



Town of Amherst, NH

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Monday, January 11, 2021 6:30PM

1 **1. Call to Order**

2 Chairman Peter Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

3
4 Attendees by Zoom conference call: Chairman Peter Lyon, Selectman Dwight Brew,
5 Selectman Reed Panasiti, Selectman John D'Angelo, and Selectman Tom Grella.
6 Also present: Town Administrator Dean Shankle and Kristan Patenaude, minute taker

7
8 Ways & Means Committee members present: Lisa Eastland – Chair, Danielle Pray, Matt
9 Seiler, Bill Loscocco, Scott Tuthill, Jim Kuhnert, and Mike Parisi.

10
11 Other attendees and the public accessed the meeting via Zoom.

12
13 Chairman Lyon explained that, pursuant to the State of Emergency declared by the
14 Governor as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with his Emergency
15 Order #12, this meeting is authorized to take place electronically. There is no physical
16 location to observe and listen to this meeting. However, in accordance with the
17 Emergency Order, we are:

18
19 Utilizing Zoom teleconferencing for this meeting. All members of the Board have the
20 ability to communicate during the meeting through this platform and the public has access
21 to contemporaneously listen and if necessary, participate in the meeting by dialing +1 312
22 626 6799 and using a webinar ID of 817-9992-3077 or by using the link contained in the
23 agenda posted at amherstnh.gov.

24
25 Notice of the meeting and means to access it were previously posted in accordance with
26 law. Members of the public that have phoned into the meeting can raise their hand by
27 pressing the *9 on their phone, in order to make it known that they would like to speak to
28 the Board. If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting, please call 603-440-8248 for
29 assistance. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be
30 adjourned and rescheduled.

31
32 All votes will be taken by roll call and for ease, in alphabetical order.
33 Lastly, the meeting is being recorded and will be replayed on ACATV.

34
35 The Board started by taking a roll call vote and stating if they were alone.
36

Roll call vote: Selectman Brew – present; Selectman D’Angelo – present; Selectman Grella – present; Selectman Panasiti – present; Chairman Lyon – present. All noted themselves as being alone.

2. Public Hearing on Bond Authority over \$100,000

2.1 Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 33:8-a, the Amherst Board of Selectmen hereby announces to the citizens of Amherst the convening of a Public Hearing to take input on the proposed FY21 Town Operating Budget, bonds and notes, and proposed warrant articles.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Panasiti and SECONDED by Selectman D’Angelo to enter into a Public Hearing to hear and present the bond item, according to RSA 33:8-a. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lyon read Warrant Article 22:

ARTICLE 22: Open Space Acquisition Bond

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) to purchase land and easements or other property interests within the Town of Amherst for conservation purposes, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue bonds or notes up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) in compliance with provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended); provided, however, that notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Town shall not issue more than three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of bonds or notes in any one fiscal year; to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take any other action they deem appropriate to effectuate the sale and/or issuance of said bonds or notes, however, no such bonds or notes shall be issued with a term of maturity of less than ten (10) years or more than twenty (20) years, furthermore, to authorize the Selectmen to acquire said property exercising their authority under RSA 41:14-a, and additionally to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000.00) for the first year interest and costs. Land or property interests to be purchased with bond proceeds shall total not more than 800 acres and shall be acquired in the name of the Town as conservation land to be managed by the Conservation Commission pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, to protect and limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces and other land and water areas. The authorization to borrow provided hereunder shall not lapse until June 30, 2026. (Tax impact = \$0.14) (3/5 Vote Required)

Chairman Lyon explained that this warrant article seeks \$6M, with the provision to remove \$3M/year to borrow funds for land acquisitions. The warrant article also seeks \$240,000 for the first year to deal with any associated interest and costs. The warrant article limits the amount of land to be purchased to not more than 800 acres. The land shall be purchased in the name of the Town and managed by the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC). This warrant article will lapse in June 2026. The ACC brought forth this article as a way to preserve open space and water quality for the Town.

