

Town of Rockport
Annual Town Meeting
April 2, 2016
Rockport High School

MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls it is after 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning April 2nd I do hope, by the way, that in my tenure as moderator we will have one of these on April Fool's Day but we didn't quite make it but I'd like to welcome you all here and a quote I read this week is appropriate I think for me to state: The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change and the realist adjusts the sail. So I believe that we are realists here this morning adjusting the sails of our town and we will open this morning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Reverend Susan Moran from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Rockport will now give the invocation. Please stand.

Reverend Susan Moran: I invite you into a time of prayer and meditation feet solidly on the ground. Spirit of life and love God of tender mercies we ask for a peaceful meeting, a productive meeting, a meeting of the minds and hearts of all who gather here. Help us to remember that good and reasonable people do not always agree. Let us remember that courtesy and kindness are remembered long after cleverness. Spirit of all that is best in each of us help us to be good and deep listeners remembering the sages advice of seeking to understand rather than to be understood. In the name of all of life's creation of which we are just one part we thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen and blessed be.

MODERATOR: We will now hear from our Poet Laureate. Thank you.

RUTH MAASSEN:

Change/No Change

We're stubborn. Change comes slowly here,
Thank God. An added stop sign is traumatic.
Scaffolding on the steeple of the UU church
Shows we plan to stick around a while.

The tarp is off the pirate, real hair flapping in the breeze.
The Red Skiff reborn, Roy Moore Lobster reopened.
People a millimeter high walk along the breakwater.
Soon, the shrink wrapped boats will hatch.

Spring, when the heavy coats come off
And – suddenly! – a plethora of baby bumps.
Toddlers totter on the verge of walking,
The old find staying on their feet newly harder.

Another generation always coming on.
Old people suffer loneliness in too much house,
Young families are squeezed into too little.
The ballast of memory, buoyancy of the young.

I miss the fire horns, the giant elms whose ghosts still loom.
I don't miss slave-grown cotton at our cotton mill,
Strikes quashed with violence at the quarries,
Epidemics (cholera, the Spanish flu).

Everybody's scared but we're all scared
Of different things. Like when the breakwaters
Are drowned and every Long Beach cottage
Washed away. But that's some other year.

Soon, hot dogs on the Neck. The parking do-si-do.
A July day on Tuna Wharf, legs dangling
Over the side, a dripping ice cream cone.
The glitter of water. A baby eating sand.

This could be the year that we discover pirate gold.
Sea serpents could return. (We'd be on CNN.)
Between woods and sea, on the edge of wildness,

Coy wolves skulk and fishers stalk and kill. Our prey is fish.

Our challenge is to take the longer view –
What to preserve, what to let go of,
What to hold close, what to move beyond
So fifty years from now our children will be glad.

A hearty round of applause ensued.

MODERATOR: Thank you Ruth. When we didn't know if we would have our Poet Laureate today I had to come up with a limerick about town meeting but I will defer reading that. We have today, thank you to the cafeteria folks, we have breakfast including scones and turnovers, egg sandwiches, bottled water, milk and coffee and then as the time becomes appropriate we will have lunch which are assorted sandwiches and you will note that there is no dinner (laughter) so conduct yourselves accordingly. Thank you.

Our town clerk will now read the names of the citizens who served our town so well who passed away in the year 2015.

PATRICIA BROWN, TOWN CLERK: We remember those who passed on in the year 2015: Rev. Edward R. Sims, Marie L. Rowell, Roger H. Martin, Jr., Lester J. Garlick, Jr., Arthur W. Bernard, George S. Patey, Jr., Louis F. Anderson, Alan S. Pool, William H. Parsons, Jr., Gerald J. Maisch.

MODERATOR: Thank you Pat. Please pick up your Voter's Booklet and we're going to be going over some things and if you would open to page 6 in that booklet. Pages 6 through 10 specifically address town meeting and its procedure usually in this part of the meeting I would be telling you that we have two meetings today. We have a special town meeting followed by an annual town meeting and in fact, if you take a look in this booklet it talks about state law providing that for the annual town meeting there are seven days that the warrant has to be posted and for the special town meeting it's fourteen days. Well in fact, our annual town meeting was posted within the requisite period of time and the special town meeting was not. Thus, you are all here today because you know that we are having our annual town meeting. The special town meeting will be convened at 9 a.m. on April 30th. So please put that in your calendars. Let your friends know. Text, email or call any of your friends who think that this meeting is not going on today and let them know to get their butts over here as quickly as possible we need them all and just in general terms we always need more participation in this wonderful democratic system we have and so let your friends know how much fun this is and make sure that they come along.

I'm going now and I want you to read pages 6 and 7. I'm going to now go through some things from pages 7 through 10. As you know when we talk about things today we are not talking strictly speaking about the warrant article directly. We're talking about motions. If you want to speak today you have your little cards and show those. If I don't..I'm kind of color blind but I think this is orange. Is this orange? So you should have one of those you would raise that and we'll try to get to you and Pat and Linda are my eyes and they'll try to point people out so if you hear them tugging at me I don't not look a particular way on purpose but it gets very busy up here and they'll make sure that we call upon everybody. Make sure that you state your name for our record. Wait for, either come up here or back there where there's a microphone and I think we have a few microphone runners. Melanie is going to run our microphones for us and so just don't start speaking wait until we have a microphone, state your name and at least the first time you speak give us your address so that we can have that in our records.

Make sure that your comments are addressed through the Chair. We want this meeting to run smoothly. If your question or if your statement is a question realize that you don't have an absolute right to start a discussion with somebody about the answer. I am aware that people will ask a question and I will do my darnedest to get that question answered for you but it's not going to be necessarily by the next speaker. We may accumulate some questions and we may get the appropriate people to talk at that point. So we cannot have conversations and remember this is not a presidential debate so you have to be civil. (laughter) Okay so if you have a personal attack on somebody or you're questioning their hand size or something that will be the last time that you speak at this meeting. So we're just trying to move an agenda, we're trying to get things done as Ruth said we all love this town we may have vastly different opinions on things but we're here for one reason and that's to move the towns' business.

Darren Klein is sitting to my left and he is for the day, he is always but for this meeting your attorney ready to help wind you through the legalities of things and you may ask a question to me for him and I will give him some time to research things before necessarily giving an answer so again don't expect an answer immediately but we'll get that for you. If you want to approach him at sidebar here when you have a question he will take that up with you and we want to get you the answers that you need.

We use Robert's Rules of Order as applied to town meeting and there is a handy book if you want to buy it through the Massachusetts Moderators Association called Town Meeting Time and that gives some of

the interpretations of Robert's Rules as pertains to the meetings and I of course use this (points to Robert's Rules for Dummies) to help me.

We have a lot of town committees and commissions that help the town move its business. The Board of Selectmen are to my right and they will be speaking and addressing you on several occasions and Erin Battistelli is the Chair of that. We have the Finance Committee to my left and they'll be addressing you a lot today and specifically they'll be talking to you about expenditures of town funds and Laurene Wessel is the Chair of that committee and I'm happy to announce that our Town Government and Bylaw Committee which has become over the years sort of the Maytag repair person of the town is back in full force and they will address you today and Sandy Jacques is that committee's Chair.

The bylaw says that I will give preference to people that have not yet spoken on an issue before calling on somebody for a second or a third time and again if you, if you're a rookie and you're a little nervous about this it's okay we'll help you so don't be afraid to speak but if on the other hand you're Hermione Granger and you want to address the class all the time I'm going to try and call on other people just so that we can hear from everybody and get everybody's perspective on things. There is a ten minute time limit in your bylaws for the principle proponent of an article and then five minutes for everybody else. We actually keep that time. I'm not going to rudely cut somebody off but you have to get to the point.

There are many reasons people speak at town meeting and I hope the reason that you speak is because you want to move the town's business along but if you want to talk about life when you were a kid or your puppy or your trip last winter you have to be relevant and if you want somebody to listen and pay attention you have to get to your point quickly so really, you should never need five minutes to do that but that is what the bylaw provides.

We have motions to reconsider. That reared its head a few meetings ago so you should read up on that. That is on page 8 and 9. Other than the first six articles in today's meeting there is a lottery to determine the order of presentation of the articles. There are several that are I consider to be related and when we get into them I will let you know what those are. Page 10 as well, it's on page 8 and page 10, motions to reconsider. If it is your intent today to move the adoption of a resolution let me know that and we'll hear that towards the end of today's meeting and read through the rest of this on your own. I think that's about all I need to talk to you about before we get started.

Are there any procedural questions? Okay.

Ann-Margaret Ferrante is here. Our State Representative in the back. Thank you Ann-Margaret for all that you do for our town. (Applause)

We'll now hear from the town clerk.

Town Clerk Patricia Brown read the Officer's Return.

MODERATOR: Thank you. I'll entertain a motion to omit the reading of the warrant. Moved and seconded. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

That motion is granted we will not read the warrant. We will talk about the tellers if we need to and I will now tell you what I have determined to be related and these are the standard ones I believe. Of course, 1 through 6 we will hear in order, B through E are related, and P and Q are the reports and at the appropriate time I will direct your attention to a particular page in our Town Report on the Ad Hoc Water Committee report because I believe the Chair is not going to be here to present that report.

Okay, we are ready to begin:

ARTICLE 1: To choose an agent for the various trust funds of the Town and to choose all other necessary Town Officers in such a manner as the Town may direct; or act on anything relative thereto.

LINDA SANDERS FOR ERIN BATTISTELLI: I move that the Town designate the Treasurer to be the agent for the various trust funds for the Town.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to rescind any one or more of the authorizations previously given to borrow funds for municipal purposes, excluding always, any and all authorizations that have been executed by a borrowing; or act on anything relative thereto.

There was no motion under Article 2.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. (requires 4/5 vote)

There was no motion under Article 3.

MODERATOR: Ha! We'll be done by 11.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend or revise certain compensation schedules as set forth by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference, namely:

A. Compensation Schedules A, B, D and H for salaried employees; and

B. Compensation Schedule C for elected officials; or act on anything relative thereto. (Personnel Board)

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER ELIZA LUCAS: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedules A, B, D and H for salaried employees, as set forth in the proposal recommended by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any comments from the Finance Committee on this one? No. Okay – any discussion? You've heard the motion. All those – Oh, we have some discussion. Yes, please.

DANA JORGENSSON: Thank you, Dana Jorgensson, 12D High Street: I noticed in comparison from fiscal '15 to fiscal '17 that with the salaried employees, particularly administrative, that it's retroactive payment is that correct? That this is 1% fiscal '15, fiscal '16 and fiscal '17. That they have not received a COLA increase in three years and that moving forward I wanted to also follow up with that and what are the plans for keeping their schedules on pace with the cost of living.

MODERATOR: Linda Sanders would ask that you restate that. I don't think she understood it.

LINDA SANDERS: I think it's the sound. I'm not sure, it's not the speaker.

MODERATOR: It's not you you you. Let's try this again and I'm going to ask that we deal with this because I can hear myself fine but..

DANA JORGENSSON: I can hear you fine too. The administrative employees, the salaried employees, for three years there was no cost of living increase. Now it appears, from the two documents that I got from town hall that in fact what this is, is retroactive because they didn't have an increase at all in '15, for fiscal '16, and moving into fiscal '17. This is now spreading out essentially 3% retroactive and I also would like to follow that up to understand what are the plans for cost of living increases for the salaried employees, non-union moving forward?

LINDA SANDERS: Okay, there's no retroactive increases. The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee agreed that for FY '17 there would be a 2% cost of living increase. Plans for the future are totally dependent upon economy so I think that we go through this every year. If there is some, if funds are available then the Personnel Board, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee work together.

