

RESULTS OF THE JACKSON TOWN MEETING MARCH 10, 2016

Polls were opened at 8:00 AM and closed at 7:00PM on March 8, 2016 by Assistant Moderator Laurel Smith to vote on Articles one through five.

The town meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelley on Thursday, March 10th at 7:00PM. Moderator Kelley then led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of God Bless America. Jerry Dougherty III led the group in a moment of prayer and reflection.

Article 01: ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

To choose the necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Position	Elected Candidate-# of votes
Selectmen for 3 yrs.	Bill Lockard – 134
Trustees of the Trust Funds for 3 yrs.	Chris McAleer – 151
Trustees of Cemeteries for 3 yrs.	Alicia Hawkes (W-I) – 13
Library Trustee for 3 yrs.	Sarah Duffy – 146
Library Trustee for 3 yrs.	Roger Aubrey – 138
Town Moderator for 2 yrs.	Willis Kelley – 148
Supervisor of the Checklist	Barbara Meserve – 157
School Moderator for 1 yr.	Timothy Scott – 161
Member of the School Board for 3 yrs.	Jerry Dougherty IV – 118
School Clerk for 1 yr.	Gino Funicella (W-I) – 1
School Treasurer for 1 yr.	Christine Thompson – 155

Article 02: AMENDMENT - ZONING ORDINANCE

To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance to measure setbacks from the center-line of the traveled way as follows:

Setbacks 4.3.1.2 Setbacks (Rural Residential District)

No building, structure, porch, or portion thereof shall be located on a lot nearer any lot line, year round stream or body of water than the minimum setback set forth below: 1)From the center-line of the traveled way of any public or Private Road: Fifty (50) Feet

Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0-1). Supported by the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

(Wording to be removed: From the sideline of any public or Private Road right-of-way that provides access to the lot.)

PASSED YES: 118 NO: 39

Article 03: AMENDMENT - ZONING ORDINANCE

To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance to measure setbacks from the center-line of the traveled way as follows:

Setbacks 4.3.2.3 Setbacks (Village District)

No building, structure, porch, or portion thereof shall be located on a lot nearer any lot line, year round stream or body of water than the minimum setback set forth below: 1)From the center-line

of the traveled way of any public or Private Road: Fifty (50) Feet

Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0-1). Supported by the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

(Wording to be removed: From the sideline of any public or Private Road right-of-way that provides access to the lot.)

PASSED YES: 118 NO: 40

Article 04: AMENDMENT - ZONING ORDINANCE

To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance to amend section 2.2.3 dealing with non-conforming structures as follows:

Section 2.2.3: (Note: no change is proposed for first sentence, remainder to be omitted) A Non-Conforming Structure or Building may be moved, enlarged, altered, restored, or replaced within the boundaries of the lot it occupied at the time this ordinance took effect, providing that the change does not make the structure more non-conforming in any way.

Recommended by the Planning Board (7-0-0). Supported by the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

(Wording to be removed: By way of example and not limitation, “more non-conforming in any way” means that a structure or building positioned within a proscribed Setback (Sections 4.3.1.2 and 4.3.2.3) may not be altered in such a way that the structure or building extends for a greater width, a further depth, nor to a greater height, which would have the effect of increasing the volume of the structure or building within the proscribed Setback area. Similarly, a structure or building that exceeds the permissible Building Height (Section 4.1.3) may not be altered in such a way that the structure or building extends to a greater height, nor may the volume of the structure or building exceeding the Height limit be increased. Further, if altering the pitch or configuration of the roof increases the volume of the structure or building within the proscribed Setback area, it shall be permitted where: i) the change is dictated by considerations of safety, snow disposal or building code requirements, and ii) the change does not result in an increase in the interior floor space within the structure or building. (amended 3/12/2001, 3/14/2006, and 3/9/2010).

PASSED YES: 136 NO: 21

Article 05: AMENDMENT - BUILDING CODE

To see if the town will vote to approve the amendment to the existing Town Building Code as defined by the State Building Code as follows:

Paragraph 7.a of the Town Building Code exempts one-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. This amendment changes 200 square feet to 10’ x 12’ per state code. Recommended by the Fire Inspector. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

PASSED YES: 127 NO: 33

In his opening comments, Moderator Kelley reminds everyone of a few rules before the meeting asks everyone for a very orderly and professional meeting and to be courteous and respect everyone else. He will not allow any debate between parties and if you have any questions or comments to direct those questions or comments to the moderator. He will give everyone a chance to speak on an article at least once. He will not allow anyone to disrupt the meeting and if necessary the person will be removed from the meeting.