Rob Clemens, Chair of the ACC, and ACC Commissioners, Jared Hardner and Bill Stoughton, joined the meeting. Rob Clemens noted that the preliminary results from the Master Plan Survey are indicative of the Town's support for open space and conservation. So far there have been 1,641 responses to the survey. The #1 ranked reason that people stated they moved to Amherst was for the safe environment (thought to be items such as low crime rate and high-quality drinking water). The #2 reason listed was open space and conservation land in Town (78% strongly agreed/agreed). The #1 ranked priority of townspeople noted was to secure and preserve water resources in Town (85% highest/high priority). The #2 ranked priority was to maintain the rural character of Town (83% highest/high priority). Both of these priorities rely on the conservation of open space in Town.

Rob Clemens explained that that residents also noted on the survey that 92% of them want to protect open space and natural resources, 93% of them want to protect the Town's aquifers, and 91% want to conserve the natural areas in Town. He explained that most of the current open space in Town is actually privately owned and vulnerable to development. The only feasible option is to acquire open space in Town, in order to achieve the residents' top priorities.

Rob Clemens stated that the ACC wants to be sensitive to taxpayers, and thus is recommending dropping the maximum amount spent through this Warrant Article in any given year from \$3M to \$2M. This will reduce the impact to taxpayers by about 1/3. This will not allow the Town to purchase some of the largest parcels available in Town but will still allow for significant acquisitions.

Selectman Brew stated that he is in support of the Warrant Article. He noted that dropping the maximum amount per year from \$3M to \$2M will make the proposed bond more affordable to taxpayers, while also ruling out some of the largest parcels to purchase in a single chunk. He is in support of reducing this amount.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that he is in support of the Warrant Article. He believes it is a good plan for the Town to have this money in hand to purchase properties as they become available. He believes some of the largest properties in Town are probably more than \$2M, and so he believes, if the Town wants to preserve those, the amount should be capped at \$3M. For example, the Hazen property that was for sale a few years ago, could maybe have been purchased by the Town if this bond was available at that time. He supports leaving the Warrant Article as written.

Selectman Grella stated that he believes the \$2M cap is a good idea.

Selectman Panasiti stated that he supports the Warrant Article and believes the cap could be argued to be at either amount. He suggested letting the citizens have a say in the cap amount.

Chairman Lyon stated that he is in favor of the Warrant Article. He would support either cap amount. He would like for there to be more money available for acquisitions, but also knows it's important not to overtax the citizens. He opened the meeting for public comment.

Public Comment:

130 Sherie Dowsett, 20 Old Coach Lane, stated that she is in favor of this Warrant Article. She has
131 lived here for 12 years and moved here for the rural nature of the area. She uses the
132 conservation land every day and believes it's an amazing feature to have at the doorstep. She
133 is concern about the development she has seen happening around Town. She doesn't want the
134 Town to lose its rural identity. She believes this Warrant Article is forward thinking and will
135 allow the Town to preserve open space.

136
137 Arnie Rosenblatt, 8 Hubbard Road, Chairman of the Planning Board, but speaking for
138 himself, stated that he has lived in Town for 33 years. He believes this Warrant Article makes
139 all the sense in the world. He explained that, without the Town's ability to buy open space, the
140 Planning Board's ability is very limited to minimize development. As a citizen, he loves
141 seeing open space around Town. This is certainly a need versus a want for the Town.

142
143 Mike Akillian, 10 Old Mont Vernon Road, is heartily in support of this Warrant Article. He
144 questioned, of all the land in Town that could be acquired, what percentage is in excess of
145 \$2M. He believes the Town has lost important opportunities in the past to acquire land
146 because certain mechanisms were missing, and the Town had to wait until Town Meeting to
147 approve purchases. He believes lowering the cap to \$2M is an okay idea, but if there are
148 significant parcels over \$2M developers may be able to operate more quickly than the Town.

149
150 Bill Stoughton noted that he looked at all land in current use and that has sold in the past few
151 years and found that there has been in upward trend in the price of land since 2010. Land in
152 Town is currently about \$10-12,000/acre. If the Warrant Article has a cap of \$2M, this should
153 allow the Town to purchase around 180-200 acres of land.

154
155 Sally Wilkins, 28 Green Road, stated that she is in support of the proposed Warrant Article.
156 She questioned if the ACC/Town has, as part of this Warrant Article, looking into the funding
157 of the due diligence needed prior to purchasing open space, such as survey and legal work.

