have a wonderful FD, they know what they are doing and we need to trust them. Peter Pittman, stated if we are not required to have a Ladder truck for NHMS, and we can get a Ladder truck through Mutual Aide, then why replace it? Chief Wright responded he supports replacing the truck because it is a safety issue, when dealing for example, with a 2 1/2 story house it is safer for personnel use the Ladder truck. Chief stated that he doesn't think we need to make a million dollar investment at this time. It's a good piece of apparatus to have all FD should have one, however, they are very expensive and not cheap to maintain. The Chief confirmed what Deb Kardaseski stated regarding the \$32,000, she was correct in how it was spent and that those funds were meant for all equipment not just one item. Jerry Flewelling not currently an active member of the FD but spent @29 years with the Loudon FD and spent a portion of his life involved in the repair of FD apparatus working for the City of Concord. One thing we need to be aware of is the safety involved with an old vehicle. Parts are pricey and though it has low mileage does not mean it won't break down. You would not consider using an older vehicle as a first response vehicle for the PD just because the mileage was low. It is the same with the safety factor on an older Fire truck. Mr. Flewelling is in agreement with Chief Wright we need to focus on the Pumper truck which is needed now, not on the Ladder truck though it is good to have it is not a priority. Lisa Laughlin, If you are someone in town who lives somewhere that does not have a ready access to water you would be very grateful to see the Pumper truck. Joan Cross, Wanted to confirm number of roads in town that are dirt roads, heard mentioned earlier that there were approx 20 miles of paved road and 20 miles of dirt road is that accurate? David Rice Road Agent stated we have approx 100 miles of road in Loudon. Ms. Cross questioned that is part of the issue of the trucks also to consider wear and tear of the vehicles as well as how they are being used at Fire scenes. Chief Wright stated yes and you need to consider even if you live near a pond or lake the water pumped into the engine is not always clean as well as dirt and rocks get pumped through the apparatus, which cause issue as well. Ms. Cross living on a road that does not have direct access to water, how much does one Pumper hold? Chief Wright advised each of the 3 trucks they currently have hold approx 1,000 gallons each, the Tanker truck holds 3,000 gallons. Selectmen Ives stated these vehicles are driven by more than just one driver and when you are rushing to a fire scene, you are really driving that vehicle hard. Roy Merrill, Is supportive of the FD, however, is concerned that even though it is being said we don't really need the Ladder truck that does not mean they won't come back again to try and get us to allow them to buy a new one. Especially if something happens up at the motor speedway. Up until Dick Wright came into the interim position we were being asked to purchase a Ladder Truck and now we are being told we need a Pumper. The misinformation we supposedly were given last year was that the Pumper truck was actually worse than what we were told, if so, we should have used the entire \$32,000 on repairing that and not split it up and only use \$15,000 on that truck. Truly feels that we need to consider the fact that just because the pumper trucks are hitting 20 years old doesn't mean they are no longer safe. Elgie Goodwin, should the 20 year plan for these vehicles be re-looked at? When parts on a vehicle go bad in any business you replace those parts, you don't replace the entire vehicle? When discussing the pricing of a vehicle going up \$45,000 every year we put off doing it, is that not because you change the duty of the truck? John Rice, How many hours does this truck have on it? Dick did not know. Roy said close to 1000. Agrees trucks are driven hard, but even the new trucks are having problems, does the new vehicle have the new Yuris System in it? The answer was yes. John discussed that a lot of these new systems can cause more problems such as shutting the truck down. Feels we should look into extending our existing trucks life or getting a new truck without some of these new systems. Dick Wright agrees and these items are being looked into. Alan Barton, please explain what exactly is wrong with the truck we are talking about. Dick advised that nothing is wrong with the truck it is just that we are working on a 20 year plan. If we wait 25 years could cause more expenses and issues. Alan asked when the last time someone in the FD was injured due to the truck. Peter Pittman, asked to move the question. Roy Merrill, disagrees with Dick and has spoken to others in FD industry and most of them would prefer to have one of the 20 year old trucks than some of these new ones with updated equipment that can be faulty. We had trouble with the new ambulance that was purchased and had to use the old one, the new Tanker Truck had a problem and we had to go back to the old one for awhile. Does not feel it is far to scare the people into thinking the truck is unsafe just because it is 20 years old.

