

**Town of Lyndeborough
2023 Town Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Moderator Walter Holland on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Citizens' Hall located at 9 Citizens' Hall Road in Lyndeborough New Hampshire. Moderator Walter Holland read the rules of the meeting. He gave voice without vote to Town Administrator Russ Boland, Police Chief Rance Deware, Finance/Human Resource Director Paul Hebert and a Representative from the State Lottery. Rules of the meeting accepted by voters.

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 Citizens' Hall, 9 Citizens' Hall Road, in said Lyndeborough on Tuesday, the fourteenth (14th) day of March 2023, at ten o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening, for ballot Voting of Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote; and, to meet at Citizens' Hall, 9 Citizens' Hall Road in said Lyndeborough, on Saturday, the eighteenth (18th) day of March 2023, at ten o'clock in the morning, to act upon Articles 9 through Article 25:

Town Election to be held on Tuesday, March 14th to vote on Articles 1 through 8 was Postponed until March 28th due to a snowstorm.

Article 1: Selection of Officers and Other Matters

Voting of Town Officers and all other matters requiring ballot vote. **(Results listed at end of Meeting Minutes)**

Article 2: Zoning Amendment Correct Definitions

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Sections 200.29, Wetlands, 403.00, Sanitary Protection, Section 1302.00, Lots of Record, and Section 411.00, Accessory Dwelling Units, to correct various references to state statutes and codes.

Existing Section 200.29 reads as follows:

200.29 ***Wetland.*** Areas delineated as poorly or very poorly drained soils by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in the Soil Survey of Hillsborough County New Hampshire, Western Part, dated October 1985, and the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987 in conjunction with the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, May 1995.

Amend Section 200.29 reads as follows (language to be added shown in *bold italics*):

200.29 ***Wetland.*** Areas delineated as poorly or very poorly drained soils by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in the Soil Survey of Hillsborough County New Hampshire, Western Part, dated October 1985, and the

Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987 *including supplements and amendments*, in conjunction with the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, May 1995.

Existing Section 403.00 reads as follows:

403.00 Sanitary Protection

All sanitary systems shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the standards set and enforced by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Supply and Pollution Control Division and other Town of Lyndeborough regulations.

Amend Section 403.00 reads as follows (language to be removed shown in ~~bold-strikeout~~):

403.00 Sanitary Protection

All sanitary systems shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the standards set and enforced by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ~~Water Supply and Pollution Control Division~~ and other Town of Lyndeborough regulations.

1302.00 Lots of Record:

Existing Section 1302.00 reads as follows:

Where a lot of record at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance has less area and/or frontage than herein required in the District in which it is located:

- 1) The lot may be used for a single-family dwelling if permitted in that district subject to New Hampshire Water Supply and Pollution Control Division approval and subject to all district regulations applicable to lots within the District wherein the lot is located with the exception of lot size and/or frontage.
- 2) The lot may be used for any non-residential use permitted in the District in which it is located subject to New Hampshire Water Supply and Pollution Control Division approval and subject to all district regulations applicable to lots within the District wherein the lot is located with the exception of lot size and/or frontage.

Amend Section 1302.00 to read as follows (language to be added shown in *bold italics*, language to be removed shown in ~~bold-strikeout~~):

Where a lot of record at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance has less area and/or frontage than herein required in the District in which it is located:

- 1) The lot may be used for a single-family dwelling if permitted in that district subject to New Hampshire *Department of Environmental Services* ~~Water Supply and Pollution Control Division~~ approval and subject to all district regulations

applicable to lots within the District wherein the lot is located with the exception of lot size and/or frontage.

- 2) The lot may be used for any non-residential use permitted in the District in which it is located subject to New Hampshire *Department of Environmental Services* ~~Water Supply and Pollution Control Division~~ approval and subject to all district regulations applicable to lots within the District wherein the lot is located with the exception of lot size and/or frontage.

Existing Section 411.00 Accessory Dwelling Units, in relevant part, reads as follows:

411.00 Accessory Dwelling Units (*Deleted 3/13/18*) (*Recodify 3/16/19*) (*Updated 9/22/21*)

- 1) **An Accessory Dwelling Unit** shall be allowed as a matter of right by the Building Inspector pursuant to RSA 674:21 in all zoning districts that permit single family dwellings.

Amend Section 411.00 to read as follows (language to be added shown in ***bold italics***, language to be removed shown in **bold strikeout**):

411.00 Accessory Dwelling Units (*Deleted 3/13/18*) (*Recodify 3/16/19*) (*Updated 9/22/21*)

- 1) **An Accessory Dwelling Unit** shall be allowed as a matter of right by the Building Inspector pursuant to RSA ~~674:21~~ ***674.71 and 674:72*** in all zoning districts that permit single family dwellings.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article (Majority Vote Required)

YES 201 NO 77 Article Passes

Article 3: Zoning Amendment Add Definitions

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 200, Definitions, to include definitions for Campgrounds, Child Day Care, Building Height, and Schools.

New sections 200.30, 200.31, 200.32 and 200.33 to read as follows:

200.30 **Campground** means and includes but is not limited to a travel trailer camp, recreation camp, family campground, camping resort, camping community, or any other area, place, parcel, or tract of land, by whatever name called, on which three or more campsites are occupied or intended for occupancy, or facilities are established or maintained, wholly or in part, for the accommodation of camping units for periods of overnight or longer, whether the use of the campsites and facilities is granted in conjunction with other recreational activities, or by rental fee, lease, or conditional sale, or by covenants, restrictions, and easements, including any travel trailer camp, recreation camp, family campground, camping resort, or camping community. "Campground" does not include a recreation camp as defined in RSA 170-E:55 I.

200.31 **Child Day Care**: All childcare facilities shall comply with the requirements of this Section as well as the provisions of RSA 170-E, Child Day Care, Residential Care, and

Child-placing Agencies, whether a principal stand-alone facility or accessory to a residence or business.

200.32 ***Height:*** The height of a building or structure shall mean the vertical distance from the lowest ground elevation adjacent to the building to the highest point of the building or structure, excluding chimneys, antennas, cupolas or other such appurtenances.

