

Town of Lyndeborough N.H.
2011 Town Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Moderator Walter Holland on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Citizens' Hall in Lyndeborough New Hampshire.

Lyndeborough Town Warrant

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Lyndeborough, in the County of Hillsborough in said state qualified to vote in Town affairs; You are hereby notified to meet at Center Hall, 1131 Center Road in said Lyndeborough on Tuesday, the eighth (8th) day of March 2011 at ten of the clock in the forenoon until seven of the clock in the evening, for ballot Voting of Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote; and, to meet at said Citizens' Hall, 9 Citizens' Hall Road in said Lyndeborough, on Saturday, the twelfth (12th) day of March 2011 at ten of the clock in the morning, to act upon Articles 2 through 20:

1. To choose all necessary Town officers for the year ensuing.

*-Indicates elected

Results:

Selectman (3 years)	*Kevin Boette (Write-in) – 146 Doris Kelly (Write-in) - 22
Budget Committee (3 years)	*William Ball - 158 Kevin Boette -128 *Michael Decubellis -190 *Karen Grybko -166
Cemetery Trustee (3 years)	*Virginia Chrisenton - 231
Library Trustee (3 years)	*Ann Harkleroad -233
Trustees of the Trust Fund	* Gary LeBlanc (Write-in) - 108
Zoning Board of Adjustment	*Thomas Chrisenton - 210 *Frank Holden (Write-in) -83

All those elected will be sworn in as the last order of business today.

Article 2: Shall the town vote to accept the provisions of RSA 202-A: 4-c, providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific revisions of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action of the town meeting, unanticipated money from the state, federal or other government unit or private source, which becomes available during the fiscal year.

Motion made by Bob Rogers to accept article as read, seconded by Sally Curran.

Bob Rogers spoke to the article explaining that it is a housekeeping article that will allow the library to accept gifts, grants and property.

Moderator read article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay.
The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to authorize in accordance with provisions of RSA 202-A: 4-d, the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting.

Motion made by Bob Rogers to accept article as read, seconded by Mike Decubellis.

Bob Rogers spoke to the article, said same comment as previous article, it is a housekeeping article.

Moderator read article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay.
The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 4: "Shall the town accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?"

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Donnie Sawin.

Town Administrator Jim Bingham spoke to the article explaining that it is a housekeeping article that had been passed at prior town meetings, however when we review the wording of the prior articles and review it with the State Department of Revenue Administration they recommend some updating or changing in the wording so this is simply what we are trying to do here.

Moderator read article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay.
The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to authorize in accordance with provisions of RSA 31:95-e, the board of selectmen to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the town or village district for any public purpose, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town or village district meeting.

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Town Administrator Jim Bingham spoke to article saying that it is just word changing and updating to make it legal.

Moderator read article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay.
The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 6: Are you in favor of the Town of Lyndeborough accepting Rose Farm Road, a private Class V road, as a public road, maintained by the town?

Motion made by Donnie Sawin to accept article as read, seconded by Steve Brown.

Bill Ball commented that the Planning Board does not recommend this article. The Selectmen stated they feel the same way.

Arnold Byam said that it is a private road at this time; it was supposedly constructed to class five standards many years ago. There was a recent subdivision last year on the road, this is a kind of housekeeping issue, and we had no intention that it would be accepted by the town.

Kent Perry said that he also recommends that we do not accept the road.

Mike Decubellis, Planning Board, there is no expectation on behalf of the land owner that did the subdivision that this will pass, this is merely housekeeping in order for him to do the subdivision, this had

to be presented to the town as a public road, if it gets shot down he is still allowed to have the subdivision but he had to present it to the town, so that is why the Planning Board doesn't recommend it.

Moderator read article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Does Not Pass**

Article 7: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred ninety two thousand nine hundred seventy nine dollars (\$1,592,979), representing the operating budget for fiscal year 2011 as prepared by the Budget Committee. Said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Burton Reynolds, explained the budget process. On the town budget, we estimate if everything is passed today and revenues stay where we are thinking they will come in, you will have an increase in your tax rate of around 31 cents. The school budget will increase the tax rate by a \$1.98. If you take the school amount and the town amount you will be in the low two dollar range for an increase in the tax rate. One of the things the Selectmen can do to help deal with the tax rate is, when we end the year and we have not spent all the money than you have authorized or we took in more revenue than we estimated when the tax rate was set, either one of those two things can give us money left over and that we call surplus and that surplus goes into something we call the unreserved fund balance. Towns are expected to have a certain amount in that unreserved fund balance for emergencies. We have enough in ours to meet the standard the state has set.

Moderator: Any questions or specifics?

Stephanie Roper: I would like to make an amendment. I would like to add eight hundred dollars (800.00) to the operating budget. Seven hundred of that would go to the Deputy Town Clerk, partly because she has only been allocated for 49 weeks rather than 52 weeks. Also, that would be three hundred and eighty seven dollars in addition she is making far less than her peer towns in this area. The peer towns that were used to look at her wages are Alexandria, Bartlett and towns like that instead of towns in Hillsborough County. Looking at towns in Hillsborough County the average is fourteen dollars and eighty five cents an hour, so I am proposing to raise her wage from twelve ninety an hour to thirteen fifty an hour so that would be seven hundred dollars. I also have to have on the budget item of the election administration, I need to have a hundred dollars because the state has forced me to do a checklist purge and I was told about it after the budget season and I have to have that for mailing. I am not charging for my services which could cost something like a thousand dollars but instead I do need this hundred dollars for mailing. So my proposal is to change the operating budget to one million five hundred and ninety three thousand seven hundred and seventy nine dollars (1,593,779.00)

Seconded by Andy Roeper

Moderator: I have an amendment to raise the budget by eight hundred dollars to take care of some wages and also for this election purge of the voting records.

Kevin Boette: Do the Selectmen have a position on this and have you looked into it and why have you not done this, why was it brought up at the floor?

Steve Brown: Let me tell you what we have been doing on this particular item. It was brought to our attention towards the end of the budget season; I will say a potential discrepancy between the deputy town clerks salary and what might be seen in other neighboring towns. After that meeting we committed to Trish, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to further investigate whether or not we were being fair to the deputy town clerk based on analysis of local communities and Stephanie you mentioned a number of them. There are reasons to look inside the county as well as outside the county, some of those reasons have to do with similar towns, similar duties, if you take a look at what LGC publishes there are lots of things that a deputy and for that matter a town clerk can do in terms of responsibilities, hours worked, etc. So what we

had committed to Trish was to take a look at that, that is still ongoing and we are collecting the data. No decision has been made and certainly I will not be part of that decision since I am leaving today but it is up to the new board to take that and go forward. Traditionally salary setting has been something that has been under the auspices, control, whatever word you want to use, of the Board of Selectmen and that's for a number of reasons, that's for internal equity, that's for appropriateness to what the market is bearing in terms of the particular kind of rolls and so I understand it is your prerogative to put this motion on the floor as you are doing and I am trying to think of how we go through the process because if all of you the Legislative body vote for an increase, than how do we handle all of the other employees, does this mean that now as a matter of course the town would vote for salaries. So, intent was certainly communicated, understand that, the only response I have is that it is something that was brought to our attention, had not been brought to closure yet, whether or not it is specifically in the budget, the discussion among the board of selectmen was that if we found out that it was, I will say unfair that we were not compensating that position sufficiently that we would find the money within the operating budget and as you point out it is some number of dollars less than a thousand that we would fund it that way.