Having no further questions, vote ensued. Appearing too close when ballots held up, Moderator ordered votes to be counted. Yes: 99 No: 89

Article #3 Passed as read.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,700 for the purpose of purchasing a stainless steel truck body for truck T-3. *The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Moved by: Dustin Bowles

Seconded by: Steven Ives

Selectmen Bowles spoke on this article we need to replace some of the bodies on our Highway trucks. This proposal is to purchase a stainless steel body for Truck T-3 which is one of our older trucks. We are asking to raise and appropriate the money rather than taking it out of a warrant article because we don't want to affect the Capital Reserve and not be able to get a replacement vehicle in 3 to 4 years.

Questions were open: Bob Searles, asked if it is smarter to raise taxes in the town for a frame, than it is to just go buy a new truck with a stainless steel body? Selectmen Bowles, said we would, just as with the new Fire trucks end up with one of these new systems that seem to be causing problems. This truck is operable and doing fine, we do have to put money in to them from time to time for regular maintenance. The Highway guys are happier with the older vehicles than with some of the newer vehicles that have been purchased over the years due to electronic sensor problems. Roy Merrill, What are we talking about with miles? David Rice advised approx 225,000. Roy Merrill, agrees with the idea of the steel body but once again is not happy about the Fire Truck issue. Roger Maxfield suggested we stay focused on this article.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #4 Passed as read

Deb Kardaseski asked for a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 3 & 4. Seconded by Melissa Bishop. Vote ensued and passed.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$231,500 for the purpose of shimming and paving 4200 feet of Loudon Ridge Road from NH Route 106 up and 3800 feet of Bee Hole Road from NH Route 129. \$190,000 to be withdrawn from the Roadway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and \$41,500 to be raised by taxes and further to appoint the Selectmen as agents to carry said purpose into effect. *The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Moved by: Dustin Bowles

Seconded by: Steven Ives

No discussion. Questions: Daniel Rouse, regarding Bee Hole Road paving, is it viable to re-pave that road or simply reconstruct it, seems it was repaved not that long ago and it is deplorable. Per Selectmen Bowles the purpose is to reconstruct. Jodi Doody, had same comment as to what research has been done, otherwise we are going to continue with the same issues.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #5 Passed as read

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the purpose of the reconstruction of two tennis courts and basketball court. \$15,000 to be withdrawn from the Recreation Maintenance Fund and \$30,000 to be raised by taxes. *The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Moved by: Steven Ives

Seconded by: Robert Krieger

No discussion. Questions: Kim Therrien, spoke in favor of Article 6 and stated she has used the tennis courts regularly for years and is well aware of the damage to the pavement in both the tennis courts as well as the basketball court. Preston Lawrence, also spoke in favor of the reconstruction, has been using the tennis courts for the last 4 years and the conditions are deplorable.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #6 Passed as read

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 41:14-a to give the Board of Selectmen authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. If adopted, the provisions shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the Town at any duly warned meeting. *The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Selectmen Krieger spoke on the need for approval of this article. Confirmed the need for a new Town Office building as the current one is too small, not enough room for storage, unable to have private meetings, no elevator, etc. The Legion Hall, which is located just down the street from the current Town office, has approached the Selectmen about selling the building, which is currently valued at @\$319,000 and they would be willing sell to the Town for approximately \$150,000. The Selectmen would like to move forward with this article which if passed would allow us to take money out of the Capital Reserve Fund which is Article 8 to purchase the building plus a deal for a trade of two acres of land on Foster Road. The goal then would be with the help of the Building Committee to build a new building that could accommodate all the needs of the Town Offices and be of multi-purpose use to the Town, such as having water fountains and restrooms attached to the back of the building and remove the portable restrooms that are presently needed which would be a great addition for all rec related activities as well as some type of emergency phone installed for use when injuries occur. The Selectmen ask for everyone to please support this article so that we may move forward and use the funds that have been acquired in the Capital Reserve Fund and stop continuing to just keep putting monies into the fund.

