

TOWN OF NEWBURY, NH
Annual Town Meeting
March 9, 2021

Deputy Moderator Finneral called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The ballot boxes were examined and confirmed to be empty.

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

Deputy Moderator Finneral declared the polls to be open and voting on Article 1 began.

The business portion of the meeting was recessed until Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the base of Mount Sunapee.

Business Meeting – Saturday, May 1, 2021

Moderator Christie called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. after voters picked up their voting material. Moderator Christie led the Pledge of Allegiance, announced meeting protocol and introduced the meeting officials.

Selectperson Thorson thanked the town employees who put in extra hours and effort to keep the Town running smoothly during the COVID shutdown.

Town Administrator, Dennis Pavlicek, called for a moment of silence in honor of Charlie Killam, a beloved town employee who recently passed.

Mr. Pavlicek recognized Debra Prussman, Finance Director, for her excellent service and dedication to the Town of Newbury for the past 24 years. Ms. Prussman will be retiring on July 1 this year.

Moderator Christie announced the results of the March 9, 2021 election.

Selectboard – 3 Years
Joanne Dionne Lord – 93
Scott Wheeler – 133

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – 3 Years
Linda Plunkett – 229

Trustee of Trust Funds
Debra Prussman – 210

Library Trustee – 3 Years
Elizabeth Courant – 167
Lynne Tuohy – 184

Library Trustee – 1 Year
Eric Boyer – 194

Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 Years
Helen Wright – 206

Cemetery Trustee – 3 Years
Knowlton A. Reynders – 200

Planning Board – 3 Years
Christopher Millette – 151
Denise Mitchell – 166

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 Years
Peter Fichter – 188

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 Year
Katheryn Holmes – 182

Kearsarge Regional School Moderator – 1 Year
Derek D. Lick – 170

School Board Member – 3 Years
Several write-ins

Municipal Budget Committee
Several write-ins

Question 1

Newbury: A = 91 B = 134
District: A = 758 B = 769

Question 2

Newbury: Yes = 166 No = 66
District: No = 1167 No = 401

Question 3

Newbury: Yes = 172 No = 61
District: Yes = 1172 No = 380

Moderator Christie explained the rules of the meeting and called for a vote to accept the rules.
Motion was made and seconded.
VOTE: All in favor.

Moderator Christie called for a vote to accept the Town Meeting Minutes from the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Motion was made and seconded.

VOTE: All in favor.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million eight hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$1,822,557.00) for the construction of and other related expenses for the library addition (the “Project”), and to authorize the Selectboard to issue not more than one million three hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$1,322,557.00) of bonds and/or notes in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); to authorize the Selectboard to issue negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectboard to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for the Project and to comply with all laws applicable to the Project; and to authorize the Selectboard to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The remaining five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) required for the Project will be funded by a donation from the Newbury Library Foundation. (The Selectboard recommends this appropriation.) (3/5 ballot vote required).

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 2 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Lynne Tuohy, Library Trustee, introduced the other Trustee members and Library staff and Chief Architect, Chris Drobat.

Patricia Sherman gave an overview of the Library history, first established in 1882. Needs have grown over the years. A Library expansion was also part of the 2017 Masterplan. The Library has met all of the financial goals set by Town committees and study groups and now has a maximum guaranteed price. In 2019, the Library became a tax-deductible organization so donations could be received. In 2020, the Town voted to give the Library \$200,000 to cover expenditures for designing a new addition to the existing Library. Ms. Sherman pointed out that if this article does not pass, the Library will have to address maintenance issues on the building, which has gone 22 years without any major repairs.

Lea McBain, Librarian explained what the expansion provides and what are the current needs of the Library. Currently, computers are in two different parts of the library, the new layout will provide one centralized technology area, a safe teen space, children’s programing and collection will be expanded with a safe space and a dedicated bathroom for young children. The new layout will allow a larger collection of books and make the collection more accessible. There will be a dedicated program room to accommodate an increased number of patrons, storage for projects. Depending on the project, patrons may need to cross Route 103 to get to the Vets Hall, which can be dangerous. The proposed Community Room will help alleviate conflicts of scheduling for meetings and provide a quiet study space when needed.

Chris Drobat, Architect presented a power point of the details of the proposed expansion, which is also online. Included will be a staff area, main lobby, technology center, teen room, front reading room, sitting area, main stack area with bookcases, a program room, student area, director's office, and a dumb waiter to move books up and down to the basement.