158
159 Rob Clemens explained that the ACC has a Conservation Fund that can be used to fund the
160 necessary due diligence. Bill Stoughton noted that the Warrant Article is also worded to create
161 funds (\$240,000) to cover some of the prep costs to acquire land, if needed.

162
163 Will Ludt, 3 School Street, stated that he is fully in support of this Warrant Article. He
164 believes the Town lost an opportunity with the Hazen property and likes the idea of the Town
165 being proactive. He also noted that bonds are probably at their lowest cost now. He questioned
166 why there is an 800-acre limit proposed.

167
168 Bill Stoughton explained that Town Counsel advised the ACC to put parameters on the
169 Warrant Article in terms of the authority, the purpose, and the amounts for the proposal. If the
170 average current cost of land is about \$10,000/acre, 600 acres of land would cost the Town
171 about \$6M. The proposed Warrant Article looks for a max of slightly more acreage. If this
172 Warrant Article is approved and the Town finds a piece of land that bumps against this 800-
173 acre max, the ACC can always ask the Town for additional authority to purchase more.

174
175 Rolf Vanbibber, 83 Christian Hill Road, stated that he supports the proposed Warrant Article
176 and that the Master Plan Survey results speak for themselves.

177 In response to a question from Jim Kuhnert, of the Ways & Means Committee, Chairman
178 Lyon stated that this Warrant Article looks to purchase land in the name of the Town, to be
179 managed by the ACC. The ACC will seek parcels that will allow public access. Areas with
180 public access will allow some work on behalf of the ACC/Town, but most of this is at a
181 minimum cost and done through volunteer hours. The costs associated are often offset through
182 donated materials and money previously set aside in the ACC budget. Chairman Clemens
183 explained that the maintenance cost for the currently ACC managed 2,500 acres in Town is
184 minimum. Jared Hardner noted that the ACC currently manages over 30 miles of trails in
185 Town; the ACC's budget for this management is less than \$2,000/year.

186
187 In response to a question from Lisa Eastland, Bill Stoughton stated that, if the Warrant Article
188 cap is lowered to \$2M, the cost to the average \$360,000 house in Town would be about
189 \$33/year.

190
191 In response to a question from Chairman Brew, Lisa Eastland stated that the Ways & Means
192 Committee has discussed the Warrant Article with the changed \$2M cap, and the group's vote
193 is still 4-3-0.

194
195 Sally Wilkins noted that there are fewer than a dozen parcels in Town that are greater than
196 100 acres. Thus, the likelihood of the Town finding a parcel that is more than 800 acres is
197 mostly a non-issue.

198
199 In response to a question from Jim Kuhnert, Rob Clemens stated that, in conjunction with this
200 Warrant Article, the ACC has a list of criteria it will look at when deciding if land should be
201 acquired. There are a number of parcels in Town that align with the ACC's highest priorities
202 in terms of water and habitat protection.

203
204 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella, as part of*
205 *the proposed Warrant Article 22, to reduce the maximum amount that can be spent in any*
206 *fiscal year from \$3M to \$2M, and to reduce the \$240,000 requested in the first year to*
207 *\$160,000.*

208
209 *Discussion:*

210 *Selectman Brew stated that, while he is unsure the amount of land the Town can purchase for*
211 *a max cap of \$2M instead of \$3M, he does understand how much land the Town can acquire*
212 *for \$0. He would rather lower the cap, in the hope that the Town will approve this Warrant*
213 *Article.*

214
215 *Selectman D'Angelo stated that, while he is not married to either cap amount, he would*
216 *rather the Board keep the cap at the higher amount and give the voters trust to purchase land*
217 *that becomes available, as the residents seem to deem this to be important.*

218
219 *Selectman Panasiti stated that there doesn't seem to be much property available in Town that*
220 *would warrant the \$3M; he agrees with lowering the cap.*
221

Chairman Lyon agreed with Selectman Brew's view that he would rather the Town be able to purchase something rather than nothing, and that the Warrant Article must be approved in order to do so. A lowered cap amount might help this to pass.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – abstain; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 4-0-1; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to close the public hearing.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Budget Hearing

3.1 Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 32:5, I, the Amherst Board of Selectmen hereby announces to the citizens of Amherst the convening of a Public Hearing to take input on the proposed FY21 Town Operating Budget, bonds and notes, and proposed warrant articles.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Panasiti and SECONDED by Selectman D'Angelo to open the Public Hearing, according to RSA 32:5, I.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lyon read Warrant Article 23:

ARTICLE 23: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$14,877,676. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$14,630,503, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant article. (Tax Impact = \$5.44) (Majority vote required)

Chairman Lyon stated that, per NH State Law, RSA 40:13, IX (b) "Default budget" as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget. The default budget, as proposed is \$14,630,503. Items that would not come out to form the default budget would be last year's lease/purchase budget for DPW trucks.