Article 06: OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended Operating Budget of the Town in the amount of \$1,988,492 not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately (see 2016 Budget). Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Moderator Kelley the first category is the:

Office of the Selectmen: Jeff Maynard inquiries about the 22% increase in the operating budget over last year, maybe he misinterpreted it. Can you comment on it and why is it higher? Selectmen Thompson explains it represents an increase if no fund balances are used. Last year we had a projected increase of 15%, but your actual tax rate was determined your actual was determined to be between 2.5-3%. This year we plan to do the same, that includes all the warrant articles and we can take the Unexpended Fund Balance to fund some of those special articles. You will be asked to support \$45,000 to put into a fund for a new ambulance purchase. That's a one-time deal. We could use the Unexpended Fund Balance to do that, but we would prefer to have that in as a separate Warrant Article asking for your approval on that. Because we think it's important for you to understand exactly what we are spending funds for. Jeanette Heidmann there seems to be a significant increase in actuals, she asks for a general comment about like about elected office salaries. With being significantly unexpended in 2015 why an increase going into budget requested for 2016. Selectmen Thompson says while going thru this budget we will see line items that are up and items that are down. Your overall operating budget is up by 5-5.5% from last year's operating budget proposal. Jeanette Heidmann agrees with that is correct, but it is up by 18.9% of the actuals of last year. She asks why the significant increase overall of almost 19% from actuals to projected requests. Bob Thompson says the short answer is that we ended up returning back into the unexpended fund balance this year over \$200,000. So will we be returning that much next year into the Unexpended Fund Balance it is hard to say? John Allen states for example due to the winter we had this year, our Salt & Sand revenue will be significantly under budget. The weather we cannot predict, we have to have a buffer. Moderator Kelley reminds we must record who is speaking for the minutes, and it is highly recommended that we put the person's name on the comment. Please state your name loud enough for the clerk to hear it. Gino Funicella refers to the rainy day fund, is there any downside risk for it long term if for some reason if we remove \$200-\$300 thousand from that fund every year, is there a downside risk that at some point something could happen that money could possibly be identified for? Because I know you are trying to keep somewhere between 15% and 12%. Could you explain to the group what that fund is basically for and why it builds up the way it does? Not everyone know what it is, it is extra money that comes in every year from taxes and stuff that isn't used in the budget. Selectmen Thompson explains it is recommended by all accounting firms that deal with municipalities that you have an Unexpended Fund Balance, the Department of Revenue Administration suggest that we have at least a 5% balance in your Unexpended Fund Balance. Our accountants generally recommend that you keep somewhere between 10-12% ceiling in your Unexpended Fund Balance. Last year we used \$100,000 out of our Unexpended Fund Balance and at the end of our calendar year we returned \$200,000 back into the Unexpended Fund Balance because that was the total appropriation last year that went unused. Gino asks for a portable mic, because he cannot hear people speaking. Jerry Dougherty III, the selectmen had three separate budget hearings where they went over this with very extensively and answered some of the questions that are being asked tonight. Dave Mason believes the point that Gino was trying to ask, you generated \$400,000 from underspending and income greater than what was estimated for. Giving back \$362,000 that's lovely,

but what happens that doesn't happen in one year or two years, how do you control the tax rate from 22% increase to the 5.25 % if you do not generate the 200-300-\$400,000 by overestimating your budget and underestimating your revenues then what happens. It seems to him that eventually you will have to increase your tax rates significantly because you don't have the dollars to offset it. However, from my experience generally you're over budgeting because it's important not to run out of money and because we didn't always over estimate revenues by that much. Selectmen Thompson states if we use the Unexpended Fund Balance to pay for some of these Warrant Articles that are new and onetime expenses then we would be looking at a 5% increase if the Warrants were flat and we would still have more in the Unexpended Fund Balance than what is recommended to keep. Dave Mason understands that, but if you're not generating excess funds every year then you could be in a position where you done this for a number of years and suddenly you do not have the money to put in, that would jacks the tax rate up. Selectmen Thompson and Moderator Kelly say that could happen, Moderator Kelley says if we had a big enough crystal ball we would be in good shape, but how do you address that going down. It will have to be a year by year and fortunately we have had a few good years to be able to manage it reasonably. Angus Badger asks about the increases in salaries in each department and would like explain to him in each department the selectmen's salaries, fire department and police department salaries. Angus Badger asks any time there is a salary increase it would be nice to explain that at the Town Meeting, we could get started with the selectmen's salary increase. He would appreciate that, Thank You. Selectmen Thompson says the elected officials salary have been an issue and it was a separate Warrant Article for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector people felt it was underpaid and it supported the Warrant Article and that prompted a discussion around all elected officials salaries/stipends as a result we ended up increasing all of those amounts by the same percentage that we increased town staff by. That is why you're looking at elected salaries going up; it represents a 4% increase across the board. Frank Benesh is troubled with the discussion about the salaries. The actual salaries last year was under \$15,000 and this year is \$20,000, to him that is a 25% increase not a 5% or 6% increase. Selectmen Allen explains that Bill Lockard does not take a stipend for his. That is one of the reasons for the actuals budget being a conservative estimate. Selectmen Thompson and Allen say we must budget for it every year.

