

TOWN OF LISBON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
2016
TOWN MEETING WARRANT

The meeting was called to order by Moderator David Trahan at 7:00 PM. Mr. Trahan introduced the people at the top table; Town Administrator Dan Merhalski, Select Chair Stephen Knox, Selectmen Donald Butson and Tom Demers, Town Clerk Jennifer Trelfa.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Trahan thanked the people for attending the meeting.

Mr. Trahan reviewed his proposed rules for the meeting, the voters did not object to rules presented.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Lisbon, in the County of Grafton, and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in the Town affairs;
You are hereby notified to meet in Lisbon Regional School in said Town of Lisbon, New Hampshire on Tuesday the Eighth Day of March, 2016 at ten o'clock in the forenoon at which time polls shall open at ten o'clock and not close earlier than nine o'clock in the evening, to act upon the following subjects. All Articles except Article 1 are to be considered at seven o'clock in the evening.

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

Mr. Trahan noted that voting was now open for all necessary Town Officers and would remain open until 9:00 PM

ELECTED

<i>Selectman (three years)</i>	<i>Peter Nightingale</i>
<i>Treasurer (three years)</i>	<i>Arlene Hite</i>
<i>Moderator (two years)</i>	<i>To Be Appointed</i>
<i>Trustee of Trust Funds (three years)</i>	<i>Dr. J. Nyberg</i>
<i>Supervisor of the Checklist (six years)</i>	<i>Keri Lyndes</i>
<i>Library Trustee (three years)</i>	<i>Elizabeth Johnson</i>
<i>Library Trustee (three years)</i>	<i>Alana Lessard</i>

ARTICLE 2: To hear reports of agents, and special committees heretofore chosen and pass any vote related thereto.

Mr. Trahan explained the reports are all in the Town Report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

S. Knox moved the article, seconded by Dr. J. Nyberg

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will approve entering into a 5 year lease purchase agreement for a new Life Squad Ambulance. The total cost will be One Hundred FiftyEight Thousand (\$158,000) plus interest, with yearly payments of \$33,463; and to

raise and appropriate \$33,463 for the first year's lease payment, with \$21,027 to come from the Life Squad Vehicle Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with the remainder, and future yearly lease payments, to come from taxation. This lease will not have an escape clause. **REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS.** *(This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article #5, the operating budget)* *The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.*

S. Knox moved the article, seconded by Dr. J. Nyberg

S. Knox made a motion to amend the article, seconded by T. Demers.

Article 3 – Amendment

*To see if the Town will approve entering into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for a new Life Squad Ambulance. The total cost will be One Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Eight (\$157,668.00) plus interest, with yearly payments of \$33,463.00; and to raise and appropriate \$33,463.00 for the first year's lease payment by withdrawal of those funds available from the Life Squad Vehicle Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (approximately \$21,027.00) with the remainder, and future yearly lease payments, to come from taxation. This lease will not have an escape clause. **REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS.***

(This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 5, the operating budget)

The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.

Mr. Trahan – We are now discussing the amendment. Would the Board wish to address this

S. Knox – David Combs would you like to speak on the ambulance.

D. Combs – (Life Squad Director) Our older ambulance 1997 Ford we are slowly putting more and more money into, it is a good truck, 18 years old now. Last year just over \$3000. Is a four wheel drive and would like to keep as a spare. The problem is the newer one we purchased a couple of years ago, have some issues with the front end. Have put steering stabilizer on, bearings on the front to do with the steering. Broke a part of the frame on it. We have been told the frame could be fixed, could be welded, it is possible for a State Inspection. The Inspector for this area suggested we did not use it for an ambulance once it has been fixed. My thought in the long run is, we have already had three issues with the front end, all have been fixed, yes the frame could be welded, would be stronger than it is but don't know if this would offset one side from the other. Down the road, if we got into an accident with a something like this I don't know if the legal field would work on that but I would prefer not to put the Town in that position. We have looked at same used trucks, staying within the five to six year range, running at \$50 to \$60,000 with average of 140,000 miles. Again we don't know if getting into someone else's issues, just getting rid of it or rotating their stock, we would rather stay out of that. If we get a new truck should easily last us 10 to 15 years, if not longer. We don't stick a lot of miles on ours like some of the big towns/cities do. Have only put about 16,000 on ours in the 10 plus years, just getting old, beginning to rust underneath. The Town crew does an excellent job trying to keep them up. We would rather go new and stop any of the other possible questions that could come up.

H. Walker – It says there is a no escape clause, can you tell me about that.

D. Combs – I'm not big into the finance thing, but once we go into the lease will lease it for five years then can purchase it for a dollar. Will have to pay for five years, we can't back out of it, it is going to be in there budget for next five years.

D. Trahan – We have answered the question to the escape clause, any other questions.

L. Superchi - Historically we have purchased used vehicles and you said they range \$50 to

\$60,000. How many years typically do they last?

D. Combs – R1 our oldest one, purchased from Franconia, has lasted us ten (10) years. It has been a good truck, we have put money into it, but it is now beginning to rust underneath. Fuel tank problems. They can last, but we don't know of any issues. A1 the tuck we have in reserve right now, we have had for about year and half, ran really well, then we started having issues with it and have had to do repairs and put money into it. We are trying not to run into that again.

E. Tonnesen – Are they going to give a warranty?

D. Combs – The vehicle we are looking at comes with a five year warranty. If something goes wrong they will send a truck to us to fix it. All included in the price.

