

**Town of Lyndeborough NH
2017 Town Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Moderator Walter Holland on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 at Citizens' Hall located at 9 Citizens' Hall Road in Lyndeborough, New Hampshire.

Lyndeborough Town Warrant

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Lyndeborough, in the County of Hillsborough in said state qualified to vote in Town affairs; You are hereby notified to meet at Citizens' Hall, 9 Citizens' Hall Road, in said Lyndeborough on Tuesday, the fourteenth (14th) day of March 2017 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 2017 at ten o'clock in the morning, to act upon **Articles 2 through Article 12**: (due to a Nor'easter snow storm the Town Election was postponed from Tuesday, March 14th to Thursday March 16th).

Article 1: Selection of Officers: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

*-indicates elected (131 ballots cast – 1271 Registered Voters)

Results:

Selectman (3 years)	*Lee F. Mayhew	111
Trustee of Cemeteries (3 years)	*Virginia Chrisenton	121
Library Trustee (3 years)	*Ann Harkleroad	123
Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)	*Gary LeBlanc	119
Budget Committee (3 years)	*Robert Benson	5 write-in
	*Francis Bujak	3 write-in
	Steve Brown	3 write-in
Budget Committee (2 years)	*Stanley Greene	115
Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 years)	*Thomas G. Chrisenton	102
	*Lisa Post	103

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

Article 2: (Question 1) Voted on by Ballot

To see if the Town will vote to amend the following sections of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance which refer to the Home Business Ordinance:

(Explanation: These sections contradict other provisions of the Ordinance or are vague or redundant.)

Amend Section 501.00 subsection h of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance, Village District Permitted Uses, which reads:

**Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations and subject to Site Plan Review and approval by the Planning Board;
to read: Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations.**

Amend Section 701.00 subsection e of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance, Rural Lands I District Permitted Uses, which reads:

Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations and subject to Site Plan Review and approval by the Planning Board;
***to read:* Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations.**

Amend Section 801.00 subsection f of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance, Rural Lands II District Permitted Uses, which reads:

Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations and subject to Site Plan Review and approval by the Planning Board;
***to read:* Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations.**

Amend Section 901.00 subsection e of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance, Rural Lands Three District Permitted Uses, which reads:

Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations and subject to Site Plan Review and approval by the Planning Board;
***to read:* Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of Section 1200.00 of these regulations.**

***Delete Section 1200.00 subsection o of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance, Home Businesses, which reads:* The home business applicant or its legal representative must appear before the Planning Board in person and present the proposed plan. This gives the Board the opportunity to ask direct questions pertaining to the application and avoids any confusion as to intent, purpose or procedures of the proposed business.**

Delete Section 1200.01 and its related subsections 1200.01-a, 1200.01-b, 1200.01-c, 1200-01-d and 1200.01-e of the Town of Lyndeborough Zoning Ordinance which reads:* In appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions, the Planning Board may permit Home Businesses in compliance with the requirements of this section, section 1200.00 and Site Plan Review and Approval by the Planning Board. a) The home business shall not be evident from the road or other public right-of-way. b) Materials or equipment stored outside must be adequately screened from adjacent public rights-of-way and properties. c) Only retail sales which is customary and incidental to the home business are permitted. d) Separate structures may be constructed or placed to accommodate the home business if screened from surrounding development and suitable for reversion to use ancillary and incidental to a residential or agricultural use. e) The home business shall be clearly subordinate and secondary to the primary use of the property as a residence. (Recommended by the Planning Board) (Majority vote required) Yes: 103 No: 20 No Vote: 8 **Article Passes*

Article 3: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of, One Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty Two Dollars (\$1,985,132), representing the Operating Budget for fiscal year 2017 as prepared by the Budget Committee. Said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz.

Moderator Walter Holland: Burton Reynolds, Budget Committee Chairman will give an overview of how the Town stands as far as this particular budget, all the warrant articles for the capital reserve funds, our capital improvement plan. After Burton finishes we have Mr. Kevin Leonard from Northpoint Engineering to talk about Mountain Road, if there is any questions about the activity there and what is going on with that.

Burton Reynolds: One of my purposes this morning is to help you feel confident in the budget that is before you and to explain to you what the consequences are of saying yes to everything that is before you today. Sometimes people say if I vote for everything today won't my taxes go up tremendously and I like to say no they aren't and this year I can say that. We operate under the Municipal Budget Act and that gives the budget committee the responsibility of preparing the budget for you and the Selectmen then manage that budget. The budget committee doesn't have anything to do with the use of the funds, once you vote and tell us what you want to support, the Selectmen then have the authority to carry that out. One thing that is unique to this year, is that, we were challenged this year because at last year's town meeting we told you that if you approved the Mountain Road project we would see to it that it did not increase your taxes. That project was probably one of the largest things we ever passed in Lyndeborough, it was a million six hundred and sixty seven thousand dollars. We bonded that so it is not like we paid for it all at once, we are bonding it over ten years and the first bond payment will come due this year for two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. Our challenge was how do we take that two hundred and fifteen thousand dollar cost and incorporate it into the total budget and not have it affect you in terms of your taxes. If we didn't do that the tax rate would have gone up about a dollar thirty just for that purpose. Because, two hundred and fifteen thousand divided by, a hundred and sixty five million is our total assessed valuation, so if you take any expense you divide it by that you get the effect on the tax rate. So, if you took that dollar thirty multiplied it by a fairly typical assessment, I think is somewhere around the median is around two hundred and thirty thousand for any particular person. So if you took that dollar thirty by two hundred and thirty it would be three hundred dollars just for that Mountain Road project this year on your taxes. The only place this amount of money would be found would be in our capital improvement plan process. The operating budget, doesn't have, those are recurring expenses so we had spent some time last year before the proposal was before you for Mountain Road to determine if we thought we could say we could do that project and not have it affect the tax rate and so the project was started last year but really came to fruition this year. It involved the Department Heads, the Town Administrator, the Selectmen, the Capital Improvement Plan Committee and obviously the Budget Committee. A lot of people came together to make the changes that you are going to see today. With the assistance of the Department Heads, Selectmen and Town Administrator they all get together and start working on the budget process in early fall and then the Budget Committee get together in December and January and a little bit into February. The Selectmen are responsible for carrying out the budget once you vote on it, we just prepare it, and the whole idea is to have sort of an independent body preparing it and presenting it to you and then the Selectmen carry it out. You can increase the budget that is before you today by a maximum of ten percent that is part of the Municipal Budget Act