200.33 ***School*** means any public, nonpublic or public charter elementary, secondary, or secondary vocational-technical school in New Hampshire. It shall not include home schools under RSA 193-A.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 216 NO 100 Article Passes

Article 4: Zoning Amendment Table of Dimensional Requirements

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Create a new section 301.00 to consolidate the relevant district requirements into a new Table of Dimensional Requirements. Amended sections 502.00, 602.00, 702.00, 802.00 & 902.00 to reference the table in section 301.00.

New section 301.00 to read as follows:

301.00 Table of Minimum Dimensional Requirements

	Village District (V)	Light Industrial District (LI) ^b	Rural Lands One District (RL1) ^b	Rural Lands Two District (RL2)	Rural Lands Three District (RL3)
Area (Acres)	2 ^c	2 ^c	2 ^c	5 ^c	10 ^c
Continuous Frontage (ft)	150	250	250	500	500
Setbacks (ft)					
Front	35	50	50	50	50
Side	35	50	50	50	50
Rear	35	50	50	50	50
Setbacks – lots less than 5 acres (ft)^a					
Front			50		
Side			35		
Rear			35		

Notes:

- a. Applies to Rural Lands One District (RL1) only
- b. See Section 408.00 Soil Based Zoning Requirements (Overlay District) (3/18/00) (3/16/19) for additional acreage and frontage requirements.
- c. Minimum of 2 acres contiguous dry land undivided by wetland, pond, or drainage way.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 218 NO 110 Article Passes

Article 5: Zoning Amendment Wetlands Buffer

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Section 1000.00, Wetland Districts, to include a 50-foot buffer requirement.

Existing Section 1000.00 reads as follows:

1000.00 WETLANDS DISTRICT

The purpose of the Wetlands District is to guide the use of areas of land with extended periods of high-water tables to:

- a. prevent development of structures and land uses on naturally occurring wetlands which would contribute to the pollution of surface and ground water by sewage;
- b. prevent the destruction of natural wetlands which provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies and augment stream flows during dry periods;
- c. prevent unnecessary or excessive expenses to the Town to provide and maintain essential services and utilities which arise because of inharmonious use of wetlands.

1000.01 District Boundaries.

The Wetland District encompasses all areas identified and delineated as poorly and very poorly drained soils by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in the Soil Survey of Hillsborough County New Hampshire, Western Part, dated October 1985, and any areas delineated as wetlands on a site specific basis using the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987 in conjunction with the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, May 1995. The Wetland District is show on the Town of Lyndeborough Wetlands District Map on file with the Town Clerk and the Planning Board. In the event that an area is incorrectly designated as being poorly or very poorly drained soil on the Wetland District Map and evidence to that effect is satisfactorily presented to the Building Inspector, the restrictions in this section shall not apply. If an area as defined, is in dispute, it shall be resolved utilizing an on-site wetland delineation. All on site wetland delineation shall be conducted by a certified soil scientist.

The Wetland District is an overlay district. In all cases where the Wetland District is superimposed over another district in the Town of Lyndeborough, the more restrictive regulations shall apply.

1001.00 Permitted Uses. (3/16/19)

Any of the following uses which are permitted by NH DES are also permitted by this Ordinance.

- a. Forestry operations and management in accordance with best management practices;
- b. Agriculture in accordance with agricultural best management practices;
- c. Water impoundments and wells;
- d. Drainage ways - streams, ditches or other paths of normal water runoff;
- e. Wildlife refuges;
- f. Parks and recreation uses consistent with the purpose and intent of this Ordinance;
- g. Conservation areas and nature trails; and
- h. Open space as permitted by the Subdivision Regulations and other sections of this ordinance.

1002.00 Special Exceptions.

The following uses may be permitted as special exceptions by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Prior to the granting of a special exception, the Zoning Board shall refer the application to the Planning Board, the Health Officer and the Conservation Commission for review and comment prior to the public hearing. Lack of response from any of these parties within 30 days implies consent to the application. Construction of any uses permitted by special exception shall minimize the detrimental impact of the use on the wetland.

- a. Streets, roads and other access ways;
- b. Utility right-of-way easements including power lines and pipelines if essential to the productive use of land not in the Wetland District;
- c. A use not otherwise permitted in the Wetland District, including the erection of a structure, dredging, draining or otherwise altering the configuration of the land, if it can be shown that the proposed use is not in conflict with the purpose and intent of this section and if the proposed use is otherwise permitted by the by the Zoning Ordinance. Proper evidence of this shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Board and is subject to review by the Hillsborough County Conservation District to determine the effect of the proposed use on the wetlands in question.

Amend Section 1000.00 to read as follows (language to be added shown in ***bold italics***, language to be removed shown in **~~bold strikeout~~**):

1000.00 WETLANDS DISTRICT

The purpose of the Wetlands District is to guide the use of areas of land with extended periods of high-water tables to:

- a. prevent development of structures and land uses on naturally occurring wetlands which would contribute to the pollution of surface and ground water by sewage;
- b. prevent the destruction of natural wetlands which provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies and augment stream flows during dry periods;

- c. prevent unnecessary or excessive expenses to the Town to provide and maintain essential services and utilities which arise because of inharmonious use of wetlands.

1000.01 District Boundaries.

The Wetland District encompasses all areas identified and delineated ~~as poorly and very poorly drained soils by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in the Soil Survey of Hillsborough County New Hampshire, Western Part, dated October 1985, on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) layer available on the NHGRANIT website~~, and any areas delineated as wetlands on a site specific basis using the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987 in conjunction with the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, May 1995, *as amended*. ~~The Wetland District is show on the Town of Lyndeborough Wetlands District Map on file with the Town Clerk and the Planning Board. In the event that an area is incorrectly designated as being poorly or very poorly drained soil on the Wetland District Map and evidence to that effect is satisfactorily presented to the Building Inspector, the restrictions in this section shall not apply.~~ All on site wetland delineation shall be conducted by a certified ~~soil~~ wetland scientist.

The Wetland District is an overlay district. In all cases where the Wetland District is superimposed over another district in the Town of Lyndeborough, the more restrictive regulations shall apply.

1000.02 Buffers Required

- a. *A vegetated wetlands buffer shall be maintained within 50' beyond the wetlands district as defined in 1000.01.*
- b. *Permitted uses are defined in 1001.00.*
- c. *Structures existing within the buffer prior to March 12, 2022 may be replaced and or rebuilt providing there is no additional impact to the wetland buffer, except as allowed under 1002.00.*

1001.00 Permitted Uses. (3/16/19)

Any of the following uses that require a permit by NH DES are also permitted by this Ordinance.