Questions: Maryann Steele, expressed she is very concerned about what this article is actually saying and wants to be sure everyone understands that we will be giving blanket authorization to the Board of Selectmen to purchase or sell land or buildings, if there are funds or if the property is there, without ever consulting the towns people. Ms. Steele asks that everyone vote against this bill as it is currently written. Selectmen Krieger responded and mentioned RSA 41:14-a, this law states that if 50 signatures are acquired from voters in the town that will stop their ability to do anything further. They would still require two public hearings to move forward. If at any time 49 people signed a petition to stop the purchase of the Legion he would accept that with no problem and even sign as the 50th person. It is not carte blanche, the town's people still have a say and the ability to stop the progress if they feel it necessary. Elgie Goodwin, stated that it would have been great if that had been actually written out in the article. Moderator advised if everyone wanted he would read the entire RSA 41:14-a. All wanted to hear, so it was read by Moderator. Once read Moderator reconfirmed that there would be meetings which all could attend and 50 voters could sign a petition to take away this authority at any time. Bob Searles, had a question regarding the Legion and selling it to the Town for \$150,000, how much land comes with that and how much do we have to give up? Selectmen Krieger advised he was not sure how large the land in the village is he understands it a two parcel deal which includes the land the building is on and the parking lot. The lot on Foster Road is something that we would like to put in the deal for \$100,000 to pay for that building and that lot, so this way we can continue to keep it within our town compound area and have that whole space available. We don't want to lose this opportunity and have the Legion sell to someone who may put up an Apartment building or something. Kim Therrein, does support the idea of a new town building, however, not sure where Foster Road is? Selectmen Krieger advised that it is off Oak Hill. Ms. Therrein then asked what would they be doing with this land on Foster Road? Selectmen Krieger advised that his understanding was that the Legion would like to have the land available to them should they decide to build a new building sometime in the future. Happy that the RSA was explained in more detail, however, would like to know if the article could still be amended to just include the Town Office building? Selectmen Krieger advised that that was looked into, however, we do not have the ability to change the Law, it must be left as written. Ms. Therrein, asked if the article could just be amended slightly. Selectmen Krieger advised that the Local Government Center was asked about this situation and they advised it must be left as written. The article can, however, be rescinded at the next town meeting. Ms. Therrein inquired about the disrepair of the Legion building. Selectmen Krieger advised that the building would have to be taken down and replaced. Peter Pittman, would like to know if the Selectmen would be willing to go ahead and put the rescinding article on next year's agenda and the people would not have to go through the motion of having to do a petition? Selectmen Krieger stated that yes, they would do that. Selectmen Bowles also stated yes to that question providing that the issue is completed. Selectmen Bowles also confirmed that they would be in agreement with that. Dan DeHart, why didn't you just come forth with the article based on the Legion purchase? Selectmen Krieger stated we did not have all the current information at that time, and we had monies put aside for a building but it did not include land, therefore we had to make this change in order to go ahead. Stanley Prescott, question regarding land that is on Youngs Hill Road, the owner put into conservation easement because they did the open space subdivision and he is requesting it back are you going to address that in this article as well? Selectmen Bowles advised that we would have to go to Town council and our Town attorney and Conservation Commission as to how to handle that situation. Mr. Prescott understood this request came to the Planning Board and they were under the impression it would be brought up at this meeting. Selectmen Ives referred to the RSA read by the Moderator, Town owned conservation land is under the control of the Conservation Commission and further the RSA precludes the Selectmen from returning that land. This would have to be brought to legal counsel. The intent at this time is simply to address a new Town Office. Alan Barton, requested confirmation that the town cannot sell land? Selectmen Krieger advised that the Town can vote to sell land. However, without this RSA the Selectmen cannot sell land. Kim Therrein, what would be done with the existing building? Selectmen Krieger advised that there has been some discussion on that however no definite answer at this time but would perhaps sell off whatever they could, such as lumber etc. Selectmen Krieger advised Mr. Barton that he made an error in his response that the Selectmen can sell land, they simply cannot purchase land. Ms. Therrein further inquired as to the connection of the Youngs Hill Road issued? Selectmen Krieger advised that this had to do with land a developer who gave the town and now he wanted it back to make a development, which fell through. Ms. Therrein, does this have any connection to this article? Moderator stated yes this RSA would give the Selectmen the ability to give back the land if they felt it was a good idea for the Town, however, they