Law that applies to us because you have voted to have a budget committee. We actually voted as a Town to do that in the 1940's. We try very hard to understand what the needs are of all the various departments and most of the time you will see at the end of an article it says whether or not the Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend it. Almost always it will say that we both recommend it because that is where we want to come to before we come before you here at Town Meeting. Our goal is to present a budget that we think provides the funds that can responsibly operate town government and that is broken up into two pieces, the operating budget and the warrant articles. If you have a Town Report and would like to refer to it, if you go to page 22, that is a summary page and it shows last year's budget and this year's budget in summary form. Last year's total operating budget was a million seven ninety three and this year's is one million nine eighty five. It is up by a hundred and ninety two thousand and that is because the bond is built into the operating budget. If you go to the very end of the budget you will see that there is a section for the bond principal and the bond interest. The bond is built into the operating budget, it took a two thirds vote to approve that and the reason it required that instead of just a majority vote is because you were requiring future Town Meetings for as long as that bond lasted, to pay that bond. From now on we don't get to say we don't want to pay that, you don't get to do that. If you did the Department of Revenue Administration would overrule it and put it in the budget anyway. That forced the budget up. It went up by a hundred and ninety two thousand, the bond itself was two hundred and fifteen thousand so the budget without the bond is actually down. We said that we were going to address the Mountain Road project and see that it didn't increase your taxes, we did that by dealing with the warrant articles. The operating budget consists significantly of salaries that probably 40 to 50 percent of the budget. All the typical recurring expenses go in the operating budget. Things like utilities, maintenance, repairs, fuel, supplies, all those types of things. Larger one-time expenses, sometimes we will pull out and put in a separate warrant article for you to consider. All the Capital Reserve Funds that we ask you to fund those are warrant articles. I think sometimes people tend to look at the warrant articles and say, well, all the important things are in the operating budget, warrant articles are really optional. They aren't optional, they are things that by the rules of municipal accounting cannot be put in the operating budget and must be voted on separately. It gives you an opportunity to vote on each individual item. Warrant article, if you go to page 31 in your Town Report that gives you a list of your warrant articles. As you can see in 2016 we had quite a few warrant articles and this year in terms of funding Capital Reserve Funds and this year many fewer and a much lower total. From the standpoint of comparing last year to this year, basically you take the two eighty four five hundred from last year add to it the twenty thousand for the police vehicle and that would be it because the other things below that were things that were either funded, the lease for instance, this is funded through the Highway Block Grant. This is money from the State that is not local tax dollar money. That is changing as you can see from twenty five to thirty five, last year was the last year we paid on the used loader backhoe that we bought many years back. Thirty five is the new lease on the new truck that is in-between a pickup truck and a heavy heavy dump truck, so we are leasing that and this is the cost for that lease but it is not coming out of tax payer funds it is coming out of State funds. The one six sixty seven is the total amount for

the Mountain Road Project, because we weren't actually paying for that we had a similar amount on the revenue side to offset it and make it a wash. The last thing, the dump truck down at the bottom, that is actually a large pickup truck, we ended up buying that, you approved that last year, but that money came out of the Capital Reserve Funds so once again it wasn't something that affected your tax rate last year. What we are really doing is comparing two eighty four five hundred plus the twenty for the police vehicle which brings us to three zero five with a hundred and three thousand for this year. Again, the one forty nine down below it, if you vote to take the money out of the Capital Reserve Fund to buy the rescue vehicle that is coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund. That is money you have already paid for in previous years so it doesn't affect your tax rate this year. So, obviously the difference between, about three hundred and five thousand and a hundred and twenty three is substantial. It is a hundred and eighty one thousand dollars. Of the two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars which is the amount for the Mountain Road Project, a hundred and eighty one thousand of that is going to come from a reduction in the warrant article section of the budget. And, then we have set aside, again, some money from the Highway Block Grant which is State money, we need about thirty four thousand from that and we have that in the Highway Block Grant that we can apply to it. That will make up the two hundred and fifteen thousand for the bond and cover it. I do want to cover briefly how we got to this hundred and twenty three thousand, this is the process that took place. We began looking at the items in the Capital plan much more critically and trying to think of various options that, ways we could go about funding things but maybe reducing our costs. We also saw that there was some money that had been sitting in the Trustee of Trust Funds account for dealing with the Landfill in Wilton. It is from a situation of many years ago. So, we decided we could use that possibly for more current purposes so we have a warrant article on the ballot this year for you to think about that, consider it. We also took a look at how we were purchasing our Highway equipment and the decision after much review was that we were happy with what we were doing with the heavy trucks, we thought those we should be buying new and so we stuck with that. The equipment though is a different situation. We had a number of years ago bought the large loader which we call our backhoe loader used. Kent (Road Agent) has had excellent experience with that. So based on that we began looking at could we possibly buy our equipment for the Highway Department used. That world has gone through a change just like it has for us and our vehicle world, leasing is very very popular in the construction industry these days. There tends to be a lot of used equipment out there, much more than years ago. We found in doing our research and going out and testing, trying to find a replacement for the piece of equipment we had there were a number of options out there with a lot of equipment, low hours on it, much less expensive. So, based on that a change was made to focus the fund on a used piece of equipment not new. That was a big part of it, was, switching to used. The other thing we did was, at looking at all these things, it occurred to us that equipment and trucks and everything in the Highway world has really changed over the years but we hadn't really changed how we were handling things at the Highway Department. We were still kind of expecting our Highway people to know how to maintain this high tech equipment and that wasn't a good idea. It wasn't reasonable to expect that they would be up to date on all the latest and how to handle every piece of

equipment that we have. The Selectmen worked with Kent (Road Agent) and the Town Administrator (Russ Boland) and decided that from now on we would have representatives from the companies that we have bought the equipment from work on the vehicles. They are very used to now, because many other people have done it before us, they are used to coming out and doing the maintenance on the equipment. You don't even have to take it to them they will come here with a vehicle and a crew and they will take care of it. We decided we would do that thinking that it would reduce our maintenance expenses, it would hopefully make the equipment maybe more reliable and less susceptible to breakdowns and thirdly it will hopefully allow us to keep some of our equipment longer, so that went into the puzzle of how long we were going to keep something and when did we need to get a replacement. So those are all the factors that went into reducing this down to a hundred and twenty three thousand. The full plan is on page 47. The plan is required to be a six year plan, so that shows you what the plan looks like going out those six years and the dark number almost three quarters of the way or better down the page, those are the totals for the various years. Our thought is that we can bring some of the totals for some of these out years down some as we go a little further on and for instance today based on some of the votes today that will impact this plan going out into the future and some of the expenses that are built into the plan for nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, some of those may be able to be reduced or taken out entirely, we will have to wait and see. We don't anticipate anything going up just possibly some things coming down. Overall, town spending, last year we estimated that the towns section of the tax rate would go up by eighty cents and it indeed did do that. This year the operating budget is up by a hundred and ninety two thousand but it is offset by the hundred and eighty one reduction in the Capital Plan and that leaves us with a net increase of eleven thousand. The other piece to this of course is your revenues and typically your revenues don't change a lot but every year when we prepare the budget we do look at revenues where we think they are going and our very conservative estimate at this point is that they will be up by twenty thousand. So the twenty thousand increase in revenues is more than the eleven thousand increase in expenses so we expect the tax rate to be flat. Just to keep in perspective remember that the town portion of the tax rate is about thirty percent of your taxes, school portion is about sixty five percent of your taxes and the county is five. We have already had the school meeting, there budget looks to be reasonably flat and based on the way that expenses are shared between the two towns that also appears as though that won't affect things the way it did last year. Last year I know you saw your school section go up when we said we think it's going to be, the budget is flat it should stay the same. The formula which is based on the school population and town assessed value it had changed some and we ended up having an increase there. The School Board looked at that more carefully this year and at the school meeting they said they didn't anticipate that that was going to be a problem. Last, I always explain these two words because they are in all the Warrant Articles and a lots of times people don't know what they mean. They have a very specific meaning in our world. We always say we will vote to raise and appropriate, what do those two terms mean. Raise means to identify a source of funds, could be taxation, could be a grant, could be money from a Capital Reserve Fund but where is it you are going to take this money from to fund this article. Appropriate means to set aside a specific

amount of money for a specific purpose. So, you always see in the article it is going to be so many thousand dollars for this particular item or issue.