M. Forsyth – Is it true, not true, that the Life Squad ambulance is used for more than the Town of Lisbon.

D. Combs – We supply fast squad service and transport to Lyman on a retainer. We do fast squad to Landaff.

M. Forsyth – Will there be more money coming from those other towns?

D. Combs – It is a Lisbon vehicle, we are held by retainer to provide a service and as far as I know they are not putting money to help with purchase.

C. Derosia – What is the Towns liability if something should happen while transporting a patient.

D. Combs – We have insurance. Going back to A1 it is a good truck, but with all the repairs to the front end concern is that if something did happen the legal field would look at it. It is a liability area don't want to put the Town into.

C. Derosia – Do we have legal counsel here tonight?

D. Trahan – No we do not.

C. Derosia – What are the Selectmen's thoughts about Town liability

D. Trahan – Currently

C. Derosia – What is our legal liability if transporting someone and something happens.

He referred earlier we need a new machine because of liability if something should happen while transporting someone.

D. Merhalski – The Town does have insurance as long as has been demonstrated no gross negligence.

P. Gagnon – I know some of you have read/heard my comments and take on the ambulance so I'm not going to go that deep into it. The concern we have with A1 the liability issue I think has been overblown. I think that as long as we repair it to DMV inspection standards our insurance will cover anything. My opinion people weld frames all the time; they weld school buses, my take on that. I think we should be able to fix, no reason A1 should have sat parked all these months and I think Towns of our size can't afford to be going out buying brand new equipment because we have to do some repairs or maintenance to them. That is expected. I can tell you from my knowledge, my wife has been in EMS for almost twenty years, has worked on multiple services I can tell you there are definitely problems with brand new vehicles, they need repairs whether new or used, they do break down. The problem is it is not about reliability it is about whether or not we have enough vehicles able to respond, get safely to our patients and get them to the hospital. I think we could continue to run off the used ambulance that this town has always done, keep more than one so have a back, like we have now, we have two they are fully licensed, fully inspected, all the investment is already there and configured, I think we are in a good place. I would rather see the money that could be spent on this be put into bigger projects that we know are coming down like the fire station and coming down the road I think the Life Squad the way they generate money for the town I think they will be able to help pay for their own ambulance rather than putting it on the tax payers.

D. Combs – I don't disagree with Perry on that as far as things being fixed. By fixing the truck, yes true it can be fixed, the inspector, who I didn't speak to directly suggested we probably not use it as an ambulance. I would rather take that one thing out, yes it would be inspected, liability. Unfortunately looking at all the legal things that happen in this world, just saying that possibly, not that it would, but could be used against us. I am just trying to take the Town out of that possibility at some time.

P. McQuaide – You said we have two vehicles and would keep one, what would happen to the other.

D. Combs – The other one has not been fixed right now, we are looking for someone who would possibly buy it, do re mounting or use parts from it.

P. McQuaide – Do you have any idea how much money we would get back from that.

D. Combs – One guy told us to scrap it. Another guy we had looking would not give us a price right now. It cost us \$12,000 and we put \$3,000 into it, so have \$15,000 invested in it. We had hoped to have done transports from one facility to another that can raise larger amounts of money, things changed and not enough staffing. Down the road we would love to get back to that, at this point in time we do not have the staff to do that. As far as cost on the truck, we do not have that currently.

T. Davis – As far as taxation goes, what does that break down to?

D. Trahan – What does that do to the tax rate? What is impact?

T. Davies – Yes.

D. Merhalski – For every \$1068 is 0.01 cent

M. Carver – With increase of new unit will it not be self-funding?

D. Combs – Not sure how monies broken down, can't remember if 75% / 25% or of 70/30, but the money that comes back from transporting the 70% goes back into the town coffers to be used as and where they want. The other goes into the Life Squad equipment fund. The exact split, I can't remember what it is, but most of it goes back into the Town and the rest to the Life Squad to help pay for equipment.

B. Nightingale – Is there a middle ground somewhere buy a used vehicle from down south, lot less money and doesn't have the rust and terrible road problems that we face?

D. Combs – Possibly. Then we would have to send people to look at it, could be less expensive. Still concerns about maintenance work that has been done on it, warranty and issues.

B. Nightingale – Warranty

D. Combs – After four or five years, not have a warranty.

B. Nightingale - I would guess that south of us where a much bigger population would change vehicles more often.

D. Combs – There are a lot of places that do. That is where we were looking at 50 to 60,000. Again we are looking at the same thing we can't see mechanically what has happened, how they were taken care of. I can't say all cities, but some cities just run them into the ground. Most but not all cities they get put inside, but I can't guarantee and even the pick we picked up in NY, we sent 4 people to go down and look at it, one was a mechanic we crawled under and through and we never saw this as a possible problem. So even though we can go look at, we don't know for sure what we are going to get into. I understand the money, tax payer myself; just don't want to have somebody else's headache.

G. Stevens – A lot of the vehicles finding out there are coming from a service where transports and do transfers, maybe two, three hundred mile transfers, a very long shot of finding one with under 100 thousand miles on. Each time you see that 100 thousand mile mark you start looking at more and more problems. You may get on good and you may not, the last one lasted just over a year with adding 1500 new miles on it. So it cost us 15 –

18,000 and it lasted us a year/year and half.