- a. Forestry operations and management in accordance with best management practices;
- b. Agriculture in accordance with agricultural best management practices;
- c. Water impoundments and wells;
- d. Drainage ways - streams, ditches or other paths of normal water runoff;

- e. Wildlife refuges;
- f. Parks and recreation uses consistent with the purpose and intent of this Ordinance;
- g. Conservation areas and nature trails; and
- h. Open space as permitted by the Subdivision Regulations and other sections of this Ordinance.

1002.00 Special Exceptions.

The following uses may be permitted as special exceptions by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Prior to the granting of a special exception, the Zoning Board shall refer the application to the Planning Board, the Health Officer and the Conservation Commission for review and comment prior to the public hearing. Lack of response from any of these parties within 30 days implies consent to the application.

Construction of any uses permitted by special exception shall minimize the detrimental impact of the use on the wetland.

- a. Streets, roads and other access ways;
- b. Utility right-of-way easements including power lines and pipelines if essential to the productive use of land not in the Wetland District;
- c. A use not otherwise permitted in the Wetland District, including the erection of a structure, dredging, draining or otherwise altering the configuration of the land, if it can be shown that the proposed use is not in conflict with the purpose and intent of this section and if the proposed use is otherwise permitted by the by the Zoning Ordinance. Proper evidence of this shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Board and is subject to review by the Hillsborough County Conservation District to determine the effect of the proposed use on the wetlands in question.
- d. Accessory uses within the Wetlands Buffer District as defined in 200.04.*
- e. Expansion of an existing structure built prior to March 12, 2022, where there is no reasonable option to expand outside of the wetland buffer district.*
- f. Erection of a structure partially or fully within the wetland buffer district on a wetlands district non-conforming vacant lot, provided the lot was on record at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds as of March 12, 2022, and that the structure cannot feasibly be built on a portion of the lot which is outside of the buffer district. In any case, no part of the structure shall be built within 25 feet of a wetland.*

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 204 NO 120 Article Passes

Article 6: Zoning Amendment Table of Permitted Uses

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Create a new Subsection 302.00 to summarize relevant uses into a new Table of Permitted Uses to read as follows:

Table of Permitted Uses					
Use	V	RL1	RL2	RL3	L1
Single Family dwelling	P	P	P	P	N
Two Family Dwelling	SE	SE	SE	N	N
Manufactured Housing	N	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	N
Seasonal Dwellings such as hunting and fishing camps	N	P ²	P ²	P ²	N
Bed & Breakfast	SE	SE	SE	N	N
Home Occupation	P ³	P ³	P ³	P ³	N
Home Business	P ³	P ³	P ³	P ³	N
Agricultural operations	P	P	P	P	N
Forestry operations and management	N	P	P	P	N
Outdoor Recreation uses and facilities	N	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴	N
Municipal, government or postal offices and facilities	P	P	P	P	P
Schools	SE	N	N	N	N
Daycare	SE	N	N	N	N
Utility structures	P ⁵	N	N	N	P ⁵
Houses of worship	P	P	P	P	SE
Public Assembly Halls	N	N	N	N	SE
Banks	P	N	N	N	P
Professional offices	P	N	N	N	P
Retail stores	P	N	N	N	P
Personal services	SE	N	N	N	P ⁶
Restaurants	P	N	N	N	N
Automobile Service Stations	SE	N	N	N	SE
Vehicular sales and repair facilities	N	N	N	N	SE
Contractor Yards	N	N	N	N	SE
Light manufacturing	N	N	N	N	P
Research and/or testing facilities	N	N	N	N	P
Newspaper and printing facilities	N	N	N	N	P
Warehouses	N	N	N	N	P

P – Permitted

SE - Special Exception

N- Not Permitted in District

Use Notes

1. Greater than 400 square feet in size on a masonry foundation with skirting.
2. Not including wheeled recreational vehicles, and not to be considered as a permanent residence.
3. In compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations.
4. Including, but not limited to, golf courses, cross-country ski areas, riding stables, but excluding campgrounds.
 To include a provision that no use allowed under this section shall:
 - a. Adversely affect abutting property values; or
 - b. Result in increased noise beyond property lines over and above that normally associated with residential
 - c. uses allowed in the district; or
 - d. Be a health hazard; or
 - e. Be a nuisance to abutting properties.

Uses allowed under this section will be subject to site plan review and approval by the Planning Board.

5. Electric, Telecommunications facilities less than 200 square feet in area
6. Including, but not limited to, service or repair of jewelry, appliances or other personal or household items, photography studios, beauty/barber shops, and tailors.
7. An attached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is allowed in all districts that permit single family dwellings.
8. In the event that any inconsistencies or ambiguities are found, the provisions in the text of each applicable section of the Zoning Ordinance shall take precedence over the Table of Permitted Uses.
9. The Planning Board is authorized to update the Table of Permitted Uses to reflect amendments to the uses permitted in each district as reflected in the text.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 205 NO 116 Article Passes

Article 7: Zoning Amendment Expiration of Variances and Special Exceptions

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Create a new Section 1401.00 to provide that Variances and Special Exceptions granted on or after August 19, 2013, shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from the date of final approval.

New Section 1401.00 to read as follows:

1401.00 Expiration of Variances and Special Exception

- 1) As authorized by State of NH RSA 674:33.I-a, Variances granted on or after August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from the date of final approval, or as further extended by local ordinance or the zoning board of adjustment for good cause, provided that no such variance shall expire within 6 months after the resolution of a planning board application filed in reliance upon the variance. Variances granted before August 19, 2013, shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from March 20, 2024.
- 2) As authorized by State of NH RSA 674:33.IV, Special Exceptions granted on or after August 19, 2013, shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from the date of final approval. Special Exceptions granted before August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from March 20, 2024.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 195 NO 109 Article Passes

Article 8: Zoning Amendment Amend Setback Requirements

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend Sections 502.03, 702.03, 802.03 and 902.03 to provide that septic systems, wells, swimming pools, antennas, satellite dishes, solar panels, and other similar structures are not permitted within a setback area.

Existing Sections 502.03, 702.03, 802.03 and 902.03 read as follows:

Setbacks. All structures must be set back a minimum of [35 or 50] feet from the front, side and rear lot lines. No buildings requiring a building permit or associated uses, including but not limited to swimming pools, antennas and satellite dishes, are permitted in the setback.

