

Town of Lyndeborough
2021 Town Meeting Minutes
March 13th 2021

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Moderator Walter Holland on Saturday, March 13th, 2021 at Citizens' Hall located at 9 Citizens' Hall Road in Lyndeborough New Hampshire. Selectman Richard McQuade was excused due to work related commitments.

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 ninth (9th) day of March 2021, 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 thirteenth (13th) day of March 2021, at ten o'clock in the morning, to act upon Articles 2 through Article 18:

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

*-indicates elected (119 Ballots cast – 1329 Registered Voters)

Results:

Selectman (3 years)	*Robert H. Howe	113
Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3 years)	*Patricia "Trish" Schultz	116
Trustee of Cemeteries (3 years)	*Robert "Doug" Powers	112
Trustee of Cemeteries (1 year)	*Charlie Post	100
Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)	*Burton Reynolds	112
Library Trustee (3 years)	*Robert Rogers	108
	*Lucius Sorrentino	90
Budget Committee (3 years)	*Alyssa Lavoie	108
	*Fran Bujak (write-in)	4
	Darlene Anzalone (write-in)	3
Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 years)	*Jonathan Lavoie	66
	Howard E. Ray	47
	*Karen Grybko	91

Article 2: Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of, **Two Million, One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Six-Hundred, and Sixty Dollars (\$2,172,660)**, representing the Operating Budget for fiscal year 2021, as prepared by the Budget Committee. Said sum is exclusive of all special or individual articles addressed; or to take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded.

Budget Committee Chairman Burton Reynolds spoke very briefly on the budget.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any questions or comments? (discussion from audience on budget)

Any questions, seeing none, ready for the question. Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it.

Article Passes

Article 3: 1994 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$32,500)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 1994 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose; or to take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article.*

(Majority Vote Required)

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 4: 2005 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2005 Fire Department Pumper Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose; or to take any other action relative thereto. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (Majority Vote Required)*

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 5: Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

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

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 6: Purchase Portable Radios for the Fire Department

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000)** to purchase up to twenty five (25) portable radios for the Fire Department and other associated equipment including, but not limited to, set up costs. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of up to **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000)** from the **Repair and Replacement of Lyndeborough Fire Department Equipment 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 equipment is purchased or December 31, 2022, whichever is sooner; or to take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this?

Howard Ray: From the last time the radios were identified that we needed, has anything been looked at in terms of cost for those radios?

Fire Chief Brian Smith: If you look back last year, we went for the Grant, they were more expensive radio, they were Motorola. We did some more research, we actually went with a Kenwood radio, it has all the same functions, it is going to do what we need to. It is a tried and true radio. I have used the same radio

for two years now so it has done everything we need to. So that is why it went from like sixty thousand when we went for the Grant to thirty-five thousand which is in front of you today.

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

Article 7: Police Vehicle

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000)** to partially defray the cost of the replacement of the 2018 AWD Ford Police Vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the vehicle is replaced or December 31, 2024, 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 Fred Douglas to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 8: 2008 Backhoe Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand (\$12,000)** 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 Chamberlain to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 9: 2016 Highway Department One-Ton Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000)** 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 Fred Douglas to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 10: 2016 Mid-Size Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000)** 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 Chamberlain to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 11: Backhoe / Loader Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the Backhoe / Loader 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 Fred Douglas to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 12: 2018 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000)** to be added to the **Repair and Replacement of the 2018 Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund** previously established for that purpose; 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 Chamberlain to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Fred Douglas.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 13: Bridge Build/Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund;

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the **Bridge Build/Repair/Replacement 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 Fred Douglas to move article as read. Seconded by Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it. **Article Passes**

Article 14: Capital Reserve Fund Change of Purpose

To see if the Town of Lyndeborough will vote, pursuant to RSA 35:16, to change the purpose of the existing **Repair and Replacement of the 2002 Fire Department Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**, to the **Repair and Replacement of the Fire Department Rescue Truck Capital Reserve Fund**; or to take any other action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article. (2/3 Vote Required)

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor raise your yellow voting card, those opposed raise your yellow voting card. **Yes 39 No 0** **Article Passes**