S. Knox – Mr. Stevens or Mr. Combs can you tell me what a brand new ambulance is built to last, run for mileage wise?

D. Combs – I expect as any vehicle it depends how you take care of it. Again the highway crew takes an excellent job of taking care of the vehicles that we have. I would say that at least the minimum you expect is 100 to 150,000 miles. If you get more than that, that is good. With the amount of transporting we do, probably not going to hit that mark, possibly after 15 years we might. But at this point can't say the exact time it's going to last

M. Forsyth – It appears you have done homework on cost of new vehicle, I am concerned I don't see what will come back to the tax payers from the existing vehicle, I am concerned this work doesn't show what we could sell that for and could reimburse the tax payers and at least help to offset this. Could you speak to that please?

D. Combs – Not sure if it is the right line you are looking at we are looking at 158,000. They range from 140,000 to 200,000 pending on what you have put into it At the end of five years, larger cities will rotate out every five to six years we tried to stay in that range with 150,000 miles still looking at \$60,000 some were more, some were less, but again, don't know what getting. The one from Franconia has lasted 10 years now, last three or four years been putting money into it. We are just trying to avoid getting into someone else's headache. We do about 250 – 300 calls a year probably average 16 miles and back to the town. As far as that goes the revenues from that 25% of that goes into the equipment fund.

B. Scheller – Is this new ambulance basically fully equipped, or getting basic truck and have to pay for equipment.

D. Combs – We have all the equipment in the truck that is sat, we don't need any more out of pocket. The price, radios in old truck, one head is compatible and one is not, so in this price we are having the radio installed instead of going around looking for someone else to put the harness in. When the truck comes all we have to do is put our stuff into it and have the ambulance inspection.

D. Trahan – Are we ready for the question? I would like to re-read the amendment and then we will proceed to the vote.

At this time.....

B. Liveston – Point of order. Should we not be voting to accept the amendment first?

D. Trahan – Mr. Liveston appropriately pointed out that we need to have the Town accept the amendment. So what we first vote on by voice is that the Town accepts the amendment as proposed. What we are voting on now by voice is if we accept the amendment.

All those in favor of accepting the article as amended?

Ayes have it, amendment passes.

Now that has passed we will vote on the article by ballot.

YES 51 NO 49

Article needed a 2/3 majority to pass. Article fails.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will approve entering into a 3 year lease purchase agreement for a new Police Cruiser and associated equipment. The total cost will be Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$37,469) plus interest, with yearly payments of \$12,000; and to raise and appropriate \$12,000 for the first year's lease payment with \$5,753 to come from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with the remainder, and future yearly lease payments, to come from taxation. This

lease will not have an escape clause. **REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS.**
(This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article # 5, the operating budget) The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.

D. Butson moved the article, seconded Dr. J. Nyberg

S. Knox made a motion to amend the article, seconded by T. Demers.

S. Knox - Amendment is as before we now have exact cost and figures.

D. Trahan – This will be the same as previous article, I will read the amendment, any discussion, vote to accept the amendment and then vote on the article.

Article 4 – Amendment

*To see if the Town will approve entering into a (3) three year lease purchase agreement for a new Police Cruiser and associated equipment. The total cost will be Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$37,469.00) plus interest, with yearly payments of \$12,843.00; and to raise and appropriate \$12, 843.00 for the first year's lease payment with \$5,751.00 to come from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with the remainder, and future yearly lease payments, to come from taxation. This lease will not have an escape clause. **REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS.***

(This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article 5, the operating budget)

The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.

D. Trahan – Open for discussion, does the Board have anything.

S. Knox – Chief Pinson would you please talk on this article.

Chief Pinson – Just for clarification the current cruiser with a lease agreement does have an escape clause, is that correct there is no escape clause to this one? This cruiser will be replacing the 2008 Ford Expedition if anyone has seen it recently it is an abomination needs a lot of work, it is an embarrassment to the town and the department, and it had front end work needs to be done to it. It has a roughly \$600 sensor that needs to be replaced. The initial cost is so high but we got to avoid that is we got to transfer the equipment, we hope to transfer as much of the electronics as we can, however the cages and some of the other components are not compatible.

S. Knox – I would like to add just a couple of points to Chief Pinson. One we have the current police lease for the cruiser we have now. The proposal here is to have two years overlap, we will have this one year for this upcoming budget 2016 we will have two lease payments for this year, then the lease for the previous cruiser will be over then we will have two years on the new cruiser. The second point is we are working on a capital improvement plan and what we would like to do is responsibly get our vehicles replaced to a point where we are not chasing out tails on every week and running things in to the ground, a little proactive when we can be.

R. Clark – The increase of \$843 is that interest?

D. Merhalski – The \$12,000 was just an estimate, we hadn't heard back from the finance company the \$12,843.00 is the actual estimate received from the bank.

R. Clark – But the \$37,469.00 is plus interest?

D. Merhalski – Yes.

P. Wold – Can you give an estimate on the impact on the tax rate.

D. Merhalski – Approximate on total 0.34 cents.

M. Forsyth – If this passes am I right that we would be retiring a leased vehicle?

S. Knox – The current vehicle that is on lease will be maintained, that current lease will be paid off in one more year. This will be replacing the 2008 Ford SUV Expedition, which is a vehicle that needs to be replaced. So you will have one cruiser that is two years old and then

one brand new one. Then the 2008 Ford Expedition we plan on selling.