Stephanie Roper: My problem with internal equity is that the assistant town clerk is making less than everyone else and everyone else is getting a raise. Some of the hourly people are getting a raise in the Selectmen's office and the assistant town clerk is not, so I find that to be not exactly internally equitable.

Steve Brown: Understand the comment, slight correction in terms of raises and merit, in terms of merit, merit was delivered to I believe somewhere around two or three, so everybody did not get a raise. I have been the champion as you will remember in previous meetings going for a merit budget and merit is to acknowledge and recognize going above and beyond the duty. You have been kind in funding that and every year that we have had the opportunity to provide merit we have turned merit money back, we do not use the full budget. So, simply by voting in the merit it doesn't mean that we spend the merit. So we did take a critical look at everybody, people doing good jobs, doing the jobs we expect them to do, certain other individuals are going, in our opinion, above and beyond the duty, the call of duty, those are the folks we gave merit to. The fact that the deputy town clerk, and I would have to check, whether or not that position is the lowest position, very well could be true. It was the reason it was brought to our attention that is why we are looking at it.

Kevin Boette: We have given the control to the Selectmen over the town's wages for many, many years and if the Selectmen said they are looking into it and they are going to take an honest look at it they can find the money in the budget, the seven hundred dollars for this money is going to be there. But, if we start taking this away than next year which amendment is going to come up, the grader operator, and then all of a sudden we have a breakdown of the system that we have been running on, which I think has been doing the town, been done fairly well for the town for this amount of time so, rather than take this away let's let the Selectmen finish their work and see what they come up with for this whole thing.

Lee Mayhew: I would just like to say that I think this is inappropriate and an improper precedent for the town meeting to set the wage of any employee and if no one is behind me I would like to call the question.

Moderator: We do have one comment from the town clerk.

Trish Schultz: I do want to bring to your attention that the amount that is under the wages deputy clerk, eight thousand one hundred fourteen is incorrect anyway because it is based on forty nine weeks not fifty two and I did ask the Board if they could at least bring the deputy position equal with what other part timers are making in the town and she is one of the lowest and the responsibility that the deputy has is, we bring in the majority of the money in the town and it is a big responsibility and all I am asking is that, that the deputy, no matter who it is, gets paid equal with other part timers and right now that position is not, it is one of the lowest paid and it did not receive an increase in the wages this year and I have talked with the Selectmen several times but that amount in the budget is already wrong, it's too low, so I would ask for your support in this increase.

Andy Roeper: Mr. Moderator, speaking to Mr. Mayhew's comment. This is not a town that tends to micro manage things, I think the only time you will see us bring forward a personnel issue is when there is a

cause for concern. Given this particular scenario, and only for this particular scenario, I strongly urge people to support this amendment.

Moderator: Just so you know, if you do support this amendment it is eight hundred dollars, how much would this affect our tax rate?

Burton: Less than a penny per thousand.

Steve Brown: I am going off the eight hundred for library salaries which is also eight hundred dollars it comes up as point five cents. If I could have a chance to respond to Trish's comment, you are correct, the amount that is in there is for the wrong number of weeks, and we have verbally stated that we will correct that if it is not in the budget then we can either add it to the budget or we will pull it out of the budget. The intent was not to fund the town clerk/tax collector for less than the currently ten hours a week that are budgeted for the full year.

Kevin Boette: The thing I would like to speak to again though is that it is not that we are not wanting to give a raise, it's not that the amount that she is being paid can't be come up with somewhere, it's not that other town clerks, assistant town clerks are paid more or less, it's not the amount on the tax rate, it's the handing off of control from the body of selectmen that we have now to set the wages in the town to putting it into this forum. I must agree with Mr. Mayhew that this isn't the forum to come in and for everybody individually asking for raises because then next year you know we are going to be debating everybody's raises in public which is really a personnel matter to be taken up with the Selectmen, so I am not against the raise, I am against taking of the control away from our current system so, I don't support the amendment and I would like to call the question.

Moderator read the amendment: Article 7, to see if the town of Lyndeborough would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, five hundred ninety three thousand seven hundred and seventy nine dollars representing the operating budget for fiscal year two thousand eleven as prepared by the budget committee and this exclusive of all special individual articles. All those in favor of the article as read where it increases the town budget by eight hundred dollars to take care of the election update and also to take care of some hours and weeks, salary for the deputy clerk. All those in favor of this eight hundred dollar addition signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay, **Amendment does not Pass.** We are now back to the original article.

Andy Roeper: Mr. Moderator I would like to propose that the Town of Lyndeborough vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred and nineteen thousand eight hundred and thirty six dollars for the operating budget of two thousand and eleven, said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed, this represents level funding.

Moderator: This is last year's expense line. I do have a second from audience member.

Andy Roeper: Having sat both at the head table and for a short term on the budget committee I am quite familiar with needs and desires of the town. Also, having had quite a bit of conversation with members of the community I am also very much familiar with the needs and desires of the communities, I feel at this time that we need to live more within our means and rather than go through on a line by line item, which, there are quite a few people quite ready to do gives us the opportunity to move on this and get forward to the other articles, should this pass we can than move through the other articles, should it not, there are many that are quite prepared to go through this budget line by line and it is going to be a very long day. This is not a threat it is just a statement.

Bruce Houston: I am a member of the Budget committee and part of the budget committees responsibilities and the process that we go through is to go through and in very great detail and care every single line item in this budget and my feeling is that we do a very good job at going through each and every line item to make sure that we are maximizing the tax payers' dollars for every single dollar spent.

I think that if people had issues with the budget we have a budget hearing process that happens prior to this group and that is the appropriate place to raise these kinds of issues and to bring forward a level funded budget at this point in time I think is a little bit on the careless side because we would potentially be putting some of the towns services in jeopardy that are critical to the running of the town. I feel, this is just my opinion, but my feeling is that it is not appropriate to level fund the budget this year.

Kevin Boette: I have also served on the budget committee this year and have for five years and as Burton discussed and also Bruce, it is a zero line item budget so every department manager comes in every year and he doesn't just say I need three percent more this year because the cost has gone up. They come in every year and justify every expense they have. Every single one of these meetings we hold downstairs, they are public meetings, everybody here in town is invited and every year, almost, this year we had two people show up for one of the meetings, nobody comes to these. The input at that time would be wonderful. It is very easy to say lets level fund it because, hey, I haven't gotten a raise for a few years either and it is tough, times are tough out there, but the other thing is there is increases that come to the town not because of new toys that they need or new things, but it is medical insurance, well, everybody out there that pays for their medical insurance in one form or another knows it goes up, well that is one of the things in the budget that has gone up. We go through and we talk about office supplies, we talk about postage, little line items not just big line items where everything is stuck together, we talk about all the little line items and we have done a very diligent job of trying to do that but if we just go ahead and level fund this I don't know if any of you have driven around out there in the last two or three weeks but you would really have a hard time drinking a coffee and driving down the road. Well as we cut money out of this budget we are going to have a little bit more of those. Instead of fixing them they are going to get worse. It costs money to run a town. If we dissolved the town completely and just had the school you would still have seventy five per cent of your tax bill, so by level funding the budget you are not going to save yourself a ton of money but you are going to cause a lot of heartache in the town because this town is cheap and I mean cheap, we don't spend a lot of money on anything. I would just like to say I support the budget as presented, I think everybody did a good job preparing it and I think by just level funding the budget we have done a disservice to everybody on the budget committee, the selectmen, the department heads by saying they haven't put enough thought into it and they are just spending money willy nilley, cause I don't believe they are and if we are just going to level fund budgets why have all these committees, let's just level fund the budget, it is an easy thing to do but it's very difficult to practice that.