Amend Sections 502.03, 702.03, 802.03 and 902.03 read as follows:

Setbacks. No buildings requiring a building permit and associated uses including but not limited to septic leach field/sand mound, distribution box, tank, 4k box, wells, swimming pools, antennas, satellite dishes, solar panels, temporary structures/buildings, and recreational vehicles are permitted in the setback. Well radii must be located entirely within the subject parcel.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

YES 175 NO 146 Article Passes

Article 9: Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of, **Two Million Four Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen Dollars (\$2,486,615)**, representing the Operating Budget for fiscal year 2023, as prepared by the Budget Committee. Said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or to take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Budget Chairman Karen Grybko will speak to the budget.

Budget Chair Karen Grybko: Spoke about the budget for this year to be flat. Explained the budget process beginning with the Town Administrator. He works with the Department Heads, the Fire Department, the Police Department, Historic Commission and Conservation Commission. Everybody that presents a budget to the committee. It is then reviewed by the Selectmen before it is presented to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee's goal is to present the budget that provides funds to effectively run the Town government. It has two major categories, the operating budget and the Warrant Articles. The operating budget consists of day to day expenses, supplies, salaries. As far as the Highway Department goes, sand, salt, culverts, road supplies, everything they need to run their Department. The Warrant Articles are for large expenses that we either budget or one-time large expenses like the Stone Arch Bridge. Basically, that is the two parts of the budget. At the Town Meeting the voters may increase the budget by a maximum of 10 percent and you can vote to decrease our suggested budget by any amount. The operating budget is up 3.3 percent which is an increase of about eighty thousand dollars. The Ambulance Service decreased by almost fifty percent. The Warrant Articles totaled this year \$139,750 Dollars and the Selectmen voted to fund \$103,500 Dollars from the unreserved undesignated fund balance. It left a balance of \$36,250 Dollars to be raised by taxes. With all of that the Budget actually decreased 1.8 percent, so I would like to say that it is basically just flat.

Bill Andersen: I would like to get back to the Ambulance service. A \$58,829-dollar number. What is the back story about that. One of my concerns is, are we losing service?

Selectman Fred Douglas: This current Board along with the Town Administrator has had concerns with the Ambulance service in Wilton which was originally the Wilton Lyndeborough Ambulance service and its budgetary documents coming forward over the past two or three years. We have voiced our concerns over the last two or three years. The numbers did not or weren't prepared properly and we would find out later that there were some adjustments being made, it just wasn't being addressed properly. They hired a new Director, that Director has been steadfast in changing things down there. Keeping us informed. Doing monthly reports to this Board and she had done an excellent job. As a result of her going through the entire process which we had concerns for in the last two or three years, you see the reduction. So, I would say to you that the Town Administrator and this Board were correct in the last two or three years. I don't see where the services have been depleted at all. The response time is good, the service is good ever since this new Director took this over and we don't have any concerns at this point.

John Pomer Budget Committee Member: The budget committee's job is to make sure we have a budget that the Town can work with. There is one point that came through that the budget committee didn't want to fund to that certain level. One of the members said how can I explain this to the voters to do this increase. I just want to make sure the voters have a chance to hear this and what the reasons behind it were. This has to go to the health insurance benefits for the Town members. As we all know health benefits are good but if anybody has been looking at the benefits given to other towns around here or other companies and businesses around the area, they found out that there's increasing amount to give 100 percent compensation on the health insurance. We have been giving 80 percent and during our discussions, first of all the budget came to us from the Selectmen's at 100 percent which means they saw some value to this. But, wanted the Budget Committee to review it. Through our discussions it went from 100 to 90 to 85, which is what it is right now. The rationale was, how can we explain this increase to the voters and if they already got some other compensations but as you all know that anybody on Social Security got almost 9 percent cost of living increase. If you add in all the increases that the employees have gotten it is close to the 9 percent. Different explanations or compensations were described, one of them was, we should give them pizza dinners every once in awhile because the workers would enjoy having that. But that is not the money that goes into feeding my family or pays my bills. What we want to do is properly compensate our employees for the work they do and if you look at our budget you see that our town employees have done an extremely good job of keeping the cost of everything down so we could have as close to a flat budget as possible. I know that when people look at things and see what other options they may have in life, even though Lyndeborough is a nice place to work they can have different opportunities. I know of some people who have changed jobs because of that and it is very possible it will be some of our town employees who may want to go. If we lose those employees it will probably end up being the ones who are most experienced, the ones we want to keep. What I am proposing here is that we restore the health insurance level up to 100 percent. **I want to put forth a motion for an Amendment to the Budget to include \$30,527.82 to fund 100 percent Health Insurance.** Second by Jonathan Lavoie.

Tatiana Franko: How many employees does this cover?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: Seven.

Karen Grybko: I just want to say that the Budget Committee discussed this for quite a long time. We were talking about a responsible budget, we were talking about people's pocketbooks, we were talking about the cost of fuel. We talked about the town employees and we gave them a 2 percent cost of living plus up to 4 percent merit increase so a potential of a 6 percent salary increase this year. Previously the town paid 80 percent of their health insurance and we thought that 100 percent

was a lot and the Selectmen kind of backed down and agreed that they would like to ask for 90 percent and we compromised on let's do 85 percent this year and we will revisit it next year. We didn't say no, we just thought that it was a pretty big leap to take for one year so that was why we recommended 85 percent plus a 6 percent salary increase.

John Pomer: Yes, we did have a discussion, the vote was a majority vote to go to the 85 percent. But, it was not unanimous. The important thing that I want to make sure the voters get to hear what is going on for this one thing and how it affects our employees and how it can actually keep our employees around rather than have them go. The percent increase is within what the cost of living allowance is on the national scale. I have been in budget committees in other locations saying yes, we can't give it to you today but we will give it to you later. That later seems to always be pushed down the road. Let's go ahead and do the right thing instead of offering trinkets such as pizza dinners that would satisfy everybody. I feel strongly about this; health benefits are very important to everybody. Here is a chance for you to say, do you believe that giving that extra money instead of taking the money away from our employees to pay the benefits, give them that little bit extra to take care of their family and their needs. It is a chance for you to go ahead and say which side you want to be on.