Moderator Walter Holland: That is an overview of the budget, the general budget plus a brief explanation about our Capital Reserve Funds and when we get to some of the specific funds I am sure Mr. Reynolds will explain some of those as we get to them. Right now we are dealing with the regular general operating budget to take care of Town affairs. Any questions or comments?

Paul Martin: Couple of things in the budget, for instance if you don't spend the total amount of one budget in the year previous, the next year you ask for more money than the previous year's budget, why would that be?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: There are some things for example that we planned to take place that did not take place but they will reoccur again in the future year.

Paul Martin: I don't want any of my questions to be taken as against any portion of this budget because again I think the town does a good job and the people that run the town. In particular I was questioning like the Police budget for instance, that budget last year when it came in was asked for two hundred and forty nine thousand and we spent two hundred and twenty seven thousand, is that correct? This year they are asking for two hundred and fifty six thousand for that budget that is one of the questions I had.

Police Chief Deware: A couple of things happened, number one we lost a full time employee in March to the Manchester Police Department so that position went unfilled for a number of months until one of our part time officers was offered the job. As of the first of September I was instructed by the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen that we were on a flat line sort of freeze so no going above and beyond, just get what you need for operational needs and that was to offset the cost of the Mountain Road project. So that is why you are seeing about a twenty two thousand dollar difference in our budget. We did our best that we could to help facilitate the needs of other departments. The increase this year is due to some computer and radio equipment that we need to replace and that is a mechanical and operational need because the stuff we have now is failing and it can't be repaired. The portable radios that we have right now that we are using, Motorola no longer makes them, no longer supplies parts for them and no longer repairs them. If we would have stayed with Motorola it would have cost thirty three hundred dollars apiece. So I went out and got some prices on some other stuff and I found replacements so we will get four replacements for just under four thousand dollars for four of them on a state bid through Kenwood. We have done our due diligence and our best to really keep these budgets in line and again it is not an exact science, prices fluctuate throughout the year, some things go up, some things go down, you do the best that you can.

Paul Martin: The only other portion of the budget I have a question on is the Ambulance Service, is forty nine thousand last year and this year we are asking for sixty one thousand.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo: I think there is a couple of issues with the ambulance, the financing of the ambulance the way it looks on there is, I am going to lean on you guys a little bit for some financial parts. In 2015 in our operating budget our insurance revenues were twenty grand more than anticipated and we spent ten grand less than we anticipated. So, there was thirty thousand dollars

there that was given to the three towns for 2016. So, in 2016 your payment was artificially thirty thousand dollars lower. In 2016 our insurance revenues came in right where we expected and our expenditures were a couple of grand less than we budgeted. So right there your thirty thousand dollars, your payment is more, does that make sense when I say that, because you paid thirty thousand dollars less for 2016. Because we carried that over from 2015. This year because of the salaries of the ambulance personnel have been artificially low there was a three year equity adjustment built in for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Because we were having problems with recruiting the Wilton Budget Committee and the Wilton Selectmen asked to put the 2017 and 2018 adjustment into this year. If I take the salary line out of the ambulance budget it goes down two percent. When I put the salaries in it goes up six percent. That is the big hit, the salaries. That is why there is that jump, the money we gave back from 2015 and that jump from the salaries.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other comments? Any other questions on the operating budget. Ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it.

Article 3 Passes

Before we do anything else we got the operating budget covered and now we are going to start putting money aside in our Capital Reserve Funds to save for the future to buy vehicles. We have Mr. Kevin Leonard here from Northpoint Engineering. Those of you who live up on Mountain Road, happen to use Mountain Road, if you have come over that road in the past several months you know how sweet it is and how smooth it is. Mr. Leonard is here to answer any questions you might have about the progress on the road and what is going to be happening in the future. Does anybody have any questions that he might be able to answer you as far as the delays or drainage?

Paul Martin: How much of Mountain Road is actually going to be done. Is that going to go right up over the top of it or is that just that corner down at the bottom?

Kevin Leonard (Northpoint Engineering): We reconstructed segments of Mountain Road last year or helped the Town do that and we are going to be probably early summer rapping up some loose ends that basically kind of snow and winter conditions kind of forced us to shut down and resume that this Spring. We are going to paving an overlay course from Center Road to the entire length of the paved section which is a pretty good distance.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Some of you who pass over the initial section which was section A that is the part that the Town was working on. The asphalt is like popcorn maybe and there is some holes in the seam in the middle. We had Continental Paving over in early March and what they believe happened is that at the asphalt plant when they were loading one of the doors stayed open too long which made the asphalt cooler than it should have been. So when it got here it didn't apply and stay adhering the way it should. So that is why in some of the sections by the pond you have those issues. That will be repaired at no cost to the Town by Continental Paving. We have some work, the Town does in section A, one of our big sections to repair and fix and then when that is all done we will be paving the entire length as Kevin said.

Paul Martin: Are you going to lift up all that pavement and take that out of there or are you just going to go over the top of it?

Kevin Leonard (Northpoint Engineering): When you are asking that question where are you referring to?

Paul Martin: Mountain Road

Kevin Leonard (Northpoint Engineering): The sections that we are repairing were paved new last year but as Lee just mentioned there on section A coming from Badger Pond to Mason Road, that segment there, climbing up the hill there are several areas where basically there was faulty asphalt placed and as Lee mentioned Continental is going to repair it. We are going to cut that stuff out, we are going to repair it and put down new pavement at no expense to the Town. Recognizing it was a problem with the Plant in Litchfield and they are going to fix it.

Paul Martin: Is that what is happening on my road, they paved it a few years ago and my road is terrible again and they repaved it not too long ago.

Kent Perry (Road Agent): Keep in mind the Mountain Road project was four feet down repaired and it cost one point six million dollars in pieces. Your road has never been dug down it is paved over a cow field and that is the reason why it is bad and to fix it would be a substantial amount of money.

Selectman Mark Schultz: Mr. Moderator perhaps if everyone could know what road it is that Paul Martin lives on.

Paul Martin: It used to be called Emery Holt Road but now it is Putnam Hill Road. The last time we repaired it what they did was put in a small drainage pipe for drainage and then they went over the old paving. From the top of the road all the way down to here what they did was they crushed all the pavement up, they took the pavement up and that road seems to be holding up pretty well since they did that. On my road the part that I travel on they didn't do that and that is why I was asking if that is what they are doing on Mountain Road if they are going to go over the old pavement for the areas that have a lot of bumps and frost heaves and stuff. Are they going to do the same thing there because eventually it won't be long we are going to end up with the same kind of road aren't you.