Jeanne Palleiko, Library Trustee, explained that the Library is funding \$500,000 of the cost of the expansion from donations and fundraising and the Town through bonds is asked to fund the remaining \$1,322,557. Impact on the tax rate will be \$13/\$100,000 the first year and then \$11/\$100,000 over the next 14 years. Donations and fundraising are projected to continue to come in throughout the life of the loan and will be used to pay down the bond.

Discussion opened to the public.

Polly Lowe commented that back when the fire house was on the warrant the library wanted to piggyback with the firehouse article. The Selectboard said no because the priorities are 1. Fire House 2. Police 3. Library. Ms. Lowe commented that we should not be paying money toward the library when the Police Department has not come forward with their plans for the future.

James Schultz commented that the fund raising is great news and asked where the excess funds from the fundraising campaign go...will they be used to pay down the bond.

Ms. Palleiko commented that the required \$500,000 has been raised, but there are additional expenses of \$10,000 - \$12,000 to cover advertising, printing and coordinating the fundraising; so those expenses will need to be covered as well. Additionally, in an effort to keep costs down, some things were carved out of the proposal so hopefully we will be able to add them back into the plan. Certainly, if there is a huge influx of cash the library would give it back to the Town as it has done in the past.

Eric Boyer explained that his son, Oliver, is a loyal patron of the Library and has told his father younger people need more space. Currently, the kids' area is near the adult area, so noise becomes an issue. Also, certain programs are more appropriate in the Vets Hall, and crossing Route 103 can be very dangerous at times. Having the playground and library in proximity is a good thing, and this is the next step to round out our Town Center.

Shannon Perry commented that she is concerned because a year ago there was concern with the amount of bond debt. If the library passes, and the much-needed police renovations are made, the Town will be carrying close to \$10,000,000 in bond debt. She commented that the infrastructure, specifically roads, in Newbury should take a priority over the Library since some gravel roads are impassible in the spring which is a major safety hazard.

Katheryn Holmes commented she is in support of the Library and considers the Town Offices are the heart of the Town, but the Library is the soul of the Town. This project needs to move forward with cultural development, especially since the police department has no plan for renovation at this point.

Dick Wright commented that looking back on the history of the town it is evident that times change. The Town grows, and expansions are needed. Now is the time to take advantage of low interest rates and bond costs.

Mark Manzella commented that real estate sales are at an all-time high. He suggested the Town sell some of the town-owned properties that sit unused to help pay for the Library.

Joanne Lord commented that she believes it is the people of Newbury that are the heart and soul of the Town. She suggested the Town should put its energy into planning for a Police Department and taking care of seniors, not just children. Ms. Lord commented she sympathizes with the Library's needs, but there are other projects that should take priority.

Wayne Seaholm made a motion to call the vote. Motion was seconded. Majority in favor.

Moderator Christie opened the polls at 10:00 a.m. Moderator Christie called a 15-minute recess to accommodate casting of ballots and announced the polls will remain open for one hour.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,842,395 for general operations.

Selectperson Thorson made a motion to adopt Article 3 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectperson Thorson made a motion to amend the budget by removing the purchase of a new \$37,000.00 bobcat out of the transfer station budget. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion.

VOTE on Amendment to Article 3 to reduce the operating budget by \$37,000 to come out of the transfer station budget line. All in favor. Discussion followed on Article 3 as amended to \$4,805,395.00.

Dennis Pavlicek, Town Administrator, explained the increases and decreases in the budget line by line. Departments heads explained increases and decreases for their own budgets.

Bruce Healey, Planning Board Chair, explained that an affordable housing committee has been formed to create a plan to meet the requirements of a State initiative for affordable housing. An advisor has been hired to facilitate that plan and help the Board get through the process.

Peter Fichter, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair, most of the increase is due to postage on notices. The more hearings, the more expense.

Bradley Wheeler, Police Chief, explained part of the increase is because the Police Dept. budget will now be responsible for the utilities in the existing Safety Services Building – in the past the

utilities came out of the Fire Department; payroll changes due to one of our officers graduating the Police Academy. Other increases such as insurance and benefits are mandatory.

Henry Thomas, Fire Chief, explained main increases are salaries – employees helping with vaccinations, which will be reimbursed from the State; and utilities in the new station.