Alyssa Lavoie: Just a couple of points of clarification. I was in the meetings as well and it could have been one that I had missed but I know during the discussions of the health benefits I'm not as aware of the emphasis put on these pizza dinners as part of the benefits. The other point just to make sure everybody is aware in terms of how this works and this was discussed as well. The Budget Committee doesn't actually dictate what the percentage of the insurance benefits is going to be paid by the Town. All we do is we provide discussion as theoretical in terms of where we get to a final number. The Selectmen can take the budget and apply it as they see fit. Although we voted as a budget committee to fund what would equal an 85 percent paid benefit the Selectmen could make an adjustment to the budget to provide what it is that they see as the priority as well. This motion is raising it by thirty thousand dollars with the intent of benefits. It is a bottom line budget so it is how the Selectmen see fit so everybody understands there is no definitive piece that the Budget Committee defines how much.

Selectman Fred Douglas: Mr. Moderator I would like pose a question to our Town Administrator to make this simplified. On a hundred-thousand-dollar valuation of a home what is this increase going to be per one hundred thousand dollars of the tax base?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: It is fourteen cents per thousand.

Selectman Fred Douglas: So that you understand the impact, so every thousand dollars you are going to pay fourteen cents on this.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: The average home in Lyndeborough is three hundred and nine thousand and fifty dollars. So, let's call it 309, times fourteen cents is forty six dollars and six cents. For this component that is being discussed.

Fran Bujak: As a lot of you know I have spent a lot of time over at the school. A lot of people like to try and separate the two and think we live in a bubble over here but the employees over at the school are paid only by Wilton and Lyndeborough. Although we choose not to call them school town employees. One of the discussions during our Budget Committee meetings was the teachers which make up a large portion of that group over there are going to be in contract negotiations in the Fall in which a couple of things will happen. They also get paid eighty percent health insurance benefits. If we raise our health insurance benefits up to a hundred percent we can guess that they will ask for something similar, especially if we are using the justification that our employees are leaving or potentially would leave our Town to go to other places for better benefits. The school

district is already having a significantly bigger problem with the younger work force and the smaller pay compared to other districts over there retaining the new employees over there. So, we will put ourselves in a position in the Fall to either not come to contract agreement which will cause even a bigger problem for the school district to hire people or we will strap ourselves with a twenty percent increase of health insurance benefits or somewhat similar to that for a larger number of employees than this of which we only pay thirty percent but still it will be a significant amount. So, one of the concerns, and Lyndeborough has never been a Town that has been in a position to pay the best of the best. As Alyssa said and I think Karen said earlier the Budget Committee is not against looking at fazing in up to a hundred percent and also, I do want to remind you that the eighty percent number would put us in line with what Wilton is paying their employees right now.

Moderator Walter Holland: We have discussion here for the amendment to increase the budget. Any other discussion, comments about this. Are you ready for the Amendment?

The Amendment is: To see if the Town will increase the Budget by thirty thousand five hundred twenty-seven dollars eighty-two cents which will increase the benefits for seven Town employees from eighty five percent to one hundred percent benefits for their health insurance. All those in favor of this Amendment signify by saying Aye, All those opposed signify by saying Nay. Too close to tell. We need to raise your ballot cards. All those in favor signify by raising your ballot card, All those opposed signify by raising your ballot card. **The results are we had Yea's of 20 and Nays of 23. The Amendment does not pass.** We are back to the original operating budget again. Any other questions on the operating budget?

Ray Humphreys: Can the budget committee explain the sixty percent change in the Direct Assistance cost from 2022 to 2023?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: I am also the Welfare Director and that is what that is. We only had a couple of cases last year but they were very complicated and very expensive. One of our jobs is to try to predict the future. We have no choice in this. If we have welfare cases to come in we can't say sorry we have hit our threshold on the budget. It would come out of other budgets. We are very compassionate but we follow the guidelines and we just felt that it would be prudent to increase this line from twelve five to twenty thousand. Yes, it is sixty percent but when you are talking smaller numbers obviously just a little movement percentage wise increase's it. Under the RSA that governs welfare we have no choice. If the person qualifies we can't say sorry we have exhausted all the money for this year. We only had two cases but they were very expensive and very complicated and that seems to be a trend we are facing. So that is the reason why you see that increase.

Ray Humphreys: So, it is a contingency not a true spend.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: I hope we don't spend any of it but our indications are trendline for welfare has been that we may exhaust that money. I have to emphasize the fact that when a person comes in in need, we can't say sorry we have exhausted the budget. We have to over expend that budget which comes from somewhere else.

Moderator Walter Holland: Ready for the question? Read Article 9. All those in favor of this Article signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. The Ayes have it. **Article 9 Passes**

Article 10: Capital Reserve Fund Change of Purpose

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote, pursuant RSA 35:16, to change the purpose of the existing **Repair and Replacement of the 1994 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund**

to **Repair and Replacement of the 1997 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund**; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (2/3 Vote Required.)*

Selectmen Robert Howe moved Article 10 as read, Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: As you know we had a major pump failure in our 94 engine. The Fire Department and staff went to work particularly to make sure we could do it so we contacted the Department of Revenue Administration, our Town Auditor and our Town Attorney and we were given the green light to do this. The Fire Department did a great job finding this truck and from the time the Fire Department recognized the pump failure to the time it was put in service, the new used vehicle, was I believe less than thirty days, which was incredible. It was also an incredible savings to the Town versus what it would cost to buy a new truck. This is to change the title in the CIP and we will need a two-thirds vote to do that so I would ask Mr. Moderator that we get a number.