DANA JORGENSSON: Mr. Moderator may I follow up?

MODERATOR: I just want to hear if anybody from the Finance Committee wants to weigh in on that, first. Apparently not. Anybody else? Okay, go ahead.

DANA JORGENSSON: I only wish to express my concern that there are certain employees across the board in the municipal world whose municipal knowledge is valuable and I would hate to see the town lose its valuable employees because they are not consistently receiving a cost of living increase. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Any other comments? Questions? Concerns? Okay you've heard the motion and we're dealing with the first motion. All those in favor say aye. Any opposed say no.

That motion carries.

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER ELIZA LUCAS: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedule C for Elected Officials, as set forth in the proposals recommended by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Questions, comments, concerns? We're going to use our cards now. You've heard the motion. All those in favor please raise up your voter card. All those opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

Now we are on to Article 5. So we're already at page 48 in your Voter handout Booklet. Page 48, am I correct? I am correct. I love when that happens.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any or all Town expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (Finance Committee)

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR LAURENE WESSEL: Mr. Moderator, Laurene Wessel, Chair of the Finance Committee, moves that the Town appropriate the sum of \$27,648,037 for all items under column 4 of the Table of Estimates under Article 5 on page 48 through 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, General Fund, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive, and, as funding therefor, raise \$26,302,344 and transfer the following sums from the designated accounts for the purposes specified, namely,

\$136,469 from Ambulance Reserve to the Ambulance Department
\$ 61,284 from Parking Meter Fund to Traffic and Parking Department
\$ 14,275 from Parking Meter Fund to the Parking Clerk Department
\$ 50,847 from Parking Meter Fund to the Police Department
\$116,511 from Waterways Improvement Fund to Harbormasters Department
\$ 500 from Waterways Improvement Fund to the Harbor Advisory Committee
\$112,781 from CPA Fund to Debt and Interest
\$ 60,000 from Free Cash to Debt and Interest
\$405,307 from Water Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs
\$386,719 from Sewer Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. So we go through the budget in more or less the same way every year and so I'm going to explain the procedure here and in a few moments we will hear from the Finance Committee and we will proceed. So momentarily I'm going to go through this Table of Estimates which starts on page 50, 50 of your Voter's Booklet and I will call off the section numbers in order. If you personally wish to challenge or debate the Finance Committee's recommendation.

LINDA SANDERS: I'm sorry we found an error.

MODERATOR: Okay, why don't you restate that line and tell us where the error is.

LINDA SANDERS: Actually I think we need to check with the Finance Committee on this number.

MODERATOR: All right. I will let you guys so that while I go through my little blurb so everyone knows what's going on and then you can tell me about that. So we're going to go through these sections. If you want to talk about those to challenge them, to debate them then as I go through them shout out "HOLD" and if you do not personally challenge the Finance Committee's recommendations on an item don't say anything and that way we can dispose quickly of the items about which there is no debate. We will take up the "HOLD" items in order one by one and I'm going to give Linda and the Finance Committee a few moments to discuss this and then we'll recognize Laurene Wessel of the Finance Committee to make some comments and the initial motion.

Please feel free to talk amongst yourselves.

Okay if you go back to the motion the actual figure the entire amount is a thousand dollars higher. The entire amount to be raised is \$26,303,344 as opposed to what was just read \$26,302,344. Everybody understand that?

The amount that has to be raised is \$26,303,344 so to just read it out it's: 26, 303, 344 it was a mathematical error. It was off by a thousand dollars.

LAURENE WESSEL: Good morning everybody. Before we go through the detail of the budget numbers, I have a few brief remarks, and I would like to thank the Selectmen, and all that contributed to balancing the 2017 budget, especially Finance Committee member Bill Wagner who dedicated an extraordinary amount of time.

In an effort to better inform you, for the first time, we mailed the budget to all the voters before this meeting. We hope this helped you to review and prepare for the budget items we are about to vote on. It is a difficult task to balance a budget when considering every department's needs are of equal value. In our quest to attract younger families to Rockport, however, the school system is paramount. Where there is a good school, there is always a good town. Not only should we care about supporting the best education for our children, *the future of Rockport*, but we should be aware that a good school system plays a significant role in maintaining the market value of each and every one of your homes. To quantify this fact I defer to the fact that the largest source of income for our town is real estate taxes. Our current tax rate is \$11.25 per thousand based on the aggregate amount of all property values.

The total amount of taxes billed for 2016 is \$20,577,000. Our ability to raise real estate taxes is limited by proposition 2 ½, meaning that without an override, these cannot increase more than approximately \$675,000 per year. Our new growth for real estate taxes this year is \$150,000.00. One of our largest non-tax revenues is derived from Long Beach leases at \$917,649.00. This figure is expected to increase at about \$150,000 per year.

You will hear today on budget line number 151 that legal fees are increasing. A discussion about legal fees as it relates to an ongoing litigation is not an appropriate matter for the Finance Committee. Pending litigation is within the realm of the Board of Selectmen.

Our Economic Development department has achieved important results in making significant strides towards highlighting this wonderful town we live in. The Finance Committee recommends line 181 - \$60,543.00 for further Economic Development initiatives. With our recent coverage with channel 4 news and Boston.com the small amount we have invested in this Economic Development effort has resulted in over \$190,000 worth of coverage.

We will also recommend Article K a request from our DPW for \$8,830,000 to design, construct and equip a much needed new facilities building. If passed by you, the voters, this will be financed by a proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion. Debt exclusion is similar to an override; however, it is only a temporary increase in your taxes until the debt is paid.

Supporting our DPW is important. The maintenance of our buildings, infrastructure, and roads plays a significant role in the financial value of our town. Providing appropriate funds to our Police Department and emergency personnel plays into our everyday quality of life and should not be taken for granted. Taking care of our seniors is critical in an aging population such as Rockport. We must work to maintain all services to provide the quality of life our seniors are in need of. Thanks to Executive Director Cindy Grove, we maintain a certified public library service to the public which also adds to the quality of life to so many of our seniors.

Before we go through the budget numbers line by line, I would like to note that as the health insurance rates continue to rise, it will continue to put pressure on the budget.

Thank you for attending town meeting to vote on these very important financial matters. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Okay thank you Laurene.

LINDA SANDERS TO MODERATOR: Do you want the motions by departments?

Mr. Moderator, Laurene Wessel, Chair of the Finance Committee, moves that the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,532,405 for General Government. The sum of two million..do you want these individually Mr. Moderator.

MODERATOR: No I'll take all of them.

LINDA SANDERS: \$2,467,439 for Public Safety, \$2,086,553 for the Department of Public Works, \$206,669 for Health and Welfare, \$621,423 for Culture and Recreation, \$1,518,649 for Debt and Interest, \$6,653,308 for Other Expenses, \$11,561,592 for Education.

MODERATOR: Thank you. Okay we're now going to go through. On page 50 the items by department so when I call them out "hold" or don't hold.

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	
Dept #	Department/Description	FY15 Actuals	FY16 Budget	FY17 Budget	
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
114	MODERATOR				
	Stipend	128	128	128	
	Operating Expense	20	114	114	
	Total	148	242	242	
122	SELECTMEN				
	Five Selectmen Stipends	7,195	7,195	7,195	
	Town Administrator	114,860	118,880	121,258	
	Assistant Town Administrator	60,731	61,200	62,424	
	Office Manager	44,104	43,504	44,374	
	Meeting Support Clerk	3,614	6,018	6,018	
	Operating Expense	54,818	30,770	32,663	
	Audit Services	22,500	36,000	36,000	
	Youth Center Operations	48,000	48,000	48,000	
	Total	355,821	351,567	357,932	
124	SELECTMEN COMMITTEES				
	Historical & Historic District Commission Expenses	-	500	-	
	Town Art Committee	125	2,000	2,000	
	Millbrook Meadow Committee	275	275	275	
	Rights of Way Committee	3,304	3,304	1,000	
	Beautification Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Total	4,704	7,079	4,275	
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE				
	Meeting Support Clerk			1,200	
	Operating Expense	1,011	1,100	350	
	Reserve Fund	303,500	303,500	277,000	
	Total	304,511	304,600	278,550	
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT				
	Town Accountant	33,459	75,000	78,000	
	Town Accountant Staff	54,158	51,923	96,611	
	Operating Expense	99,986	91,755	94,116	
	Total	187,604	218,678	268,727	
141	ASSESSORS				
	Assessors Stipends	3,300	3,300	3,300	
	Assistant Assessor	55,450	55,450	57,559	
	Assessor Clerk	36,789	35,918	35,918	
	Operating Expense	4,527	4,910	4,935	
	Outside services	473	4,060	4,060	
	Total	100,539	103,637	105,772	
147	TREASURER/COLLECTOR				
	Town Treasurer	72,471	72,471	73,920	
	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	46,736	46,736	47,671	
	Other Salaries/Wages	75,454	77,478	78,286	
	Operating Expense	35,549	41,349	42,700	
	Outside Services	21,687	29,598	28,000	
	Tax Title Expenses	6,975	16,060	16,000	
	Total	258,873	283,692	286,577	
151	LEGAL				
	Fees & Expenses	127,670	116,433	233,450	
	Total	127,670	116,433	233,450	
152	PERSONNEL BOARD				
	Clerical, Part Time	534	1,224	1,224	
	Merit Pay Pool	35,000	35,000	35,000	
	Operating Expense	-	380	200	

		Total		35,534	36,604	36,424
153	HUMAN RESOURCES					
	Manager Stipend				16,000	16,320
	HR Assistant				11,000	6,222
	Operating Expense				5,600	9,500
		Total			32,600	32,042
154	INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY					
	Director Salary		88,740	88,740		90,515
	IS&T Salaries & Wages		139,443	142,871		145,728
	Administrative Support Wages		3,705	4,862		4,959
	Telephone		36,099	36,387		34,387
	Copiers & other hardware		36,090	40,068		37,068
	Classroom Hardware		56,760	56,661		54,661
	Networking Services		49,643	47,000		42,600
	Software Licenses & On-line services		134,979	131,498		125,452
	Other Operating Expense		48,522	45,173		41,463
		Total	593,981	593,260		576,833
158	TAX POSSESSED LAND					
	Expenses		8,574	8,959		3,100
		Total	8,574	8,959		3,100
161	TOWN CLERK					
	Town Clerk		65,000	66,000		67,300
	Assistant Clerk		43,483	43,483		44,353
	Operating Expense		7,754	7,835		8,072
		Total	116,237	117,318		119,725
164	ELECTIONS					
	Stipends & Election Officer Wages		15,949	20,660		21,039
	Operating Expense		8,294	8,797		10,168
		Total	24,243	29,457		31,207
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION					
	Conservation Agent		46,413	46,413		55,000
	Clerical, Part Time		7,629	7,711		11,537
	Operating Expense		1,488	2,103		2,103
		Total	55,529	56,227		68,640
175	PLANNING BOARD					
	Clerical, Part Time		18,803	18,920		19,298
	Planning Consultant		27,000	27,000		27,000
	Operating Expense		1,079	2,959		2,100
		Total	46,882	48,879		48,398
176	ZONING BOARD					
	Clerical, Part Time		13,499	13,085		13,822
	Operating Expense		200	705		705
	Legal Notices - Zoning		5,024	4,950		5,440
		Total	18,723	18,740		19,967
181	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (expanded from Economic Development)					
	Special Projects, Band Concerts & Expenses		-	-		60,543
		Total	-	-		60,543
GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUMMARY						
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends		1,086,646	1,171,167		1,246,180
	Operating Expense		1,152,929	1,156,803		1,286,225
	ATM Authorization		2,239,574	2,327,970		2,532,405
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		450,530	597,204		594,067
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		2,690,105	2,925,174		3,126,472
PUBLIC SAFETY						
210	POLICE DEPARTMENT					
	Police Chief		108,307	115,000		117,300