M. Forsyth – So why doesn't this amendment show that the one that we will be selling, the money coming back to the Town?

D. Merhalski – Basically that is because we don't know the amount that would be coming back to the Town from the Expedition sale. This is the lease and purchase price. Just getting back to and clarify a previous answer. The total price for the cruiser is \$37,469 but the annual amount is \$12,843 so the impact on the tax rate would be 0.12 cents not the 0.34 cents. So each year of the lease it will be 0.12 cents on the tax rate.

Ina Lippard – When we agreed to lease this current vehicle we were told it was because we needed to replace that 2008 at that time, I see the two vehicles sitting out there. With the size of our Town and the size of our force why do we need to relatively new Police vehicles? We were told when the other one was leased that it would replace the 2008 not be added to it, so now we would have two relatively new vehicles for a Town of 1200 people.

Chief Pinson – We do use two vehicles a lot. We also apply for Federal funded grants and they require two vehicles, one out on the road for patrol and dedicated to the grant. We also use those during Lilac time, Halloween a number of times where an officer is tied up in court and we have someone covering the Town, they have to have a vehicle as well.

D. Trahan – No more questions I would like to go to the amended article. I will read the amendment again then we have to vote on accepting the amendment which we will do with a voice vote and then we can vote on the article.

All those in favor of accepting the amendment. Ayes have it, amendment passes.

We will now proceed to voting for the article as amended. Again it needs a two thirds majority to pass.

YES 70 NO 28

Article four passes.

ARTICLE 5: BUDGET To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Sixty-two and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,870,962.00) which represents the operating budget OF THE Town as prepared by the Board of Selectmen, and posted with this warrant as required by RSA 31:95, Said sum does not include individual or special articles addressed. *The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$124,487.00
TAX COLLECTOR, ELECTION, REG & VITALS	\$72,736.00
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$59,823.00
REVALUATION OF PROPERTY	\$29,315.00
LEGAL EXPENSE	\$8,500.00
PERSONAL ADMINISTRATION	\$4,300.00
PLANNING & ZONING	\$2,340.00
GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$47,340.00
CEMETERIES	\$13,500.00
INSURANCE NOT OTHERWISE ALLOCATED	\$53,500.00
ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	\$2,582.00
OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$0.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$338,610.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$70,936.00
LIFE SQUAD	\$41,840.00
BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$10,100.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$500.00
PUBLIC SERVICE – DISPATCH AND COMM.	\$49,135.00
HIGHWAYS & STREETS	\$387,997.00
HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT	\$88,500.00
STREET LIGHTING	\$20,000.00
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$176,503.00
TOWN WATER BENEFIT FEE	\$0.00
HEALTH OFFICER	\$0.00
PEST CONTROL	\$0.00
WELFARE DIRECT ASSISTANCE	\$25,806.00
PARKS & RECREATION	\$13,607.00
PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$59,121.00
PATRIOTIC PURPOSES	\$1,000.00
INFORMATION BOOTH	\$0.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$11,500.00
LONG TERM BONDS & NOTES	\$47,293.00
INTEREST ON LONG TERM BONDS & NOTES	\$2,091.00
INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE	\$5,000.00
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS & GRAVEL ROADS	\$80,000.00
MACHINERY, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	\$8,000.00
BUILDINGS	\$15,000.00
IMPROVEMENTS OTHER THAN BUILDINGS	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,870,962.00

D. Trahan - Article 5 is the operating budget, will be handled in a special fashion. I will read the warrant article without the line items, then will accept a motion to put the article on the floor and then we will address the specific lines.

T. Demers moved article, Dr. J. Nyberg 2nd.

D. Trahan – What we will do to address the operating budget is go down through each line, pause after each line to see if there is any input from audience.

General Administration –

R. Clark – Can they explain what the double of appropriation from last year.

D. Merhalski – The increase that we see in the General Administration is for the establishment of the Town Administrators position last year. Last year budgeted for not a full year, this includes full amount for this year. This position is established to be potentially a part time position; at the current time this is fulltime hours but intends to be reduced the beginning of August this year and then going on next year reduced again. So going from five days now down to four days then down to three.

R. Clark – So then that actual figure is technically not correct?

D. Merhalski – No, that figure is correct, it includes the amount going onto August and then the paid amount being reduced by 20%. That is the actual full amount for the advertised budget, as well as for the Board of Selectmen.

S. Knox – The figure from last year Mr. Clark was based on us taking on a half year for the Town Administration position.

R. Clark – Thank you, I understand that, basically so if you look at the figures that is a fulltime position for this whole year not until August, if it was 35 for salary last year for half a year and you're looking at 124 and I believe the Selectmen's is about 8 again for this year, you're looking at 102 /103 for the year that would indicate to me that is a full year of salary.

D. Merhalski – Last year budget was at \$50,000. I had taken over in August, so just half year. This one is budgeted for an entire year, 40 hours a week up until August, and then 32 hours a week from August on to December 31.

R. Clark – The Selectmen didn't think that the Town actually should be involved with deciding if they wanted to do that or not, or just decided they were going to add a Town Administrator fulltime. Last year it was going to be a part time position, I was just wondering where, I guess you have the right, I don't know the legal terminology, without coming to Town meeting and asking if what we wanted. Just want to know why.