would still have to hold public hearings, planning board, etc. and again 50 voters could petition it not be done. Roy Merrill, wanted confirmation as to whether the towns people by approving this would lose their right to vote on the purchase of the Legion land and building? Selectmen Krieger stated that that is not true, if 50 registered voters asked to have this article stopped and moved to next year's meeting that would have to happen. Arthur Austin, agrees that the purchase of Legion is a good one, but feels that the article should have been rewritten to just state that and not give this carte blanche authority. Moderator stated it could not legally be written that way as was discussed earlier. Peter Pittman wanted confirmation that the Selectmen would require a separate hearing for each sale or requisition of land before they could proceed? Moderator confirmed that that is correct. Selectmen Bowles stated that everyone should understand that the Legion is not a done deal it is just a very good option. Trudy Mott-Smith, stated she understands the RSA, however, still does not understand why Selectmen did not just ask for the appropriation of funds to purchase the Legion instead of going through the wording of this article and the RSA rules. Selectmen Krieger responded with the fact that we have in Article 8 over \$800,000 which is for a town office, because of the way the article is written we cannot purchase land, so in order to buy \$150,000 of land, with a new article we would have to raise \$150,000. Also the Legion situation came up more recently. It is a good opportunity and the Selectmen would not like to pass up this way we would not have to raise more money we can just use the money we have already acquired. Steve Jakubowski, feels there are sufficient safe guards built into this RSA and he proposed that the question be moved and it was seconded. Voted on and approved to move question.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #7 Passed as read

Lisa Laughlin asked for a motion to restrict reconsideration of articles 5,6 & 7, seconded by Peter Pittman. Vote ensued, passed.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Town Office Building Capital Reserve Fund, established by the March 2004 Town Meeting and to allow the appropriations deposited in said fund to be used for land acquisition, and/or the purchase, future construction, or renovation of a Town Office Building and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This article is contingent on passing of the previous warrant article. *The Selectmen recommend this article. (2/3 vote required)*

Moved by: Robert Krieger **Seconded by: Dustin Bowles**

Selectmen Krieger spoke on this article and advised it would allow us to use existing funds to buy land.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #8 Passed with a unanimous vote

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$451,500 to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds:

- Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000
- Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000
- Bridge Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000
- Recreational Facility Maintenance Trust Capital Reserve Fund \$2,000
- Library Collection Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund \$7,000
- Roadway Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000
- J.O. Cate Memorial Van Capital Reserve Fund \$2,500
- Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$40,000
- Conservation Commission Land Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000
- Town Office Building Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000

(Majority vote required) The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moved by: Steven Ives **Seconded by: Robert Krieger**

Selectmen Ives spoke on these funds and the need to have these Capital Reserve Funds maintain to help keep taxes down etc. We have made a few minor changes to two of the funds, one being to the Recreational Facility Fund from \$1000 to \$2000 and to offset that, the Transfer Station Fund. Mentioned some of the work that has been done at the transfer station facility and it is now up to a better standard, so that fund was dropped by \$10,000 down to \$30,000.