Office of the Town Clerk: Sarah Clemmons mentions that she was at the budget hearings and she was under the impression that the Town Clerk was getting no increase because of the increase last year in wages, is that correct? Selectmen Thompson states it was a 4% increase to all the employees in this budget.

Financial Administration: Sarah Clemmons asks with this 4% increase does that also include the burden of social security and retirement in that 4% or is that after you get the wage do you add on the social security and retirement. Selectmen Allen says it will affect it more because if you increase the salary, you increase the FICA you increase the social security. Sarah asks how much you are giving the employees with that increase as well as social security and retirement. Selectmen Thompson says we give a 4% increase to the rate of pay that might affect FICA, unemployment and other benefits by a corresponding amount. We have been supported at town meeting with a 4% pay increase for the last 3-4 years with the exception of the police department the last two years which had an increase of 8% pay rate increase. Moderator Kelley states that whatever the percentage of the actual pay rate they recommend; they cannot manipulate the FICA that is all locked in. Town has no control of all the other factors. George Howard asks what the burden the tax payer's foot is. Bea Davis states what George wants to know is what the pay, benefits and grand total is. Selectmen Thompson states all of the benefits including the NH Retirement System, Health Insurance, Wages, FICA, and Medicare are all broken down in the budget on page 96. Selectmen Allen asks if you want if per employee. Moderator Kelley says it is in the budget. George Howard says you show a gross burden, what he is asking what is the direct impact per individual adding FICA, etc. to Office Wages? Hank Dresch asks about the increase in Association Dues is attributed too? From \$4,200 to \$11,000, Julie Atwell clarifies how things were reshuffled between categories. The computer and technology support went down, what was support is now association dues.

Assessing, Reval, Tax Map UPD: No comments, questions

Legal Expenses: Martha Benesh asks, could you explain why an increase from \$40,000 to \$90,000? Selectmen Allen says it is from a settlement from one of our law suits. Bob Kantack asks is there another law suit? Selectmen Allen says “Not that he knows of”. Gino Funicella says during the past few weeks there was a request made to have legal documents that were supposed to be on file from the two law suits filed in the Tax Office (Clerks Office) for up to 10 years for review. He states one case was settled on December (whatever) 2014, it wasn’t filed in the office for viewing a month or so ago. The question is for the attorney, did the attorney explain to the selectmen at the time of the settlement that that had to be retained in the Tax Office (Clerks Office) for 10 years for public reviewing. Did you explain that to the selectmen? Attorney Malia states the two law suits were brought by two former town employees, the towns insurance company actually provided a defense to the town through their defense attorney’s from Concord or Manchester. I did not represent the Town of Jackson in either of those two law suits. He thinks that the attorneys for the town insurance company did not notify the clerk’s office of RSA that requires settlement documents be placed on file at the town office. When the town realized it was a legal requirement they put it on file. Definitely late, but it slipped through the cracks. Sarah Clemmons is clarifying that it is the selectmen not our committees are the ones to file these suits, it’s not just the ZBA, Planning Board or whatever. Do they have to go in front of our selectmen before they go see a lawyer? If the town finds a problem in one of their committees, if a zoning ordinance or something is not being done properly, does the committee itself for instance the ZBA take it to the town attorney. Attorney Malia states in addition to the two law suits brought against the town by former employees, last year there was a law suit, actually an appeal to the ZBA decision brought on by a property owner in Jackson who applied for permission to do something they were denied. They have a right to appeal that decision to the Carroll County Superior Court which they did. Attorney Malia did represent the Zoning Board of Adjustment in that case defending their decision. Sarah Clemmons clarifies it wasn’t our group the ZBA that went to court; it was the person who went to the ZBA and did not get what they felt they deserved. The residents appealed it and the attorney defended the decision.