Chairman Lyon stated that the total increase from last year's budget to this proposed budget is \$261,300, or 1.79%. He reviewed the noteworthy changes to the budget, including: a

reduction of \$23,000 from the Souhegan Regional Landfill District budget, a reduction of \$120,000 from the DPW New Equipment line, a reduction of \$68,980 from the Principal & Interest Payments line, a 1.5% COLA increase of \$77,695, an increase of \$21,530 to the Recreation Field Maintenance line, a \$12,000 increase to the Master Plan line, an increase of \$52,000 to the Police Union Wages line, an increase of \$86,516 to the Police & Fire Group II Retirement line, a \$100,000 increase to the Road Reconstruction line, and a \$15,000 increase to the Pennichuck Hydrants line.

Chairman Lyon explained that, if the Default Budget is voted in, it will not include items like the COLA increase, the Pennichuck Hydrants increase, the Master Plan funds, the additional increase to the Road Reconstruction line, and the additional funds to the Recreation Field Maintenance line.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that he voted against the proposed budget, due to the DPW items. He will discuss this further when that Warrant Article comes up for discussion.

Selectman Grella urged the voters to look at the budget and, hopefully, pass it as presented.

Selectman Brew read Warrant Article 24:

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year, in accordance with NH RSA Section 31:98-a, for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred-twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) to go into the fund. Said sum shall come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.00) (Majority vote required)

Selectman Brew explained that the Board cannot exceed the budget amount approved by the voters. If a Town emergency arises during the fiscal year, such as a necessary vehicle replacement or building repair, the Board can use the Contingency Fund, if approved by the voters to manage such an emergency. If the voters choose not to pass this Warrant Article, the Town will need to find another way to deal with such an emergency. He explained that the Board has requested this Contingency Fund of the voters for the past 6-8 years. It has been approved each time, and the Board has never needed to access it. If the Contingency Fund is not used, the amount lapses back into the general fund.

There were no questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Grella read Warrant Article 25:

ARTICLE 25: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.01) (Majority vote required)

Selectman Grella noted that these funds are to support repairs and maintenance for existing communications infrastructure. Approximately \$120,000 has been expended over the last seven years. Anticipated replacements and upgrades include a radio console replacement in

2022 requiring a \$55,000 match, and a radio tower replacement in 2024 requiring an estimated \$50,000 match.

There were no questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Grella read Warrant Article 26:

ARTICLE 26: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.01) (Majority vote required)

Selectman Grella explained that State law requires towns to perform a revaluation every 5 years. The Town has used this CRF to raise money each year in order to fund upcoming revaluations. The purpose of a revaluation is to update property assessments to reflect market value. The purpose is not to increase property taxes. The current revaluation is scheduled to start in January 2021 and the December 2021 tax bill will reflect these new values.

There were no questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Panasiti read Warrant Article 27:

ARTICLE 27: Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to increase the optional tax credit for Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property occupied by a service-connected totally disabled person or their surviving spouse from \$3,200 to \$4,000 as permitted by RSA 72:35 I-a. (Tax Impact = \$0.01) (Majority vote required)

Selectman Panasiti stated that this Warrant Article will be a third increase to the Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit, from \$3,200 to the cap of \$4,000. There are currently 25 qualified applicants receiving this credit in Town.

There were no questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Panasiti read Warrant Article 28:

ARTICLE 28: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand (\$200,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.11) (Majority vote required) The Bridge Repair and Replacement CRF balance: \$586,021.38 as of 11/30/2020.