Dave Smith, Forest Fire Warden, explained reimbursement for inspections and equipment.

Dan Wolf asked why Code Enforcement had a 40% increase.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that the Code Enforcement Officer has put in more hours to keep up with the increasing building permit applications.

Joanne Lord asked for an explanation for the increase in the Other General Government.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that Other General Government is the Selectboard's discretionary fund. Last year that fund was reduced by \$5,000 at Town Meeting, so this year it is proposed to raise it back up to \$10,000 with \$3,200 for Town report printing and \$300 for the quarterly newsletter.

Cal Prussman, Highway Administrator, explained costly projects from previous year have been completed, several of the highway employees have opted out of Town insurance benefits, and the cost of heating oil decreased. Trying to keep Highway Reconstruction on the established plan from previous years.

Lea McBain, Librarian, explained there is no one contributor to the library budget going down, just that the Trustees and Staff have been mindful to keep costs down.

Mr. Pavlicek explained the only line item under Sanitation that changed because of the amendment was the equipment line item, reduction of \$37,000.

David Blohm asked why there was an increase in the Transfer Station amount.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that \$37,000 has been removed from the earlier motion regarding the Bobcat, there are three full-time attendants which means salaries and benefits for all, there have been cost increases for recycling, trucking, disposal fees of demolition material and trash removal.

Mr. Blohm commented that Mr. Pavlicek's explanation does not account for all the increase; and he is under impressed with the transfer station, and it could be run a whole lot more efficiently.

Ms. Lord thanked Churchill Hesselton for his work and effort at the transfer station. She commented that some of the workers seem to not put a lot of effort into their work, so perhaps the Transfer Station budget could be lowered by reducing the staff to two instead of three.

Jim Lord asked for clarification regarding code enforcement line item increase of \$19,000. If the permit fees off-set the salary and expenses, how much has been collected in permit fees vs. what we are paying out?

Mr. Pavlicek explained the permit fees go into the general fund in the revenues to off-set the expenses, which lowers the tax rate.

Al Fish asked for an explanation of the sewer line.

Mr. Pavlicek explained the how the sewer fees off set sewer expenses. On page 21 of the annual town report identifies the fees. It seems confusing, but it needs to be reported this way per the Department of Revenue.

Ms. Holmes commented that with all the building in the past year, she believes there should be an increase in salary for our existing code enforcement, and at some point, there needs to be more human resources in the code enforcement department. Once our lakes and ponds are polluted from irresponsible building, our future will unravel quickly.

Denise Mitchell thanked the Selectboard and Mr. Pavlicek for their work. She asked for clarification regarding the Old Home Day budget since it appears Old Home Day was budgeted for in 2020, which included \$16,000 for fireworks and we did not have it. Old Home Day is again budgeted \$28,000 for this year, which seems like a duplicate and excessive. Ms. Mitchell also commented that there seems to be some items that are in the budget year after year after year; \$5,000 for maintenance and repair, but that amount never gets fully spent, so perhaps that could be reduced. Also, there seems to be a lack of participation at public meeting from the Parks and Rec Director, and there should be more transparency with the Parks and Rec budget.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that the Town had already prepaid for the fireworks before it got canceled in 2020, so this year we have double and there will be two barges. Next year it will go back to one barge.

Nick Bibeau made a motion to call the question, motion was seconded.
VOTE: Majority in favor.

VOTE on Article 3 as amended: Majority in favor. Motion passed. Article 3 was adopted as amended.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170,000 to be placed I the following previously established capital reserve funds: (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Fire Equipment	\$75,000
Highway Equipment	\$75,000

Recreation Facilities

\$20,000

Selectperson Russell made a motion to adopt Article 4 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectperson Thorson explained this is article is routine to put money aside to plan ahead for purchases or replacement of larger equipment.

Liz Tentarelli asked why there is not a line for the Police Department.

Selectperson Thorson explained the cruisers are paid for through warrant articles and do not cost as much as Highway or Fire trucks.

Dan Wolf, Trustee of Trust Funds, added several years ago the Selectboard set up a policy that items that will last more than five years will be in a Capital Reserve Fund. Police cruisers do not fall into that category.

Teddy Jones asked what kind of equipment would the Town purchase for Recreation.

Mr. Pavlicek stated buildings and facilities at Fishersfield and any other recreation parks and Newbury Harbor. This fund does not include a van.