Planning Board: No comments, questions

Zoning Board: No comments, questions

General Government Buildings: No comments, questions

Cemeteries: No comments, questions

Property Liability Insurance: No comments, questions

Building Inspection: No comments, questions

Police Department: Gino Funicella is that the addition of a fourth police officer in 2016. Moderator Kelley states we have 3 full-time and 2 part-time at this time. Gino Funicella’s question is the total dollar amount changed from what was spent last year to what is planned on spending this year for personnel is an increase of approximately \$50,000. Projected \$50,000 over last year’s expenditures total, that \$50,000 appears to be a forth policemen, no? If it isn’t, who’s getting \$51,000? Just a question, it looks weird. Selectmen Allen says part of that is the 4% increase raise and an increase in hours for the part-time position to a certain extent it’s not a full time. Tish Hanlon asks what we are looking at and wants to understand what we are looking at: The 2015 Budget is the budget that was proposed last year it went up 15%, but really only went up 2-3%. Because of so much overage there was money set aside. Selectmen Allen says it is the Unreserved Fund that knocked it down. Tish Hanlon asks are we raising it another 22% on top of that 15%. Selectmen Thompson says our total proposed budget this year in between 5-

5.5% above the proposed budget we put before you a year ago. In addition we have more warrant articles this year for needs that weren't identified and in the budget as warrant articles last year for example, the Ambulance. Basically the operating budget that is \$100,000 above the proposed budget last year, which is between a 5-5.5% increase, you can take a look at the increase in the police department budget, and increase legal expenses budget to find that \$100,000 increase. Angus Badger asks for a justification for the increase, whether an increase in hours or increase in pay. Why is there an increase in hours and pay in our police department? Chief Jette explains basically the part-time program that could only work 8-10 hours a year, which only covered their yearly certification requirements. They couldn't really go out on the street or add to the police department. Chief Jette's intent is to get them more involved and keep their training up to date. Therefore give them more hours to work. Part-time officers can work up to 1300 hours a year by statute. He is asking for them to work 1000 hours this year and eventually get to that 1300 hours to make the part-time program effective and helpful to the town. Our part-time officers have been paid equivalent to a dispatcher who doesn't require all the specialized training. Our part-time officers he is looking to increase their wage by \$2 per hours. That will address the part-time program and the bulk of that increase if we look at the full-time officers and their rates. Three years ago this town and Karl Meyers agreed the three full-time officers and the selectmen approved an 8% increase for the next three years that only happened for 2 years. Chief Jette being the only one affected by that but obviously his pay increased with the new position he got. We are still looking at a Cost of Living increase and his officers being at the very bottom of what police officers are paid at entry level in the whole county, so we are still playing catch up with their wages. When we look at the amount of activity we had in 2015 those numbers doubled and sometimes tripled signifying their activity in the street is needed. That is why he asked for their raise. Ann McBride-Kantack asks if the criminal activity has double or tripled in the town. Chief Jette explains only the activity of his officers has doubled or tripled. The numbers we are talking about when looking at our statistics are representative of the investigations as well as patrol and calls for service those have doubled or tripled. Last year for example, the numbers of arrest in 2014 were seventeen and last year we were at thirty-five. Animal calls were at fifteen and last year was at forty-four. All the police activity that we see and record for both for the state and our department in town have seen a steady increase in the amount of activity. Betsy Harding says that we can't compare ourselves to little towns to those with 800-1000 people; we have a huge population of second homeowners and a huge population of tourists who travel to the area. Betsy thinks the police are doing a really great job and she is very grateful.

B-J Ambulance: Jeanette Heidmann asks about the actuals last year being \$4,800 and we are jumping to \$13,000. Selectmen Allen says a lot is because we improved a lot on our collections at the ambulance level. Jeanette Heidmann states that tells her the budget requests should go down. Selectmen Allen says that is one of the reasons we save money, again things have gone up, more trained for the ambulance and whole different set of batteries and radios that had to be updated. That's where a lot of that increase is going for as well as training. Larry Garland mentions how other departments are split up by line items for wages and so forth. The ambulance is not, does that mean there are no personnel costs and all equipment costs? Moderator Kelley says Jackson pays 40% of the cost and Bartlett pays 60%. The majority of the actual operating expense of the squad is paid for from revenue of the calls and donations.