Steve Brown: Andy, I understand the sentiment and the concern, the only thing I can offer to you and to the rest of the folks that are here are that as a town we have elected the folks, the folks on the budget committee, to watch our backs, to make those decisions, to dig into the details, to understand the impacts of funding something or not funding it. Going into it this year they were working very hard to keep it level or as level as possible. I will tell you the Board of Selectmen as well had worked to keep the budget down, we started out at a higher number and we chipped away at it as did the budget committee. My only real issue is that if we were to do this we haven't thought it through well enough to understand the impact of it. So, certainly from a level funding as Kevin or Bruce had pointed out, we can address those things early on, we have certain obligations we must fulfill, insurance and those kinds of things and what is left over would than need to be divvied up and it is unclear, because we haven't had time to look at it what the impact on the various departments would be.

Andy Roeper: To respond to that, it is a combination of looking at the expenses and just speaking to the issue of the budget committee, having sat on it to finish out Arnie's term for a year. Yes, I was aware of the theoretical zero based budgeting, what I saw in practice was much more are we level than zero. So, I

don't necessarily take the concept of zero based budgeting at face value. What I saw by sitting on the committee didn't quite leave me with as warm and fuzzy a feeling as I would like. I would point out that in this year's warrant on pages 18, just so we have a perspective as we move through the budget process, a couple of errors. Under 2010 CIP back hoe loader replacement that we actually had voted through twenty thousand not fifteen thousand, and I have spoken with Burton and Steve and they are aware of this and also there is an incorrect error under individual warrant articles for the accrued interest from the library fund that was not voted through in a dollar amount so having it listed in that column does tend to skew the result a little bit. The net result actually works out slightly in our favor in terms of the overall tax rate, I think it was ten thousand dollars that was the actual difference, (Burton spoke, couldn't hear what he said) In any event it was just that, I am very much aware of the difficulty of living within a particular budget. Unfortunately we have a lot of folks in town in the same boat. Looking through this I realized it isn't going to be a walk in the park, I didn't say I was going to make it easier for you guys, but I think it is something we need to at least try to address.

Sally Curran: In looking at last year's expenditures we under spent by a hundred and eighteen thousand eighty seven dollars, so it would seem that perhaps level funding might work for the town. How did we under spend by that much.

Jim Bingham: As Kevin has stated the selectmen and myself meet with the town departments and we go through and we develop a budget that we feel best serves the town both in terms in being economical and yet meeting the needs of the town through those services. Unfortunately we have the budget committee that comes through and takes a second harder look and we go through that little by little so at the end we do have what we feel is a budget that is as tight, as transparent as possible without putting the town in any type of jeopardy both economically and legally. With that said, when the end of the year comes around very often we do not spend everything that the town has appropriated for the town to spend and that is a good thing and there is various factors that affect that. They could be a change in staff, and that causes a ripple effect in terms of changes in both wages and insurance coverage also we may budget for certain improvements and we find that we are fortunate enough to get bids that are below that budget or we found ways to do the work for less money for an example, Kent Perry will take excess fill from his areas in the garage and rather than having to buy additional sand and gravel, be able to reprocess that to be able to use that for fill and correcting issues in the road. We work every way we can to do as much or more with less and I think that the fact that almost every year you see actual expenses below budget I think is a testimony to that. We do have money coming back to the town but the point is that we built contingencies so we are not caught short so we do not have to have a special meeting or ask the Supreme Court for a special meeting to raise money because we cut things a little too short one year.

Kevin Boette: I would like to add a little to that, one of the other things that happens during the year, and correct me if I am wrong, but, we don't get to all the projects that we wanted to fund in the previous year. So, what happens is if Kent has a culvert that was scheduled to be replaced let's say on Mountain Road, they are going to put in a new culvert and it is going to cost thirty five thousand dollars and then there is a major storm or something that happens and these guys get called away and they end up putting these three or four weeks somewhere else and we still need to do that culvert and you guys have approved the funds for that we will encumber these funds and bring them forward into the next year so that we still have the money for the project, am I correct? Like, we are encumbering these funds because there are things that we did not accomplish this year that we still need to accomplish, rather than taking that hundred thousand dollars and adding it on to this year's budget we have encumbered those funds from last year and they are

bringing it forward. It is not that we have a contingency plan of a huge amount of money, we are actually going to bring these forward and it will allow us to continue with this schedule of projects. Am I correct?

Kent Perry: Also keep in mind that half of my budget is weather related, last year we had a very mild winter I didn't have a lot of expenditures, especially sand and salt, salt is the big one. This year we are right up against it. I will be able to cover it, I am not going to ask you for more money just for salt because we take the high end and the low end of the last five years and we stick it right in the middle. That's how I set the budget under salt and sand.....if you make it last year's budget you are already putting me over the salt.

Lorraine Strube: In building this year's budget could we have some information on what was the average per gallon cost used for gasoline, diesel, propane and heating oil.

Jim Bingham: At the time we were working through the budget, of course this goes through several processes as we watch international events. We were looking at two ninety for a gallon of gas, and, of course we already are well beyond that now, diesel was at two forty five a gallon at the time we were working on the budget, with propane which is our main heating source of buildings we have been fortunate to get into a pre-buy program, right now I think the current price is three dollars and thirty five cents a gallon and we are still paying two thirty five, so, we make as best decisions as we can, but you are absolutely right Lorraine, we have no idea what the future in terms of fuel costs are going to be and sometimes we have to adjust for that as well. Steve pointed out to me that we also buy diesel and the state tax is not included we as a town are exempt from the state tax for our fuel.

Idina Holden: I am thinking about the need to keep the tax rate level and thinking about some of the decisions that were made at the school board meeting. One of the ones that we talked about was the addition on the school and I am wondering if anybody knows when that expense would hit, because I don't think we really talked about that in the meeting. Is that something that we need to offset in this year's budget as we are thinking about it or is that going to come at a future date?

Burton Reynolds: I am assuming that the expense will be in the two thousand eleven year, that's the whole idea of having it not be bonded but simply be traditional warrant article with majority vote ruling. So the hundred and eighty nine will be something that will be assessed on the school side in two thousand eleven.

Moderator: And we would expect those in the June and the December tax requests, probably.