VOTE on Article 4: Majority in favor. Motion passed. Article 3 was adopted as read.

Moderator Christie declared the polls closed for Article 2 at 11:02 a.m. The Ballot Clerks commenced counting of ballots.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$196,000 to be placed in the following existing RSA 31:19-a maintenance expandable trust funds previously established:

(Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required).

DOCKS	\$ 3,000
TOWN OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 15,000
TOWN BUILDINGS	\$ 35,000
MILFOIL CONTROL	\$ 5,000
FD PERSONAL PROTECTION	\$ 8,000
PAVING AND GRAVEL	\$130,000

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 5 as read. Selectperson Thorson seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectperson Smith explained this is a routine article to plan for projects and maintenance for docks.

Art Burritt commented that the money for docks has increased on top of a \$100,000 balance. He recommended to remove \$3,000 from this Article for Docks until it is needed again.

Selectperson Smith commented this article used to be \$10,000 and was already reduced to \$3,000.

Dan Wolf advised that there is \$135,877 in the fund for Docks and \$5,800 was spent last year for maintenance.

Mr. Burritt made a motion to amend Article 5 to reflect the Docks amount reduced to \$0. Motion was seconded. Discussion on the amendment followed.

Mr. Wolf commented that he disagrees with lowering the amount because if there is major damage to one or both the Town docks, that fund could easily be depleted. It is not just the cost of materials and labor, but the permitting process and State fees for repair would also be expensive.

Liz Tentarelli asked if the dollar amount is amended to \$0, will mean “Docks” will removed from future years’ funding through capital reserve.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that the Capital Improvement Committee reviews the funds and balances and decides at their meetings what amounts should be proposed each year.

VOTE to amend Article 5: Majority not in favor. Discussion followed on the original article.

Selectman Thorson advised the Newbury Harbor dock will need significant repair this year, and it will be costly.

Josh Perkins requested that each total of each Capital Reserve Item be printed on the line item with the warrant article.

VOTE on Article 5 as written: Majority in favor. Article 5 was adopted as originally read.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,608 for an installed digital sign with a viewing area of 3 feet by 7 feet to be used for communicating town activities and events. The sign will be placed on the Town Office grass and will be visible on Route 103 both ways and can be updated smoothly and quickly. The sign will also be used for emergency purposes if needed. (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Smith made a motion to adopt Article 6 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectperson Thorson explained this proposed sign would be permanently installed in front of the Town Office Building and designed to match the surrounding architecture to facilitate communication to residents and passers-by, especially those without internet connection or Wi-Fi.

Dan Wolf commented that he is opposed to this sign and stated although it is important to communicate, there are other ways to do it, e.g., newspapers, posting public notices, newsletters, meeting minutes, the website to name a few. He pointed out that 1. Newbury's zoning ordinance prohibits all other businesses from internally illuminated signs; 2. A sign with that capacity will become a traffic hazard if drivers are distracted, especially near a crosswalk and intersection; 3. There are other ways to communicate as previously stated; and 4. The town just purchased a second sign which will be enough electric flashing.

June Fichter asked what happened to the Town's existing electronic sign, and could it be used instead of the proposed sign.

Dick Wright stated that Newbury's zoning regulations have been in effect for several decades that prohibit electric signs, and the Town should set an example for others to follow.

Marty Newell asked what has happened to our small-town Newbury. Communications should be put where people have access. He stated he gets the newspaper and never sees any information in it about Newbury. He stated he is not in favor of this proposed sign.

Beverly Wolf commented the money that is spent on this sign could be budgeted for ads in the Kearsarge Shopper, which is placed in every mail receptacle in Town and can be picked up at the post office at no charge.

VOTE: Majority against. Article 6 did not pass.

Moderator Christie read the results of Article 2. There were 216 ballots cast which means 130 Yes votes are needed for Article 2 to pass. Count results Yes = 124, No = 92.