	Police Lieutenant Salary, incl shift diff		96,041	96,041	97,962
	Police Sergeants, incl Shift Diff		237,712	243,577	246,117
	Police Officers, incl OT, Court Time and Shift Diff		845,640	890,072	929,160
	Civilian Dispatchers		76,010	100,206	38,365
	Other Staff Salaries & Wages		88,416	88,176	91,862
	Personnel Expenses-Uniforms, Training, Travel		42,945	40,205	53,403
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance		31,823	32,780	25,500
	Facilities Expense		39,029	41,162	36,477
	Equipment Maintenance-Radio, Computer		33,568	42,301	41,500
	Telephone		9,206	10,000	10,000
	Other Operating Expense		10,991	9,714	7,714
	Total		1,619,688	1,709,234	1,695,360
212	TRAFFIC & PARKING				
	Sergeant Stipend		8,922	8,922	8,922
	Parking Meter Attendants		7,491	10,809	9,180
	Trolley Services per Contract		19,040	24,291	24,291
	Operating Expense		11,153	9,571	18,891
	Total		46,606	53,593	61,284
215	LIFEGUARDS				
	Lifeguards (Seasonal)		41,432	36,414	37,142
	Operating Expense		7,907	7,918	3,000
	Total		49,339	44,332	40,142
220	FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Fire Inspector/Chief		25,713	31,024	31,644
	Firefighter Stipends (AOC)		115,156	97,135	99,078
	PT, Seasonal & Special Labor		12,721	5,930	6,049
	Personnel Expense-Training		5,983	11,588	11,821
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance, Equipment		14,122	11,195	11,195
	Facilities Expense-Heating, Electrical		28,325	45,648	34,468
	Other Operating Expense		34,075	22,526	27,314
	Total		236,095	225,046	221,569
225	FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Forest Fire Warden Stipend		3,218	3,217	3,217
	Deputy Stipends		4,505	4,437	4,526
	Firefighter Stipends		16,647	17,371	17,718
	Labor, Part Time		1,210	1,234	1,259
	Operating Expense		2,061	3,244	3,244
	Total		27,642	29,503	29,964
231	AMBULANCE				
	Department Head		8,390	8,387	8,555
	Direct Labor (Stipend)		38,632	57,386	58,534
	PT Labor & EMT per call Wages		20,307	28,585	29,158
	Personnel Expense-Training, Dues		3,559	9,181	8,881
	Vehicle Expense-Maintenance, Fuel		3,802	7,483	6,890
	Outside Services-Billing, Medical		5,651	7,651	5,000
	Other Operating Expense		21,945	24,727	22,581
	Total		102,286	143,400	139,598
241	INSPECTION SERVICES				
	Building Inspector Salary		73,738	73,738	75,123
	Part-time Labor		40,623	43,798	44,138
	Operating Expense		2,105	2,350	2,350
	Total		116,466	119,886	121,611
249	ANIMAL INSPECTOR				
	Animal Inspector Stipend (APT)		1,783	1,783	1,783
	Operating Expense		130	130	130
	Total		1,913	1,913	1,913
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT				
	Director's / Deputy's Stipends		4,465	4,465	4,465

	Operating Expense		-	750	750
		Total	4,465	5,215	5,215
292	DOG CONTROL				
	Dog Officer Salary (APT)		8,323	9,000	9,000
	Assistant Animal Control Officer		-	3,840	3,840
	Operating Expense		1,695	3,980	3,960
		Total	10,019	16,820	16,800
293	PARKING CLERK				
	Hearing Officer Stipend		1,287	1,288	2,000
	Parking Clerk		17,087	17,424	-
	Operating Expense		11,107	13,144	12,275
	Admin&Collection Services		-	-	-
		Total	29,482	31,856	14,275
295	HARBORMASTERS/SHELLFISH				
	Harbormasters		43,442	44,095	44,977
	Assistant Harbormasters		3,851	3,907	3,985
	Asst Shellfish Officer & Warden		3,557	3,602	3,556
	Seasonal, Part-Time		12,211	12,211	10,200
	Equipment Maintenance-Radios		4,135	7,515	6,061
	Boat Maintenance		6,098	10,256	7,800
	Float, Ramp Repair/Replacement		13,485	9,640	10,500
	Office & Other Operating Expense		27,549	35,637	32,129
		Total	114,327	126,863	119,208
297	HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE				
	Expenses		515	515	500
		Total	515	515	500
PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY					
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends		1,966,837	2,063,073	2,038,814
	Operating Expense		392,006	445,102	428,625
		ATM Authorization	2,358,843	2,508,175	2,467,439
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		563,720	638,610	693,285
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		2,922,563	3,146,786	3,160,724
400	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS				
	ADMINISTRATION				
	Stipends, Salaries & Wages		227,107	234,648	227,160
	Office Expenses		24,012	48,055	46,908
		Total	251,119	282,703	274,068
	PUBLIC PROPERTY (incl parks & seasonal)				
	Wages, Regular & OT		319,990	349,522	349,260
	Operating Expense		194,877	208,824	177,126
		Total	514,867	558,346	526,386
	HIGHWAY, GENERAL				
	Wages, Regular		291,046	297,906	338,903
	Wages, OT		1,608	4,886	4,886
	Highway Expense		182,613	210,531	176,531
	Garage Expense		90,858	73,479	73,479
		Total	566,126	586,802	593,799
	HIGHWAY, SNOW & ICE				
	Wages, Regular		-	39,573	-
	Wages, OT		150,466	40,058	60,058
	Operating Expense		355,965	40,791	60,962
		Total	506,431	120,422	121,020
	TRANSFER STATION				
	Wages, Regular & OT		116,485	117,404	117,902
	Operating Expense, mostly haulage		289,489	327,133	327,133
		Total	405,974	444,537	445,035
	CEMETERY				

	Wages, Regular & OT		112,621	118,757	117,521
	Operating Expense		3,418	8,724	8,724
	Total		116,038	127,481	126,245
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUMMARY					
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends		1,219,323	1,202,755	1,215,690
	Operating Expense		1,141,233	917,537	870,863
	ATM Authorization		2,360,556	2,120,292	2,086,553
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		411,006	507,707	554,977
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		2,771,562	2,628,000	2,641,530
500	HEALTH AND WELFARE				
510	BOARD OF HEALTH				
	Board Members Stipends		182	546	900
	Sanitary Inspector		34,535	34,535	35,226
	PT Admin Asst		13,659	15,836	16,153
	Seasonal Labor - Beach Testing		465	1,298	1,324
	PT Public Health Nurse		7,948	5,591	5,703
	Operating Expense		16,992	20,050	20,550
	Total		73,781	77,856	79,855
541	COUNCIL ON AGING				
	Director		42,631	42,631	43,484
	Clerical Part Time		2,446	2,448	2,448
	Operating Expense		13,129	13,907	16,382
	Total		58,205	58,986	62,314
543	VETERANS SERVICES				
	Veterans Agent Stipend		2,152	-	-
	Operating Expense		472	15,020	14,500
	Veterans Allowances		49,863	60,000	50,000
	Total		52,487	75,020	64,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE SUMMARY					
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends		104,017	102,885	105,237
	Operating Expense		80,456	108,977	101,432
	ATM Authorization		184,473	211,862	206,669
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		54,603	46,083	67,647
	TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE		239,076	257,945	274,316
600	CULTURE AND RECREATION				
610	LIBRARY				
	Department Head		34,336	67,000	68,340
	Other Direct Labor		276,175	265,343	278,317
	Operating Expense		26,568	32,765	28,791
	Library Materials (19%)		98,055	98,055	99,874
	Contractual		51,826	46,096	50,341
	Total		486,960	509,259	525,663
630	RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE				
	Recreation Director (incl seasonal labor)		27,250	27,540	28,091
	Clerical Part-time		12,766	13,219	13,483
	Operating Expense		11,134	10,060	10,060
	Total		51,150	50,819	51,634
635	GRANITE PIER				
	Seasonal Labor		12,752	12,755	13,010
	Operating Expense		6,174	8,989	8,989
	Total		18,926	21,744	21,999
638	THACHER & STRAIGHTSMOUTH ISLAND				
	Direct Labor		9,685	9,200	9,384
	Other Operating Expense		10,550	10,134	10,134
	Total		20,235	19,334	19,518
692	MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE				

	Expenses		2,249	2,608	2,608
		Total	2,249	2,608	2,608
CULTURE and RECREATION SUMMARY					
	Labor		372,964	395,057	410,625
	Operating Expense		206,556	208,707	210,797
		ATM Authorization	579,520	603,764	621,423
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		121,961	130,469	129,492
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATIONAL		701,481	734,233	750,915
700	DEBT AND INTEREST				
	Maturing Debt Principal		889,000	1,176,160	1,100,000
	Maturing Debt Interest		256,624	263,174	239,683
	Temporary Debt Principal		120,000	120,000	138,000
	Temporary Debt Interest		7,808	16,615	40,966
		Total	1,273,432	1,575,949	1,518,649
900	OTHER				
911	ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM		1,350,185	1,493,687	1,635,519
912	NON-CONTRIBUTORY PENSION		-	-	-
913	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE		19,830	53,161	50,000
914	GROUP INSURANCE				
	Health		3,674,553	3,970,819	4,125,889
	Life		12,803	12,900	12,700
		Total	3,687,356	3,983,719	4,138,589
916	FICA/MEDICARE		203,535	237,113	240,000
917	SICK LEAVE / BUY-BACK		54,710	70,000	66,000
940	INSURANCE EXPENSE		467,495	474,850	523,200
943	FUND TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND		-	-	-
		TOTAL OTHER	5,783,111	6,312,530	6,653,308
ARTICLE 5 TOWN DEPARTMENT SUMMARY					
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends		4,749,787	4,934,937	5,016,546
	Operating Expenses		3,472,389	3,372,819	3,421,142
	Pension & Benefits (Incl in 900)		2,938,874	3,304,871	3,352,424
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)		1,089,484	1,347,916	1,297,796
	TOTAL ARTICLE 5 BEFORE SCHOOLS		12,250,534	12,960,544	13,087,908
PUBLIC EDUCATION - TOWN CONTRIBUTION					
300	Base Funding from Town - ATM APPROPRIATION		10,727,560	10,964,411	11,216,592
305	Essex Tech. High School-ATM APPROPRIATION		385,750	315,497	345,000
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)		2,376,742	2,532,809	2,777,684
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)		183,948	228,032	220,853
	TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION		13,674,000	14,040,749	14,560,129
	GRAND TOTAL ARTICLE 5		25,924,534	27,001,293	27,648,037

The Moderator reads through each department for “holds”.

Now we’re going to do another motion and we’re going to vote on all the non-held items but that doesn’t mean that in the course of talking about the held items or at any other time we can’t go back and revisit expenditures before we do the final motion. But is there a motion.

LINDA SANDERS FOR LAURENE WESSEL: Ms. Wessel moves that all non-held items be appropriated.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion on the non-held items? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

That motion carries.

Now, let’s go back and have some fun. Okay, is there anybody that wants to talk about item 122 the Selectmen?