Article 15: Elderly Property Tax Exemption Modification

Shall the Town vote to **modify** the Exemption for the Elderly under the provisions of RSA 72:39-(a) & (b), from property tax in the Town of Lyndeborough based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: a. for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years of age **\$45,000 Dollars, (currently \$35,000 Dollars)**; and b. for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years of age **\$65,000 Dollars (currently \$50,000 Dollars)**; and c. for a person 80 years of age or older **\$90,000 Dollars (currently \$70,000 dollars)**; or to take any other action relative thereto. To qualify, the person must have been: a. a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years; and, b. in addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$30,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$40,000; and, c. own net assets not in excess of a dollar amount determined by the town or city of \$70,000, excluding the value of the person's residence, this was effective April 1, 2016.

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

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it.

Article Passes

Article 16: Disabled Property Tax Exemption Modification

Shall the Town vote to **modify** an Exemption for the Disabled under the provisions of RSA 72:37-b from property tax in the Town of Lyndeborough based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: **reduction of assessed property value in the amount of \$40,000 (currently \$30,000)**. To qualify, the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XV of the Federal Social Security Act, must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, must occupy the property as his principal place of abode, must own the property individually or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least five consecutive years, had in the calendar year preceding April 1 a net income from all sources of not more than **\$30,000 (currently \$25,000) if single and \$40,000 (currently \$35,000) if married**, and own net assets not in excess of **\$70,000 (currently \$60,000)**, excluding the value of the actual residence and up to 2 acres or the minimum single-family residential lot size specified in the local Zoning ordinance; or to take any other action relative thereto.

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

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Motion has been made and seconded. Any questions on this, seeing none, ready for the question? Read Article. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed signify by saying Nay. Ayes have it.

Article Passes

Article 17: Solar Property Tax Exemption (By Petition)

To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:62, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes.

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

Moderator Walter Holland: This is open to the floor, does the individual that submitted this wish to speak?

Dan Holt: When most of us put the solar panels on we were doing it, a couple of different reasons, mainly to have a different green energy. My biggest concern is if they are assessed and increase the value, we are

not asking for an abatement we are just asking for them not to be assessed on our property. It is going to discourage people to put them on in the future. As of 2019 the best I could find out of the two hundred and sixty to seventy towns in New Hampshire, there is about a hundred and twelve that have already passed this. I didn't go through each one but it looks like there is a warrant article in quite a few towns for this year. It is just one of our ways in order to use a different part of electricity, it should be free except putting the solar panels on which is fairly expensive. Most of the time there is only a payback between seven to fifteen years so we got to go seven to fifteen years just to get the equipment paid off so we can start saving money on the electricity. I am just afraid that in the future if we are taxed every year on that, it is going to discourage other people to be putting it on their homes and buildings.

Moderator Walter Holland: I think people didn't understand what you just explained and I didn't understand that either. This is to give you an abatement on what the town would tax you on the addition and it is not to take off your real estate.

Dan Holt: It is not really an abatement where we are going to save our taxes off our previous assessment. What we are trying to do is not to have our properties appraised at a hundred thousand and you put twenty thousand dollars' worth of solar panels on it. We are asking it not to go up to a hundred and twenty thousand in value. It is to stay at what the residence or buildings are at now, before you put the panels on.

Moderator Walter Holland: So you are not asking for an abatement from twenty thousand from your original.

Dan Holt: I believe each panel is assessed at six hundred dollars per panel, I think that is what he assessed them at. So, if you see somebodies got thirty panels you can multiply that by six hundred dollars and I think that is what it is, don't quote me on that. Then you can see what they are going to increase the assessment on the property.