Bob Newton: I would like to commend and applaud the members of the Fire Department and the members of the Town Administration for the extraordinary action that they took to save the Town a great deal of money and to solve a very serious problem with our fire truck. Not every Town has people with the creativity and initiative to pull off a deal like this. I think we owe them a show of thanks and praise the excellent job that they did and I would just add that our people in the Town Government and in the Departments whether they are paid or volunteer continually do extraordinary things like this in order to save the Town money and we are very lucky to have the team that we have running our Town Government.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 10. Raise your card if you vote Yes. Raise your card if you vote No. **Yes 49 No 0 Article 10 Passes**

Article 11: Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**, previously established for that purpose; or to take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Burton Reynolds: (Chairman of Capital Improvements Plan) Spoke to Article. Almost 40-year anniversary of having a CIP. Explained the history of the CIP.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions on this Article. Read Article 11. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 11 Passes**

Article 12: Police Vehicle

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$10,250)** to partially defray the cost of the replacement of the 2018 AWD Ford Police Vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2024, or until the vehicle is replaced, whichever is sooner; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 12. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 12 Passes**

Article 13: 2022 One-Ton Truck Capital Reserve Fund

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 **Repair and Replacement of the 2022 One-Ton Truck Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Robert Howe to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 13. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 13 Passes**

Article 14: 2016 Mid-Size Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2016 Mid-Size Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 13. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 14 Passes**

Article 15: Capital Reserve Fund Change of Purpose

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote, pursuant RSA 35:16, to change the purpose of the existing **Repair and Replacement of the Backhoe / Loader Capital Reserve Fund** to **Repair and Replacement of the Loader Capital Reserve Fund**; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (2/3 Vote Required.)*

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 15. Raise your card if you vote Yes. Raise your card if you vote No. **Yes 46 No 0 Article 15 Passes**

Article 16: Loader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the Loader Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. The passage of this article is contingent on

the passage of Article 15. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Robert Howe to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 16. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 16 Passes**

Article 17: 2018 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund (Ten-Wheeler)

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2018 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 17. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 17 Passes**

Article 18: 2008 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$22,500)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2008 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 18. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 18 Passes**

Article 19: 2020 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2020 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Robert Howe to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? Read Article 19. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 19 Passes**

Article 20: Existing Municipal Building Infrastructure Repair

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough, will vote to raise and appropriate **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the **Existing Municipal Building Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen are Agents to Expend from this Capital Reserve Fund. *Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee unanimously recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: Just briefly, with this fund would be used for and the Selectmen have the authority to expend from this fund would be for unanticipated events such as a furnace or something catastrophic that we didn't see coming and we couldn't plan for. Currently there is ten thousand four hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty-nine cents in there so this brings us slightly over twenty thousand dollars. My recommendation moving forward is the fund would be sufficiently funded. That is what it would be used for. Things we just can't think of and plan for.

Moderator Walter Holland: Read Article 20. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 20 Passes**

Article 21: Engineering Study of the Old Temple Road Stone Arch Bridge

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough, will vote to raise and appropriate **Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000)** to conduct an engineering study of the closed stone arch bridge located on Old Temple Road as recommended by the Heritage Commission. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2025, or until the project is complete, whichever is sooner; or take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this Article and Budget Committee does not recommend this Article (4-4-0). (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Is there someone who would like to explain what this is going to do for us.

Stephanie Roper: The Heritage Commission, we want to make sure that these bridges get looked at to see whether they need anything done to them. If we get this engineering study, which will cost about six thousand dollars, we can get grants to fund them. One thing about these bridges, they are very unusual, they are unique because you normally don't get double stone arch bridges that are two different sizes. Usually they are symmetrical. So, this is a very unique situation. They were built in 1873 for a bridge over a dam. They were taken over by the Town in 1893 and they were used till 2003. They are very rare, they are unique and they are part of Lyndeborough's heritage. We want to make sure that they don't collapse. We have so many other things that we don't have anymore. The Glass Factory, the Pinnacle House, things like that. We are trying to save as many as possible. What we are planning on doing is making it more clearly into a park so that everyone can enjoy it. The Highway Department did a great job of cleaning off the area last summer and we are hoping to put a picnic table out there so people can enjoy it and look at them.

We are going to have a sign built that explains them. You can't go for any grants unless you have the engineering study. So, this is just for the engineering study. This is for the full engineering study, we could have gotten the cheaper version but you can't use that for the grants. The six thousand dollars is money well spent in that way.

Andy Roeper: Can you tell us about the firm that you are looking at to do this study?

Jessie Salisbury: I have been a member of the Heritage Commission since it was established around twenty years ago. The last time the bridges were evaluated was by Bud McEntee. Which was done when we decided to bypass them which was maybe twenty years ago. When the Heritage Commission decided that we should do this I did enquire of the McEntee's and they do not do that sort of thing. What I did was talk with the Wilton Town Administrator because they had just gone through the process of hiring a consultant for one of their stone arch bridges and learned that people who can do this sort of thing are extremely rare. They chose a firm in Brattleboro Vermont which is the one we contacted with. I did find another one in Connecticut but I did not talk with them. Wilton was very happy with the work they did for them. They are willing to come to Lyndeborough which other people are not and that is what we have decided to do. I would like your support for saving some really beautiful architecture.

Bob Newton: I would like some clarification on the grant possibility for this. Is there a chance that a grant would cover the six thousand dollars as well as any potential repairs to the bridge or is it only repairs to the bridge after we spent the six?

Jessie Salisbury: We have to do the study.

Mike Kaelin: How big are the grants we could possibly get?

Jessie Salisbury: We do not know yet. We can't apply for a grant until we know what we are asking for a grant for and we don't know what if anything needs to be done to the bridges.

Lisa Post: Will there be parking for people?

Jessie Salisbury: There is parking.

Hunter Mills: For this engineering is this just to make sure the bridge is going to stay standing so people can walk across it or is this just a temporary thing so if the bridge does decide to collapse.

Jessie Salisbury: Right now, the bridge is fine and you can walk across it anytime you want.

Hunter Mills: For future though, for the engineering it's just to make sure that the bridge is going to last.

Karen Grybko: I heard about grants available, are they matching grants or will they cover the whole cost and if they are matching grants where is the matching money going to come from.

Jessie Salisbury: We don't know until we look into what is available when we need something. If it is a matching grant the Heritage Commission may have funds for that.

Alyssa Lavoie: So, it brings up a good question, it looks like its in good shape there is no active concerns. For some of the grants that you have been looking at, this study that we do. If we do it now, but there is nothing needed now and in five or ten years is when we potentially start to see some deterioration where we need work. Will the study that is done now hold up or will we need to redo the study for these grants. Is there any expiration date on the study?

Jessie Salisbury: We won't know any of that until we talk with the architect.

Stephanie Roper: I don't know the answer to that but I think it's five years, but I'm not sure. It's not the grant it's the engineering study I think is good for five years.

Hunter Mills: What do we do if the engineering study says the bridge can't be fixed or anything like that.

Jessie Salisbury: Cross that bridge when we come to it.

Stephanie Roper: We want to do the study to find out how they look. To see whether they are in good stead or not. Actually, Leo was the one who took the pictures and he would have a better way to explain this. But, we want to be able to know what we can do.