Kent Perry (Road Agent): If you go and look in-between the engineered sections you will see squares cut out. Those are depth repairs where we knew and the engineers identified and I identified where there would be big heaves or water problem. So underdrain is in there and new gravel is in there to the correct depth and repairs. It will not look like your road because it already has had the repairs last year that prevent that very thing from happening. Its patched in-between and when the overlay goes on this year it should be fixed. This is a twenty year fix up on Mountain Road and a five year fix on your road.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Remember we thought Mountain Road would be all finished and the final coat of asphalt before the school busses ran last September. That did not happen and one of the reasons it did not happen is when we got out and walked and looked at section A, which is the Town section. We found that there were asphalt that looked like spider webs, there were many many cracks and pieces of asphalt were actually missing. So we made the decision to repair those and that area we would have to dig up the asphalt, put in a new base and we had to hire another contractor, Advance Paving. They came in and laid some new asphalt in the areas of the dug up and repaired. So what we

are talking about is we did something different on Mountain Road that wasn't done to my road or to Paul's road for example. If the road looked pretty good in the past and Burton can correct me if I am wrong. What we did is put like an inch and a half of overlay and if there was something really noticeable we repaired it. Kent would go in and put some drainage. But we didn't deal with the issue of how bad is the base four feet down because it is an extraordinary cost. Our goal was twenty five years and that's why it has taken us longer and we will be paving the final coat this year. We analyzed it and did something different and we basically made a new road there. One of the problems on Mountain Road was the horrendous amount of water that came down and no drainage except what was on the side of the road. We now have drainage, we have catch basins and things of that nature to take the water and get it off the asphalt and stop the freezing. We have one point, the other side of the ledges where we didn't work on it and Kevin is going to look at it. We have some unevenness for the thawing and freezing this year. I think there are three pieces that have kind of shifted and before we get all done we will look at that and see what we have to do, but that didn't show up until this winter.

Leo Trudeau: I want to start by extending my personal gratitude to every taxpayer in this Town for approving the Mountain Road project. To the Boards of Selectmen, all the member that were involved in it, Russ the Town Administrator, to the Highway Department, the Police Department and I say mostly to an old friend Burton Reynolds and all of the budget committee and everybody who spent so much time to be able to make it work. Because it was so well presented, Kevin, the Engineer did a great job of explaining the mechanics of it. This whole project was very well presented and now it's nearly complete. A year ago, within a few days, when I drove here to Town Meeting in my big truck, which is a stiff truck, granted it's what I do for life, I probably couldn't go over fifteen miles an hour, and that is not a lie. Because at this time of year that back side, the last section, was so rough it was just insane. Today, I bet I hit thirty miles an hour. I know that some people did have some issues and some concerns. A close neighbor of mine had to put up with daily dust storms that were so thick you couldn't see through them. I can't imagine in the summer time having to keep your windows closed every minute because of that amount of dust. So, she and a contractor friend of mine who just used some good old fashioned Yankee ingenuity rigged up a system and she watered the road herself and it worked. She took that in her own hands because she had to, but she made it work. That is what we do. We live in a small Town but we have some really big people around here, we have some good thinkers and we got kind and generous hearts and that is what it takes to do something of the magnitude of that project. There will be others come down the pike and yes we will present them well and hopefully approve them all and they will come to good fruition. But that is what we do, this project has turned out very very well. When we get a big warm up and a snow melt and that drainage is working and we all go over there and look at it and there is no longer this three to four foot deep ditch right along the side of the road coming down past Fred's house we can smile because it's a better thing. No tragic accidents have occurred, it is a much smoother road. The final paving will get done, it will be done very well. We should be very thankful that we have such good oversight

because we do. So, again, my personal gratitude, thank you everybody who worked on it, thank you citizens for voting it and paying for it.

Moderator Walter Holland: Are we ready to start on these Capital Reserve Funds.

Article 4: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000) to be added to the Repair and Replacement of the 1994 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)
Motion made by Selectman Mark Schultz to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Lee Mayhew.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any question on this?

Tim Lemire: Is there any ability to change how it's funded regarding other Warrant Articles, meaning Warrant Article 11 which is a repurposing of money that already exists. Is there a means to file a motion to change that to fund other Warrant Articles? Eighty two thousand dollars could effectively wipe out a majority of the Warrant Articles for this year and I notice that it is last so you can't really say no to 11 until all the others are voted on.

Moderator Walter Holland: Your question is, you are asking can you take the money from Article 11 and pay down these other Capital Reserve Funds.

Tim Lemire: Yes, basically, I know you have to go one by one through these other Articles but, I can't wait till 11 to ask for that to be repurposed in a certain way.

Burton Reynolds: I am not positive about my answer but I believe the DRA would say no, you cannot do that. That is changing the Article too much.

Tim Lemire: I suppose my thought is that with what we are tied to with the school system that we can't change and then having a total increase of eleven grand, which is fairly modest. There still seems to be a lack of creativity with taxpayer money that has been held by the Town since nineteen ninety three to have a pretty lean year as far as the taxpayers go.

Mike Kaelin: Maybe if you wanted to make a motion to apply that to next year and then we could vote on it. I don't know if that might be a solution to what he is looking for. When we get to Article 11 then he can make a motion that we either turn it down or apply it to something next year. But, I think the ship has sailed for this year.

Moderator Walter Holland: These Capital Reserve Funds have been approved by the DRA on a continuing bases so these are trucks and equipment that we need to repair. That Article 11 was something that, there was money that was sitting in a fund in Wilton for the Recycling Center and it was money that we weren't using for anything so the Budget Committee and other members felt that it was important to use that money rather than just leaving it and not drawing very much interest. To use it for something and the Fire Department has a continuing need for updating their equipment, life safety equipment, air packs and stuff like that. So this was some money that wasn't free money because it's ours but they felt that rather than try to put another Capital Reserve Fund together to fund Fire Department equipment that they would use it for that. Getting back to the Capital Reserve Funds,

even if we didn't have that eighty two thousand dollars sitting there we are still going to have to fund these vehicles or if we don't fund them on a continuing basis we are going to end up buying one sometime. When we get to Article 11 we can discuss that about what we can do with that money but we still need to plan for these other vehicles regardless of Article 11.

Tim Lemire: Article 11 is money that exists that the Town wants to repurpose for Fire Department equipment. That eighty two thousand dollars could pay the nineteen thousand for Article 4, to pay the twenty thousand for Article 7, the eight thousand for Article 8. What I am saying is it appears that there could be a more taxpayer friendly or effective way to have dealt with eighty two thousand dollars than slide it over hundred percent _____ Fire Department.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: You could accomplish what you are saying and not spend the money in 11. If you didn't spend it you are offsetting your taxes but the other reason why we did 11 that money was for the old Dump when they had a Dump. There was always a concept that EPA would come in. You would have to have wells and clean up and all the rest of that. Wilton has saved some money we have saved some money also. The eighty two thousand dollars and Wilton's ninety thousand dollars wouldn't do a thing. If you are going to have to do a study at a Dump you would have to have EPA, you will have to have the contractors and you will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. So the reason this is repurposed is it that we know at times the Fire Department has instruments called Jaws of Life, and De fib. These machines will cost anywhere, Chief please correct me, but the Jaws of Life blades alone I think are in the twenty to thirty thousand dollars, the new blades that will open the new kind of steels on the cars. And then the De fib that we are talking about is in the forties to sixties depending on what you have. So instead of having a spike in your budget, up and down by getting him a defibrillator or something of that nature we are putting money aside in your savings account to keep everything just like this. That is why we repurposed that but this nineteen thousand if you look at the Capital Improvement Plan in your book is a level funding because our goal is to always keep your budget flat. As flat as we can. So if your truck has got a fifteen year life or ten year life we divide that into the cost of the replacement vehicle and put that amount of money away every year. That is your Capital Improvement Plan. So to protect the needs of the Fire Department and the Rescue truck we repurposed what we will talk about later in 11.