VOTE: Article 2 did not pass.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800 to be placed in the Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund and authorize the transfer of \$1,800 from the December 31, 2020 undesignated fund balance for this purpose. Said sum represents the sale of cemetery lots in the prior fiscal year. (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 7 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pavlicek commented that this is a housekeeping article required every year to offset the Maintenance Fund expenses by the sale of cemetery plots in the prior year.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 7 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,995 for the purchase of a new 2021 All-Wheel Drive Dodge Durango Pursuit rated police vehicle and furthermore authorize the trade in or public auction of the old vehicle. The balance will be raised by general taxation. (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Thorson made a motion to adopt Article 8 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Chief Wheeler explained it is time replace the Ford Explorer with over 100,000 miles. When the mileage on a police cruiser reaches 100,000 miles, it typically starts requiring a lot of money to repair. Police vehicles do not get good trade-in value because of the wear and tear on engines from idle time and having to frequently speed up quickly for traffic stops and emergency calls. The existing SUV is at that point.

VOTE: Majority in favor. Article 8 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,115 for the purchase of a new one-ton pickup truck for the Highway Department. The purchase will include plow, flatbed, and sander. The Town furthermore authorizes the withdrawal of up to \$48,115 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and authorizes the trade-in of the 2013 one-ton with plow and sander. The amount agreed to for the trade-in is \$24,000. The amount to be expended out of the capital reserve will be the difference between the trade/auction amount and the total cost of the vehicle. (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Smith made a motion to adopt Article 9 as read. Selectperson Thorson seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectperson Thorson made a motion to amend Article 9 to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,115 for the purchase of a new, fully equipped one-ton pickup truck for the Highway Department. The Town authorizes the withdrawal of up to said amount from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund and further authorizes the sale or trade-in of the 2013 one ton to reduce the said purchase price. The amount to be

expended out of the capital reserve will be the difference between the trade or sale amount and the total cost of the vehicle. Discussion followed on the amended article.

Selectman Thorson explained the reason for the amendment is because the dealer has begun to waffle on the terms of the proposed deal.

Cal Prussman, Highway Administrator, explained that the dealer originally gave a trade-in price of \$24,000 for the old truck against a 2021 new truck. GM has shut down as of January 13 on making new trucks. If the dealer can find a 2021, the original deal will stand. If a 2021 cannot be found and we must go with a 2022, we probably will not see the new truck until September if we are lucky. At that point, the trade-in value may not be \$24,000, and we do not know what the price of the new truck.

VOTE to amend Article 9: All in favor.

VOTE on Article 9 as amended: Majority in favor. Article 9 was adopted as amended.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,011 for a 2021 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Rescue UTV fully equipped and includes winter tracks. The Town furthermore authorizes the withdrawal of up to \$25,011 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. (Recommended by the Selectboard) (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 10 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Chief Thomas explained the existing 2007 Kubota is shared with the Parks and Recreation Department which becomes a problem when there is a call for service. The equipment should be loaded on a trailer and ready to go in an emergency. The arrangement is not practical as it is now. The proposed Kubota will be equipped with a basket necessary for rescues and fire equipment for emergencies in the wooded areas or other hard to reach locations.

Sue Russell asked if this proposed UTV will be stored at the new fire station.

Chief Thomas stated yes, and it will be on a trailer ready to go.

VOTE: Majority in favor. Article 10 was adopted as read.

Selectman Thorson made a motion to recess for a 15-minute break. Motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

Selectman Thorson explained he thought it might be time that some people might need a break to refresh.

VOTE: Majority against. Selectman Thorson's motion did not pass. Meeting continued without a break.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to retain or dispose of the Recreation Department handicapped accessible bus? (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 10 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Selectman Thorson explained if voters vote "Yes", the existing Recreation bus will be disposed of. If voters vote "No", the Town will keep the bus. The bus was purchased at the end of 2020 to maintain its equity. If it is disposed of now, the Town will get some of the money back.

Joanne Lord commented that the Selectboard acted against what the voters at the prior Town meeting wanted and the Selectboard should not have purchased the bus under any circumstances based on that meeting's vote.

Dan Wolf made a motion to clarify the article: Shall the Town vote to dispose of the Recreation Department handicapped accessible bus by the most financially beneficial means. Motion was seconded. Discussion on the amendment followed.

Barbara Freeman asked what means the Recreation Department has to transport handicapped people.

Selectperson Thorson stated None.

Ms. Freeman commented that the Town needs to be equitable and fair to all.

Art Burritt commented that having our own vehicle is not always the best use of money. He explained that Goffstown Truck has school busses and drivers. They charge approximately \$500 per trip which includes insurance, a driver, the bus, fuel, etc. to serve the same purpose.