Leo Trudeau: I stood underneath the largest arch over there. It's fabulous. I don't think it's in any danger of collapsing anytime soon. I did not stand under the smaller one because I couldn't get really underneath it. The stonework that is under there is incredible and to realize when you are standing there looking up at it there is no mortar involved and they are all held in place by the pressure of the arch itself and the design. Lyndeborough doesn't have many of its historic structures left and it's just in the name of Heritage and in the name of preservation of it all. It's really short money to study by a professional group to see where it is at. To get an outside entity that says this is where the things at. It really is worth it. I don't see it coming down anytime soon but I'm not that professional. To be standing underneath them is wonderful, to have a little park there, to have a table, to listen to the water. Yes, it's close to the road, there's going to be some traffic on the roadway but it's a neat little spot.

Mike Kaelin: Is there a safety or liability issue?

Leo Trudeau: About standing underneath them or enjoying them as a Park. Enjoying them as a Park you are not in the traffic of the roadway at all. There is going to be plenty of parking for people that want to stop and visit it. Is there a liability issue? I suppose there is a liability issue if I walk down to the Village Store to get a sandwich. I don't have maybe the answer you need on that one.

Duane Forleo: Can it be in the program with the snowmobile trails association where the liability falls under the State protection? Just like somebody getting hurt on your property that you have opened up for a trail. Is it something worth to explore?

Leo Trudeau: Perhaps, why don't you come to a Heritage Commission meeting and talk about it.

Duane Forleo: It was just a point of conversation and I personally would like to donate a thousand dollars to the cause which five thousand dollars would probably be needed to pass the bill.

Jim Curtis: I will do the same thing, I will donate a thousand dollars too.

Moderator Walter Holland: That is wonderful, thank you so much. We need to preserve what we can around Town.

Jonathan Lavoie: The gentleman had a question about the snowmobile trail and how that works. New Hampshire is a zero liability State but I believe this would be a piece of Town property. What he was mentioning the liability insurance from the State would only fall under private property I believe.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 21. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 21 Passes**

Article 22: Readopt War Veterans Property Tax Credit .

Shall the Town of Lyndeborough readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500? *The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Robert Howe to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: If we don't readopt it because of Legislation that passed this year it would revert back to fifty dollars. It was a modification to the Legislation that allows existing people who are serving to get this credit also. So, if you vote to not readopt it would revert

back to the minimum which is fifty dollars. That is why we put it on here for re-adoption so nothing would change.

Ray Humphreys: You said currently active and Veterans.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: That is correct. So, if they are currently active and served during the time periods that are described in the Legislation then they would be able to get the credit also.

Mike Kaelin: How many Veterans do we think can access this and how many have we had?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: I don't know how many it would add to. About twenty.

Selectman Fred Douglas: I want the forum to know that this is not something specific to Lyndeborough. Every Town has this on there Warrant Articles this year for the Veterans, you have to re-adopt it. Almost like a housekeeping issue, if you don't want it you vote it down.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 22. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 22 Passes**

Article 23: Allowing KENO in Lyndeborough

To see if the Town will vote to allow the operation of KENO within the Town of Lyndeborough pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 284:41 through 51. Shall we allow the operation of KENO games within the Town? or take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this Article. (Ballot vote required.)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Moderator Walter Holland: Mr. Boland can you speak to this.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: Earlier in the year we were approached by the owner of the Village Store asking that we adopt Keno so he would be able to have Keno down at the store. We are joined today by a representative from the State Lottery Commission to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. The Board of Selectman unanimously approved of this. We were asked by the Village Store if we would bring this forward.

Selectman Fred Douglas: When the original request came in I was spoken to by the owner and what he is just trying to do is keep that store alive. It is not critical but that is what he wanted. We were all supportive of that.

Andy Roeper: Can we get a basic explanation and what the heck is Keno and does the Town get a commission on this and so forth.

Charlie McIntyre: Good Morning everyone, I'm Charlie McIntyre, I have the privilege of being the Director of the NH Lottery and have been for the last thirteen years. Keno is essentially like a draw game, so if you Powerball, which I hope you have, we draw twenty numbers out of a field of eighty numbers. Based on those twenty numbers we draw you can bet three or four of your numbers will match that bunch. Under the original law Keno needed to be approved by the citizens of each Town or City before it was sold. The heritage being that in 1964 every City or Town when the Lottery was first introduced had to approve it. Twenty-two Cities and Towns said no, most of them forgot they did and approved Lottery ultimately somewhere in the 70's or 80's. The reason that it needed to be approved by the Cities or Towns was there was a screen involved and it was only in Bars and Taverns. That is no longer the case it is now sold in Stores, but in the Stores, there is no screen. I can tell you that if you didn't know it was being sold there you wouldn't know it was being sold there. It looks like a Powerball transaction. As you may or may not know all of our money goes to fund Education. I don't know the exact amount to Lyndeborough is but we fund about twenty percent of the adequacy grants of the State. Our revenue this year will exceed a

hundred and seventy million dollars to Education. It is one of the reasons we don't have an Income Tax. Keno, the payout is around sixty-nine cents so the winning is sixty-nine cents so one of the benefits to it is we have engineered it to avoid the taxes. Most of the prizes are below six hundred dollars so there is no taxes taken out. That is purely by accident. The most frequent win is a hundred dollars which ends up going back to the Store as more purchases. About eight cents goes to the store for selling the product. We keep about nineteen cents; the remainder is administrative costs. It is approved in I think it is 92 Cities and Towns in the State and Unincorporated Townships. So, there is 220 in the State. There is about 90 that do not have a store. Previously there was not a Licensee in Lyndeborough that would qualify which is why we weren't here. There were issues related to crime which didn't pan out, I'm an ex prosecutor, so I know crime pretty well. Manchester voted immediately, Nashua voted immediately, some oppose it because it doesn't get them an income tax. There are certain communities that believe an income tax should happen and that gambling revenues stop that. There will not be a monitor in the store. You would likely buy a ticket, walk out of the store and go home. That is the most common result.

Jonathan Lavoie: Seeing that we already allow them to sell gambling tickets and everything else at the store I would like to move the question.

Bill Andersen: Is there a mechanism by which some future annual meeting can turn around whatever decision is made today. I understand it has been placed in front of a number of Boards multiple times when there is a no vote. Is there any situation by which if vote is no, no, yes can there be then another no and prevent that happening?