Tim Lemire: My whole point is why do we ever have _____ down _____ instead of flat or seeing it up _____.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Insurance goes up every year on our employees, we have an issue in Town where we are going to have to have an Attorney that could cost us ten thousand dollars. So the budget is kind of in a flux depending on what happens, so we try very hard to keep it as neutral as we can. To replace some of these things like the Jaws of Life is an example, the old blades, the Chief can talk about this later, I am not an expert, but the blades we have now don't cut the steel on the cars we have now because they are so greatly reinforced. When we get to 11 we will talk about 11 more but you can move anything, just amend your budget.

Moderator Walter Holland: To get back to that, we have been putting money aside to buy these vehicles which we will have to continue to do. 11 is a separate Article that is the Article we can

discuss that and then based on the feeling in the room we can decide what to do with that eighty two thousand. You could use that eighty two thousand to reduce our overall taxes, it doesn't have to apply to any of these Capital Reserve Funds but at the end of the year that eighty two thousand could be used to go back into the general fund. Article 4, any further questions on that particular pumper truck. Ready for the question? All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 4 Passes**

Article 5: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Repair and Replacement of the 1984 Tanker Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)
Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions on Article 5? Chief Smith, how is that tanker doing anyway?

Fire Chief Brian Smith: The truck itself is good. The issue we are having to put so much money away is the problem is with the station. To replace that truck we would have to retro fit the station because the trucks are too big so everything would have to be a custom truck so it is going to cost more money. The wording for repair is more or less if we can find a truck chassis that would fit in our station to remount the body on that truck chassis to fit into the station. There is a front mount pump on that truck, if there is any significant amount of repairs we probably wouldn't go ahead and do it because it is strictly a tanker truck.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other questions on Article 5. Ready for the question? All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 5 Passes**

Article 6: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$149,000) to purchase a Fire Department Rescue Vehicle and other associated equipment including but not limited to set up costs. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of up to One Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$149,000) from the Repair and Replacement of the 2002 Fire Department Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, previously set up for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the vehicle is purchased or December 31, 2019, whichever is sooner; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required.)
Motion made by Selectman Mark Schultz to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Lee Mayhew.

Moderator Walter Holland: Do we have a discussion or any comments or questions on this purchasing a vehicle. As you can see it says we will be withdrawing money from a Capital Reserve Fund. That means the money is already set aside, we do not have to raise any money by taxation for this.

Mark Chase: Has it already been put out to bid?

Fire Chief Brian Smith: Yes we have gotten three bids so far for this truck.

Moderator Walter Holland: One other thing to go along with this, should we mention what is going to happen with the old Rescue Vehicle.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: The old Rescue Truck is going to go to the Highway Department and we are going to use it and make it available also to the Fire Department. At times they tow there big red trailer behind which has, what do you have in their Brian?

Fire Chief Brian Smith: It's a UTV, it's a Kawasaki. It carries all of our forestry equipment as well.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: The Highway is going to use it. We are also responsible for the cemeteries, so that is going to be the truck that is going to be hauling the lawn mowing gear and things of that nature when we do repairs to some of the buildings. It is not intended to be primarily a plow truck but if we had to we would put a plow on it and use it if we had some deficiencies in the other vehicles.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other questions on this Article? Ready for the question? All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 6 Passes**

Article 7: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Repair and Replacement of the 2008 Volvo Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required.)

Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any discussion on that, seeing none, ready for the question. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 7 Passes**

Article 8: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand (\$8,000) to be added to the Repair and Replacement of the 2008 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required.)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Schultz to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Lee Mayhew.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any discussion on that, seeing none, ready for the question. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 8 Passes**

Article 9: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to be added to the Repair and Replacement of the 2016 Highway Department One-Ton Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any discussion on that?

Paul Martin: Burton had mentioned about the Highway Department having maintenance done and leasing vehicles. Have we taken a look at leasing all of our Highway vehicles? Do you think it might be worth taking a look at leasing them all?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: We have looked at it. You have the cost of the interest, the Freightliner, I believe is at 2.79%, so by saving over a period of time you avoid the interest charges. The Freightliner is costing in interest charges as we pay for it over the next six years. Right now, the low interest rates environment is very attractive but as interest rates creep up and also we are gaining interest on the money we set aside. So, the total swing may be six or seven percent that we are saving by going to direct purchase.

Paul Martin: So we are actually saving money by doing direct purchase versus leasing. Maintenance wise also, so we do the maintenance on those vehicles.

Road Agent Kent Perry: We have our maintenance sub-contractor now. It is all computerized now so I can jump on the phone and tell the guy the code, he will come and get it fixed.

Paul Martin: Our maintenance is done outside now.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: So what we are doing now is keeping two sets of records, identical, one kept at the Town Office and one down at the Highway Department on the maintenance of the vehicles. All the rolling stock (dump trucks) gets taken care of three to four times a year and heavy equipment is at least twice a year.

Moderator Walter Holland: ready for the question. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 9 Passes**

Article 10: **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 2016 Mid-Size Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose; or take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required.)***

Motion made by Selectman Mark Schultz to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Lee Mayhew.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any discussion on that, seeing none, ready for the question. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 10 Passes**

Article 11: **To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote, pursuant RSA 35:16, to change the purpose of the existing Landfill Capital Reserve Fund established in 1993 so that the new purpose shall be the repair and replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department equipment (excluding vehicles), and to rename the fund the Repair and Replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Said fund currently containing approximately Eighty Two Thousand, Six hundred and Eighty Eight Dollars (\$82,688) to Repair and Replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; or take any**

other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (2/3 Majority Ballot Vote Required.)*

Moderator Walter Holland: We need a two thirds majority vote to pass this to change the use of the fund. The DRA requires you have a two thirds vote.

Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz.

Moderator Walter Holland: It is money we have set aside for the closure of the dump down in Wilton. They are monitoring it, it is part of our regular money that we pay to contribute to the solid waste disposal to Wilton. The money set aside in that budget to monitor these wells and to see how the old dump that we covered up is working. It is in an area, I can't tell you exactly in the dump, but it is in a protected area and they have not had any issues since they closed it back in the nineteen eighties or whenever. As we discussed in the Budget Committee and the Selectmen have mentioned, if they ever had a hundred year flood or whatever and it opened up that cavity where they closed it up, it is going to be more money than this to fix it. They felt that this money could be repurposed instead of just sitting there, so that is where we are at.