D. Trahan – Question is really, why there is this amount in the line budgeted for a Town Administrator.

R. Clark – I understand why it was. I am just wondering did the Selectmen think they should have gone to the voters or just on their say so.

D. Butson – I think that like any other article here or line item it is going before the Town. This is what we put in the budget we felt was necessary to have that part time Town Administrator and again we intended for it to be less hours but because of the needs of the Town as there is so many things. We need the Capital Improvement Plan, we need a Master Plan, and there are a lot of things on his plate we want to get done, so we felt it was necessary to extend that fulltime position to meet the needs of the Town and the Selectmen through August at which time the hours will be cut.

M. Forsyth – Can you tell us the rate of pay for the Selectmen last year compared to the rate of pay in this budget.

D. Butson – Same.

M. Culver – Just for clarification, the \$66,685 increase is for the Town administrator position?

D. Merhalski – Yes, that is correct, the position was budgeted at \$50,000 last year with \$27,000 expended from that. This year have 40 hour position until August then it goes down to 32. The Selectmen salaries remain the same.

M. Culver – Is the Town Administrators position hourly or salaried?

D. Merhalski – It is an hourly position.

M. Culver – So that will be adjusted once you go down to 4 days a week, then 3 days a week.

D. Merhalski – Correct.

D. Trahan – Continues through line items.

Financial Administration –

L. Superchi – Why is that number so much less than last year?

D. Merhalski – There are a number of reductions that we have from year to one, one of them that we have is the position of Finance Director which was about \$20,000 a year has been taken over by my position. We also have a budgeting of the time the Administrative Assistant has for water/wastewater will now be billed to them, so that has been reduced by about \$17,000. The total financial services are down by about \$34,000.

D. Trahan – Moving on through line items.

Highways and Streets –

A. Salter – On Highways and Streets, we live at Bishop Cut Off ,it's a dead on road at Bishop Farm the road is really starting to fall apart, great big hole, and I am wondering if some of that money might come to fix that little road? It's not very long.

D. Butson – No decisions, no specific decisions have been made on how that is going to be allocated. We try to look at the condition of the road compared to others, how much traffic there is, but at this point we haven't met with Kevin our Highway Agent to try and come to those conclusions or specifically how we are going to allocate that money.

A. Salter – Are there a lot of other priorities for that?

D. Butson – If you just drive around you are going to see there are a lot of priorities, yes. There are a lot of priorities in the town, I wouldn't say ahead of that, but there are a lot of priorities.

D. Trahan – Continues through line items.

Economic Development –

R. Robar – Would you explain, we put in \$1.00 last year, this year \$11,500.00. Why?

D. Merhalski – We have two items we are putting in this budget that are both contingent on acceptance of grants. There are two projects in Town, looking at a feasibility study being done, one is we have a \$1500 match fund for a feasibility study for a site on a possible expansion of the Industrial complex and the other is a \$10,000 grant dependent on that first study would go towards a grant with possibility of state funds in that area. These funds are only if we are awarded those grants.

D. Trahan – Continued through line items.

Buildings –

R. Clark – What is the purpose for this, we have other buildings further up, this is isolated.

D. Merhalski – Just clarifying the building section for \$15,000

R. Clark – Yes

D. Merhalski – That is for the feasibility study for the Ross funeral building site the Town is purchasing.

R. Clark – You are saying a feasibility study; we have already purchased it, correct?

D. Merhalski – Yes, but the study is to see if the structure can be used to house the fire department or if new structure put in what the use of that building/site might accommodate or be used for.

R. Clark – It won't be a fire station, but you are talking about possible using for Town offices or whatever

D. Merhalski – Yes, the study will tell us what the best use of that area is, and then what needs of the Town it can accommodate.

D. Trahan – Continues to end of line items. Comes to a total of \$1,870,962.00. If we have finished with discussion –

M. Forsyth – This year was a very good year as far as heating buildings, where is that reflected in the savings on these lines please. Can you tell me the amount by percent?

D. Merhalski – Are you asking about the heating oil bill for the Town or the diesel and gas bill or both?

M. Forsyth - Well both, we had a lot less usage on the equipment with sanding and salting and plowing, we didn't have so much snow and for the heating of the buildings.

D. Merhalski - The actual number for heating oil for the Town was \$23,634 and what we have in the budget for this coming year is a projection based on what the prices are going to be. The amount s for diesel and gas varies by which department, there were decreases and in fact the DPW had a \$12,000 savings on the diesel line. So that savings has been realized in those accounts.

M. Forsyth – So you say a \$12,000 savings?

D. Merhalski – For just the DPW on the diesel line. The heating fuel was \$23,634 and we had budgeted \$26,000.

M. Forsyth – From last year to this what was the savings?

D. Merhalski – Last year we had \$23,000, this year we are budgeting \$27,000, so what we are doing is projecting what the future cost will be, but the same cost we have for fuel oil is not the same for gas and diesel.

M. Forsyth – I am not talking about the gas and diesel. I am talking about the heating of the building, so there was an amount used for heating the building last year and projected heating for this year, where was that saving shown.

D. Merhalski – The actual amount for heating the building last year was \$23,634 the amount we had budgeted was \$26,000 so there was about \$2,600 saving.

D. Trahan – So we have been through all the line items for the budget, if there are no final questions on the budget I am going to go to the question. Will read the question then we will vote.

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (\$19,750.00) for the following local community services agencies: (This appropriation in addition to Warrant Article #5, the operating budget) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.