Fire Department: Angus Badger asks for increase in wages explanation. Selectmen Thompson says wages basically represent a 4% pay rate increase as well as relate directly to a corresponding drop in the salary line item of the highway administration as well. When looking at your budget categories on page 95, you're looking at a 21% increase in proposed % increase in fire department and a 14% decrease in the highway department. That is because we have a fire code inspector who is phasing out and retiring. And the fire code inspection duties that we had budgeted for in the past you can see on page 97 under fire code inspector wages have dropped because our fire code inspector is phasing out. We had to cover those fire code inspector duties, so we increase the hours for the Chief because he was the only in the department qualified to do the work and that bumped him into fulltime status. So that's why you see the insurance drop in the highway department and a salary drop in the highway department and see those corresponding

increases in the fire department, now that we have a full time fire chief. Angus Badger asks if \$89,000 is the market price for full time fire chief. Selectmen Allen states it represents all of the fire wages not just the chief. Sarah Clemmons asks what the wage the fire chief is getting is and the benefits he is getting? Selectmen Thompson the wage is \$39,000. Julie Atwell states the salary is \$39,000 and the benefits are broken out individually. Moderator Kelley states that according to the State of New Hampshire you must work 30 hours per week to receive full time benefits. Jerry Dougherty III, states some of that salary comes from Code Enforcer Salary. Bea Davis states at the selectmen's meeting Bea Davis asked Selectmen Lockard that the salary was \$39,000 and a grand total \$77,000. Martha Benesh says no one is questioning paying any of these people, just clarifying where it is all going. If Jay is the Fire Chief, then who is the new road agent? Selectmen Thompson says we do, it is Pat Kelley who was number 2 in charge of the highway department and he is now a fulltime road agent. Karen Burton asks Julie Atwell about hours for health insurance benefits and retirement hours. Julie Atwell stated that the benefits are different for Fire and Police. Sarah Clemmons asks if the fire code inspector is leaving but we're still budgeting \$8,500 for that. Selectmen Thompson stated that he backed down his hours by half and is in the process of phasing out completely. He is staying on at a reduced capacity this year as we transition into assigning those duties to the chief. Moderator Kelley states our current Fire Inspector is a tremendous experience level in the fire service, he was chief in Berlin for many years. He was a certified New Hampshire Fire Instructor, he instructed all over the State of New Hampshire. Our Fire Inspectors knowledge and what he was able to do the last few years. Selectmen Allen repeats that we may not need the \$8,500 we may not spend one penny of that because there wasn't a need for it, but we have to budget that because we do not know. There might be a brand new hotel that comes in that needs professional advice maybe at the State level. We have to put that money in there but we may not spend none of it which would be nice.

Emergency Management: No comments, questions

Highway Administration: No comments, questions

Highway & Streets: Jeff Maynard asks about the plowing and maintenance of the side walk on the loop. Ninety-nine percent of it is really good. The part that isn't is the two bridges, he is wondering what it would cost extra to be really meticulous about getting the whole thing, because if you're walking the Route 16 section and going over the Ellis River and a tracker trailer is going south and a trash truck going north, the walker must jump up on a surface of 45 degree angle that is ice. A few years ago it was the will of the town to clear them. The timing of when the ice forms and when it is sanded could we bring it down instead of a week or two. Jeff Maynard asks the people is it important to have this thing a 100%, because you know it only take one person to get hit on Route 16 going across that Ellis River Bridge those legal expenses are going to go way up. Bob Thompson states that we have researched the cost for the equipment to purchase sidewalk clearing equipment is well above \$50,000. The town decided not to make that kind of investment in a sidewalk only clearing machine. Instead we contracted out the sidewalk clearing services to a business that has one of those machines. We spend about \$4-5,000 for the winter to clear those sidewalks. Pat Kelley says just the machine is super expensive and then you got to have somebody that can run it during the storm. So the highway department is all out plowing during the storm so there is no one available to run it, you really have to run it during the storm. This year has been a horrible year for ice when the sidewalks been slippery I've gone out and sanded it. Jean Brown is the person we contracted with because he is the only person that has a machine that is even remotely capable of doing it. It takes a special piece of equipment to do it. Some businesses in town won't let him snow blow on their properties. Gino Funicella states we priced it out about 6 years ago and the cost was about \$147,000. Fred Henry states the bridge on Route 16 is State Highway, if the selectmen would talk to the State Highway, Kenny Crowther and those guys. They clear the bridges and they would probably clean that bridge. The whole five mile circuit is state road. Jerry Dougherty III, states he uses the loop a lot and instead of using a lot of money, he would wait for that dump truck and whatever else go by before he would step into the street. Jeff Maynard disagrees with that statement. Frank Benesh asks should we

spend more money with the contractor to do this more regularly. Pat Kelley says there is a very limited pool of people to pull from to clear the sidewalks. He is one of the only ones that Jay and I really want. Have him come back, spend more money. Jay Henry states the contractor got a new machine and it's a little bit wider and that's why the bridges used to be snow blow off. He cannot fit on them now.

Street Lighting: No comments, questions

Solid Waste Disposal: Betsy Harding asks about wage increase or personnel decrease? Selectmen Allen says they are not ours they set the salaries.