Selectman Panasiti stated that the Town completed a bridge repair in 2020 on Spring Road. In FY2022 there will be a bridge repair proposed on Mont Vernon Road. This will cost approximately \$1,980,000 and will be 80% State funded. There will also be a bridge repair proposed in FY2023 on Thornton Ferry I Road, with the same parameters. The Town's responsibility for each of these bridges will be approximately \$396,000. In the future,

FY2024, there will be a repair proposed on a Northern Blvd bridge with no State funding, and a cost to the Town of approximately \$150,000. In FY2025, there will be a bridge repair proposed on Brook Road, with 80% State funding, for a total cost of about \$960,000. In FY2026, there will be a bridge repair proposed on Boston Post Road with no State funding, for a total Town cost of approximately \$200,000.

Danielle Pray, Ways & Means Committee, noted that the Committee voted 7-0-0 on this Warrant Article.

There were no additional questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Brew read Warrant Article 29:

ARTICLE 29: Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$257,000) to be added to the Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.15) (Majority vote required). The Fire Rescue Vehicle & Equipment Purchase and Repair CRF balance: \$996,283.97 as of 11/30/2020.

Selectman Brew explained that the Fire Rescue Department has a number of expensive trucks and pieces of equipment that need to be replaced over time, but not in a linear fashion. The next purchase needed will be to replace the 1991 fire truck and an ambulance. The funds were used in 2020 to purchase a Toyne Fire Engine, to replace a 1994 truck.

There were no questions/comments from the Board, Ways & Means Committee, or public at this time.

Selectman Brew read Warrant Article 30:

ARTICLE 30: Establish DPW Vehicles & Equipment Acquisition & Replacement CRF

Shall the Town vote to establish a DPW Vehicles & Equipment Acquisition & Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquisition and replacement of DPW vehicles and equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.07) (Majority vote required)

Selectman Brew explained that the Department of Public Works currently has 25 vehicles and pieces of equipment that cost anywhere from \$25,000 - \$300,000. The expected life of this equipment and vehicles ranges from 10-30 years. The Town doesn't want to replace these items if they are operating well, regardless of age, but needs to make sure funding is available when replacement is necessary. In previous years, the Town budgeted \$250,000 annually to replace DPW vehicles using a lease purchase agreement. By including these funds in the operating budget, the amount budgeted cannot carry over from year-to-year. The Town plans to pay off the remaining lease purchases by including \$46,000 in the operating budget for each of the next two years. The Town will then start transferring the funding of these vehicles

and equipment by requesting that \$130,000 be included in the operating budget annually, and that the voters fund a CRF with \$120,000 annually. The current plan is to migrate to a CRF after only two year, removing the remaining \$130,000 from the operating budget and increasing the CRF request amount.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that he opposes this Warrant Article because he is opposed to moving a budget line item into a recurring Warrant Article. This CRF will then need to be on the ballot and approved by the voters year each. If the CRF is not approved in a given year, it will be difficult for the Town to purchase these items. He doesn't believe that this CRF is being proposed as a way to deceive taxpayers, but that it does make the budget look smaller than it really is, by removing the funds into a separate CRF. If these funds were left in the operating budget, the increase from last year's budget would actually be approximately 3%, which is misleading to voters. He believes the proposal is a bad idea and poorly implemented. He suggested leaving the current amount in the operating budget and moving the money into the CRF slowly. He also noted that this proposed Warrant Article would also lead to less money being available to offset taxes. He explained that most of the operating budget money for these items has spent each year, which means that a CRF for these items will potentially be drawn down to almost zero each year.

Chairman Lyon stated that the Warrant Article slides as presented break down the total cost to the taxpayers very clearly; the proposal is clearly not being made to deceive taxpayers. This proposal will actually make things more transparent, not less.

Chris McNamara, 2 Sawmill Lane, stated that these Fire Rescue department vehicles and pieces of equipment seem to be recurrent items and thus should be budgeted for in the general operating budget each year. He believes Warrant Articles are meant to be for special one-time items.

Chairman Lyon explained that the proposed Warrant Article amount will eventually be leveled, but the amount spent on these DPW items will increase/decrease from year-to-year. If these items were left in the operating budget, it would cause the budget to bounce from year-to-year. This proposal is meant to provide levelness to the taxpayer. It also provides the DPW and Board with flexibility to decide each year which truck to replace.

In response to a question from Chris McNamara, Selectman Brew explained that this CRF will be pulled from over time. If the funds are not needed, they will continue to sit in the CRF, whereas, if the funds were in the operating budget, they would not carry over from year-to-year. The CRF will allow these purchases to be funded equally, with no wild fluctuations over time.