• North Country Home Health and Hospice:	\$4,300.00
• Tri-County Community Action Group:	\$3,500.00
• White Mountain Mental Health:	\$1,350.00
• Grafton County Seniors:	\$2,500.00
• Ammonoosuc Health:	\$1,000.00
• Court Appointed Advocate (CASA):	\$300.00
• Lisbon Main Street Program:	\$5,400.00
• Burch House:	\$400.00
• Bridge House:	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
TOTAL \$	\$19,750.00

S. Knox moved the article Dr. J. Nyberg 2nd

D. Trahan – Seconded from the floor, article 6 is now open for discussion

R. Clark – Tri – county CAP, is down \$1,500, but if you look at page 74 Tri-County CAP paid \$157,000 in this Town last year. I realize it's not an awful lot, but getting the return we are getting I would think we could at least give what we gave last year. Something that it seems is worthwhile.

S. Knox – The Board of Selectmen took a careful approach with Dan, the Town Administrator, to push forward a responsible budget, what we thought was appropriate to ask the tax payers to shoulder. The overall budget that we proposed was intended to be level funded and some areas took more of a hit than others, but we felt that the article 6 is a very appropriate level of funding And in many cases very generous for donations.

M. Forsyth – I would just like to make a statement that I did some serious research on this last year and found that many of these organizations are already funded by federal money that we already pay taxes on and I would personally like to urge everyone to not go ahead with this article because I feel they are already paid. Many other Towns including Littleton do not give to some of these organizations; the Town of Lisbon pays an awful lot for these, so just having done the research I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you.

R. Clark – Just one thing. Going ahead a little bit, Article 13 is asking is asking for money for North Country Home Health and Hospice as well, I realize it is a petitioned, you have that figure in here, is that because of a mistake and that is why in here.

S. Knox – A point of clarification, they have been petitioning the last few years and we had supplied them the information that we were going to put them into our budget which is Article 6 and they went ahead at the same time or simultaneously, but they went ahead and presented a petitioned warrant article, and as they had the required signatures on the petition it had to be included in the warrant. The Board of Selectmen recommends Article 6; however, we do not recommend Article 13 for that reason. If vote and passes Article 6 and then pass Article 13, they will be double funded above what they asked for. They asked for the total amount of \$4,300 and we have put that into our budget.

P. Nightingale – Just to briefly counter the Federal tax side of things, a few years ago I was on the Board, we went through all of these organizations and culled it down to a few, then further we went and looked at what benefit did we get from the organizations. I assume Dan has updated and looked harder than we did, again tied to Mr. Clarks point at the time we were getting exponentially more out of these organizations that help the Town that if we didn't get that help from whoever they may be, a lot of these cases would probably go over to the welfare side of things, which then we would have to bump it up on the budget. Add to that I'm on the Board of Lisbon Main Street so I have a pony in the race as well, but a lot of stuff gets done for the Town, that many people don't realize gets done, there are a lot of volunteers that put in a lot of time at Lisbon Main Street and we don't get any Federal funding. I personally think that it is a great idea.

Elaine Bussey, Executive Director of North Country Home Health and Hospice – To address the Federal funding, we do get funds from Medicare, but the monies we ask from the Town is to help support people with no insurance.

Motion to move the question – M.Carver 2nd R. Clark.

D. Trahan – We have a motion to move the question and second, that is non debatable, all those in favor to move the question.

Ayes have it.

Will read the article then vote.

Ayes have it, article passes.

S. Knox – Mr. Moderator; would like to make a motion to restrict reconsideration on all Articles up till now.

D. Trahan – So, I have a motion do I have a second

D. Butson – I'll second.

D. Trahan – I have a motion to restrict reconsideration and I have a second as well. Just to clarify, what this means is we are restricting reconsideration, discussion and voting of all articles that have passed thus far. So that means Articles 1 through 6 are done, no more debate or ability to reopen any of those Articles. Any questions on that procedure. Voting to restrict reconsideration on Articles 1 through 6.

Ayes have it, motion passed.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Six and 54/100 Dollars (\$236,206.54) for the operation and maintenance of the Lisbon Water Department. Funds are to be raised from user fees and no amount to come from taxation (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article # 5, the operating budget*) *The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.*

D. Butson moved article, T. Demers second.

I. Lippard – Is there any money in this to address the current ongoing problems we are having with the wells in town, or are we going to get hit again for work on the wells, in regard to the fact I have been told the well is failing by someone on staff.

D. Merhalski – I can address the funding issue. We have in the current budget \$78,000 on that line item for addressing maintenance with the concern with the well as well as the investigation for Well No. 2 to be upgraded. We are also pursuing grant funds through a contractor for the Town, trying to do a federal funded USDA grant to pay for any upgrades that well No. 1 presents us. So these funds will be used mainly for matching funds for grants. Not sure who it was on staff who told you the well was failing but we have not received any information about this, the well is just currently being investigated by a contractor in town.

D. Trahan – Any other questions.

P. Wold – Question about the two week boil water, I was wondering if it would be possible, if the problem recurs if we might be provided with bottled water, just an idea. I would also like to know about the pipe that is two or three miles south of here, is that tested ever? If the eventuality there is another two week boil water, that pipe several miles down the road from here on 302, is that tested.

D. Trahan – We have a comment or question on providing water if we go into boil water and the second part is about the spring.