Burton Reynolds: I am going to speak to this because I am the one that suggested we make this change and I am probably one of the few people who go back far enough to remember when we first put money in it and the reason why we did. As Walter said the old dump is where the recycling center is now and when you go to pull out of where you leave off everything and you go come out, go kind of off to the left. To the right is a big flat area that is where the old dump was, it was for Wilton and Lyndeborough only. The rest of the towns that belong to the recycling center now had nothing to do with that. For about a decade we put money, around ten thousand dollars a year away to fund, number one the monitoring and number two any minor repairs that might come up. In two thousand one we stopped putting any money away, there hadn't been any reason to spend any money and we felt comfortable we had enough money in the fund, we just left it there. This year when we were looking at our Capital Reserve Funds in great detail, this one was of course on the, if you look in your Town Report on page 47 I think is where all the Capital Reserve Funds are but on page 49 at the bottom of that page that is the report of the Trustee of Trust Funds and that shows you all the Capital Reserve Funds that we have. The very top one says Landfill and so we looked at that and said instead of just having that money remain there and do nothing we ought to think about putting it to use. Wilton several years ago repurposed some of their section of this because as Lee mentioned if anything of any significance happens we are talking big money and this isn't going to help us very much. We did consider taking the money and just letting it go into the General Fund and letting it be a credit on this year's taxes, lower your taxes for this year. We really thought the better long term thing to do was to repurpose it to the Fire Department. So, when we took a look at this we said there is one area that we feel that we are vulnerable at that is the Fire Department. Because, they do have these pieces of equipment that are very expensive. We just got through paying over three years for all of the breathing apparatus, it was eighteen thousand a year over three different years that boosted that operating budget. That is something we would like to avoid so we thought if we put this eighty thousand dollars towards those types of things and Brian can come up and explain some of the types of pieces of equipment he is thinking about going into this. If we could set that up we wouldn't have to start, one of the problems is we haven't set one up before because of course we would have to start from zero. We thought, well here is eighty thousand dollars we could begin this fund with that and then put in probably very modest amounts going out from here and cover some of these big expensive items and not have them, I mean it's great to take all the money and put it against this year's tax rate but when

one of those big items hits, three or four years down the road that year's tax rate is going skyrocket. We would like to prevent that from happening. We thought we could take this eighty thousand, begin the fund with that, then this coming year Brian would work with the Selectmen and the Town Administrator. We would come up with a plan and next year we would present that plan to the Town as part of the Capital Reserve Funds and say well we might need eight thousand dollars or something to go into this fund. Something much, much less than starting from scratch and not having any money and having to fund the things that we think need to go into it. That is the background to this particular Warrant Article and why we are asking to do it.

Moderator Walter Holland: This year we are just changing the purpose and putting it into a Capital Reserve Fund and there is no intention for any, the Selectmen or Fire Department to be able to withdraw money. So no money is coming out we are just taking it from one Capital Reserve Fund putting the money into a different one this year and changing the purpose and name. Brian do you have any ideas about what you see as equipment you might need. Next year you would come up with a list and present it here to tell the people what we are going to spend it on.

Fire Chief Brian Smith: Our biggest issue that we are facing right now is not so much our Jaws of Life, those are the actual that do all the spreading it is our rescue cutters. The new steel that is coming out in these vehicles it is not so much the type of steel its, they are using it as a laminate so they are sandwiching it together and our cutters now that we have are not strong enough or the teeth aren't made to cut that type of steel. Our set of cutters are so old we can't upgrade those so we are looking at possibly upwards of ten thousand dollars to replace that set of cutters. When we do that they need a certain PSI to operate them so we have to upgrade our power plant which could be anywhere to another ten thousand dollars. So, that would be our ticket item for next year. We also have our AED or defibrillation machine, if it's not ten years its older than that, we got it used to begin with and right now we are having a hard time if we need parts to find parts because they are no longer making them. To replace that we are looking at anywhere from twenty to thirty thousand dollars if that goes and when it decides to go. We also have our SCBA those are only good for fifteen year and that is set forth by NFPA. We are already three years into it so in another twelve years you are going to look at spending, I think this past time it cost us fifty four thousand and change. That is going to increase I am sure we could be spending as much as sixty maybe seventy thousand to replace all those. We definitely have some big ticket items.

Moderator Walter Holland: The Fire Department equipment needs have changed quite a lot in the last thirty years. It used to be just turn out gear, boots and helmets. Any questions on this Capital Reserve Fund?

Geoffrey Brock: Just want to make sure I understand the choices of the votes. If we vote this down the Trust Fund the eighty two thousand six hundred and eighty eight dollars I would assume would remain in the old fund. Is that correct? What kind of vote would you need, I forget the gentleman's name who wanted to use it to reduce taxes. What kind of motion would be needed to use that to reduce taxes?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Actually you couldn't do it this year anyway because you haven't warned. You either have to approve or modify or zero on this, you can't change the purpose of an Article because it wasn't warned to the voters.

Moderator Walter Holland: The key thing why we couldn't change the purpose of this is because you have to warn the residents of the town of this. According to DRA once this has been warned and published we have to go with this. We have to vote it up or down and then next year come up with a different Capital Reserve Fund change of purpose. Any other questions on this?

Tim Lemire: So now hearing those explanations I think that is a little bit disappointing because this money presumably back in the nineties raised taxes to accomplish a certain fund and now it is just being repurposed where it should work to lower the taxes. My thoughts on this are when you look at what equipment are needed those pieces of equipment should probably be individual warrant articles. Once this eighty two thousand dollars goes over it is almost like a discretionary spending pot that we don't have any say in after that.

Selectman Mark Schultz: Mr. Moderator, may I. That is not true Sir. This money if you were to change the purpose and the money is here, it can't be spent until next Town Meeting when we have to specifically say what we want to withdraw the money for. It is not a discretionary fund, it's repurposed and you will get an opportunity to vote on it again at next Town Meeting.

Tim Lemire: A majority vote at that point?

Selectman Mark Schultz: Yes. This is not a, just a fund, discretionary to do whatever we want with. It is still a Capital Reserve Fund for the Fire Department equipment use, and I say we would be sitting here next year talking about the particular items that the Fire Department has come forward with. Has gone through the Selectmen, gone through the Budget Committee and then I recommendations to you the voters, decide what you want to do with that money.

Tim Lemire: Okay, so they would have to come back next year with individual itemized.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Every year to take something out you have to vote.

Moderator Walter Holland: This will probably be a continuing Capital Reserve Fund. Right now it has eighty two thousand in it. We might spend some next year but then two years from now we might see another need and put several more thousand in it just to keep it going.

Regina Conrad: Would this also be able to be used for making a larger garage at a future date.

Moderator Walter Holland: No, the way it is worded it is specifically for equipment, no buildings no vehicles. But, it does relate to equipment so possibly in the future if we did come up with another building and we needed a piece of equipment for that new building or something, that we will have to determine. Specifically this is just equipment they would need on their trucks on the everyday fire and rescue operation.

Andy Roeper: Actually it says excluding vehicles.

Moderator Walter Holland: Well it says equipment but a building is not equipment. Right now all we want to do is change the name of it and put it from one fund to the other and then we can use it later. Any other questions?

Paul Martin: So the article doesn't have to state that it can't be used until the next year and our request for certain expenses out of this, it doesn't have to state in that article? Because right now looking at it I am assuming that if we change it _____ but if we change it to this new Capital Reserve it is going to be called to Repair and Replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. What's to say once we change it they have a breakdown of their equipment this coming year that you can't use it?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Paul, you can only on a Capital Reserve, the only time you can take money out and this is by statute, is by a vote of the people that establish a Capital Reserve, unless and when a Capital Reserve has the wording that says to appoint the Moderator as agent to expend, to appoint the Selectmen as agent to expend. Without that wording, agent to expend, it must be a vote of the body to take a vote out. That is why maybe two years ago we took some money out to buy a truck and you actually have to vote that. That becomes then an appropriation and appropriations are done here.