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street – Thank you. I considered offering a motion to eliminate the Board of Selectmen stipends entirely and decided against it. I move we subtract \$100 from the line Five

Selectmen Stipends which is \$7,195 that would take a hundred dollars away from it. The Board of Selectmen are not working as jobs at this, this is not a profession, it is not a trade it is something that people do as volunteers. I believe that when you start paying people to do something that's not called a salary that you confuse the issues and that you're running the town into expenses and you're also clouding the issue. We would all like to believe that the people who serve as selectmen do so out of purest altruism. Once you start adding together the stipends which are small sum the \$7,195 and the health insurance benefits which we're coming to in a moment which come to \$54,297.00 it's no longer small change and I wonder, I hope I'm not the only person wondering, whether this is in fact part of the reason people choose to serve.

I feel that if we clear up the amount that is given to the selectmen then we'll know for certain that people are serving out of love for the town which is at least in theory the reason it is done love for the town perhaps love for us their fellow citizens. I would ask you if you agree with me that the selectmen should forego the stipends and consequently forego the health insurance to join me in voting for the \$100 reduction which in itself does nothing but should send a message to the Board of Selectmen and I hope you remember from the discussion last year that town counsel told us that if the selectmen are given the stipends they are legally entitled to the health insurance which is not a small matter.

MODERATOR: Is there a second? Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All right, if I understand the motion it is to subtract \$100 from the \$7,195.00. All those in favor raise their placard. All those opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

Now we go on to article 131 Finance Committee.

TOBY ARENSIAN: I move a vote of thanks for the Finance Committee, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen for all of their long, hard work in preparing the budget. (Applause)

MODERATOR: I don't think we need to go through a vote for that but thank you very much everybody. Now, we move on to 151 Legal. It was held anyone to discuss it?

ZENAS SEPPALA: 92 Granite Street – I have some questions on the increase of the legal fees being about \$117,000 over what they were for fiscal year 2016. From what I've read in the paper and the limited discussion that I've heard about it this is mostly attributable to the ongoing lawsuits at Long Beach. I know very little about the specifics of that case. I heard the Chairman of the Finance Committee defer that to the selectmen being that it's a legal situation in process and may not be able to be publically commented upon but I do think regardless of whatever strategies or anything that is subject to executive session the townspeople ought to be aware of what the issue is and what is being contested and that I don't know other than the limited amount that I've read in the paper so I would like to hear an explanation of exactly what it is that the town wants out of the Long Beach before I vote that we recommend, that I, that we increase our legal costs that amount of money. Can I have some kind of answer for that?

MODERATOR: Well, I'm going to turn to the Board of Selectmen and they may have a response.

SARAH WILKINSON: Good morning. You can say good morning back. It's early for this but we seem to be flying along so. The Board of Selectmen wanted to take this opportunity to give you an overview of the current situation regarding the Long Beach lease litigation as it affects each of us as taxpayers.

In Jan of 2014 the town entered into 10 year leases with 154 cottage owners at Long Beach. After receiving months of feedback from the cottage owners, significant improvements were included in these new leases, they included extending the season in the cottages to 8 months, up from 6 and allowing the owners to sublet there was a provision in the old lease that prohibited subletting.

The new leases also included an increase in rents. The amount of rent that we decided to charge struck a balance between a dramatic rent hike and the very below-market rents that have historically been charged. The Board of Selectmen also chose to divide the rent increase over the entire 10-year lease term to provide the tenants with a reasonable period of time to make the adjustment financially. The Board of Selectmen understands our fiscal responsibility to the entire town; we simply could not continue to favor one neighborhood with below market rents.

Once the leases were presented, a liability issue within them was brought to the town's attention by the lessees. Together with Town Counsel the leases were amended and new ones presented. Every one of the 154 leases was then signed voluntarily and returned to the Selectman.

Over the next 18 months the Board received a few requests to renegotiate the rents that were included in the now signed leases. The Board chose not to engage in this discussion, our work on determining the rents was done. In June of 2015 we were notified that Steve Sheehan had filed a suit against the town.

Sheehan's complaint challenges several provisions in the 2014 lease. However, 99% of the litigation, including the entire Contempt matter, concerns the "public access" provision of Section 2.6, which states that tenants must allow members of the public to cross leased property in order to reach the beach, as they have done for over 100 years. Sheehan claims that this provision is illegal because it violates the "covenant of quiet enjoyment." Town counsel believes this claim lacks merit for several reasons.

Not once from when the leases were presented back in December of 2013 until the suit was filed in 2015 was the issue ever mentioned to the Board of Selectmen or anyone in our office. If it had we would have discussed it like we did with the liability issue. We fully believe that because a number of the lessees are unhappy with the rents they have searched the lease for an issue to argue, and it happens to be one that involves public access to the beach.

Despite the Board of Selectmen's belief in the lawfulness of the provision, in order to resolve the litigation and minimize the cost to the town, the Board, through its representatives engaged in lengthy settlement discussions with Sheehan and two or three other tenants last fall. In November of 2015 we extended in writing, an offer that would effectively eliminate the disputed provision. Specifically, the Board offered, in exchange for Sheehan dropping the suit that it would agree to have the court issue an order which would require the Board to cease permitting the practice of third parties crossing leased premises to reach the beach except over certain designated areas. The Board would also take certain measures to help prevent the practice, such as erecting signs and posting notices, and marking public ways.

However, Sheehan, through his counsel, refused this offer. Previously, Sheehan had demanded, in exchange for dropping the lawsuit, that the Board sell the Long Beach properties to him and other tenants, or pay them \$700,000, plus take other actions on their behalf. When rejecting the Board's offer to settle this matter, Sheehan stated that if the Board did not meet his demands, he would bring an action under Chapter 93A of the MA General Laws. If successful, a "Chapter 93A" claim subjects a defendant to higher damages than an action that does not have a Chapter 93A claim.

In December, 2015, Sheehan did send a "Chapter 93A demand letter," which is a predicate to filing a Chapter 93A claim. The Board responded in 2016, by again extending the offers described before. Sheehan again rejected this offer. After the Judge ruled in the town's favor at the contempt trial, Sheehan served upon the town a motion to add a Chapter 93A claim to his lawsuit. Town Counsel believes the Chapter 93A claim suffers from several deficiencies, and has served an Opposition to the Motion. The court will determine whether Sheehan may proceed with this claim.

Sheehan claims that he is bringing his lawsuit on behalf of all leaseholders as a "Class". Sheehan stated in a March 2016 Gloucester Times article that the leaseholders would never accept the disputed provision, and he noted that the Contempt Judge urged the sides to talk and come to a reasonable solution.

If his statements are true, then why have the leaseholders rejected the town's offer to effectively eliminate the disputed provision – an offer that was made after two lengthy settlement meetings?

Sheehan also has told the Times that the lawsuit is not about higher rents. But if it is not about higher rent, then why haven't they accepted our offer and dropped the litigation? As we all know, anyone can sue anyone else for anything now a days and there is no way to stop people from doing so. There have been cases brought against the town that have been possible to quickly settle and others that have been somewhat frivolous and possible to quickly have dismissed. Then there are some that are misguided or maliciously based.

Sadly, this litigation falls into the last category of, hopefully, being misguided. The rejection of our offers makes it appear that Sheehan (and apparently all leaseholders) are pursuing this lawsuit in order to force a concession by the Board of Selectmen that is not related to the claims in the lawsuit. This is an improper use of the litigation process.

This lawsuit has had a significant cost to the town in legal fees and employees and the Board of Selectmen having to prep and spend hours and hours in court. This week and next alone Sheehan's attorneys are deposing all 5 members of the Board of Selectmen and 3 additional town employees. This is time and money that could and should be spent on other important issues. Our responsibility as the Board of Selectmen is to defend the town against any and all legal actions taken in the most reasonable, effective, and efficient manner possible. We certainly did not choose to engage in this litigation but we take our responsibility to the town as a whole greatly and will continue to do so. Thank you.

(Applause)

MODERATOR: Anything further on Legal? Okay, let's move on to 181 Community Development.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I move to subtract the sum \$52,000 from the line for Community Development. I have in front of me, which you don't have in the Voters Booklet something called Operating Expense Budget Detail which I got at the Finance Committee on the 16th of March when the Finance Committee voted to run all of the eight lines under Community Development and to that final figure which you see before you the \$60,543. I think in this case the Finance Committee did us a disservice I don't think that the paper and ink involved in printing eight lines is any great expense or should be any consideration and I think we should know what we're being asked to pay for. I'll go through the eight lines: Academic Studies \$8,000; Promotional Services \$15,000; Advertising not a penny; Business Initiation Expenses \$5,000; Housing Programs Expenses \$14,000; Special Projects \$14,000; Administrative Expenses \$259; and Band Concerts \$4,284. I trust we're all in favor of band concerts, I certainly am. What you don't have, and this piece of paper again, four lines to the right which are the different proposed expenses. The first column being department, second Town Administrator, third Board of Selectmen and fourth Finance Committee and they don't match. But the one in theory if it were before you which we would be voting on is the Finance Committee's version. That allots \$15,000 for the promotional services - promotional services, advertising in plain English, is the Warner contract. Warner Communications was given \$52,000 last year listening to what I heard at the Finance Committee I would say it was misspent. Anyway, that's advertising under another name. The difference between calling it promotional services as opposed to advertising is the difference between contributing money to a political action committee and contributing money directly to a candidate. It's supposed to be done to put Rockport on the map not to advertise individual businesses or services which would not be proper but in fact that's the effect of it. It is a subsidy for private enterprise, a subsidy for a small minority. Going back five or six years the Finance Committee did an elaborate study on how town residents make a living. It turned out at that time that eight percent of the town's residents made a living out of the tourist industry and the inns and rooming houses - 8% a small minority. Now we're asked additionally to subsidize the local real estate industry. Have you seen any starving realtors lately?

We're told we need to attract more people to live here in Rockport but not just any people will do. We need people, young families with children. It is indeed a concern that there may not be enough kids to sustain the schools counterbalance against that the fact that one kid in the schools costs \$14,000 and you might see it in various different ways. In any case, advertising to lure people to live in Rockport is totally a waste of time, wasted effort. Who chooses to come here is the result of two factors, first who wants to come here, second equally who can afford to come here. As for who might want to come here this place very definitely is on the map anyone in Anchorage, Houston, the wilds of Nebraska can get the real estate listings for Rockport and vice versa. As for who might wish to come here real estate prices are very high and it's a miserable commute. So the hope that you might lure families with young children is simply a vain hope. The people who tend to come and move here are well to do retired people perhaps you like them perhaps you don't. They have as much right as anyone else. So, this is a subsidy for private

enterprise, a waste of government funds and I hope that you will join me in voting to subtract the \$52,000 which is meant for promotional services in plain English advertising.

MODERATOR: Before we go any further I would like to thank the Police Department for their presence here today – so Chief, Lieutenant, Sargent – thank you. (Applause) I feel just a little safer right now. (Laughter) Thank you.

ELIZA LUCAS: Hi, morning, I'm Eliza Lucas and I want to speak on this on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Toby brought up that we do want to attract people to come to Rockport, who wants to come and who can afford to come is part of the issue but we believe as a board we need to let people know about Rockport in order for them to make that decision. So, although I'm speaking on behalf of the board, I want to tell you a little bit about my history. My husband and I do own a business here so I do have a prospective in that regard but more than that I've been working in marketing and advertising for more than twenty years so I wanted to speak about this because I believe that the \$52,000 is really money well spent. So this year the board did establish a Community Development group and we put the Economic Development function within that so I think that the money he's talking about is the \$52,000. Other towns, I think it's important to bring up that other towns have full-time staff members sometimes working on community development if you go to the Gloucester website you'll see at least a half a dozen people listed in community development and staff members. They actually have a marketing and advertising professional who's a project manager just for visitation and it's not uncommon at all for cities and towns to do this. Salem and Provincetown spend a portion of their room tax and their meal's tax strictly on this type of effort. The PR effort that Warner started a couple years ago was really aimed at improving the overall public image of Rockport. They do a lot of social media and I bump into it all the time. I am a media professional who works remotely a lot and I happened to bump into an article that we have more media professionals living here than in a lot of cities and towns in Massachusetts and I thought that was interesting that we're trying to attract people who can work remotely who appreciate the arts who can get in and out of the city easily and so they target specific things that we want people to know about Rockport and they generate buzz about it and people pick up on it and write stories.