Burton Reynolds: This is one of the challenges of when the tax rate goes up. The June bill by law must be based on the December tax bills, one half of that rate, it can't be anything else. Even though we can see some increases coming and you would like to say, instead of having everybody feel the pain of this in December why don't we split it and make some adjustments in June with the July first tax bill so that the amount we have to raise at the end isn't quite as high. While that has tremendous merit I think the Legislature is probably correct in seeing there is a lot of room for mischief in that and so they have said no, the midyear tax bill has to be one half of the December one and so when we vote these things in at the school meeting and the town meeting we do have to recognize and be prepared for the increase coming in that December bill because that is where it has to be put. I think I will add just a couple of words about the level funding. Just give you a couple of examples, now Kent just came up with a very good one which obviously is how much room he has in his budget and in his budget world weather has a lot to do with how much he needs to spend. It is important for everybody to realize that the town, when we get to the point where we have, or we are overspending department budgets the Selectmen, yes, they can steal from the fire department and police department to pay for some of Kent's expenses but at some point those department heads are going to say listen I don't have any more money to give you, I am done.

So, the Selectmen by law are unable to spend any more than the bottom line total budget that you authorize them to spend here today. They can't go to the bank and just borrow some money to make do. That is not legal. They are bound with what you give them. So, you have to give them, you know, when we do the budget, we do give people a little wiggle room because we feel they must have it. We don't know what the winter is going to be, we do now pretty much and obviously it has been a pretty good one. But there are other things that affect this budget being more than last years and they are not all things that we have control over. We have talked about the obvious things such as medical insurance and so forth but, for instance, ten thousand of it is simply the fact that we got more money from the highway block grant this year than last year. That is a good thing that we have ten thousand more. It is being offset over on the revenue side by the revenue being ten thousand more. It's a wash, it looks bad when you just look at from this perspective of expense but when you look at the bigger picture it is offset. Then you, so that is one example of a situation where it looks worse than it really is. Then you have situations such as the ones that we have with Wilton. As I said in the beginning we go down there and we have input into how much the ambulance budget is going to be and how much the recycling budget is going to be. But in the end it is the Wilton budget committee that decides that and we are assessed based on our population how much we are going to pay and when that budget passes in Wilton than we are going to be assessed that we are going to have to take that money out of somebody else's budgetary hide because we owe that to Wilton. One of the reasons the ambulance budget went up for instance somewhat this year is because their revenues were down, it is not because they are spending huge amounts or more money. All those things have to be factored in and when we, as the budget committee, when we tried to put this together we tried to factor all these many things into the equation.

Andy Roeper: Mr. Moderator I would like to move the question so we can vote up or down the flat funding concept and then if not go through line by line.

Moderator: Ready for the question then for the amendment as amended. The amendment was to provide level funding with last year and so here is the article as amended. **To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred nineteen thousand eight hundred thirty six dollars (\$1,519,836), which represents level funding from last year as amended. Said sum is exclusive of all others.** Those in favor of reducing the budget to level funding signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. **The amendment to level funding Does Not Pass.**

Kevin Boette: Move question on the budget.

Stephanie Roper: I still need my hundred dollars.

Board of Selectmen: We will find the hundred dollars in the budget.

Moderator: Back to original warrant article for town budget. **To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred ninety two thousand nine hundred seventy nine dollars (\$1,592,979), representing the operating budget for fiscal year 2011 as prepared by the Budget Committee. Said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or take any other action relating thereto. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).** All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 8 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand, five hundred dollars (\$35,500) for the purchase of a new Police Vehicle and to authorize the withdrawal of twenty nine thousand, five hundred dollars (\$29,500) from the Police Vehicle Replacement Fund created for that purpose and to raise the balance of six thousand dollars

(\$6,000) through taxation; or take any other action relating thereto. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion made by Arnold Byam to accept article as read, seconded by Steve Brown.

Donnie Sawin stated that they want to remove, retire the 2004 Crown Victoria. It's old, it's tired, it needs to go. It doesn't have a ton of miles compared to what a lot of police cruisers do. The roads around here can beat up a car sometimes. It is only good for so many times out of the year, there is about three and a half, four months out of the year you can't use it. So, as a cruiser it is kind of ineffective for certain areas of town. We have had the SUV here for several years and it has worked out well. The one we have now is much better platform than the Ford is. It has a three year, thirty six thousand mile bumper to bumper and a five year hundred thousand mile power train. Even though it is a cruiser they honor the warranty, it is built as a cruiser. It is built much different than a mom and pop type of car. The gas mileage is actually slightly better than the Crown Victoria. The SUV is more versatile for us, we have ATV's and trailers and things that you can't tow with the Crown Victoria where you can with these. We will have two vehicles now that are good for the whole town. It has to be all completely set up, because nothing is transferable. Even if we did buy a Crown Victoria and trade everything over, most of it won't be able to be transferred because there are so many changes from the 04's till the 2011 models and the stuff that is in it is so old it needs to be replaced anyway. There is only a couple of things that could be transferred.

Moderator: Any discussion or questions? Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 9 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Replacement of the 1994 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund previously established; or take any other action relating thereto. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion made by Arnold Byam to accept article as read, seconded by Steve Brown.

Lorraine Strube: This is kind of addressed to all of the warrant articles that we are about to discuss and we are voting on now. Burton mentioned at the beginning when he was giving an overview of the budget and CIP that there is a potential that we have enough money in fund balance to meet state requirements over and above actually, and that there was a possibility that the Selectmen were considering using some fund balance money to offset the tax rate. So, before we vote on everything that is coming up I would like to know what the thoughts of the Selectmen are on using fund balance money to offset the tax rate.

Arnold Byam: Well without knowing what the tax rate is going to go for we can guesstimate that we will probably end up using some of that unreserved fund balance to alleviate any major tax hit. When we sit down with DRA we will make those decisions at that time. We have used it in the past. I think we used a dollar per thousand two years ago to reduce the tax rate slightly. I think we level funded it at 19.98. We might have to do it again this year.

Moderator: Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 10 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Replacement of the 1984 Tanker Capital Reserve Fund previously established; or take any action relating thereto. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion made by Arnold Byam to accept article as read, seconded by Donnie Sawin.

Moderator: Any discussion or questions? Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 11 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty three thousand dollars (\$23,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for Replacement of the Highway Dump Trucks; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Donnie Sawin to accept article as read, seconded by Steve Brown.

Moderator: Any discussion or questions? Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 12 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) to add to the Replacement of the 2002 Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund established for that purpose; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Donnie Sawin to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Moderator: Any discussion or questions? Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 13 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the capital reserve fund for the purpose of Replacement of the 2002 John Deere Grader previously established; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Moderator: Any discussion or questions? Ready for the question? Read Article again. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 14 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) for the purpose of developing full design plans/blueprints and construction cost quote for building an addition to Citizens' Hall in order to accommodate the Police Department personnel requirements; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Steve Brown: The current facility, police department is downstairs; it is in a room that is seventeen by twenty five feet. We have had our police operations out of that area for some time. In relatively recent days we have moved booking and evidence storing to Wilton, on the good grace of Wilton. Issues associated with those particular needs have been moved to a separate facility. We recognize that we have some space needs problems and in 2005 brought together a number of citizens to have them look at the emergency services space needs. Members included Jim Button, Dick Darling, Jim Preftakes, Burton Reynolds and Bob Rogers. They met for a few months and published a report. It was a report that pulled together the needs for all the emergency services, so, fire, police and ambulance. At the time I think we were thinking that we were going to come up with recommendations specific to the fire department because we had talked about that for a number of years. When the space needs committee finally published their report, somewhat to our surprise, they recognized that out of all the services the police seemed to be the one that was most cramped. They published their findings in a report December 2005. Part of the process that they went through to do this was to take a look at all the facilities, in our case the