Moderator Walter Holland: It is like when we passed Article six that is where you took money out of a Capital Reserve Fund. We couldn't touch that until you took the money out of that and bought that Article six Fire Department Rescue Vehicle.

Town Administrator Russ Boland: What we plan on doing next year is the Fire Chief and myself and the command staff will create a plan to show the life cycle of the equipment they have been talking about. So, the cardiac monitor, defibrillator has a ten year life so in 2030 they plan on replacing that. The hose, or the turnout gear or the Jaws of Life components they will come back with a plan to show you, just like we do with the highway vehicles on the Master Plan here on the CIP. It's when we target to replace the pieces of equipment. Obviously this plan is built around say five or six major components of the Fire Department. We are not going to be able to replace them all in one year. We will also be able to come back to you and tell you how much their capital equipment costs other than the vehicles. And then build the plan around that. So, like Lee said, unless it says agents to expend, and there is a big plus side because they can't do anything without coming to the Legislative Body. But the down side is when an engine blows in the Grader we can't repair it without action of the Legislative Body so it goes both ways. So in this particular case Paul they are just renaming and repurposing the eighty two thousand for these major pieces of equipment that need to be replaced. The Selectmen will not be able to expend any of that money without coming back here first.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other questions or comments. Ready for the question? Read Article. What I would like you to do is all those in favor of this Article please raise your yellow voting card and the ballot counters will count these ballots. You are voting Yes in favor. All those opposed raise your yellow voting cards. I need the official count.

Count: 37 Yes 3 No 40 Total Count Article 11 Passes

Article 12: To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the repair and replacement of the ambulance and medical equipment such as, but not limited to, cardiac monitor / defibrillator and stretcher and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Dollars (\$14,000) for this Capital Reserve Fund, which shall be known as, Repair and Replacement of the Ambulance and Medical Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; or take any action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Selectman Mark Schultz to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Lee Mayhew.

Moderator Walter Holland: Mr. Reynolds could you explain why we are putting money aside to buy an ambulance.

Burton Reynolds: For those of you who have been regulars at Town Meeting over the years, you will remember that for a long, long time we had an ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. The time came when the ambulance was a sort of an independent agency and it got folded into being part of the Town of Wilton. They were responsible for overseeing it and when that happened we started paying, within the operating budget, for not only the ambulance operating budget but also an amount towards a future ambulance. That has not worked well, it has worked sporadically. Because, the way Wilton is funding things naturally is different from the way we are doing it and some years they may want to put in double the amount and another year they may want to not put any money at all. But for us because we are smaller we really want consistency, we want to have a set amount and pay it every year. So, the Selectmen this year, after meeting with the Wilton Selectmen and Budget Committee and hearing what they want to do for the coming year they are going to put some money in. But last year, they

didn't and so we said we can't, not that we can't, it would be much better if we had control over our own destiny. We didn't do what Wilton told us to do but we did what we felt was appropriate for us knowing how much the ambulance is going to cost and when it's going to be due so we know how much to put in Capital Reserve Fund each year so that when it's needed our portion of the funds will be there. We will ask you at that year's Town Meeting to take the funds that we have put away for our contribution towards the ambulance, which is about twenty five percent. To take that out and provide it to the Town of Wilton so they can have it as our share and pay for the new ambulance.

Karen Grybko: I guess I don't understand how this is working because I remember when we had the Ambulance Association and three towns made the decision and now there is only Wilton on the ambulance. I thought that Wilton owned the ambulance service and it charged us the fee providing us with ambulance service in the town. So, I thought that they were in charge of replacing the ambulance and we were only going to pay our fee for them providing service.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: Well you are right and you are wrong only in this sense. Wilton, that's there ambulance now. I think there was an issue with their insurance and now the Town of Wilton has that whole ambulance. But you are either going to pay in your budget to replace the ambulance because they are going to charge you. They have to get the money somehow so they will you charge you when we send them the money for the operating or we want to set it aside because we know we are going to get charged for it. That will keep the money for buying the vehicle, our share, in our control and we will earn with the good Trustees some money on that and we will only give it to them when they want it but we will put it away every year piece by piece by piece. Gary is going to come up and talk and he has two hundred and twenty thousand dollars in the Wilton, Wilton's Capital Improvement Plan says they are going to spend two hundred and twenty thousand dollars on the next ambulance.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo: We are budgeting two hundred and twenty thousand dollars for the next ambulance. Last year's ambulance bill had the Capital Improvement and the operating budget together. Excuse me, there was no Capital Improvement last year. In past year's it's been the Capital Improvement and the operating budget together. Whenever Wilton put money in the Capital Reserve they said Lyndeborough give us money for the Capital Reserve and you put it in your operating budget. The year or two before, 15 and 16, I don't believe they did anything with the Capital Reserve because Wilton had their own stuff going on they wanted to keep the Capital Reserve down and now it's hitting you guys. Basically in 2020 we are buying a new ambulance. In 2020 the Town of Wilton is going to come say give us fifty five thousand dollars and you are going to take your Capital Reserve and give us fifty five thousand dollars, Temple is going to do the same thing. Temple does not keep Capital Reserve's they just write us a check. However, you guys want to pay that fifty five thousand dollars is up to the Town of Lyndeborough. If you want to keep a Capital Reserve and instead of doing fourteen, fourteen and fourteen you could do whatever as long as in 2020 you give the Town of Wilton fifty five thousand dollars. So, in past years instead of this sixty one thousand it would have been seventy five thousand. You are just putting that number somewhere else and you are holding the money. In past years, like I said, we would have put seventy four thousand in here, sixty one would have gone to the operating fund and fourteen would have gone into Wilton's Capital Reserve. They have been paying the money all along but after Wilton took the ambulance over Wilton was holding the Capital Reserve money for you, now you are just going to hold the Capital Reserve money. You are going to do what you want for the Capital Reserve and in 2020 we are going to come to you and give us fifty five thousand dollars and 2021 and 2022 we are going to need a cardiac monitor so we are going to come to you at that point and ask you for some money. Then in 2027 we

are going to be buying the next ambulance we are going to come to you at that point and say give us x amount of money. However the Town of Lyndeborough wants to put that money away they can do it. Right now you are basically doing what the Town of Wilton says. We are not putting money away next year but we are going to double up this year. This is you controlling your money versus the Town of Wilton controlling your money.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: No aspersions to Wilton but in the past sometimes if there budget was too high they would ___ putting money in the Capital Improvements Plan for certain things. That way they were able to soften, if you will, there budget. What we want to do is not what Temple does, Temple writes a check but when you write a check it is extra ordinary for that year despite the tax rate and it may come down next year. We want to do it level, right across the whole thing that is why we are trying to do this, this year.