I also think it's important to differentiate the advertising message that Toby has given you with PR efforts so public relations is to influence media outlets to write stories and when they do that it comes across as being genuine because it isn't an advertisement placed by the Town of Rockport. It is actually just information that is out there that's picked up on and people write genuine stories about it. We happen to have this really awesome place where those stories are endless as far as I can tell and I read them myself. But then the only way to take that investment and translate it into a return is to compare it to what somebody would spend in advertising. So often people are asking what are you getting for your money and the only way we can really look at it in dollars and cents is to say well if you were going to put an ad in the Boston Globe or generate advertising in CBS or BZ it would cost x amount of dollars to do that. So I just want to give you one recent example of something that Warner generated that gave us a big return.

A few weeks ago maybe some of you saw on-line or in the paper a story that Rockport is looking to attract young families. It was picked up, the story really was about the PR effort that Warner is doing to get the word out that Rockport is looking to do something like that. It was picked up in various media outlets and it translated into a few hundred thousand dollars' worth of exposure for the Town of Rockport and that is just one instance so as a Board we want to live in a vibrant community we like to have things going on around here, we think that just the game changer of the Shalin coming to town. I mean, coming to town but that's much bigger than that but being open all year and having events happening has initiated some year 'round businesses to be open. We have a year 'round restaurant going in now and we support the idea that we want to tell the public what we have here and hope to attract people to come and live here and we think that the \$52,000 is actually quite a reasonable amount for the return that we get on exposing Rockport to the public. Thanks. (Applause)

MODERATOR: I see several hands; I'm just going to sweep over from left to right. Yes, sir.

ARMAND APARO: 113 Granite Street – So one of the push backs against spending this amount of money as it would benefit businesses, would benefit a small group of people. Okay so we do have a number of businesses here in town and what I'd like to draw your attention to is on page 13 in the pie chart the amount of revenue we spend to educate our children and it's about 41% here, then for the Essex Tech it's an additional percentage. Knowing that the teachers are the biggest union members they would use up the largest share of the health insurance. So let's just say it's more than 50%. The businesses that we have here in town pay the same tax rate on their properties, other businesses in town pay a fee to the town like mine, for the businesses that we have here in town. Now maybe I'm not that observant but in the wonderful restaurants that we have, gas stations that we have – station, I have yet to see, I have yet to see those businesses send their children, not the owners, to school which eats the majority of the budget. Again, you turn to (page) 14 and 76% of the money that the town runs on comes from property taxes so the businesses are contributing heavily to the revenue that we use here to live year 'round. Those businesses run through lean times they run through good times except their bills and expenses come 52 weeks per year. This is a small amount of money that we're asking everybody to vote for to support the

businesses that have to be here 52 weeks per year. Again, it's a direct correlation between advertising, the people who come here and the revenue that's paid. Thank you. (Applause)

JAMY MADEJA: 2 Holbrook Court – This is my first town meeting in Rockport. I want to speak specifically to the item at hand and give my personal example. For the item at hand it's whether to spend a certain amount of money on call it promotion, call it advertising, economic development. In my experience there's a direct link between that careful expenditure and raising money for the town. Before I had my current profession I was in municipal finance and my job was to analyze city and town's economic basis to see what their ratings should be for borrowing money. If the diversity of the tax base is not present it costs the town more in interest to borrow the money it needs every year to keep functioning. That's on notes just to borrow from one fiscal year to the next and on long term bonds so from my perspective maintaining the diversity of the tax base with the businesses in town is actually saving money for the town.

My second perspective is – I saved a long time to afford to move to your beautiful town and I thank you for all those years you spent at town meeting to get a great town and keep it that way. My children love it here. I am old but my children are not so thank you, it's a great town and it's the tax based diversity that causes me to vote yes for that item. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MODERATOR: And make sure you tell everybody you know to come to town meeting. Tell 'em it's not so bad and it's wicked fun.

BETH SULLIVAN: 4 Summit Ave – Eliza I think you gave a great explanation. The only thing that I'd ask is instead of year after year just coming to ask for more money with general statements that we establish some true ROI measurements such as increase in occupancy, sales tax, the number of new families who come, just to show that in fact the money is actually being useful as opposed to general awareness. It's nice to get \$140,000 worth of media coverage but if it doesn't result in anything we really don't have a way of measuring whether the \$60,000 is actually accomplishing anything. (Applause)

LANA RAZDAN: 14 Atlantic Ave - Good morning everybody. I'm Chair of the Economic Development Committee where this item sits I'm not going to really argue the budget amount because I've done that just about every year and I also think that it's already been articulated very well by other people. What I would like to tell you what the Economic Development Committee is very excited about I know all my members join me in this is that this represents having a Community Development section or function is something brand new for this town and this is a matter of vision. It's been under discussion for a while and I'd just like to speak to the infrastructure of that because it's very important. This is not just about promoting the town. It's about seeing issues that resonate with different people who might want to move here such as housing infrastructure, commuting time, retail business, whatever. There are a lot of moving parts as to why someone would choose to move here and why they choose to stay here. Having a community development function allows you to establish cross-collaboration across different city committees, town committees, excuse me – not enough coffee – across different committees and different town organizations that ordinarily wouldn't be inclined to work together because everyone has their own areas so this is actually the beginning of something and we're very excited about it because these are very large issues that economic development can't address on its own. It requires, for instance, just housing, just looking at one area it requires Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee and the DPW potentially so as you can see there's a lot of people who need to work together and what this does is it provides an infrastructure or at least the beginning of an infrastructure to start to address those larger issues and not just try to do one single thing.

I am unapologetic about agreeing for the need for promotion. You can have the best things in the world, the best story to tell I say this every year but if you don't have a way to tell it no one is going to know about it. It's very complicated now to do promotion and once again that's free promotion not paid advertising. It requires a lot of people working with a lot of different media and there is nobody that can do that as a volunteer so everything else we can do with sweat equity and goodwill and for the love of the town as Toby said earlier that's one area we can't. As far as measurement I'd just like to speak to that a bit measurement really requires a number of years not just one single year because what we're trying to do here is change behavior and move people from one place to another and sometimes you can't really measure that in a year you need three, five, ten years to do that. That's not an apology but that's the reality of it we can look at different metrics but they may not be really reflective of what's going on within a one year period but we're glad to work towards doing that. So I urge your support for what is essentially the construction of a new community development function and to help us to do better work on behalf of the town all working together. Thank you. (Applause)

MODERATOR: A comment from the selectmen before I take a few more comments and then I think we'll be ready to vote.

ELIZA LUCAS: So Lana really spoke to it the metrics are difficult to measure but I just wanted to respond to the woman on Summit Ave. One thing I meant to mention was that after that story aired the school sent us an email that they saw a big spike on the hits on the website so yes we should keep track

of those types of things so we can report back the kind of success that we're having but just figuring out what those spikes translate into future students is difficult at this stage but what we do know is that a lot of people went and looked us up after that was out there and I think Lana picked that up from there and sort of said it's kind of difficult to measure it a little more than that at this point.

SANDY JACQUES: 93 Granite Street – Thank you Mr. Moderator, my name is Sandy Jacques, former Chair of the Finance Committee and former Chair of the Selectmen: my background is economics I majored in economics at Wharton school but more specifically in econometrics and back in 1960 which gives you a clue as to my age I guess but we were building what has now turned out to be the Brookens institutes econometric model, input output model so we're not (inaudible) United States we're a little town but a lot of this is very subtle you hear about trickledown economics well you pump a little bit of money into an econometric model in some area and you'd be surprised how it benefits through its trickling down and around so what may appear to be to Toby and I live at 93 Granite Street and Toby's at 95 so we have a lot of discussions about some of this but it is a lot of money but if you think about it in terms of how it permeates throughout the community I think it has a lot of benefit that's not able to be identified because we do not have an econometric model yet maybe that's something we can get into at some point in the future with some other volunteers but I personally think that it has..that ability whether somebody stands up who owns a business in town or doesn't this is an investment into our economy in such a way that it does have the effect on a lot of different areas. It's not a lot of money and I think the proof of it and we asked for this last year I believe Lana, wherever you're sitting, oh there you are, is for you to give back to the town periodically that committee more feedback on what it is doing so that it isn't just once a year that we have to have this argument but that we understand better when we get here how it has benefitted us in the past year. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Is there anybody else who wants to speak about, is there anybody else who wants to speak in favor of subtracting the \$52,000 other than Toby? I'd like to hear from them first.

STEPHANIE WOOLF: 6 Point de Chene – I am in favor of advertising but throwing money at things doesn't always work. I have to say that the wonderful news coverage that was referred to so many times as being free and wonderful indeed identified Rob Liebow as the superintendent of Rockland public schools and not Rockport public schools so I would question whether indeed this company that the Economic Development Committee has contracted with is indeed looking out for our best interest. I would implore them if this does pass to consider finding someone that uses a creative approach instead of a cookie cutter approach. Thank you.

SUE-ELLEN KRESH: 17 Forest Street – and this is my first town meeting in Rockport and I haven't been here very long. I love Rockport I used to come here so I love Rockport but my question is, I'm not so much saying that money shouldn't be spent to bring people here but I'm wondering if anything is done to bring more diversity here, a more diverse population.

MODERATOR: I'm short, that's diverse. Anybody want to comment on that? Diversity. Okay. Any other questions?

JONATHAN RING: 9 Pooles Lane – It's more of a comment to determine the metrics of marketing you'd probably use focus groups and surveys. Is this advertising firm using focus groups and surveys as part of its metrics in order to determine the correlation between the money spent and the revenue that we were..that we get into the town and that's an important thing to look at. If it's not doing that then maybe the money isn't well spent it should be doing that. Thank you.

SUSAN MORRIS: 10 Babcock Road – Move the question please. (Applause)

MODERATOR: All those in favor of moving the question please raise your placard, opposed the same sign. Okay.

I proclaim that that has a two-thirds vote so now we will hear the question and the question is line 181 all those in favor of subtracting \$52,000 from that line item please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

We now move on to line 231 – Ambulance – anybody here want to talk about the Ambulance item?

FRANCES FLEMING: 12 Pleasant Street - It's really a question. I was just wondering how in two years the ambulance budget had increased by \$20,000 and maybe this was explained last year when it made a huge jump but I don't remember it and I would like to be reminded.

MODERATOR: Okay I see some ambulance drivers in the back – Rosemary we'll get you a microphone.

ROSEMARY LESCH: Rockport Ambulance Department – Thank you Frances for asking that question. It just rotates around the number of calls that we do and not necessarily is that amount going to be used in the end.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any additional comments or questions on that item? Looks like we're ready to vote but there's nothing to vote about really. (laughter) So we move on.

914 – Group Insurance I believe it the next one on page 55.

TOBY ARSENIAN: The group insurance is in two lines, health and life much the larger is \$4,125,889 and of that total \$54,297 goes to pay for health insurance for three members of the Board of Selectmen. I won't name them because if I do the moderator will strike me; but I'm tempted believe me. We pay \$18,099 for each of those three people and since we voted for the stipends we have no further say in the matter so take note and I'll shut up.