Mr. Wolf commented that he is not discriminating, if there is no bus, then the Town doesn't transport anyone, handicapped or not. The Town can always rent or lease a bus short term.

Cindy Peterson asked what was the original cost of the bus.

Selectperson Thorson stated \$72,000 has been spent so far for the lease then the purchase.

Ms. Peterson asked if the Town votes to relinquish the bus, what does the Selectboard anticipate for a return.

Selectperson Thorson stated approximately \$58,000 as soon as a buyer is found.

Dick Wright commented that most busses require certification for the driver and a special driver's license.

Selectperson Thorson stated that is true if there are 15 passengers or more. This bus holds 14 passengers.

Mr. Burritt advised that the bus company he works for has more than 14 passenger busses, which allows for more flexibility. The same company also has smaller vans.

VOTE to amend Article 11: Majority in favor. No discussion followed.

VOTE on Article 11 as amended: Majority in favor. Article 11 was adopted as amended.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, all Veterans' tax credits amount from \$500 to \$750? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and (2) was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$750, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit previously voted by the Town under RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Smith made a motion to adopt Article 12 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Paul Hague explained that Articles 12 through 18 pertain to Veteran, Elderly, and Disabled exemptions and credits. Periodically the State amends/increases the tax credits. These warrant articles explain and ask the Town to adopt the new amounts authorized by the State.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 12 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$30,000? (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Thorson made a motion to adopt Article 13 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Motion was made and seconded to move the question.

VOTE to move the question: All in favor.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 13 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$50,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$23,000 if single or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$32,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 14 as read. Selectperson Thorson seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Motion was made and seconded to move the question.

VOTE to move the question: All in favor.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 14 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$60,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$75,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$90,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for a least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$23,000 or if married a combined net income of less than \$32,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

Selectman Smith made a motion to adopt Article 15 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Dennis Pavlicek explained that Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 are benefits to the elderly and people of low income.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 15 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 for an optional tax credit of \$4,000 for Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property? It current is \$2,000. (Majority vote required)

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Selectperson Thorson made a motion to adopt Article 16 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 16 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Newbury modify the Surviving Spouse Credit in accordance with RSA 72:29-a for a tax credit of \$700 per year to \$2,000? (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Smith made a motion to adopt Article 17 as read. Selectperson Nowell seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 17 was adopted as read.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Newbury modify the Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current tax credit of \$500 per year to \$750? (Majority vote required)

Selectperson Nowell made a motion to adopt Article 18 as read. Selectperson Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

VOTE: All in favor. Article 18 was adopted as read.

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

Tim Gove asked for clarification on Article 11, did the Town vote to dispose of the bus.

Selectman Thorson said yes, the Town voted to dispose of the bus.

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Dick Wright commented that the Town needs to address fireworks over the water. They are toxic to the air and leave debris in the water which contaminates the soil, water and fish.

Mr. Wright made a motion that the Town of Newbury ban the shooting of fireworks over our lakes and ponds by individuals, organizations, and the Town itself. Further, all lake front property owners be notified by letter of this prohibition of fireworks. This motion is to take effect upon passing. Motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

Selectman Thorson commented that he has seen lots of scientific statements and studies showing no difference in water quality between those with firework displays and those without.

Katheryn Holmes commented that fireworks have a huge negative impact on the water. Also, there is a lot of debris floating on the water after fireworks have been lit. The noise has negative effects for animals, pets and people with PTSD.

Moderator Christie advised that since the public was not put on notice via the warrant, there cannot be a legal, binding vote. A count of hands, however, can give the Selectboard a sense of the voters at this meeting.

Through a show of voter cards, the majority of voters present were in favor of Mr. Wright's motion to ban the shooting of fireworks over bodies of water.

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Cal Prussman, Highway Administrator, asked for a sense of the voters at the town meeting regarding purchasing a mower. He explained the company the Town has been renting mowers from is going out of business and selling its gear. We have been paying \$10,000 - \$12,000/year to rent a mower. Mr. Prussman asked if he has support of the voters to purchase a used mower for future years.

Through a show of voter cards, the majority of voters present were in favor of using the budgeted rental funds for purchasing a used sweeper.

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Selectman Thorson emphasized that Article 19 is advisory only. Any votes or motions taken are informational and nonbinding.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Moderator Christie declared the meeting dissolved at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Plunkett
Town Clerk