In response to a question from Tom Quinn, 30 Christian Hill Road, Chairman Lyon explained that there is money in the DPW budget for smaller equipment purchases that do not rise to the level of those proposed to be included in this CRF. Selectman Brew noted that there are 25 vehicles and equipment, varying drastically in price – but each worth in excess of \$20,000, that could be replaced using the CRF funds, if approved.

Selectman D'Angelo read Warrant Article 31:

457 *ARTICLE 31: Police Station Renovation Completion*

458 *Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars*
459 *(\$200,000) for the purpose of completing the 3rd floor of the Police Station renovation. Said*
460 *sum shall come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from*
461 *taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general*
462 *fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.0) (Majority vote required)*

463
464 Selectman D'Angelo explained that this CRF is to finish funding the third floor of the Police
465 Station renovation. It was initially believed that the amount raised was enough, but
466 unexpected expenses, namely the HVAC system, arose during construction. This amount will
467 be funded from the unassigned fund balance; thus, this Warrant Article will have no additional
468 impact on taxpayers.

469
470 Lisa Eastland stated that she appreciates the Board understanding that this project was
471 proposed to the taxpayers as a three-year funding process and agreeing to use other funds to
472 complete the additional necessary renovations.

473
474 Selectman D'Angelo read Warrant Article 32:

475 *ARTICLE 32: Establish and fund CRF for Amherst Multimodal Facilities*

476 *Shall the Town vote to establish an Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund*
477 *under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of design and construction of projects and*
478 *provide matching funds for grants for such projects, and to raise and appropriate the sum of*
479 *Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the*
480 *Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.04) (Majority vote*
481 *required)*

482
483 Selectman D'Angelo explained that "multimodal" infrastructure is for bicyclists, pedestrians,
484 mobility scooters, etc. Traditional sidewalks are not allowed to be used by bicyclists, per State
485 law, which is why side paths are being examined as part of this proposed Warrant Article.
486 This Warrant Article will create available funds to take advantage of cost-effective
487 opportunities, such as grant programs that will typically cover 80% of a proposed project, if
488 the Town has 20% of its matching funds raised in advance. Without this advanced funding, it
489 is very difficult for towns to secure these grant opportunities. The proposed figure represents
490 1/3 of the estimated cost of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee's highest priority
491 project, the Boston Post Road School Campus Sidepath. This has been the most requested
492 multimodal facility in Amherst since 1984.

493
494 Chris Buchanan, Chair of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, explained that the
495 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant was recently announced. It will occur this
496 year. The hope is that this Warrant Article will raise money that the Town can use to leverage
497 the 20% match portion of this grant to be used toward the primary project of the Boston Post
498 Road School Campus Sidepath. The Committee will be learning more about the TAP grant as
499 soon as it can. This Warrant Article will give the Town a significant ability to get facilities for
500 a lesser tax impact.

In response to a question from Tom Quinn, Chairman Lyon explained that this proposed side path would join Cross Road, to Stearns Road, and down towards the Homestead Market and associated neighborhoods.

In response to a question from Tom Quinn, Chris Buchanan explained that the Town has no ability to take land from landowners, but also that this would not be necessary as part of this project. The project looks to stay within the right-of-way along Boston Post Road. The Committee is hoping to have a survey done in order to determine the exact width of this right-of-way.

In response to a question from Rolf Vanbibber, Chairman Lyon explained that the proposed sidepath project will undergo all of the necessary engineering to be completed within the right-of-way to create a sidepath that will be safe for all who travel that route.

Chris McNamara explained that he would like to see a time limit placed on this Warrant Article. Chairman Lyon stated that this Warrant Article looks to create a CRF and fund it with \$75,000. It is thought that this Warrant Article will be proposed for each of the next three years. The Board can alter the amount sought each year. Selectman Brew explained that this Warrant Article only applies to this year. Each year that the Warrant Article is proposed, the voters would need to approve it.