MODERATOR: All those...oh, sorry (laughter)

BETH SULLIVAN: 4 Summit Avenue – I'd like to ask the Finance Committee what actions were taken this year to keep the increase in the health insurance down if none, what are plans for the future. I know for myself I took a higher deductible this year to keep my premiums at level that they were last year so it's easy to say there's a lot of pressure on the budget as a result of this line item but we need to take some affirmative action and I'd like to know what the plans are going forward and what was done for this year.

WALLY HESS: Finance Committee – Health insurance has been a topic that we have spent a great deal of time on in the last year. We've written reports on it, we've met with outside consultants, we have met with lawyers. We're in the process of meeting with the unions to try to control this. It's a very complicated issue it's got lots of parts to it. There are dozens of ways different towns have dealt with trying to control it. This is the first serious attempt that we've made in years to try and reduce those costs. We think they're going to be successful but it's a little early to describe exactly what we're going to do 'cause we're still in discussions on that topic.

DARREN KLEIN: Kopelman & Paige – through the moderator. Just to follow up a little bit the Board of Selectmen did adopt the Healthcare Reform laws actually they adopted it several years ago and voted to implement that process, voted to implement that process as part of that process it involves meeting with all of the unions all together for a period of time and we're..for a period of 30 days and we are within that 30 day period right now in having discussions with all the unions. At the end of the process either through a limited arbitration or through an agreement with all the unions we will have a healthcare plan that is that the premiums are less than the current plans that we have right now and we'll essentially emulate in one way or another the plans offered by the state. They won't be exactly the same but they'll be closer than what we're currently providing so the selectmen have taken some pretty aggressive steps to try to provide still very good health insurance to its employees but at a cost that is a little bit more affordable.

MODERATOR: Okay, a few more comments here and I don't think that there..Toby correct me if I'm wrong but there is not a motion to reduce anything so I'm going to just hear a few more comments then we'll be done.

DANA JORGENSSON: I have a question anybody can answer. The Town of Rockport employees are not in the GIC?

MODERATOR: I've been told that is correct.

DANA JORGENSSON: Does the town have plans in fiscal '17 to take the employees into the GIC?

MODERATOR: Not at this point.

DANA JORGENSSON: This is what's under negotiation, is that correct? Is what you're doing, I'm just for clarification from your previous statements you are in negotiations to reduce, to emulate the GIC for municipal employees or to move the town employees into the GIC?

DARREN KLEIN: Very good question. Under the Healthcare Reform laws that have been adopted by the town there are essentially two options. One is to actually move your employees into the GIC or to switch to plans that are closer in design to what the GIC offers. At this time or the proposal that the town has been pursuing with all the unions is to move to plans that are closer to what the GIC offers. The town has not proposed at all to move the employees to the GIC and to this point that's not what they're entertaining for fiscal '17.

DANA JORGENSSON: Thank you.

STEPHANIE WOOLF: 6 Point de Chene – I have a question. Eighteen thousand dollars apiece seems quite a lot for our young vigorous selectmen and I'm wondering is that for their entire family or is that individual coverage. Thank you.

MODERATOR: We're not going to discuss individual people or their plans so we're not going to respond to that but another question.

FRANCES FLEMING: Thank you. It has to do with selectmen health insurance and I've held that position as you know and I am personally not in favor of selectpeople getting health insurance but I would like it if it could be briefly explained how part-time volunteers get health insurance. I think it might help people that perhaps share Toby's and my opinion to understand that and I respect the Board of Selectmen and I enjoyed working with most of you but I think it's a lot of money and I don't understand quite why so could somebody explain that?

DARREN KLEIN: I mean I can comment legally-wise the state legislature it's not a new law it's a law that has existed for a long period time I couldn't tell you exactly when but at least the last 15 or 20 years if not longer. I don't know exactly when it was enacted. It allows paid elected officials to be eligible for health insurance and that those decisions are made in a town by the Board of Selectmen; in a city the mayor would make that decision and in a town it's the Board of Selectmen but the right comes from a law that was passed by the state a long time ago that again, allows paid elected officials to be eligible for health insurance at the decision making of the Board of Selectmen and it applies to every city or town in the Commonwealth.

MODERATOR: There's no vote to be had on this and it appears that there is no further discussion and I believe that ends the "held" items on the budget. Are there any others that I missed? Okay, so now we're going to...is there a different number of a "held" budget item? That's what we're asking now anything held that I just missed? Okay, so now we're going to vote on the main motion that Linda Sanders made a long time ago under Article 5 and I'll read it because it's important and it goes as follows:

Laurene Wessel, Chair of the Finance Committee, moves that the Town appropriate the sum of \$27,648,037 for all items under column 4 of the Table of Estimates under Article 5 on pages 48 through 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, General Fund, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive, and, as funding therefor, raise \$26,303,344 and transfer the following sums from the designated accounts for the purposes specified, namely,

\$136,469 from Ambulance Reserve to 231 the Ambulance Department
\$ 61,284 from Parking Meter Fund to 212 Traffic and Parking Department
\$ 14,275 from Parking Meter Fund to 293 the Parking Clerk Department
\$ 50,847 from Parking Meter Fund to 210 the Police Department
\$116,511 from Waterways Improvement Fund to 295 Harbormasters Department
\$ 500 from Waterways Improvement Fund to 297 the Harbor Advisory Com.
\$112,781 from CPA Fund to 700 Debt and Interest
\$ 60,000 from Free Cash to 700 Debt and Interest
\$405,307 from Water Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs
\$386,719 from Sewer Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs

You have heard the motion. Any questions on that motion? A question on the motion.

JANET BREITER: 6 Driftwood Way – Mr. Moderator, just as a point of clarification what is the Water Enterprise fund?

MODERATOR: What is the Water Enterprise fund? Anybody want to speak to that?

LINDA SANDERS: That's in the next motions.

MODERATOR: That's going to be discussed in great detail in the next motion but if anyone wants to give us a Readers Digest version, definition.

JANET BREITER: I'll take the elevated version 30 seconds (A bit of quick discussion between the Moderator and Finance Committee member June Michaels)

MODERATOR: Any other questions. Everybody understand the motion? All those in favor raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.
The motion carries.

It looks to me to be unanimous we have a budget. Congratulations.

MODERATOR: Do we have a question before we move on to Article 5A?

FRANK HASSLER: 1 Gott Street - Just a comment, in view of the actions taken here today on the measures concerning Long Beach I for one would like to commend the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator and the other town officials for the balanced, fair and equitable actions they've taken as Stewards of the Public Trust on the matter of leasing property on Long Beach.

MODERATOR: Thank you. (Long applause) So noted.

ARTICLE 5A: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Water Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR LAURENE WESSEL, Chair of the Finance Committee: I move that the Town appropriate from Water Enterprise Fund revenues the sum of \$1,670,360 for all items under column 4 of the Table of Estimates under Article 5A on pages 56 and 57 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, Water Enterprise for the operation of the Town's Water Enterprise, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5A: TABLE OF ESTIMATES			
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>
WATER ENTERPRISE	FY15 Actuals	FY16 Budget	FinComm Projections
Administration	91,247	91,309	93,077
Direct Labor	477,347	497,820	505,031
Overtime	17,664	17,664	17,664
Fuel, Light and Power	173,609	183,409	183,409
Operating Expense	195,737	194,497	194,497
Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000
Debt Service	211,307	235,421	221,374
Shared Employees Wages	115,631	67,889	74,147
Shared Employees P&B	36,894	23,445	29,024
Direct Pensions & Benefits	269,806	261,705	253,529
Bldg/Liability Insurance	33,200	43,037	48,607
ARTICLE 5A SUMMARY			
Labor	586,258	606,793	615,772
Energy	173,609	183,409	183,409
Operating Expense	245,737	244,497	244,497
Debt Service	211,307	235,421	221,374
Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	455,531	396,075	405,307
TOTAL ARTICLE 5A	1,671,645	1,666,195	1,670,360

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: All right you have heard the motion. Anything from the Finance Committee on this one?

JUNE MICHAELS: Water and sewer used to be part of the total budget for the Department of Public Works but several years ago we voted to make them separate enterprise funds and an enterprise fund is defined by the state as being a separate fund it collects the water rate revenue and in the sewer fund they collect the sewer rate revenue and they have a separate budget. The reason we do it that way was to make sure that we were capturing all of the costs for water and sewer correctly and setting the rates correctly. At the end of the year if they have a surplus that surplus stays in the water fund or stays in the sewer fund and it can be used the next year. The DPW Commissioners look at the water and sewer quarterly; they can change rates quarterly but hopefully they set the budget adequately so they don't have to do that and they try to make these two funds come out just a little bit better than breaking even so that they build a reserve and then they spend that reserve for capital projects the next year. Okay?

TOBY ARSENIAN: About a month ago, maybe six weeks at the Board of Selectmen a bill turned up from the City of Gloucester regarding the intermunicipal sewer agreement the town's connection for Long Beach it was \$50,000 and change and at the time the Town Administrator said that we didn't object to the bill but we would need some further accounting on how they came up with the figure. I'm concerned that that \$50,000 not end up in the expenses of the water enterprise fund and I would like to know how the bill is paid and who ultimately gets stuck with it.

LINDA SANDERS, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: 84 High Street – Would you like me to comment? I have not had a chance to go through the numbers yet but in the, in our Intermunicipal Agreement it states very clearly that both parties, that Rockport is responsible for its proportional share of any improvements on the sewer system. What I haven't yet looked at is what improvements they've made and to confirm that it's our proportional share. The next step that I plan to do is to sit down with the Director of DPW and talk about the system and how we handle it from the town's end. The thing is the only ones using the Gloucester sewer system are the Long Beach residents so we're going to have to look at this very carefully we don't know how it's going to be paid yet but the town does owe it.

MODERATOR: Anybody else on this item before we hear from Toby again?

JANET BREITER: So I'm back tracking to the water enterprise fund. Shared costs, does that mean costs shared by the water enterprise fund and the sewer enterprise fund this goes back to 5, the question that I had. What's share costs, Mr. Moderator?

MODERATOR: I'll try to get you an answer. Anybody have an answer to that question?

BILL WAGNER, FINANCE COMMITTEE: 147 Granite Street – I am a member of the Finance Committee. I overlook or I have a great deal of involvement with the DPW budget as well as the enterprise fund budgets. The shared costs in both enterprise funds are for town employees on the Town Accountant department and the Treasurer department that do billing and accounting services for the enterprise funds so we've determined an allocation of the amount of time and the proportion of their time that is spent on those enterprise funds and essentially bill the enterprise funds for that for both their salaries, the expenses and the pension benefits related to those employees. Does that answer it?

MODERATOR: Any questions from anyone other than Toby before I hear from Toby? Toby.

TOBY ARSENIAN: Perhaps I didn't make the question clear enough. I didn't get the answer I was hoping to hear. Are the enterprise funds or in this case the water enterprise fund going to be stuck with this bill? The Long Beach bill?

LINDA SANDERS: I said it's premature. We don't have the answer yet.

MODERATOR: You might not have gotten the answer you like but the answer I believe that Linda said she doesn't know yet.

TOBY: Well I would say that in the past of course long before the present commissioners took over there were certainly abuses in what was billed to the enterprise funds and as a practical matter no one attends the DPW Commissioners' meetings and nobody attends the Finance Committee's meetings I try to and I'm pretty feeble and we should not be stuck with such a bill the water enterprise or the sewer enterprise when we put through the Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement much was made of the fact that it was not ultimately going to cost the town anything that all of the costs would be transferred to the beneficiaries, that was the Long Beach cottage owners and when I spoke to Mitch Vieira about it he agreed that was the proper thing but was not sure of the mechanism. I would hope that by this point someone would be sure of the mechanism.