S. Knox – The spring is not in the Town of Lisbon and we are not aware as to whether it is tested or not so cannot give you advice on if it is safe to drink from. Thank you for your question on considering the issuing of bottled water, we don't currently have a budget for it but it is a good question and maybe something we should take up in a Selectmen's meeting to talk about the 'what if' this happens again.

P. Wold – It is one thing if it is three days, but two weeks is a long time.

M. Piechota – Does this amount of money cover the repair or new for the pump that has failed in that amount of money.

D. Merhalski – What we have in the budget right now is the amount of money to do the

rejuvenation and replacement of the pump on well No. 2, so hopefully we won't have any issues if well No. 1 goes down we will be able to switch to well 2 directly. In the case of well No. 1 until we know for sure what the issue is with that we have designated additional funds to do investigations we don't know if we will have to do a replacement of the pump until we get an activity report back from the contractor.

M. Piechota – I understood that the old pump is obsolete basically. Nobody has parts?

D. Merhalski – I haven't been advised of that. If that is the case

M. Piechota – I may be wrong

D. Merhalski – What we are looking at right now is investigating the source of the contamination and during that investigation if there are upgrades that are necessary to the well we will be going after grant money.

M. Piechota – I think the contamination and the inability to pump the water from the well are two different items.

D. Merhalski – When we do the investigation for the well the goal at the end is to have a workable well with clean water and they go hand in hand with our investigation. So if we are at the point where the contractor tells us the pump needs to be replaced, the casing needs to be replaced that we have to do a different kind in that situation. The source of water getting access to it will both be covered by the funds.

D. Trahan – I would like to recognize Terry Welch, he is not a voter, if you would like to make some comments on this.

T. Welch – Terry Welch, Welch's Water and Wastewater. No. 1 well pump is four years old and they are ten to twelve year running pumps. No. 1 pump the one that is contaminated, pump and motor are fairly new.

M. Forsyth – I would just like to say, like to recognize the excellent work from the Town Administrator and Selectmen for grants to help replace so not all on the tax payers for the situations. It does take work to investigate and get the process and I just wanted to say thank you to them and I hope everybody appreciates that.

E. Tonnesen – Last year you had the same thing in Article 5 that was to raise money for a well that needed work, was that well fixed last year because the article was passed. So you guys got money last year to fix a well so is it fixed or no?

D. Merhalski – The amount you are talking about from last year was for well No. 2 rejuvenation those funds were encumbered and used this year on the well's process and we did the replacement pumps as well, that money has been used to fix well No. 2.

D. Trahan – Ready for the question.

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 8: To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-three Thousand And 00/100 Dollars (\$33,000.00) to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Accounts (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article #5, the operating budget*) *The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article:*

- \$5,000.00 - Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
- \$5,000.00 — Fire Equipment and Building Capital Reserve Fund
- \$5,000.00 — Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
- \$13,000.00— Life Squad Capital Reserve Fund
- \$5,000.00 - Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

T. Demers moves the article, D. Butson second.

I. Lippard – I have a question because we made motions to combine all of the Capital Reserve Funds at a previous meeting, now is this money going to come out of taxes or come out of that combined funds.

D. Merhalski – These funds are going to be raised through taxation. The combining of the Capitol Reserve accounts was basically we had a large amount of Capitol Reserve Funds and we condensed them to a smaller number of them and we are funding those accounts with this money that is coming from taxation.

D. Trahan – Ready for the question.

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen and 13/100 Dollars (\$254,915.13) for the operation and maintenance of the Lisbon Wastewater Department. Funds to be raised from user fees and no amount to come from taxation (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article # 5, the operating budget*) *The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article.*

S. Knox moves the article, T. Demers 2nd

D. Trahan – Any questions on the article? Ready for the question

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty and 00/100 Dollars (\$16,260) for a Jaws of Life equipment package for the Fire Dept. with said funds to come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund with no amount to be raised through taxation. (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article #5, the operating budget*) *The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.*

D. Butson moves the article, T. Demers 2nd

E. Tonnesen – I saw the Fire Department a few months ago cutting up cars, whose equipment was you using?

G. Hartwell – That was the equipment we were trying out. We currently have a set; it is old and doesn't cut the newer metals. The company brought the new ones down so we could compare with ours.

D. Trahan – Any further discussion for Article 10? Will read the question.

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-eight and 00/100 Dollars (\$12,528.00) for a bailer for the Transfer Station with said funds to come from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund with no amount to be raised through taxation. (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article # 5, the operating budget*) *The Board of Selectmen Recommends this Article.*

T. Demers moved the article, D. Butson 2nd

Ayes have it, article passes.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town voters "are in favor of having Serenity Lane, currently a privately owned road, become a town road for the main purpose of maintenance to include winter plowing". (*Petitioned Warrant Article*) (*Simple Majority*)

T. Demers moves the article, D. Butson 2nd.

M. Carver – We can't take care of the roads we have; why would we take on another?

D. Merhalski – Just want to clarify for everyone, this petitioned article is an article that was petitioned to the Town. The Town has no option than to put the wording that is on it. However, the way that it was worded in talking with Legal counsel it simply is a question is as/ are the Town in favor of not will the Town accept the roadway, so the way it was written even if the Town passes it will not become a Town road because it is simply a poll to see if the Town is in favor not to actually take it over. It is the intention of the Town to take over it will have to be amended to be taken over as a Town road.