police department here, also took a look at the one in Wilton and tried to identify the functions that must take place in those facilities. It wasn't what do you want, what do you not want. What are the things we need to do? So the form followed function. We need to have a place to interrogate, to hold people, to have office space; we have to have a number of items that are related to police activities. The recommendation of the emergency services space needs committee came out in three ways. They did this for all of the services. An immediate need, something that would be solved in the five year time frame and something that would take five years or longer. That was really to address those things that were broke and broke now. Five years gave us little time to work some plans out and then past five years the thinking was things could change in ten years so maybe we need to come back and revisit it, so those are more strategic kinds of things. The recommendation that the space needs committee came out with for the PD was; in less than five years add an addition to Citizens' Hall and they call that the best all-around solution taking a look at those things they looked at. The thing to keep in mind is this was in September, well the report came out in December 2005 so let's call it January 2006, we are now at the five year mark. The findings and recommendations are what got in our conscientiousness that we need to probably do something in the shorter time frame with respect to PD. So, last year we came to you, March of 2010 and asked you to fund the first of a three phase plan. The first phase was to do some initial studies and make sure that we understood what the needs were. So, in some extent go back and confirm what the space needs committee had come up with and come up with some notional concepts and that activity happened. We went in front of the budget committee to get it on the warrant for last year. Voters voted it in, said five thousand dollars, let's get some information. The second phase of the three phase plan is to, based on some of the concepts that our architect will talk about, develop construction plans and come up with some hard numbers. Don't want to come in front of you and say we think it is going to be somewhere between three hundred thousand and a million dollars, we need to give you some idea of what you are buying and make sure it is in alignment with what you want. What we need and what you want. So the second phase which is the seventeen thousand dollars we are talking about right now is to take the information that was developed last year, the five thousand dollars' worth, take that and develop it into a set of plans where we can come up with some construction numbers, work out some of the details, this is concept, so work out some of the details and then presumably, if this goes through, then next year we would come before you with, I will call a plan that you can take a look at, understand the costs, understand what it gives you and what it doesn't give you. At that opportunity you have, to vote it up or down. So, really what we are asking you here is the second phase of a three phase plan, I am going to argue it is five years late because the committee said please do this starting in December 2005, but we are trying to work our way through that. So as the architect, Mike Petrovick, goes through it, please listen to what he has to say, listen with an open mind, let's have a discussion and see if we want to continue down this path. If we don't and we can have that discussion maybe as part of the discussion, like anything, we can, I am going to suggest, make do with what we have. The issue there is when you make do, you may or may not follow certain codes or regulations, there may be safety issues, in terms of that room down there and how we handle people. If that is where we are heading we need to do that with that in mind. I would like to suggest that we give Mike a few moments to talk about it. He can go through the pros and cons. Some of the process we went through. What you will see him present, oddly enough, the space needs committee five years ago came up with two things, a building, twenty six by forty, about a thousand square feet and a garage again about eleven hundred square feet so the total footage was around two thousand square feet. What you will see here, if I recall, is somewhere around the two thousand square foot mark, so we have been consistent in terms of what we think we need from a functional standpoint and how we might actually make that in brick and mortar. The architect that was selected after a solicitation, several architects came in; Mike Petrovick was selected, from Frankestown.

Mike Petrovick spoke about the three phase process, the first being the schematic design which is interpreting what the report and what the towns needs were identified as and putting them on paper and how does that really start to become a building. The schematic design phase is taking what the report said was identified as being needed. Identified in addition to the building, the services that are required to have a viable police department in the town the size of Lyndeborough. Spoke about cruiser bays, office

space, evidence rooms, and detention areas. The building is an historic building so to add on to it we need to follow certain guidelines by the Secretary of the Interior. The site has to be looked at; it has a grading issue in the back and a property line to address. The schematic is all those things coming together. There are a lot of guidelines to follow to put a building like this together.

Bob Rogers: Two points, my minor point was that the Heritage Committee requested that this plan be presented to them for their information and it never was. My major point is that I think that this may be premature because our police department is still in the process of being reorganized. We really don't know what we are going to have for a department two or three or five or ten years down the road. We haven't made that decision. One of the notable possibilities is that we have never formally approached and discussed with Wilton the possibility of forming a joint police department. Now I am not saying a police department under Wilton, I am saying one that is jointly governed by the two towns as Greenville and Temple have done. It has been casually discussed, never in a formal way; we don't know what the two boards really would have come up with or what the townspeople would think about it. So, I think before we make a commitment to an addition to this building we need to decide what do we want for a police department.

Steve Brown: I will apologize in advance, there is, I don't know thirty pages and I didn't want to go through the whole thing. You are correct. One of the other recommendations was to investigate joint police departments. We have had those discussions, I will say internally, our police department, in terms of is that a good thing, a bad thing. I will tell you generally speaking, while it makes sense at face value, it was not embraced. However, that doesn't mean we still don't work and we still don't help convince them. The only other comment I would like to make is one of the reasons for having a three phase study is so that we can develop numbers and say we can look at a combined Wilton/Lyndeborough police department that will cost you x and a separate one will cost you y. The fidelity, the fuzziness we have on the number right now is based on a cartoon, on a conceptual layout, but it is hard to understand what the cost behind that is. So that was part of the reason behind the second phase. We do always have the choice when we get to phase three to not have a phase three. I would only argue that if we fund this, and it is seventeen thousand dollars, which is ten point five cents, on the rate, if we fund this, than we will be, in my opinion, we would be better equipped to make that decision come phase three.

Andy Roeper: Have we gotten in writing or otherwise firm commitment from the United States Postal Service that they are going to keep the Post Office running in Lyndeborough? I ask that because that building would make a great PD with minimal conversion. I realize that you are right in the conceptual stage right now and we keep trying to shoe horn twenty pounds into a five pound bag on this site. Not to put Burton on the spot but have there been any discussions about possibly buying some additional property if that might be available so that we could have a more appropriately sited building.

Burton Reynolds: I have made it clear to the Selectmen that I would be glad to entertain allowing the town to have some of the property that is now mine. I think the feeling is and we just addressed it here a moment ago that it probably is just a cheaper option too, because it is such a steep embankment. Probably the better thing is to let mother nature alone and come along the natural contour. I have told them that if it wasn't going to take much property to make this happen and they wanted to go back into the field some I would simply give the town the property. But, I think the feeling is that it makes more sense and would be a lot less expensive to simply follow the natural contours.

Andy Roeper: Last comment, I realize this is still conceptual but the detention area is that as currently presented something that is sized to code requirements or was that just to fit the building envelope right now.

Mike Petrovick: Just to fit the building envelope, we have a lot of work to do on the size.....

Steve Brown: When you take a look at the construction of the building its roof truss so none of the interior walls are load bearing. We can move those around as we need to for the design or if in the future it turns out that we repurpose the building or decide we want to do something differently there is a cost of doing it but it is not structural in nature.