Mark Weissflog: I have had solar panels on my house since 2000 and it appears those were untaxed until about two or three years ago when they mysteriously appeared on the tax card unbeknownst too many people that we have had it for a while. The six hundred dollars or so that the assessor is guessing at, I have twenty year old panels, they are 110 watts currently most modules are around 3 to 400 watts and when I sat down with the assessor he was just guessing. Instead of going into the building permit process looking at the folder in the Town's records, they just counted the modules, multiplied out what they thought or guessed at, which again there is problems with the reassessment. They then just said your modules are worth thirty five thousand dollars so I paid two years now thirty five thousand dollars on something that is twenty years old, probably five to ten years of life left in it, they are not worth anywhere near that. Solar panels degrade over time that is just the process. Additionally, thirty five thousand dollars cost me seven hundred dollars or more in taxes and produced eleven hundred dollars in income. So, what the assessor did, he readjusted based on what the actual size was verses guessing at it. At that point he changed the taxes, it went about half, so now I am paying about seventeen thousand dollars' worth of assessed value on something that is probably worth five thousand because it is only producing about eight hundred dollars' worth of energy in a year. So, if you assess the value at the installation costs or what they are guessing at, because that is all he was doing is guessing. It is not a fair representation of the actual value of the energy that is produced annually. To say that I can resell my system that is twenty years old for even five thousand dollars is not correct. We take systems off roofs because people don't want to pay for them. The other point is that the energy that is produced at my house, one of the misnomers is that we get free energy and pre use of the grid. So when I over produce my energy some of it, very little, goes out on the grid, my next door neighbor uses that energy instantaneously because you can't save it and he pays Eversource all the taxes, all the energy cost, distribution cost, system benefit charges, New Hampshire state taxes and tonight when I use that little energy that went back out on the grid again that then is my benefit, but the taxes have all been paid on it so there is no net cost to any other users of the grid.

Mike Kaelin: I would also like to point out that the State has given incentives to people for solar power. The Federal government gives incentives for solar power and it helps everybody, clean air, clean water. Also, when power is produced by solar power, wind and water power, it is put into the grid and it allows Eversource to not create additional power which in return lowers the rates. We are taking a hit for the solar panels, we are the early adopters, we are putting our own money into reducing the cost of Eversource and

in addition also reducing the cost of power to people who don't have solar power. The other thing is that part of the reason that this law was written was to allow people who can't really afford solar power to make it more viable. This law was written to allow the Town's individually to decide whether they should help people who can't really afford solar power to be able to afford it and I think we should adopt this.

Fran Bujak: I am actually against this article and the reason for this is that I don't believe that small towns are the places to play with the tax codes, we have got enough of that as previous people have already mentioned. We get reductions from the State, we get reductions from the Federal Government. Also the benefit to solar panel owners in the State of New Hampshire we have some of the highest electric costs in the country, so they receive, when they do send money back out to the grid, far more money than most State's they will get a return on that. I also don't want to be back here next year or in a year or two from now talking about giving rebates and tax cuts to people who choose to buy electric cars which are going to cost more than combustible engine cars. I am even considering buying solar panels myself, but as you mentioned before whether it's a pool, whether it's a view tax, we have items that we tax in these small towns. At every meeting I have ever been to we have complained about not having revenue and to sit here, this town probably isn't in a position to be able to give money back to people who can already afford to buy solar panels when everybody owns a home and a lot of people are buying very expensive energy efficient windows, increasing their insulation. They get nothing back from that, they don't return any of that, aren't able to return any of that for a tax cut for their electricity and they are helping the environment in many cases just as much so I would recommend that we not make an individual carve out into our own tax code.

Ray Humphreys: I am not speaking for or against this. Trying to understand how the assessors and the Town will take this into consideration. The RSA explains what a solar system is and it runs you all the way through taxation to application to if you get rejected how to go through that process. What it does not address, and I think the RSA's need to catch up with the technology. It does not address if your property is in two Town's. Which Town takes that tax portion, is it that portion that the panels are installed on or if they are installed on a house I would assume it is where the house sits. That is not answered in the RSA's. What else is not answered is how it dovetails with Current Use. Most solar systems I see are on people's roofs of their homes. In order to do Current Use you have to keep so much land out for curtilage is a solar panel considered curtilage, the State has not on that. So, if it is considered curtilage and you have Current Use and you put your solar panels in your Current Use area, well one that is a violation of Current Use and two why would you be exempt from taxation you are already getting tax exempt from the Current Use. So, I am just trying to understand how the Town is going to weight these different matters in. Have you asked the State these questions?