Charlie McIntyre: I don't know the answer to that. That is a voting question. It hasn't happened to my knowledge yet so I don't know what would be the result.

Bill Andersen: So, it is possible that any decision made today to affirm this would be a permanent decision.

Charlie McIntyre: I don't know the answer to that. I mean certainly we respect the wishes of the Cities and Towns.

Alyssa Lavoie: Point of order, there is a motion to move the question.

Moderator Walter Holland: Ready to move it right now, didn't hear a second. (seconds from audience members). Read Article 23. You will have to use the pink yes/no ballot. You will either mark yes or no. You will tear that off and put it in the box right here. I will meet you at the box. Okay, we have the results.

YES 38 NO 6 Article 23 Passes

Article 24: Planning Board Resolution

To see if the Town will resolve to authorize the Planning Board to require preliminary review of subdivisions and site plans in accordance with NH RSA 674:35 I, 674:43 I and 674:44 II (j).

This would normally only affect major subdivisions and site plans and allows the Planning Board to properly review designs while meeting the state mandated time limit. *The Planning Board unanimously recommends this Article (Majority vote required.)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Chamberlain to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Robert Howe.

Alyssa Lavoie: The Planning Board is putting this forward because of a bill that was passed in June of 2022, so this is in response to this. This is also part of New Hampshire Municipal Association recommendations for best practices for Planning Boards based on the changes that this House Bill introduced. For example, so the changes that were made by the Bill actually reduce and limit the Planning Boards timeline to review and respond to applications. So, for example, we no longer have the ability to request a ninety day extension from the Selectboard. So, if there were

to be a large project or complex project for a subdivision or site plan application to be submitted we have to respond to that within that tight timeline that currently exists. We can't ask for an extension from the Selectmen to get better clarification, to understand the site and the scope of the project that is being requested. To make sure that we are also asking and retaining the proper information and documentation whether that be studies, permits, all different kinds of information that can go into things. The intent of presenting this to you is to give the Planning Board permission to consider requiring a preliminary review. Which would be prior to a formal application submission for larger more complex development applications. Giving us that adequate time to understand the scale and scope of the project that is being presented to us so we can properly determine what studies, permits, and overall information that the application needs to submit so that the Planning Board can make a fully informed decision. So, it is in response to the House Bill that was passed and pieces of that, that went into effect in August of 2022 as well as January 1st of 2023 so it is currently in effect now. This would help us better manage if we were to have large complex applications come through.

Fran Bujak: Can somebody answer the question, cause it says would normally, who else could potentially be targeted, or subject to this would be a better word. Since it says normally and not only major subdivision.

Alyssa Lavoie: Just for clarification, step one is to authorize the Planning Board to allow them the opportunity to put in parameters. The Planning Board would take this authorization and they would then move forward with deciding how we would change any regulations to which types of projects would be subject to this preliminary review. And, the intent of the Planning Board would be that it would be discussed at, anticipating for a large more complex, so, large subdivisions, large site plans. Not something for something like a simple lot line adjustment. We haven't gone into depths of the discussions of exactly what it would apply to because we don't have the authority to do so at this point. But that would be step two once we are given the authority to consider it.

Bob Newton: For more clarification Fran. The Planning Board cannot do anything about instituting a preliminary review process without authorization from the Town Meeting. Once we have this authorization the next step would be that the Planning Board would hold a Public Hearing on the issue. That Public Hearing would be noticed and posted in Town in accordance with the regulations under 91A for a Public Hearing. At that Public Hearing we would be discussing whatever it is that we plan to do. But, we can't even raise the topic in a Planning Board meeting until we have authorization from the Town Meeting.

Mike Kaelin: How does a preliminary review work? I mean if somebody just hands you an application, do you say no, no, no we can't take it until we do the preliminary review or how do you get anything to study until they actually apply?

Bob Newton: Basically there isn't an answer yet because there is not a policy or set of procedures for what kinds of projects this would cover. My own personal review and I am a Planning Board member for full disclosure. Preliminary review can actually be a benefit to the developer because the requirements for doing studies and having certifications and all of the preliminary site work that goes into preparing a completed application for approval does not have to be done for the purpose of the preliminary review. If there are issues whether they be traffic or environmental or impact on abutters can be discussed between the developer and the Planning Board at a conceptual level before the developer has to expend a great deal of money to meet the application requirements for a complete application. So, actually, including this step for whatever kind of projects we end up applying this policy to will in fact on a net basis be a benefit to the developer because it will

reduce the amount of expense that has to be undertaken in order to initiate the process with the Planning Board.

Karen Grybko: What is the definition of a major subdivision, does this mean like fifty houses on twenty acres or what is it?

Selectman Mark Chamberlain: Four or more lots.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are you ready for the question? Read Article 24. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 24 Passes**

Article 25: Other Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting;

Motion made by Selectman Fred Douglas to move Article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland thanked the office staff, the Highway Department, also Mike Kaelin for setting up the sound system. Is there anything else anybody would like to add to this meeting or say here at the end?

Geoffrey Allen: Having been on the Budget Committee for seven years I just wanted to thank the individuals in the room who come and present their budgets to us. They are well thought out and anybody who hasn't gotten to talk to Rick McQuade (Road Agent) absolutely go and hit him up because his people did an excellent job this year. He really, really, really does, comes to the Board with a full plan, a fiscally responsible budget and then he overdrives what he says he is going to do every time. Thank you to the Department Heads, to the Town, the Selectmen, appreciate it, you made this year easy.

Moderator Walter Holland: Selectman Bob Howe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by audience. All in favor of adjourning this meeting signify by saying Aye, all those opposed signify by saying Nay. Aye's have it. Meeting is Adjourned at 12:25pm.

Results of Election of Officials held on Tuesday March 28th:

(* indicates Elected 342 Ballots cast -1244 Registered Voters)

Selectman (3 years)	*Mark Chamberlain	262
	Kevin Boette	23
Trustee of Cemeteries (3 years)	*Ginny Chrisenton	274
Library Trustee (3 years)	*Ann Harkleroad	292
Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)	*John Pomer	269
Budget Committee (3 years)	*Arnold Byam	253
	*Karen Grybko	260
	*John Pomer	230
Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 years)	Tom Chrisenton	140
	*Ray Humphreys	201
	*Lisa C.M.Post	216

Respectfully Submitted,

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