Ron Curran: I have some real issues with this whole thing and I would like to share them with the town. For the last eighteen years our law enforcement effort in this community has been chaotic. We have had

two lawsuits; we have spent probably close to two hundred thousand dollars. We have had two professionals come in and advise us, we have a third one and I wish you a lot of good luck Tom. A recent example of the chaos that continues is that there was an article in the paper that a municipal employee who does not live here castigated one of your police officers. That is not appropriate. The Board is responsible for oversight. I am very much pro law enforcement. We need to get structured on where this department is going, not building a Taj Mahal somewhere, we don't need it yet, we may in the future. I would urge folks, don't vote for this.

Jessica Cloutier: Have you looked into using some kind of Pod storage space, why not take another avenue. Also, how many people on average do we actually have to detain? How often do we run into a problem where we don't have a spot to put that person?

Tom Chrisenton: Have the Selectmen followed through with the Water Resources Board where there was a discussion with them three years ago, may have been four years ago. There was a discussion with the Water Resources Board; they are the owners of the land around the flood control dam. When I was up at DES I talked with them and he said it was merely a matter of the town getting a one dollar a year lease and they would entertain the town coming to them and talking to them about getting that land out on the east end of the Cemetery road where the boat launching is, that hill there. Has anybody followed up on that?

Steve Brown: Short answer is No, slightly longer answer has to do with the recommendations of the committee at that time which did acknowledge that at some point we may need to have a separate building and the discussion in here was is that a police department or a combined police, fire or somehow coordinate those other activities. What we have been trying to do is follow some of the ground work that has been laid out and look at to solve a near term solution. For those of you that have been in town, and I have been doing this for six years, the question of a combined facility versus a single facility is cyclical and sometimes it is in vogue, sometimes it isn't. I don't recall, and perhaps you can help me out here Tom, when we get a lot of rain, a lot of that part of the town goes underwater. Access is okay?

Tom Chrisenton: There would have to be some shimming on Cemetery road, but that is something that should be done anyways. That is a good reason to pave it and shim it at the same time. It is just below the flood rule, but to the east it is a very short distance and it can be corrected minimally. The benefit of it is the soil conditions are such that there is very little sand and gravels where here we have glacial tills. We have all kinds of problems with this site and we don't have the problems out on that. I am just saying that is one option that I think we should pursue before we spend money on developing this site with the architectural problems, with the drainage problems and all the problems that are associated with this. I don't know why we don't look at all the options first before we go in one direction.

Steve Brown: What I struggle with is if we collectively believe we have an issue and the question is how do we solve that issue, than I will say not funding this doesn't help us further that goal of getting better definition. We are not asking you for the PD building this time. There is a lot of work that needs to go into this in order for us to put something in front of you that you can make an educated decision on. We will vote very shortly, what I would encourage you to do is think about this is the second step, we are not talking about the whole building. My worry is if we don't take the second step we are going to be in front of you again in a year or two with another second step and as evidence by this the recommendation back in 2005, we are now five years and things haven't changed. It is just something to think about as we go forward as a town if we are not proactive about how we are doing it the end goal is going to keep moving out.

Bruce Houston: A lot of different opinions and a lot of different ideas about how we solve this issue. Understandably everybody has their own opinion on what is best for the town. I think what you have to look at here; first of all I encourage people to take a look at what the current police department situation is downstairs. It is pretty, pretty compacted down there and they don't have all of their resources in my opinion that they need to have an effective police department. As Steve said we need to move forward with something and bring something forward to the townspeople and the taxpayers so that we can have an idea of what we need and then we can decide and we can have those discussions about where we put it, but again, I think a lot of this is driven on cost, a lot of it is driven on physical plant that already exists

here that we don't have to go and drill a well, we don't have to do as much site work, there are a lot of factors that came into the consideration for what was the best solution here. I am not suggesting that this necessarily is or isn't, but I am saying that the Selectmen have done a very good job in coming up with, at least bringing forward a concept to the townspeople. I urge everybody to vote in favor of this because I think it is the right thing for the town.

Andy Roeper: Will the package as assembled be site specific, in other words, if we go through with this warrant article are we buying a set of drawings and specifications that are specific to this site or can we arrange for part of that package to address in at least textual fashion, if we were to take an offsite location, what the anticipated costs would be in terms of foundation, septic, etc., so when you come back to us next year assuming this passes, we've got some good comparisons, because we also, in addition to what Tom mentioned we have the Goding site which is on a paved road.

Mike Petrovick: One of the things I wanted to address was the concept of building a new building, standalone building on another site versus adding on to this building. There are two things that that does, the first thing is that building this addition is actually much less expensive than developing a new site. Site costs are pretty expensive. The other thing is that this existing building has some issues whether you build on to it a police station or build a police station somewhere else. There are issues that are going to need to be addressed in this building down the road with accessibility, rest rooms and services to this building. We can actually address some of those here so that it is kind of a, serves a dual role. Andy, to address your question about would the plans be able, to take and build somewhere else as a standalone building. You could do that, as an architect I wouldn't want to develop kind of a builders set of plans that can be put on lot a, b or c. In addition to this building is going to serve a purpose to being ancillary to this building versus if you were going to do a standalone building. I could honestly say from my experience that a standalone building to serve these needs would probably be half again if not double the price just because of the site work and land acquisition costs.

Kevin Boette: I think it is a little big, just my first opinion on that. One question was how many detentions did we have last year where we had to bring down to Wilton and has Wilton expressed an interest in not sharing their facility with us at this point for evidence lockup and detention facility?

Steve Brown: I made the comment that on the good graces of Wilton we are there. To my knowledge there hasn't been any issues, there is, I am going to suggest a cost or, if we are getting into their department certainly they need to be aware of it and we can assume some supplies. To my knowledge there haven't been any overt indications to say we need to start slowing down or doing something differently. The answer is as far as we know we are fine, today. It is a gentleman's agreement right now and in fact that was one of the recommendations out of the police, the emergency space was to formally, I will say codify that, have a written agreement. We did talk about that and there are a number of reasons varied why that is a good thing and why it is a bad thing as well, so understand the recommendation that hasn't been executed yet. In terms of how many people have we had to detain, that's an interesting question and I will hand it over to someone in law enforcement.

Kevin Boette: I just need a round number, was there fifty, or was it five or one or.....

Steve Brown: I am going to suggest to you that because of the size of the police department, with folks being deployed etc., we may be under what would be considered a normal amount. However, I am going to hand it over to Donnie or Captain Burke and have somebody say what is standard procedure so if you stop somebody in the road and you find something what do you need to do.

Donnie Sawin: I would say less than 20. We can use the facility (Wilton Police Department) and it is a good facility to use down there. Have to have a Wilton officer available to be able to use the building.

Kevin Boette: I agree that you need cruiser bays. Perhaps as we approach this as just go with the cruiser bays it is going to be x, if we go with the just an additional two offices it is going to be y and if we go with the whole plan it is going to be z, and that is very easy to do in this concept stage. I agree by the way with the seventeen thousand dollars for this, this is the same way we approach things. You are better off spending a little money up front on the architectural drawings so that way when you go out to bid for the contractors they are all bidding to the same spec. I do support the seventeen thousand into this, I think it is a good idea; we obviously have to do something and I think this is a good start to it but I think a menu

approach might be better too because there is going to be a big difference in cost between just a cruiser bay and the entire building.