Andy Roeper: What I am hearing is unlike almost anything else you can do to your property, this is the one thing that appears to provide some public benefit in terms of being able to back feed onto the grid. So you can put in a greenhouse, you can put in a sauna, you can do whatever else you want. This is about the only thing, somebody enlighten me if I have missed anything, where making improvements to your own structure building property will also improve others, potentially. Second, it sounds like there is an issue with the accuracy and degree of the tax assessment process in terms of accurately assessing what are we dealing with, with panels. Sounds like there is a one size fits all approach what I am hearing here. Well it's a panel, well it's worth this much. When I look at an assessment your siding may be old clapboards or it may be new siding. Those carry different weights and values. If we are applying the same approach to all solar panels, yeah not so much. Looks like we need some improvement in that part of the process. Also, is there a figure available for what the installed base is right now in Town on solar and what the assessed value for that is?

Town Administrator Russ Boland: Currently there are twenty-nine properties that are assessed at a total of 541,500 dollars, the average assessed value for the solar panels is 18,051 dollars which nets the Town approximately just shy of 11,000 dollars, currently.

Andy Roeper: It is one pool of money. If we reduce it here we are going to have to pull it out of something else. But, what I am hearing is, we got a lot of broken parts here.

Mark Weissflog: After sitting down with the assessor he then adjusted, it's like a depreciation, from a hundred percent value of a twenty year old panel to a sixty percent value of a twenty year old panel. So there is that but A you have recognize you have an issue which means you have to go on the website and look at your tax card and B he just arbitrarily picks a number that he thinks is correct because there really is not a lot of experience with this type of application and assessors and appraisers for that matter. When they are looking at a value of a system, different types of systems have different values. The current cost of an installed residential system is probably in the two dollar to two dollars and fifty cents a watt range so you put in a ten kilowatt system you are paying about twenty thousand, twenty-two, twenty-five thousand dollars depending on the difficulty of the installation whether its ground mount or rooftop. The cost of the installation doesn't reflect on the energy that is being produced because if you have driven down the street lately, you will see solar panels on the north side of the roof installed by national companies who are only installing solar because that is what they do. They get the tax credit, the home owner doesn't get the tax credit but the home owner gets assessed the value. So they are going to get a system that is performing less than optimal but get taxed at a higher rate because they are just counting modules not output. Again, a solar system only has value in the energy it's producing not in its installed cost, or god forbid its resale value because there is not enough comps to resell something that you don't have enough comps on.

Lisa Post: If you put something on your house that isn't permanently attached it shouldn't affect your taxes. Well, we have a generator that is thirteen years old and it still being taxed at the same rate as if it was brand new. If they are going to do solar I believe that we would need to include other things like generators that continue to be taxed even if they are old without depreciation on them.

Kathleen Humphreys: I agree with Mr. Bujak point that it is a great idea that people put solar on homes but then for the rest of the community to have to pay for that in their taxes, I don't agree with that. How I understand it is that the tax base that they won't be taxed on in then being picked up by the rest of the Town. I think there is a lot of gray area here, a lot of great questions being raised. I don't know if this can be tabled till next year when there is more time to research it but I just don't really feel that asking all the other people who don't have solar should have to pick up the tab for the tax base that we are going to be losing.

Mike Kaelin: I know at least one house around here where they have a line of solar panels leaning up against a wagon or something. Those are not mounted on the house, are those going to be taxed, because they are not permanent or they are not taxed because they are not permanent. We don't tax small buildings that can be moved around and things like that. Again, I am in the same boat as Mark, in the fact that my solar panels are twenty five years old. They have, in theory a twenty year life, but they are still producing a little bit of power and I have no idea of what I am being taxed on that because I haven't looked at my tax card. But if I am being taxed six hundred dollars per panel that is more than I paid for the panels twenty five years ago. The other point is these are for, in the public interest to have solar panels to have clean energy to put power in the grid and defer costs of building additional generation capacity. Everybody here benefits from that, there may be eleven thousand dollars that is not going into the budget here from taxing these solar panels but I would guarantee you that the people here have saved at least eleven thousand dollars per year on their power rates because of the solar panels that are feeding into the grid. It is not necessarily so that it's costing the people here money.