Animal Control: No comments, questions

Public Welfare: No comments, questions

Library Appropriations: Wendy McVey asks is it both libraries or just the new library? Selectmen Thompson says we only have one library; the old one no longer serves as a library.

Recreation & Parks: No comments, questions

Debt Service: No comments, questions

Tans Interest Paid: Jeanette Heidmann asks why we carry it. Kathy Dougherty explains it's a tax anticipation note, if we need money right away we can get it. With our normal bank TD Bank it could take a couple of months to get the money. With the Tax Anticipation Note we get it within 24 hours if it's an emergency.

Moderator Kelley says before we call for the actual vote on the requested amount of \$1,988,492 is there any overall questions? Jeanette Heidmann is trouble that we are moving from 1.67 million to a request of 1.98 million, 18 to almost 19% increase with that in mind she moves to amend the article 6 to 1,788,492 a reduction to the operating budget of \$200,000. Motion is seconded. Caitlin Straus-Bowers if that number is agreed upon how does that get divided up, where does it come from? Moderator Kelley states that is up to the selectmen, they have the authority by statute. Jerry Dougherty III, she's recommending to reduce the budget seems arbitrary. She wasn't at the budget hearings. He strongly recommends that the town not approve this amendment. Allen Brooks asks where she thinks it should be cut. Jeanette Heidmann states it is not her position to make that decision that's up to the selectmen. Her recommendation would be the 4% increase for elected and employees for the second year in a row. When social security has been frozen at zero and when Cost of Living is less than 1 or 2% inflation. Four percent increase for 2 years in a row seems a bit excessive. The increase in staffing in police and fire, the rationale seems logical but it's a lot of money. It is a huge impact on each and every one of us. We enjoy the town and benefits, nothing against the fire department or police or highway department. It's just a lot of money. When we underspent last year and the year before and to ask for that much money, she does not see the justification. Selectmen Thompson responds to the taxes are going up. Historical the tax rates that go back to 1996 are on page 27 of the town report. In 1996 the municipal tax rate was \$4 in 2015 it was \$4.32, an average of 1% a year that your taxes have gone up. Your money has responsibly managed and that we are providing the services that you direct us to provide to the best of our ability as efficiently as we can. Gino Funicella states the real estate in town has increased in value substantially which even under a flat tax rate moves the amount of money up that comes into town coffers. In 2004, 2005, 2006 we only had 2 police officers, we had a smaller road crew some of the time. That last 3-4 years we have been taking money every year, which concerns him because that means probably that the budget looking forward hasn't been what it should be because at the end of the year they bring that money back in to balance the next year's tax rate. Peter Benson feels it completely ties the selectmen hands in running the town in an effective way. Do you

get the value for your tax dollars in services in this town? The town is well served by its departments and selectmen and he thinks he would recommend defeating this amendment. Kathleen Dougherty states we have a lot of new people that have moved into town, second homeowners we have a lot of revenue coming in from our taxes from those people. A lot of people work together, selectmen have put a lot of effort into coming up with a budget to satisfy everybody and to keep it low. Joyce Allen says she goes to some of the budget hearings and feels fairly well informed, everybody can't do that. She resents hearing she is being scolded for if I question anything and I do question some things. I feel scolded for that and that I shouldn't question anything, that's not a good feeling. Frank Benesh states the issue from Jeanette is the current practice of budgeting much more than what we spent in the prior years. He has had 1 or 2 questions today trying to understand why we do that. He has yet to hear a compelling answer. We underspent last year's budget by so much and we have to increase this year by an even greater amount but we always underspent that money. Moderator Kelley states it's been a trend for a long time he personally thinks its wise budgeting. A YES vote on the amendment passes the amendment, a NO vote defeats the amendment states we go back to the written amendment.

Vote on Dollar Amendment: Defeated

Any more discussed... Jeff Maynard likes to make a motion to increase the operating budget \$10,000 basically we can't spent \$150,000 on a machine so the town can do it. But you could certainly increase the amount that we pay a separate contractor. That would be 3 times the amount that maybe we would have safer sidewalks. Moderator Kelley says the Selectmen will look at ways to increase the maintenance of the winter sidewalks. Selectmen Thompson says please consider the practicality more time on the sidewalk. Unless you have that equipment during the storm you are going to have built up, you will going to have ice. You will have a minimal impact on making those sidewalks clear. No Second.