DANA JORGENSSON: I just want to point out that with the enterprise fund for water and sewer: self-contained shared employees it's overseen by the Treasurer/Collector, by the DPW board, as well as the Department of Revenue. It has its own free cash. It has its own bottom line. I think we're o.k.

MODERATOR: All right you have heard the motion. Are there any question as to the motion? All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

We now move on to 5B.

ARTICLE 5B: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR LAURENE WESSEL: I move that the Town appropriate from Sewer Enterprise Fund revenues the sum of \$1,839,838 for all items under column 4 of the Table of Estimates under Article

5B on pages 57 through 59 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, Sewer Enterprise for operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5B: TABLE OF ESTIMATES			
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>
SEWER ENTERPRISE	FY15 Actuals	FY16 Budget	FinComm Projections
Administration	94,349	94,415	96,245
Direct Labor	455,659	471,156	480,242
Overtime	16,495	16,825	16,825
Fuel, Light and Power	234,684	253,411	253,411
Operating Expense	285,314	246,185	246,185
Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000
Retained Earnings Deficit Reduction	37,083	-	-
Debt Service	285,685	315,110	310,211
Shared Employees	111,576	92,559	102,148
Pensions & Benefits	251,995	250,917	243,873
Bldg/Liability Insurance	27,700	36,679	40,698
ARTICLE 5B SUMMARY			
Labor	566,503	582,396	593,312
Energy	234,684	253,411	253,411
Operating Expense	335,314	296,185	296,185
Debt Service	298,617	315,110	310,211
Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	368,429	380,155	386,719
TOTAL ARTICLE 5B	1,803,547	1,827,257	1,839,838

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion on sewer? This is your time to have a sewer mouth. Okay you have heard the motion all those in favor raise your placards. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

ARTICLE 5C: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the FY2017 Estimated Annual Revenue of the Community Preservation Fund the sum of \$27,290 for any and all necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR JUNE MICHAELS MEMBER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from the FY2017 Estimated Annual Revenue of the Community Preservation Fund the sum of \$140,071 for any and all necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5C: TABLE OF ESTIMATES			
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION	FY15 Actuals	FY16 Budget	FinComm Projections
CPA Meeting Support Clerk	-	5,500	5,500
CPA Administrative Expenses	4,624	21,450	21,790
Reimbursement to GF for Debt Service	116,156	114,656	112,781
ARTICLE 5C SUMMARY			
Labor	-	5,500	5,500
Energy	-	-	-
Operating Expense	4,624	21,450	21,790
Debt Service	-	-	-
Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	116,156	114,656	112,781
TOTAL ARTICLE 5B	120,780	141,606	140,071

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Okay you've heard the motion. Any comments? Questions? All those in favor please say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries and it was unanimous.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items, such sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*) (*requires 2/3 vote*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR JUNE MICHAELS – FINANCE COMMITTEE: I move that the Town appropriate \$518,460 for the items printed on pages 60 and 61 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet as columns 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 and to meet this appropriation, \$294,460 shall be transferred from Free Cash, and \$70,000 shall be transferred from the Parking Meter Reserve, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.

CAPITAL OUTLAY LIST							
Recommended for FY2017 Budget							
General Fund							
	<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>	<i>Column 6</i>	
Dept. #	Department	FY2017 Recommended Requests	FY17 Recommended	Free Cash	Borrowing	Parking	Transfer
213	Police	Parking Meter Upgrade	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000	
222	Fire Dept	Protective Fire Gear and Clothing	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000			
296	Harbormasters	Piling Replacements	\$ 12,000				\$ 12,000
297	Harbormasters	Replace 2 Boat Motors	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000			
332	Schools	Bathroom upgrades	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000			
333	Schools	Replace hallway and athletic lockers	\$ 30,135	\$ 30,135			
334	Schools	Greenhouse Partial Share (total \$50K)	\$ 12,000				\$ 12,000
407	DPW	Replacement F350 One Ton (unit 24)	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000			
409	DPW	Shared F150 4WD Field Engineering Truck	\$ 12,600	\$ 12,600			
412	DPW	Roadway Improvements	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000			
413	DPW	Repaving Town Section - MBTA Parking Lot	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	
418	DPW	Town Hall Annex Lighting/Efficiency Upgrades	\$ 13,725	\$ 13,725			
406	DPW	Replacement F750 w/sander (unit 23)	\$ 154,000		\$ 154,000		
TOTAL FY17 Recommended Outlay			\$ 542,460	\$ 294,460	\$ 154,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 24,000

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? And by the way for you rookies to town meeting free cash is not an oxymoron there is a definition of it in your wonderful town meeting booklet so check it out.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I move to subtract \$20,000, the line 213-Police-Parking Meter Upgrade. You might wonder why we're being asked to spend \$20,000 on new high tech parking meters when we have parking

meters that work just fine already. You do have to remember to bring a pocket full of change. The tourists won't know enough to bring a pocket full of change. The poor boobies will have hissy fits, go home in a huff and the sky will fall; not so. The tourists will blunder into the tourist stores to ask for change they'll see all of the priceless objects they'll even buy some. The Economic Development Committee will be overjoyed and live happily ever after. (laughter) But seriously the only reason the Board of Selectmen can ask for \$20,000 for parking meters when we're hard pressed financially and have parking meters that work already is because the Board of Selectmen intends to raise the parking rates. That is what happened when we bought the first round of high tech parking meters. If you ask the Board of Selectmen if they intend to raise the parking rates they will deny it and properly so because you can't raise the parking rates without first holding a public hearing and you're not supposed to make the decision before you hold the hearing. Before we spend another \$20,000 I want to remind you that we were deceived a year ago when we spent \$20,000 on parking meters we were not told that there would be subsequent charges for the billing, for the computer service, whatever it is that reads the meters and sends out the bills. I don't have the article before me I believe that it was Article G in the fall town meeting budget at a cost of \$10,655.00. I'm asking if there's another expense such as that lurking ahead of us here or if it's not in the fall's budget where in this town meeting budget what line item are the expenses for the reading of the meters? All of this is unnecessary and an extravagance. These things are hideous. We're told that the downtown is supposed to look like a quaint New England village those things look like they landed from outer space. They flash red at night. I'm short 5' 7" you notice most women, you know many shorter than I craning to get their heads up so they can see the screens on the wretched things. We do well enough with what we have. I encourage you to vote for the \$20,000 reduction.

MODERATOR: Do you have a hissy response about these priceless objects and these hideous parking meters from outer space?

PAUL MURPHY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Toby I have no idea where you came up with that figure. There has been absolutely no discussion about raising parking meter fees and you know just as well as I do if there was any discussion a public hearing would be held and an advertisement in the Gloucester Times advertising the public hearing so I know it's good theater but there's no truth to that.

HERM LILJA: 6 Bayridge Lane – I think it should be noted that the cost of parking downtown is increased. You cannot put a quarter in those meters and expect to spend..go into a store and for 15 minutes you must put in I believe at least a dollar so consequently any short term use of the meters is out of the question. So in one sense of the word Toby is exactly correct the price of parking downtown has gone up so please address that concern of mine.

CATHLEEN CAHILL – Katie's Gift Shop – 3 Mount Pleasant Street – You are right about the.. if you are paying with a credit card it is a \$1.00 minimum but you can put quarters in and get a quarter hour. I've done it so (Herm Lilja is talking without a microphone)

MODERATOR: Please no discussions back and forth

CATHLEEN CAHILL: Anyway, I would say for the majority. I'm wondering, we had I believe it was two or three years ago I think this is our second summer with this current batch of parking meters we had another batch three years ago I believe it was, that got returned. They had horrible problems and they got returned. I was wondering did we ever get our money back on those.

MODERATOR: They were shipping back to Mars and I don't know if they have arrived yet.

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator, I can answer that. We never returned those meters we still have them and we will probably be selling them. (A lot of audience rumbling)

MARCOS PITTORE: 8 Main Street – I just want to make a comment because I live on Main Street and I look out my window and I've watched the whole process over the years. I think this is our third set of automatic meters. Toby's right, it's like the Martians landed because I sit in my window and there's all this red lights blinking up and down the street but that's not my main comment. The tourists can't use these things. I can't use these things. Did you ever get a Spanish speaker or a French speaker looking at a screen that you can't even read in English? I can't read it and I'm this tall and it's here (indicating height of meter) and in the sun you can't read them. They are terrible. It looks like a trap. I've had some tourists say "so I can't use this so now I get a ticket?" and I go "yeah". It's like \$25.00 so there's a nice way to get a profit but I see it as a little deceptive anyway I don't like the meters so I'll just put that comment. Thank you. (Applause)

MEL MICHAELS: 22 Landmark Lane – I don't usually get involved in something like this but it seems to me as a pretty cheap person I don't like to pay my real estate taxes any higher than they have to be. This is money that tends to come to us from tourists who enter the town not out of the taxpayer's pocket some of us pay for taxpayer's pocket. It seems to me that the main issue here is will we make more money in the end by having these meters in town and how they look and how people have to figure them

out to me is not an issue so I'd like to know how we're doing on our income from the meters and will this improve it?

PAT CASEY: 10 Dean Road – Earlier we were talking about spending money and people defended what good that was to get people to come to town. I can't tell you how many times I've been in front of one of these new meters and I was in the computer business for a while, not very good at it but I was in business and there are people who are visiting from other cities, that we've attracted through spending \$50,000, ask me how it works and I say "I have no idea" and the person next to me who tries to tell them says "I have no idea" so on the one hand we want to spend money to bring them here and then we want to spend money on new meters and it doesn't work. Keep the old ones. Keep the town the way it is. It's why I moved back. (Applause)

MODERATOR: On this exciting topic I have to talk to people who haven't spoken first so.. we can all talk about parking meters, don't worry, we'll get to you all, just fifteen minutes though you have to put a quarter in.

JIM UGONE: 33 Main Street – and I'd like to comment on the meters as a person who lives downtown and I would just want to add at this stage of this conversation that the gentleman who mentioned how much connecting the revenues that we have to keeping our tax base down mentioned that a great deal of that money comes from tourists when I would submit that a great deal of the money that goes into the meters comes from me and people like me who live downtown and feed those meters all day long and I myself hold instructional classes at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays for any tourists who likes to learn how to use them but I just want to say we add a lot to the town coffers when we live downtown by feeding those meters because we don't like the alternative. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Just leave a quarter on the podium when you're done.

DAVID KAPLAN: 14 Drumlin Road – I'd just like to ask someone to explain what are the benefits of the new meters? That seems like I've heard a lot of we don't like them but I have to believe that the Board of Selectmen had a reason to do this. I'd just like to hear what it is.

JUNE MICHAELS: One of the benefits of meters that take credit cards is that they are read electronically and that cuts down the number of hours of meter maids and members of the police force or the DPW collecting coins out of meters. Now this particular item is for parking meter upgrades. Upgrade I believe could cover replacing a meter that doesn't work with a meter that does work so there's nothing in the article that specifies you have to have electronic meters so I would suggest the town meeting vote for this \$20,000 because this isn't basically an annual expense of replacing old meters with new meters and if you want to take up the esthetics, if you would like for example, the Town of Rockport to have lovely retro meters so that we look like a town in 1922 sure do it but not here at the town meeting. Go talk to the Traffic and Parking Committee and persuade them to put retro meters everywhere if you don't like the electronic one but I suggest we go on and vote this \$20,000 which incidentally does not affect your tax rate it comes from parking collections. Thank you. (Applause)

PAUL MURPHY, BOARD OF SELECTMEN – If you travel outside of Rockport the great majority of municipalities use these type of meters that use a credit card, a lot of people don't carry coins around anymore so that's one of the reasons we did go to the computerized meters and as studies also show that when you use a credit card you're going to use the maximum amount of time so that will bring in added revenue for the town so. I believe it's a good thing and I hope you support it. Thank you.