Ron Curran: The issue about support from Wilton PD. I had a very long talk with Brent (Wilton Police Chief), I know him well, and there is no danger of us being denied the use of that both for detention, for evidence storage which meets with the Attorney Generals criteria. He assured me that an officer opening the place up is a phone call, that's all. There is no danger of not having access to that space. Second point that I will make, bricks and mortar do not make police departments, professional law enforcement, experienced people, that kind of man over there (Capt. Thomas Burke) that's what we need and a board that accepts that.

Roy Thorkildsen: I want it to be on record that I support the police department and I don't want to do anything to jeopardize what they feel that they need. If you guys feel that you need it you are the professionals I am not the professional. So, I have got to come up to you and say you know are you going to be able to protect my family and my children if we don't do something for you. I've got to know this. I just want to make sure we have the service and that we are safe in this community.

Tom Chrisenton: Just one other point I believe that going away from this site would cost lot money?

The water resources board as they presented it three years ago was going to lease back the land to the town for a dollar a year. The site costs are then on a sand and gravel area which are minimal cost compared to this site which is higher. You have a problem with the septic here for expanding the septic they had a heck of a time getting in the first time. (Mike Petrovick spoke...could not hear what he said)

The cultural integrity of this building can remain. If you go to a new site which is going to be a lot less costly to develop you are not interfering with people conducting town business when they are coming in. It is off and separate and the police and fire department, I foresee it as a complete facility of every agency that wants to use it. I don't see why we are constraining us to this site this slop and glacial till versus sand and gravel. If we do this study we should not spend money on drainage and stuff the study should just be for the building but I don't see how you can do that without an additional cost.

Alice Gray: The Goding property would already have a septic and well. I don't know what the situation is but that would be, except for the access of the police coming onto Center road which is probably not a good idea because of the traffic that does go up that road but if they already have that on that property that would be a good thing to look at.

Steve Brown: The road is paved, we do own the property, it is a long thin piece of property and it's got some slope. A little work would be required there. As it currently is we do not have septic or water on the property.

Don Anderson: I read in the article, in order to accommodate the police department personnel requirements. I would suggest we don't know what they are. I would suggest that we let our new officer in charge get his feet wet, give him time to be able to identify what we need, being the officer in charge. I cannot say that the budget committee doesn't know what we need. I can't say the Selectmen can't tell you what we need. I think it should be up to the OIC that tells you the requirements of the police department. A few years ago we had a building study committee, building and space study committee of which I believe Burton was on, Jim Preftakes was on, there was a number of people on there. I wonder if anybody has gone back, and it cost us much less than seventeen thousand dollars to have done. I just wonder if that has been revisited and any thought given to the recommendations that had been made by that committee at that time. I am sure some of it would not be current and might need to be updated. I would suggest that that could be also an option that we revisit. The other thing that I suggest is that we look into whatever grants that are available such as handicap grants, building grants, site plan grants, all of those and to establish what could be gotten through those grants to help us to offset the cost of any building that we might do. I am sure they are out there and I am sure if we have, well we have the architect here at this time and he should be able to identify those or some of them, not all.

Steve Brown: The plan that I had referenced in fact was the one you referenced, the 2005 study that did have Jim Preftakes, Jim Button on board and the recommendations that came out of that are in fact what we are chasing right now.

Don Anderson: I can't hardly expect Burton or Bruce or anybody else, Kevin, to stand up and speak against these when it says they approved it or they recommended it. I can't expect any of the Selectmen to speak unfavorably toward this because they have identified here that they too recommend the appropriation. I just think that there are other things that need to be looked at and determined before we start spending the money that this is asking for. The main one, the main one being, let's give the new OIC a chance to get on board and identify these requirements that we need. I am getting repetitious; I don't mean to do that. I think it is a strong enough thing that we have to look at before doing this.

Steve Brown: Captain Burke, would you like to just give your two cents on what you have seen to date. Where you think things are heading, are we on track, off track, close to being where we need to be.

Captain Thomas Burke: I agree with the gentleman in the rear here. I am not looking at the bricks and mortar at this point, I will be honest, I haven't really researched this. My main concern and focus at this point is to bring the police department back to the standards that I feel this town deserves. Would I like an addition, of course I would. I haven't looked into it that deeply. I have spoken with the Wilton Chief. I have destroyed all the evidence that we had that was unnecessary because this facility doesn't have the requirements necessary to provide us with an evidence locker. He has agreed to allow us to utilize their facilities, but I do support the Selectmen. I do feel that it is probably time or in the near future to be able to expand the department, but, my main focus has been, the last several weeks to try to get the intangibles taken care of, the personalities and to work the department into focusing towards policing. That is where I stand on that.

Moderator: Ready for the question, Read Article 14. All those in favor of Article 14 signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Let's do the card vote. All those in favor of Article 14 please raise your card. All those opposed to Article 14 please raise your card at this time. We had 29 Yes votes and 48 No votes so the **Article Does Not Pass**

Article 15 To see if the town will vote to establish a Bridges Repair /Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Ch. 35) for the purpose of repairing and improving bridges and culvert systems on town road and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund; or take any other action relating thereto. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Arnold Byam.

Burton Reynolds: The idea here is to start putting some money away for bridge replacements. Most of the bridge replacements we do are done through the state bridge aid program. It is a program that pays, the state pays eighty percent and we have to come up with our twenty percent share. We have several bridges in town that are in need of replacement; most dire one is the one Johnsons Corner Road. The problem is if we went to the state right now and asked to get on the bridge aid program they would tell us the first opening would be in, I think, it was 2020, it is probably 2021 by now. So, fortunately we also have been following a lead using money from FEMA. You probably recognize them as the organization that helps at the time of a disaster but they also have funds that are used for situations that have been problematic in previous disasters but haven't been replaced and Johnsons Corner is one of those. We currently are on their list to get some money but in order for us to, they are going to pay seventy five percent and we will have to pay the other twenty five. Some of that can be in kind, so, that will keep the cost down little but still we need to come up with our share and a Capital Reserve Fund to put money away towards doing that is probably the best way to do it. The reason it also says repair is because sometimes a bridge doesn't need to be totally replaced. You may need a new deck but perhaps the abutments and everything else are fine. The state is really pushing that because they do have limited funds and the way it was presented to me was if you had a problem with the roof on your house would you demolish your house and put up a new one or would you replace the roof. You would replace the roof. We are saying the same thing applies to a bridge. There are many situations where it needs to simply have a repair and it will last another twenty five years. This talks to not just replacing but also repairing.

Moderator: Ready for the question. Read Article 15. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 16 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand fifteen dollars (\$2,015.00) to extend library hours by having the library open for two hours on Saturdays, providing the Library Trustees determine a demand from the citizenry to extend hours on Saturdays? Said funds to lapse on December 31, 2013 or expended fully, whichever comes first. *The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Bob Rogers moved the article as read, Sally Curran seconded.