Vote: Verbal Approval

Article 07: HIGHWAY TRUCK PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$109,000 for the purchase of a new Highway Truck. The sum of \$109,000 shall be withdrawn from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund (0048 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$128,105.52). Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 08: CRF - FIRE TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to be placed in the Fire Department Truck Capital Reserve Fund (0003-Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$459,548.08) for the purpose of purchasing a new fire truck. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 09: CRF - ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 to be placed in the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund (0064 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$3,497.45) for the purpose of road reconstruction of town roads. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 10: CRF - HIGHWAY TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund (0048 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$128,105.52) for the purpose of purchasing a new highway truck. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 11: ETF - TRANSFER STATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund (0028 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$93,667.58) for the purpose of improvement to the Transfer Station buildings and equipment. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Gino Funicella asks if we have a new written agreement with the Town of Bartlett for the operation of the transfer station. Selectmen Thompson replies Yes, Selectmen Allen says same rate. Gino states we pay 50% of major construction. Selectmen Allen confirms this statement.

Vote: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 12: POLICE CRUISER PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the purchase of a new Police Cruiser. The sum of \$37,500 shall be withdrawn from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund (see article 19) for this purpose, approximately \$6,000 shall come from the proceeds from the sale of the 2011 police cruiser, and \$1,500 to be raised by taxation. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Jerry Dougherty III, is the \$6,000 for the sale of the current vehicle is it still the plan? Selectmen Allen says yes. Jerry Dougherty thought they planned it for another use. Selectmen Allen said no, there was some talk about that.

Vote: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 13: BARTLETT/JACKSON AMBULANCE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Bartlett/Jackson Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 14: MM - HIGHWAY REPAIR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,472 for the purpose of highway road projects. Funds to be offset with the Highway Block Grant. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 15: ETF - STATE ROADS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the State Aid Reconstruction Expendable Fund (0058 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$9,464.03) for the purpose of repairing and maintaining state roads in Jackson. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 16: CRF - HEAVY HIGHWAY VEHICLES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the Heavy Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund (0068 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$60,080.99) for the purpose of purchasing heavy highway vehicles. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 17: ETF - BRIDGES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund (0034 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$38,586.41) for the purpose of repairing and maintaining bridges. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Gino asks is that enough money long term to plan on spending on bridges in this town? Jay Henry states that particular money is for the start of Valley Cross Road Bridge for engineering, so we can prepare for 4-5 years down the road. Gino asks how many bridges in town that need maintaining or repair? Bill Terry asks do these funds include fixing the walkway for the Valley Cross Bridge in the coming year. Moderator Kelley states it is not for this year, but for the future for the bridge and would include the crosswalk. Bill Terry asks is it our intention of fixing the walkway based on the fact that there are several hundred thousand visitors who go on that bridge. Selectmen Allen says NO, it is too extensive work to be done, that's why state funding process to get it done it's a massive job. Selectmen Thompson explains we either will get \$800,000 from the State and we would contribute \$200,000 that is one option in the summer of 2018 or 2019. Or we'll decide to do a \$200,000 fix on our own, we are currently having some engineers look at it and make some recommendations. Does it pay to have the million dollar fix that we contribute \$200,000 or would it be in our better interest to repair it ourselves not waiting for State assistance and not do a complete bridge repair for \$200,000? Either way we can't just go in there right now and make the sidewalk structurally sound. Jay Henry states they looked at multiple ways to repair it and hiring a contractor to help us. It was going to cost us \$150,000, the option was why spend \$150,000 to repair it or spend \$200,000 to fix the whole bridge and last 50 years. Martha Benesh asks about increasing the amount to soften the final impact later.

Vote: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 18: CRF - OLD LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,000 to be placed in the Old Library Capital Reserve Fund (0069 - Fund Balance as 12/31/15 \$435.21) for the repair and restoration of the Old Jackson Library. The sum of \$3,500 shall come from the Old Library Committee and \$12,500 to be raised by taxation. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 19: CRF - POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,500 to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund (0027 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$22,042.99) for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Jason Roth questions an increase of \$52,000 for police department, \$15,000 for police cruiser, another \$1,500 raised by taxation that's a lot of money. What's the background of decision you need a police cruiser now and you can't wait a year. Basically a \$63,000 increase in a police department budget. How does that come about and get decided that way? Selectmen Thompson states the logic would be the replacement would always be the same what we get out of the vehicle. Our logic is the same with all the vehicles we replace we ask for contributions throughout the years so that we have enough to purchase the vehicle at the time we need a vehicle. If we get voter approval every year that we ask for voter approval on a warrant article we will have enough to purchase the next police cruiser in a timely fashion. Jason Roth asked if it was determined by a mechanic at the rate it was used there's not an additional year of service on it. Selectmen Thompson agreed with the statement that there was not an additional year of service on the vehicle.