Ray Humphreys: I just think this is premature, I am not speaking for or against this. The whole thing is about reducing carbon footprint, right, everybody brought some very valid points. If I add insulation to my house, if I have brand new windows, if I add a high efficiency heater, water heater, forced air heater, I am reducing my carbon footprint. What is in it for those folks that are reducing there carbon footprint in that manner. I think we need to stand back from this and do some research as a Town, first to address the missing things in the RSA's. There are Town's I believe I read about, Jackson, somewhere else that actually put conditions on this. The RSA's don't say the Towns can't put conditions on it. One of the conditions was the panels had to be on the home, had to be curtilage. If you read the Current Use laws, curtilage means it has to be within the area that is designated for accessory structures to the home. Whether it be a pool, an outdoor burner, we are not even talking about those. Lawn ornaments, like I have, all have to be within that zone. Towns that I have read have made that firm commitment that it has to be in there. It also said in some Towns if the property is divided by two towns a discussion needs to be had with the Selectmen to

determine that there may be a split in the assessment. I just think that this would go over a lot better being brought up next year and maybe we have some volunteers from the Town that can look into this and ask the questions to the State, how does it apply to Current Use, is it curtilage? Lots of questions out there.

Moderator Walter Holland: Maybe the Town could put together a committee and really come up with some facts and figures. I know Russ has got some tax abatements and issues there but Mr. Weissflog brought up some interesting points about maybe we should really figure out for the aging solar systems if the Town should have some kind of allotment for that. I am just speaking from a Budget Committee member's attitude that we like to get as much tax money as we can from people that need to pay it but then again we also want to understand that people do make these investments and sometimes they may not be fair.

Selectman Fred Douglas: I think this is a twofold issue and one that is pretty important from what I am hearing here. It is important for the Board of Selectmen to get a hold of the Assessor, to have him lay a foundation of how he is assessing these particular items. How is he coming up with the numerical numbers? What is he basing it on? I think that in doing that we can get those answers. If he doesn't have those answers and it is helter-skelter then we need to address that. So, at the same time, if this carries through until next year, we will get those answers for you or we will compare it to what other communities are doing because it doesn't seem like it has been fair on some people's part.

Bob Joy: All our surrounding Towns currently have a hundred percent exemption other than Milford. Every Town that is connected to Lyndeborough does. I am right now trying to make a decision whether or not to do this. It seems like the Town isn't really getting a big benefit right now from the taxation on solar panels. If it is approved the Town really isn't losing anything and as other folks have mentioned it is the benefit clean air, lowering everybody's energy cost in the big picture. This really is a no brainer from my vantage point.

Moderator Walter Holland: I have a motion to move the question, is everybody ready for it. Read Article. All those in favor if you could please raise your yellow card, All those that are opposed please raise your yellow card. Article 17 property tax exemption, we have **17 Yes** votes and **14 No** votes so Article 17 does pass. **Article Passes**

Article 18: Other Business

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

Moderator Walter Holland: Do I have a motion for that and any discussion to it.

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

Selectman Mark Chamberlain: We would like to thank Rick McQuade for his many years of service to the Town. He is actually working today, that is why he is not here. He has done a lot for the Town and done a lot as far as being a member of the Board and the community and we would just like to express our thanks to him. We did on Wednesday when he was there. We would also like to thank Burton Reynolds for his many many years of service to the Town which he is continuing as Trustee. He has been so on top of the budget I think we all have a lot to thank Burton for, for the fact that we have an excellent budget. We have a CIP that lets us pay for all of our equipment without bonds like most Towns have to do. He is a wealth of knowledge and we would like to express our thanks to Burton for his many years of service. (Standing round of applause).

Moderator Walter Holland: We have a motion here.

Jon Lavoie: I hesitantly voted for that last Warrant Article as a new business item I would challenge the Select Board to bring in the assessor. Try to come up with an actual plan for the older equipment versus the newer equipment. I do see the benefits to the article but I also see the detractors so I would like as new business for some type of collaboration from either Select Board, the Budget Committee or maybe a collection of people to get together and try to come up with an actual plan to now enact what we just voted for.

Moderator Walter Holland: Any other comments or questions, anything you would like to add to the Town Meeting? Thank you so much and may I have a motion. I have a motion to adjourn, do I have a

second? Many people seconded. All in favor signify by saying Aye, All opposed signify by saying Nay.
Meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia H. Schultz
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Town of Lyndeborough NH
Lyndeborough Town Meeting
March 13, 2021