Selectman Mark Schultz: Mr. Moderator, I have a question for the Chief. I had a resident ask me yesterday is in the past years it was the Wilton Lyndeborough Temple Ambulance and then the Town of Wilton took it over, political reasons, for insurance reasons, workman's comp reasons, a number of reasons. But the other part of the question was, if we pay money, if it is there ambulance and they own the ambulance and we pay for the service and we are also paying for the ambulance, does that make any sense that we are paying for an ambulance and paying for the service. Maybe you can explain that for folks.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo: Prior to me taking over the ambulance in 2009, the ambulance association, my understanding there were insurance issues. The ambulance was a private association and there was some workman's comp issues because the Town of Wilton, the association was paying the Town of Wilton to have their people on the town's workman's comp. Somebody filed a workman's comp claim and the Local Government Center which only insures municipalities said this can't happen. So, the way that was resolved was to make the ambulance a municipal ambulance under a town. So you have the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Ambulance Department. The vehicle insurance is now municipal, everything is under the municipality so that is how they rectified the problem. The cost of the operation still has to be shared by the three towns because the three towns are using the ambulance. The three towns are using the ambulance service, the band aids, the personnel, the vehicles, the stretchers. So we divide it by population on how much stuff costs. So by population, fifty five percent of the population is Wilton, twenty five is Lyndeborough and twenty is Temple. So when a big ticket item comes up it gets divided as such. So the Town of Lyndeborough pays twenty five percent of that. Again, Selectmen to Selectmen, however they decide to pay for it that is how it gets paid for. In past years it was, we will send you a bill, here is your operating, here is your capital and it was one bill. Now we are talking about when we go to buy something big here's your bill. So you have been getting billed all along it is just how you are getting billed now. It is just changing that funding mechanism. Wilton's Capital Improvement Plan had some issues and they are trying to rectify that and when they were rectifying that instead of putting the ambulance, paying for the ambulance for _____ over the past six years they took it a year or two off. Well, that affects you guys. So for the past year or two you didn't pay for an ambulance but now you are getting hit for that. Instead of paying ten thousand dollars a year over five or six years you are paying the fourteen thousand over the three years. That is what you guys as Selectmen decided you would rather be level over the six year and have a couple of years off and pay a little more. So you are basically controlling your own destiny. In 2020 it is going to equal the same amount whether the Town of Wilton holds it or the Town of Lyndeborough holds it. The other thing, I think to address the operational issue is what came up at the budget committee, the combined Budget Committee meeting with the Towns

was that there was a Recycling Center Committee that helps, an advisory committee that helps with the Recycling Center. One of the things that has been talked about while trying to get the association together is using the Ambulance Association's Board of Directors which has a Selectman and resident from each town as an Ambulance Advisory Committee. How do we set up the funding of the ambulance? If there is an operational question that can come up there? If it is stuff to do with the ambulance there would be that committee it just doesn't go here's your bill, have a nice day. We have been trying to get together but every time we get together, getting three towns together, everybody's got a meeting on a night.

Mike Kaelin: I have a question about just how the way this is separated. It appears that the ambulance belongs to Wilton but we are all paying a share based on population. Do we legally own twenty five percent of the ambulance or is there just an agreement between the towns that say we own it but we don't really own it. How does that work?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: You may be familiar with MACC Base, Milford Area Communication Center that is a similar type of function. Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough, Milford, Wilton that is a similar like an inter-municipal thing. We don't own a thing to do with this ambulance. We are basically renters for all the people that live in town. We pay them a certain amount of money, twenty five percent of the budget so they will come and pick you or I up when we have a problem. That is all we are doing. They have a right to charge for a new ambulance in the fee every year. We prefer to save the money, keep the money ourselves. That is all we are really doing. Town of Wilton that is there ambulance.

Stephanie Roper: So if we sell the thing then does Lyndeborough get any money back? If they trade in the ambulance and they get say ten thousand dollars. Do we get twenty five hundred dollars back?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: I would say no, what you get is a reduction in your levy the first year because the ambulance didn't cost as much as what was projected.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo: When we trade in the ambulance that money goes towards buying a new ambulance. The last ambulance we got thirty five hundred dollars for. If I remember correctly it cost two hundred and seven thousand so we only charged two hundred and three thousand five hundred. That money doesn't go back to the towns it goes to discounting the price of the ambulance. Also, the other thing in 2020 the Town of Wilton just can't go buy an ambulance. You are going to have a Warrant Article in 2020 that says the Town of Lyndeborough needs to take the money out of Capital Reserve to buy an ambulance. There will be another vote up here to take the money out. It is not just automatic, here's a check or not buy an ambulance.

Mike Kaelin: If Lyndeborough turned down the Warrant Article would that basically abrogate our agreement with Wilton for service?

Selectman Lee Mayhew: If we didn't want to go with Wilton our only option is to go with Peterborough and Peterborough costs more than he does.

Mike Kaelin: I am just wondering the consequences of what happens if the town would turn down that Warrant Article. So basically our Agreement would end if we turned down that Warrant Article.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo: I believe in 2014 when we bought the ambulance Wilton's Warrant Article said that the towns of Lyndeborough and Temple would have to vote for whatever Warrant Articles you guys would have to pay for it. So, we would not buy an ambulance in 2020 at that point if you guys voted it down and we would have to have all three Towns. It's not like Wilton and Temple are going to go buy it. At that point we would have to figure it out.

Mike Kaelin: So the result would be that they would have to put it off until the next year?

Moderator Walter Holland: Ready for the question? All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article 12 Passes**

Article 13: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting

Motion made by Selectman Lee Mayhew to move article as read, seconded by Selectman Mark Schultz

Helen van Ham: On Page 48 the Trust Funds, those of you who have been in town a long time know I was a Trustee for thirty years. When my husband died people gave me money, certain people, to set up a Trust Fund which I did for the Old Town Hall. I set it up with wording that I have forgotten but it was to be possible for anybody to donate toward that fund. And I was hoping people would because it was for the repair of the Old Town Hall which our family was very fond of. My husband was Selectman for one term and during that time that was the office. They met once a month, so the business was different then in those days. However, over the years things have happened. I have added to the Trust and I know that the principal for that Trust which is listed way down at the bottom of page 48, it is nine hundred dollars. I don't know, this extra money, I heard a couple of years ago that the town needed a place to put some money that they had, I think it was for the town, but I am not sure, I mean for the Old Town Hall. They just put it in there, if that is so it should have gone under the Income not under the Principal. I spoke last year, I brought this up last year, in fact it has come up occasionally over the years, things have been done to that particular Trust. I really should have called it van Ham Trust not the Old Town Hall Trust. If I had done that perhaps people would understand especially the Selectmen or whoever and the Trustees would understand that it wasn't a town fund, so to speak. It is a town fund, but you know what I mean. I thought that if I brought it up perhaps at this meeting after all these years at my age maybe I had better bring it up now and let you know that it should be nine hundred dollars for the Principal and whatever else is there, good. I did add to it until problems starting coming up and then I stopped.

Andy Roeper: Could I ask that the Trustee of the Trust Funds compile a report on the history on that account and publish it on the website if that would be appropriate.

Moderator Walter Holland: Back to other business, I would like to thank the office staff. I would like to thank Mike Kaelin for setting up the sound system and then breaks it down.

Selectman Lee Mayhew: A lot of you when you come in the building and you come to the Selectmen's office you see a very gregarious young lady who will chat with you and meet with you and help you and her name is Cindi. A lot of you know her, you have been helped by her. We have received a sad note, Cindi is going to leave Lyndeborough in April to move to Maine. We are going to have a little presentation, she is not here today so we are going to tell you we are going to have a little luncheon and once we know, Russ will let everyone know and they can stop in and say thank you, because she's really very helpful.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other questions or comments, anybody have a motion. Selectman Lee Mayhew moved to adjourn and Selectman Mark Schultz seconded. All those in favor of adjourning the meeting signify by saying Aye, all opposed signify by saying Nay. **Article 13 Passes.** Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted

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