Vote: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 20: TOWN OFFICE AIR CONDITIONER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,750 for the purpose of replacing the Town Office Air Conditioner. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 21: REVALUATION OF TOWN PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to be placed in the Revaluation of Town Property Capital Reserve Fund (0004 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$20,654.78) for the purpose of revaluating Jackson properties. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 22: ETF - DRY HYDRANT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in the Dry Hydrant Expendable Trust Fund (0049 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$10,191.43) for the purpose of repairing dry hydrants. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 23: ETF - POLICE EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be placed in the Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund (0051 - Fund Balance as of 12/31/15 \$1,323.95) for the purpose of purchasing, repairing or maintaining Police Department Equipment. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 24: FIREWORKS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for the Jackson Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of contributing to the Fireworks Fund. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 25: CHILDREN UNLIMITED - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for Children Unlimited, Inc. for the purpose of supporting the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years). Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 26: TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for Tri-County Community Action for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Jackson. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 27: GIBSON CENTER - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc., for the purpose of supporting Jackson home delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation and program services. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 28: WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,336 for the White Mountain Community Health Center for the purpose of providing Carroll County residents who are uninsured or under insured medical care. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 29: BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Jackson Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of contributing to the Holiday Beautification Project. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 30: CONWAY AREA HUMANE SOCIETY - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Conway Area Humane Society for the purpose of continuing services for stray, abandoned and neglected animals brought to the shelter by Animal Control or private citizens no longer able to care for them. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 31: STARTING POINT - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$834 for Starting Point for the purpose of providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 32: NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$716 for Northern Human Services for the purpose of providing Jackson residents who are uninsured, services at a sliding fee scale. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 33: EASTERN SLOPE AIRPORT - PETITIONED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for the Eastern Slope Airport Authority for the purpose of contributing to the operation of the Eastern Slope Regional Airport. Submitted by petition. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Verbal Approval

Article 34: PAY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES FROM CRF

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to NH RSA 35:9-a- II, to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay expenses incurred for professional banking or brokerage assistance in the management of capital reserve and expendable trust funds in their custody directly from such capital reserve and expendable trust funds. No vote by the Town to rescind such authority shall occur within 5 years of the adoption of this article. Selectmen are in favor (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION: Linda Terry Chairperson of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, currently the Capital Reserve Expendable Trust Funds are invested in the New Hampshire Public Deposit Pool our rate of return at the end of February .46% due to a recently passed law Trustees of the Trust Funds are now permitted subject to getting the appropriate support from the town at the town meeting to hire investment professionals to assist them in investing their funds in a more diverse portfolio which hopefully will generate higher investment returns over the long run. We are asking to be allowed as a committee Trustee of the Trust Funds to have the opportunity to interview and select investment professionals to help us achieve better returns on the trust funds and to compensate those professionals by taking money directly out of the trust funds themselves. Would need to request a separate line item in the town budget to cover by tax revenues. Peter Benson ask why the five year time frame, Linda says it is Statutory. Laurel Smith asks about what the fees might be. Linda says so far we have so far interviewed a couple of investment managers and have a couple more we will be speaking too. One of the firms we talked to has 50 basis point fees. We are going to talk to another investment management firm whose fees are .35% in fees. Laurel Smith asks if this is a yearly fee. Linda Terry states it would be a yearly basis. The trustees are authorized to sign the contract. Most firms allow contracts to be terminated with a 30-60 day notice.

Vote: Verbal Approval (unanimous)

Article 35: To act upon any other business for this meeting. Jerry Dougherty III, the Town Report is beautifully done nice job. He also read the report from each of the Town groups, the selectmen and building inspector. They are well written and interesting; he recommends the reading from all citizens. Peter Benson says it would be helpful if it said what the petition was for. The second thing under expenses give a description what it was for example: fire department, professional services? The Payee Summary on page 105. Barbara Theriault suggests you go to the Town Hall a lot of work has been done internally carpeting, cabinets, pictures and school children's pictures are hanging so anyone going in for a car renewal or a new person coming into town to pay their taxes for the first time makes them feel very welcome. It's very handsome inside the building.

Lisa Baumgartner asks about the process of a petition warrant article. When is the appropriate time to start that process? Selectmen Thompson stated you can go to the Selectmen's Office

and they can walk you through it. She asks whether we need to repeat the same process every year for the same petition warrant articles. Moderator Kelley points out the last page in the Annual Report regarding contacts for the emergency services. Pass along to those who it may be of assistance.

John Allen, Selectmen

Robert Thompson, Selectmen

William Lockard, Selectmen

Respectfully submitted and A True Copy of Record Attest,

Karen E. Burton, Town Clerk