Questions: Bob Searles questioned if changes are so minimal then why are taxes going up? Selectmen Ives advised that these items have always been in the Town Budget, however, the DRA has changed some rules so this item needed to be listed as a separate article. Nothing has actually changed. Trudy Mott-Smith, asked regarding Town Office Fund \$100,000, we voted in the last article to have this money moved in order to purchase land. Selectmen Ives mentioned stated

that funds were not moved the article was simply to change the purpose to allow the Selectmen to purchase land. Ms. Mott-Smith, so when we vote for article 9, how much money do the Selectmen expect might be left in the Town Office fund, for building and renovation etc? Selectmen Ives stated that there is approximately \$762,220 could be left over. Based on cost to purchase Legion was \$150,000, then \$50,000 would purchase the building and \$100,000 for the Foster Road land, but this is only if that purchase goes through, it is only in the talking stage at this point. Tom Blanchette, would like to recommend to the Board of Selectmen perhaps it be wise to select a committee of approx 5 residents to review everything as concerns the FD apparatus? Selectmen Ives indicated that we do have a master plan in effect and they do meet yearly to discuss future plans of the town, every department has input into that master plan.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #9 Passed as read

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in the previously established Expendable Trust Funds:

- Transfer Station Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$30,000
- Septage Lagoon Expendable Trust Fund \$10,000
- Highway Road Grader Expendable Trust Fund \$60,000

(Majority vote required) The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moved by: Robert Krieger

Seconded by: Dustin Bowles

Selectmen Krieger addressed this article and discussed the Road Grader, we do have enough money in the fund to purchase a new Grader this year and in speaking with the Road Agent this current Grader is in pretty bad shape and driving on some of the roads bounces so much it causes divots in the road. He mentioned that a previously mentioned we did drop the amount in the Transfer Station Fund as some work has already been done up there and we don't anticipate needing to do more immediately. Road Agent David Rice was introduced, he advised that the current Road Grader is 27 years old and has been rebuilt with the exception of the motor. It just can't be rebuilt anymore. The Grader they are looking to replace it with is of the same size the only difference is they will need to also purchase the necessary equipment to attach for snow plowing in the winter.

Questions: Bob Searles, asked how much is currently in the fund? Selectmen Krieger advised \$60,000. Deb Kardaseski asked about in Town Report on page 72 under purpose of the Road Grader it states repair, are we allowed to replace equipment if it is already designated as a repair? She thought that required a vote? Selectmen Krieger advised that they would need to read the original article from 2008, it should say replace not repair. The article will have to be looked up and researched. Selectmen Bowles added that with these Expendable Trust Funds the Selectmen are authorized to expend them without Town meeting vote, which is the way it was originally set up.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #10 Passed as read

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$86,000 for the purpose of purchasing the development rights to conserve valuable farmland and forestland and authorize the withdrawal from the Loudon Conservation Commission Land Fund Expendable Trust established for this purpose at the 2002 Annual Meeting.

(Majority vote required) The Selectmen recommend this article.

Moved by: Dustin Bowles

Seconded by: Steven Ives

Selectmen Bowles advised that last year we raised and appropriated funds to purchase the develop rights on the Bennett property for the Moore family and this year there is a piece of property on Clough Hill Road which has applied to the Conservation Commission to do the same. The Selectmen do recommend this.

Bob Butler spoke further on this article. Property in discussion is the Wilson Smith property corner of Bumfagon, Currier and Clough Hill Roads. Approximately 119 acres is being put up by Mr. Smith for conservation into the future. Beautiful piece of land and it is not going to change the tax rate, the money is already appropriated and all they are looking for is the authority to spend the money that is already there.

Having no further questions, vote ensued.

Article #11 Passed as read

Lisa Laughlin asked for a motion to restrict reconsideration of articles 8, 9, 10 & 11, and seconded. Vote ensued, passed.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,957,508 to defray Town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations to the same. This article does not include any of the previous warrant articles. *(Majority vote required) The Selectmen recommend this article.*