Chairman Lyon read Warrant Article 33:

*ARTICLE 33: Recreation Facilities Acquisition, Construction, and Maintenance CRF
Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.03) (Majority vote required)*

Chairman Lyon explained that this Warrant Article is part one of three, seeking to eventually fund the CRF with \$150,000. These funds would be used for Town fields, etc. The Recreation Director is also applying for matching grant funding through the Land Water Conservation Fund. The total project cost at Buck Meadow is approximately \$300,000.

Chairman Lyon reviewed Warrant Article 10 from 2006, that established a Recreation Acquisition and Construction Fund. This fund was not created for maintenance items. He questioned if the Board would like to create a new CRF or alter the language of the existing warrant article or to utilize the existing 2006 CRF. He noted that there is no intention to use these funds on the Buck Meadow building, but instead to build two rectangular playing fields, to enlarge the parking lot, and to possibly build a picnic/playground area. He suggested that the Board amend the language of Warrant Article 33 to reflect the existing Recreation CRF from 2006, and to use the funds only for acquisitions and the construction of fields.

Selectman Brew, Grella, and Panasiti stated that they agreed with the suggestion. Selectman D'Angelo also agreed with the suggestion, as long as it is reviewed by Town Counsel.

Lisa Eastland also stated that she would like for this to be reviewed by Town Counsel but is only with the suggestion for this year's Warrant Article.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to amend Warrant Article 33 so that the title reads: "Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction Capital Reserve Fund" and for the language to read, "Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote required). By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lyon noted that the year-to-year tax comparison presented tonight will be lowered slightly, due to the ACC Warrant Article bond cap being voted to be reduced earlier.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to close the Public Hearing. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Hearing Information

4.1 FY22 Warrant Draft, Public Budget Hearing Presentation, FY22 Budget Draft #4

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to place Warrant Article 22 on the ballot. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to support Warrant Article 22. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to place Warrant Article 23 on the ballot. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to support Warrant Article 23. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – nay; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 4-1-0; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to place Warrant Article 24 on the ballot. By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to support Warrant Article 24.

595 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
596 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
597
598 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to place*
599 *Warrant Article 25 on the ballot.*
600 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
601 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
602
603 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to support*
604 *Warrant Article 25.*
605 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
606 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
607
608 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman D’Angelo to place*
609 *Warrant Article 26 on the ballot.*
610 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
611 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
612
613 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman D’Angelo to*
614 *support Warrant Article 26.*
615 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
616 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
617
618 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to place*
619 *Warrant Article 27 on the ballot.*
620 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
621 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
622
623 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to support*
624 *Warrant Article 27.*
625 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
626 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
627
628 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D’Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to place*
629 *Warrant Article 28 on the ballot.*
630 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
631 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
632
633 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D’Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
634 *support Warrant Article 28.*
635 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
636 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
637
638 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D’Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
639 *place Warrant Article 29 on the ballot.*
640 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
641 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*

642
643 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
644 *support Warrant Article 29.*
645 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
646 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
647
648 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
649 *place Warrant Article 30 on the ballot.*
650 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
651 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
652
653 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
654 *support Warrant Article 30.*
655 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – nay; Selectman Grella – aye;*
656 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 4-1-0; motion carried.*
657
658 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
659 *place Warrant Article 31 on the ballot.*
660 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
661 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
662
663 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
664 *support Warrant Article 31.*
665 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
666 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
667
668 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
669 *place Warrant Article 32 on the ballot.*
670 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
671 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
672
673 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
674 *support Warrant Article 32.*
675 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
676 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
677
678 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
679 *place Warrant Article 33 on the ballot.*
680 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
681 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
682
683 *A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
684 *support Warrant Article 33.*
685 *By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;*
686 *Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
687

A *MOTION* was made by Selectman Brew and *SECONDED* by Selectman Grella to reconsider the motion on Warrant Article 22.
By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.
A *MOTION* was made by Selectman Brew and *SECONDED* by Selectman Grella to amend the motion to reflect Warrant Article 22 as amended.
By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

5. Old/New Business

Town Administrator Shankle stated that the Ways & Means Committee will be meeting next.

Selectman Brew explained that the Master Plan Survey closes one week from tonight. There have been just under 1,700 responses received so far.

Selectman D’Angelo explained that the schools will be holding their public hearings on Wednesday 13th at 6pm and 7pm.

A *MOTION* was made by Selectman D’Angelo and *SECONDED* by Selectman Brew to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Selectman Reed Panasiti

Date