Bob Rogers: I will explain and also propose an amendment. For many years the library has staffed the library on Saturdays with volunteers. It worked very well, however the state in its infinite wisdom has decreed that when the library is open there must be a paid employee present. We cannot use volunteers for this purpose anymore. Consequently we simply closed on Saturdays. However, with our new facility, and because we have so much more to offer we suspect that there may be a number of people who would like to see the library open for two hours on Saturday and so we are going to ask the town if they really want this. The plan that we originally had that the article was written for was a two year plan. That is why it was written up for the two thousand dollars and a non-lapsing fund so that we could expend the money this year and next year. However on further discussion and to be fair to the voters we think the balance of this year will let us know whether this is really a necessary service. So therefore I would like to amend this article to read **To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) to extend library hours by having the library open for two hours on Saturdays, providing the Library Trustees determine a demand from the citizenry to extend hours on Saturdays.**

Don Anderson: I would like to make that a motion. Second from audience member.

Moderator: Any discussion on the amendment, the amendment reduces it from two thousand fifteen dollars down to eight hundred dollars. **Article 16** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) to extend library hours by having the library open for two hours on Saturdays, providing the Library Trustees determine a demand from the citizenry to extend hours on Saturdays. All those in favor of the amendment as read signify by saying Aye and all those opposed signify by saying Nay. **The amendment passes.** Now to read the whole article again in its amended form just to make sure we get it right and legal. **Article 16** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) to extend library hours by having the library open for two hours on Saturdays, providing the Library Trustees determine a demand from the citizenry to extend hours on Saturdays. All those in favor of the article as amended signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes as Amended**

Article 17 To see if the town will vote to authorize a change in the purpose of Article 13 of the 2003 Town Warrant in accordance with provisions of RSA 35:16. The original article was to establish a capital reserve fund for the "Replacement of the 1994 Fire Department Pumper". This article would change the purpose to "Replacement or Refurbishment of 1994 Fire Department Pumper". *(2/3 Majority vote required).*

Motion made by Arnold Byam to accept article as read, seconded by Donnie Sawin.

Richard McQuade (Fire Chief): Burton has outlined that all of these trucks with the exception of the rescue have a thirty year life expectancy. The 94 is at a point now where it needs that mid-life crisis and refurbishment. The pump is at a point where it needs to be rebuilt the packing's need to be replaced. We have some body issues, I will point out the truck now is seventeen years old. A plan like this would allow us to dip into this capital reserve fund to extend it to that thirty year or beyond that thirty year and that is really the goal here.

Moderator: Any questions about what we are doing, he is changing it from a replacement to a repair and refurbishment. Same money just we may be able to repair it instead of replace it. Ready for the question? Read Article 17, all those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it, **Article Passes**

Article 18 To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept the reports of auditors and committees as printed in the Town Report; or take any other action relating thereto. (*Majority vote required*).

Motion made by Steve Brown to accept article as read, seconded by Donnie Sawin.

Don Anderson: I would just like to point out to the town that we have an operating budget, including all the CIP with an increase of 4.8%. The budget committee and Selectmen have identified revenues minus 1%. I do not call that very frugal budgeting. We identify a credit card mentality in that we will overspend what we are going to bring in. I don't believe anybody does that in their families. How you can lay a burden like that upon the taxpayers of the town is beyond my ability to see. It gives me cause to wonder how you can jointly concur on a budget that does show that. You realizing the cost realization when the bills come in not prior to. We have a federal government that is operating two weeks a year now on a budget because they can't decide on where they are going to land. We have a state budget that is not finalized. We are both federal and state governments passing costs back down to the towns. You have not realized what is coming. I don't think we are going to appreciate any of it. Thewere elected to give representation of the people. This is not like a private corporation. The board of directors sits before you; we are the board of directors. The taxpayers of the town are the ones that give you the money and the authority to do it. We do like to have some response back that is conducive to the way that the people in the town think. I attended the Selectmen's meeting last Wednesday night and I made a suggestion and I would like to make the same suggestion to the budget committee. That when the budget committee or the Selectmen are putting the town budgets together they think with the mentality of a thirty thousand dollar income to the average family in the town of Lyndeborough. That, hopefully, that would bring the cost down. They would give a lot of second thought. We presently have a hundred and seventy thousand dollars in arrears on our property taxes that are unpaid. There is a message to that number. People are not able to pay their taxes. People are going to be leaving town. What the state will spend for you and what the state will fund are two different things altogether. Mr. Rogers just elaborated to the state mandating that it has to be a full time employee in our library. They are not going to fund it, they are just going to tell you that no you can't use volunteers. Also in this budget we decided that we could not afford eight hundred dollars in order to bring some of our town's people, our workers up to a standard that would be equivalent to the lowest, to the highest paid person on the committee, yet we will take two thousand dollars and create a brand new position in town and call it a building supervisor. Two thousand dollars, that's okay to do that, but we can't give seven hundred dollars to someone else who is already on board. We can put in our police department budget five thousand dollars for training to certify our police officers which have already been certified at one time. I don't know if we picked up the cost then. I don't know of any teacher, doctor, nurse or anybody else that needs certification that gets it paid for by the taxpayers. It is usually out of their pocket. They go to school, they pay to get this. Yet, we will pay the cost of recertifying some of our police officers, no fault of theirs that they lost their certification. I can only commend them for what they were doing while they weren't police officers. But, the fact of the matter stands it is a cost that comes back on this body, and again, the budget committee and the selectmen should look at that cost. Along with that if we are going to be certifying these people what kind of guarantee do we get that they are going to stay with us for over six months. We pay, we certify them, bing they are gone. It has happened time and time again, I don't know why we don't get any smarter on that but we don't seem to. So again, it is just money out the window as far as I am concerned. Make them pay for their own certification and perhaps then they will think about staying. A lot of the things in the budget, it just appears as though the cart was put before the horse. This project here, just not enough

information on it. You have to think a little better on these things. With that I will close and I thank everybody for attending.

Andy Roeper: Mr. Moderator, relevant to Article 18, I would like to formally request that on page 18, line item 4915-03-019 backhoe loader replacement, 2010 budget be corrected from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand and the payments to capital reserve funds be appropriately updated and also on that same page 4909-06-018 accrued interest from library addition fund on the 2010 budget entry only be corrected total individual warrant articles for that section be corrected.

Moderator: Do you know what the numbers should be?

Andy Roeper: No, my math isn't that quick. Somebody have a calculator? 135650 minus 25800, I am sure you can figure it out and lastly for those that actually do look at all these numbers and Burton enlightened me on this one, I asked the question. Under the revenue sections, in previous years as carried forward from the previous budget it is shown what was voted for, for example in this year where we have the 2011 anticipated. In the following year on previous reports that had appeared in the budget. In point of fact, because this year's numbers were quite different than what we had listed last year, Burton pointed out to me that when the taxes are set, and please correct me if I am wrong here, but you are taking the actual numbers and putting them in there, is that correct, thank you.

Moderator: Ready for Article 18, read article, All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay. **Article Passes**

Article 19 To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Arnold Byam recognized Steve Brown for his six years of service to the town. The Board of Selectmen and townspeople thanked Steve for his years of hard work and dedication.

Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn, member of audience made a motion to adjourn, seconded by another audience member.

Moderator: All those in favor signifying by saying Aye, any opposed, hearing none I move that this meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia H. Schultz
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Town of Lyndeborough NH

Filename: 500FB510.docx
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\chasty\Local Settings\Temporary
Internet Files\Content.MSO
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\chasty\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dotm
Title: STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Subject:
Author: patty
Keywords:
Comments:
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