Moved by: Dustin Bowles

Seconded by: Robert Krieger

Questions: Roy Merrill spoke on the fact that the Library budget increase is considerably higher than all other Town budgets and he does not feel there is justification in that. Selectmen Ives advised that they had several meetings with the Library regarding their budget request and that if there were questions, they would have to defend their request. Steve Del Deo, Library Trustee thanked the Moderator for allowing him to speak, and the Selectmen and all the Town employees for the work that they do. Many past Library Trustees in the past have attempted to increase the Salary of the Library director based on the responsible that the job requires. There has not obviously been much success. They have done a survey of surrounding Towns our Director is the lowest paid. We would like to see our Director put up to at least an average of surrounding Towns in New Hampshire. The Library offers a lot of wonderful new and upgraded items such as downloading of books etc. We are asking for everyone to support the new budget for the Library. Mr. Merrill does not feel that position warrants a 10% increase and would like to make a motion to cut the Directors Salary by 10%. Moderator advised Mr. Merrill that he would need to provide a written request for his motion to change Article 12, it must be signed by him, and 5 other residents then represented. Then it would have to be voted on by closed ballot. Steve Del Deo advised that a 10% budget cut would mean that the Library would have to cut back services it currently offers and a cut in staff. John Rice, stated that he has worked with Boy Scouts for several years and the Library is one of the places they meet. The increase is not just salaries it is for repairs etc. and the things the Library offers are of a great value to residents of this town. Feels we should accept the budget as it is written. Mr. Merrill again stated that he felt the Director should not be given a 10% increase and that was not personal. The Moderator clarified for Mr. Merrill that he was requesting a complete line item decrease in the Library budget of 10%, not just for the Directors Salary. Mr. Merrill stated he understood that. Deb Kardaseski, based on the increase would the Library plan on being open an additional day or half day? Answer was no. Ms. Kardaseski feels it is important to support the Library. Ms. Kardaseski then asked for article to be moved with no further discussion which was seconded. Steve Del Deo was rejected from speaking.

Roy Merrill requested a budget cut of 10% for the Library Budget and was seconded by Elgie Goodwin, he then presented the Moderator with a written request signed by 5 residents.

Moderator read the amendment 1 to Article 12 which was to reduce Library Budget by 10% (\$22,800) to a new total of \$3,932,508. As proposed by Roy Merrill.

Closed ballot vote ensued for amendment to Article 12 at @11:50 am. Moderator gave 10 minutes for this to be completed.

Question: Preston Lawrence inquired under Selectmen's office wages, found on page 10 of Town Report, appears to be a 17% increase, please explain? Selectmen Ives addressed this question advising that Jean Lee, Office Manager was now semi-retired and Brenda Pearl was hired with more hours.

While waiting for results of vote to amendment 1, the Moderator made mention of DARE pizza night and commended Chief Fiske and the Loudon PD for the fact that theirs is the only DARE program not funded by the state it is all self funded. Audience gave a round of applause.

Moderator restarted meeting @11:57 am and re-read amendment 1 to Article 12 Voted ensued. Yes 67 No 118 Amendment 1 to Article 12 did not pass.

Lisa Laughlin came forward with a second amendment request for Article 12, stressed that this is not personal, just concerned as we are all struggling financially at this time. She provided a written amendment signed by herself and 5 residents and was seconded, requesting the Library Budget be amended as follows, line item #0145500 -100-1110 Library Salary Director be amended by \$41,436.18 for an decrease of 5.5%.

Again the Moderator advised that this would be done by closed ballot. Discussion was opened, Roy Merrill stated that he feels the originally requested salary increase is just too much to ask for considering the current economic times we are all dealing with. Steve Del Deo, Library Directors position requires a Bachelor's degree plus a lot of other required education, as well as supervising employees, plus many other numerous tasks. The current Director also does not take Town health benefits, which does save the Town over \$5,325 per year. Therefore, he does not feel asking for a 7.35% increase is asking too much. Brian Blake stated that he based on the amount of money discussed throughout this entire meeting we are spending so much time debating over a salary for a position that requires a lot of time and education and is a vital service to this town. Lisa Laughlin again stated that she does agree that the position is important and that the Director does deserve an increase, however, in this current economy she does feel it is just too much. Pat Kiley asked to have the question moved and was seconded. Voted and approved to move question.

Meeting was closed at 12:15pm for vote. Meeting reopened at 12:20pm.

Amendment 2 to Article 12 was re-read and ballot count was announced. Yes 87 No 91