D. Northrop – Where is it?

T. Demers – It is off of Nihan Road, you go up Walker Hill, then of Nihan. It is a residential area; there are about three properties currently.

J. Jones – I live on Nihan Road, to my knowledge there are no residents on Serenity Lane, this is built be a developer, I believe he has three houses that are sitting empty, I am sure it would make it easy for the developer.

T. Demers – There is one house that is occupied at the moment on Serenity Lane and the other one is up for sale.

V. Chase – I really don't know what to say as I am the resident on Serenity Lane, so you might as well know that and if you don't vote it in then you don't vote it in. Mine is the only occupied house at this time, there is one for sale and there are about four other lots to be built upon which would bring income to the Town. Building on that road would be more desirable if it was a Town maintained road. I do know that the builder did work with Kevin Clement on construction of that road, that road is actually an excellent road and condition. It is wider than Nihan and wider than Presby it is in better condition than both of those roads, is flatter and my only reason for bringing it forward, yes it would be convenient for me to have a plow take one swipe down and one swipe back during a snow storm, but I do also believe it would benefit the Town in the fact that if the person buying the property found it more desirable to buy that property and build on that if the road belonged to the Town. I did speak to Kevin and there is virtually no tax increase occurring if indeed the road did get taken over. However that being said I also did not know what Dan just mentioned that just because you say it's ok, I took the wording from a previous warrant article a couple of years ago for a road that is off of Catteral, so I thought that if you decided you were ok with all in favor of it that actually the Town would take it over. Now I don't know that that is even true.

G. Stevens – How long is the road?

V. Chase – Approximately a quarter of a mile.

D. Trahan – Question on what does the Road Agent say, is that answered through the Board or Kevin?

Through Kevin.

K. Clement – That road was built with the developer as far as me monitoring the road with the

intention that at some point in time it being presented to the establishment like here tonight for it to be taken over. I have no issues with it, good road, culverts are fine, would say it is one of the better dirt roads in town.

D. Butson – If there is an advantage and the question was what benefit to the Town. It would be there are buildable lots there and the potential for new development here, more houses which is something we need in this Town. So if there is a benefit to the Town then that is what it would be.

R. Page – My question is or comment is, it may be a road that is in good condition right now because there is only one house on it. My question is, it is a dirt road and as we know dirt roads get beaten up, it probably is in good condition now as it is lightly traveled.

D. Trahan – Your question is?

R. Page – More a comment.

M. Carver – Move the question

J. Carver – Second.

D. Trahan – We have motion to move the question, all those in favor.

Ayes have it.

D. Trahan – Non debatable – go straight to the question.

Ayes have it, article passes.

T. Andross – Mr. Moderator I make a motion to pass over Article 13.

R. Clark – Second

D. Trahan – I have a motion to pass Article 13 from Mr. Andross and a second from Mr. Clark. That means we would pass over Article 13 with no debate, the Article is closed and the question not asked.

M. Forsyth – Can we ask that we do a hand count on the vote on Article 12?

D. Trahan – You can go back and challenge the result of Article 12. I would need a majority vote from the audience, from the people here to go back and open up article 12 to do that counting.

T. Andross – Point of order Mr. Moderator, we have a motion on the floor.

D. Trahan – Yes we do, so first of all I have to take care of the motion we have on the floor and then we will come back and address that.

So Article 13 a motion to pass over Article 13, all those in favor to pass over the article

Ayes have it, Article 13 passed over.

D. Trahan – I have a motion on the floor to readdress Article 12 voting. What will do now is ask you the people if you want to reopen article 12 for a recount on the vote. That is what we will be voting on now, if you want to open up Article 12 again. All those in favor to open article 12 for a recount.

Nays have it, article stays closed.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred 00/100 Dollars (\$4,300.00) for the purpose of North Country Home Health &

Hospice Agency Inc., to provide home health and home care service to the underinsured and uninsured Lisbon residents. (*Petitioned Warrant Article*) (*This appropriation is addition to Warrant Article '1/5, the operating budget and Warrant Article 11.5 health agencies*). *The Board of Selectmen Does Not Recommend this Article.*

Article passed over.

ARTICLE 14: To transact any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

D. Trahan – Always my favorite Article, any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Who moves Article 14?

S.Knox moves the article, T. Demers 2nd

D. Trahan – We are going to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. I would like to take the liberty first to take the first crack at this. You may have noticed my name was not on the ballot. This year I have been doing the Moderator job for several years now, I do as I said when I opened this meeting very much like to work with the Town of Lisbon I think we have a great community here which shows from the input and concern from the Town's people, unfortunately I'm not to continue doing the Moderator job at least for the near term due to some personal issues, that's why my name wasn't on the ballot, but I do appreciate all the support from everyone in the Town, thank you very much for that.

Next I would like to recognize all these people here that have to do the tough job of making sure we hold Town elections properly and that we hold all elections in a legal manor, this year is an important year, as you know it only comes around once every four years, these people spend a lot of time on the days we have elections and they are a bunch of hard workers, would like you guys to give them a round of applause. So thank you very much, are there any other items that someone would like to address?

M. Carver – Make a motion we adjourn.

Dr. J. Nyberg – Second

D. Trahan – All those in favor to adjourn

Ayes have it. Meeting closed at 9:30 PM

Given under our hands and seal this 8th day of February, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

A True Copy Attest,

Town Clerk,
Jennifer Trelfa