SANDY JACQUES: 93 Granite Street – The biggest problem I think these things have are the lights. Can't do too much about that but the height – my wife cannot read them she's not tall enough is there any way we could do this but get somebody, board to direct DPW to go out with a saw and cut the darn posts down so that you can see the meter? Thank you.

MODERATOR: Thank you that was a short question.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: Mr. Moderator can I respond?

MODERATOR: Hold on, hold on. We'll hear from Linda first.

LINDA SANDERS, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: I just want to respond to that we have purchased shorter poles and they're in the hands of our police sergeant who's responsible for those. He just hasn't had a chance to put them in yet but it is in the plans because they're very high, they catch the sun and reflect it back, so yes.

ALAN MACMILLAN: 18 Story Street – I was really disturbed to hear Linda say that we voted at town meeting to buy meters which are not stacked up in a warehouse, we can't get rid of them. I'd like you to explain to us what kind of a guarantee do we get that these work and how long is that guarantee for and is this the same technology that's been proven workable? I'm not opposed to change. We need to change, adapt to the new world order – if you will – but having meters that we paid for at town meeting, stacked

up in a warehouse because they don't work. What kind of proof do we have that this won't happen again?
Thank you.

LINDA SANDERS, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator we have warranties on these meters and you may have misheard me. I didn't say we couldn't get rid of them. We really are auctioning them off on a municipal site. Some of them work there are just unreliable and the difference is the town will put all that information out there unlike the vendor that sold them to us so we can get rid of them there are places who restore, rehab meters and we will get our money back or most of it back. The meters we have now we bought under a regional purchase agreement with our regional planning committee and we have guaranties we don't, the reason I'm hesitating is I don't know exactly how long and I don't want to mislead you I'd have to check the agreements but we have quite a bit of warranty, years of warranty on this, and Sergeant Tibert who is responsible for them all reports that these meters are working very well.

MODERATOR: I sense you are ready to vote. You have heard this motion which is to subtract \$20,000 this is under Motion #1 Article 6 and that subtraction would be for department 213 Parking Meter Upgrades.

All those in favor of subtracting \$20,000 from that line item please raise your placard. Thank you.
Opposed the same sign. Okay

That motion fails.

Now we go to the motion as it was presented and that is Motion #1 under Article 6. All those in favor – is there a question as to the motion?

DANA JORGENSSON: Mr. Moderator is it possible to get an explanation on another line item within this motion? Or is it too

MODERATOR: What line item is that?

DANA JORGENSSON: 334 – Schools – Greenhouse Partial Share - \$12,000.

MODERATOR: Okay there's a question as to line item 334 – anybody want to discuss that? Mr. Superintendent. Good morning – it's still good morning.

ROB LIEBOW, SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you very much. That is a project that the schools have been working on throughout the winter to fund raise with various individuals throughout the community who have been very generous and community organizations to raise money for a greenhouse kit which we hope to be able to do an old fashioned barn raising with which you'll all be invited to be there with a hopefully a big community cookout at the end to provide an educational center for our students for health and wellness. So far we have raised over \$80,000 for that effort and this \$12,000 was one of the very first community suggested contributions to get the project going. So we are very thankful for all the help we've had with this I think it will make us all very proud and will contribute to the entire community both young and old so I would answer any other questions if there are any.

MODERATOR: Anybody else have any questions as to that? Okay thank you. Any other items that anybody wants to talk about on this? Well hold on. I want to hear from anyone else on any item here. Okay.

(Unknown person talking loudly without a microphone)

Wait, I can't hear you. Hold on.

JIM UGONE: 33 Main Street – and I'm just curious everyone is aware and fearful of identity theft and sticking your credit card where it shouldn't be I guess my quick question is that if these things ever got hacked which I've heard people talk about it at the meters are we responsible or liable as a town or is it back to the meter company?

MODERATOR: Well we're done talking about the meters but I don't think identity theft has been discussed yet on this so any questions, any comments on that? We don't really have an answer on that one.

Any other items? Any other items on this list? Okay a follow up question; now last question on the greenhouse.

DANA JORGENSSON: Can you please, in terms of the financing for the \$12,000 from the town, is there a reason why this wasn't from Capital Projects Stabilization Fund or from free cash. It's a one-time \$12,000 hit. Why is it coming out of the General Fund? I think that's for the Board of Finance.

JUNE MICHAELS: So could you repeat your question please.

DANA JORGENSSON: The \$12,000 for the greenhouse, which I think is great I'm not objecting, I just want to know why it's being sourced from the General Fund and not from a Capital Project Fund or from free cash. It's a one-time only for the school..

JUNE MICHAELS: Okay, at the time we reviewed the project with the school superintendent he was applying for a grant from the Institute for Savings and he wanted very much to be able to tell the Institute for Savings and other people who might donate to it that the town was supporting it. This was very early in the budget process and we had no figure for free cash at all at that time so we looked at projects that could be closed out and said okay we can cover this \$12,000 with a transfer so we voted it early. I think it was in November or before he sent in the application so we identified it as coming from a transfer that is why we're funding it that way.

MODERATOR: Any other questions on any of these items?

TOBY ARSENIAN: This will not be popular it's parking my question was not answered if there were further charges elsewhere in the budget for reading the parking meters the computer systems that read them or the billing. The question was a legitimate one and was not answered.

MODERATOR: Any other comments on any of these items?

You've heard the motion all those in favor please raise a placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries and it is unanimous. We move on to the second motion.

LINDA SANDERS FOR JUNE MICHAELS: I move that the Town appropriate \$154,000 for the item printed on pages 60 and 61 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet as column 4, "Borrowing" and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$154,000 pursuant to Mass General Laws Ch. 44, Sections 7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. This requires a two-thirds vote and as I understand it the item is specifically a sander. Is that correct?

LINDA SANDERS: Yes, that's correct.

MODERATOR: Linda Sanders talking about a sander. Any discussion? Okay. You've heard the motion. All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries unanimously which I believe it more than two-thirds.

ARTICLE 6A To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Water Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires 2/3 vote)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR BILL WAGNER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: I move that the Town appropriate \$75,602 for the items printed on Page 61 and 62 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet shown in column 2 marked "Recommended" under Article 6A – Water Enterprise Fund, and to meet this appropriation, that the sum of \$7,602 as shown in column 3 marked "Free Cash" be transferred from Water Free Cash and the sum of \$68,000 as shown in column 4 marked "Borrowing" and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$68,000 pursuant to Mass General Laws Ch. 44, Sections 8 or 9 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

CAPITAL OUTLAY LIST					
Recommended for FY2017 Budget					
Water Enterprise Fund					
		Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Number	Department	Description	FY17 Recommended	Free Cash	Borrowing
424	Water Enterprise	Shared Replacement of F750 Dump Truck	\$ 68,000	\$ -	\$ 68,000
424	Water Enterprise	Shared Field Engineering Truck	\$ 7,602	\$ 7,602	
TOTAL FY17 Recommended Outlay			\$ 75,602	\$ 7,602	\$ 68,000

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? And this requires a two-thirds vote. All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed raise your placard.

That nobody has done so. That motion carries unanimously, which again is more than two-thirds.

ARTICLE 6B To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Sewer Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires 2/3 vote)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR BILL WAGNER, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move that the Town appropriate \$217,100 for the items printed on pages 62 and 63 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet shown in column 2 marked “Recommended” under Article 6B – Sewer Enterprise Fund, and to meet this appropriation the sum of \$217,100 as shown in column 3 marked “Free Cash” be transferred from Sewer Free Cash and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.

CAPITAL OUTLAY LIST				
Recommended for FY2017 Budget				
Sewer Enterprise Fund				
		Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Number	Department	Description	FY17 Recommended	Free Cash
425	Sewer Enterprise	Water Meter Modules & Body Replacements	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
426	Sewer Enterprise	Replacement F350 Truck with Plow Accessories	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
427	Sewer Enterprise	Shared Replacement F750 Dump Truck	\$ 68,500	\$ 68,500
	Sewer Enterprise	Wastewater Facility Master Account	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
425	SewerEnterprise	Shared Field Engineering Truck	\$ 12,600	\$ 12,600
TOTAL FY17 Recommended Outlay			\$ 217,100	\$ 217,100

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion here? All right. All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries it is unanimous.

And I thank you we’ve gotten through 1-6.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: Good afternoon. I was going to say good morning but I just wanted to take a brief moment to thank the members of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. This is a committee that begins meeting probably late August and then meets all the way through December, I think this year we were meeting into January, we meet with all the department heads evaluate the requests for capital improvements for the town and I’d just like to mention I was on the committee this year along with Bill Wagner from the Finance Committee, Linda Sanders the Town Administrator, Wilhelmina Sheedy the other selectperson, June Michaels from the Finance Committee and Carrie Arnaud the Treasurer/Collector. Thanks for all your hard work this year. (Applause)

MODERATOR: So before we get started everybody feel free to get up and stretch a little bit not that I want you to leave but lunch is being served.

MODERATOR: We’ve had our super sophisticated hi-tech planning board computerized made by the same company that does the parking meters (laughter) methodology here to choose the Articles and as it turns out that we have chosen A followed by B but remember that B is related to C, D and E so we’re going A through E.

So the Chair will entertain a motion under Article A.

ARTICLE A (7): To see if the Town will vote to expend a sum of money allocated to the Town under the provisions of Section 34(2)(a) of M.G.L. Ch. 90 or otherwise, so-called “Chapter 90 monies”; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTMEN PAUL MURPHY: I move that the Town expend the sum of \$192,023 or such other sum as is made available to the Town under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 90.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: All right. Any discussion on this? You’ve heard the motion all those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

MODERATOR: On to Article B, C, D and E

ARTICLE B (8): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 or any other sum, for Action, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR ROGER LESCH: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to Action, Inc., 180 Main Street, Gloucester, MA.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. And I was actually asked to tell you that the Town Clerk, if you do come up and you have any prepared speech or anything to talk about a motion that you provide her with the text of that so she can easily get it into our records.

So Article B – anybody want to talk about that? You’ve heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries and it was unanimous.

Article C

ARTICLE C (9): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC); or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTMAN MINA SHEEDY: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to HAWC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

That motion carries and it was unanimous.

Article D

ARTICLE D (10): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,100 or any other sum, for SeniorCare, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTMAN SARAH WILKINSON: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,100 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to SeniorCare, Inc., 5 Blackburn Center, Gloucester, MA.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries and it was unanimous.

Article E

ARTICLE E (11): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 or any other sum, for The Open Door; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR ERIN BATTISTELLI BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHAIR: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to The Open Door, 28 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? You’ve heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

Article P which means that Article Q follows that so let’s take a look at those. As they say let’s mind our P’s and Q’s.

ARTICLE P (12): To see if the Town will hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to the vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 16 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2015 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article S, and extend the term of the Committee; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Moderator*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTPERSON SARAH WILKINSON: I move that the Town hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 16 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2015 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article T, and extend the term of the Committee.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. And we have a member of that committee who is going to read their report.

JANET BREITER: Good afternoon – The Ad Hoc Water Committee is a unique volunteer effort because members serve exclusively at the will of this body – Town Meeting Voters – unlike being appointed by the selectmen, or elected at the ballot box. On behalf of the AHWC, I'd like to call your attention to pages 26 and 27 in the Annual Report, and we warmly welcome your review and comments. Mostly, we welcome your future participation, so please watch for an upcoming My View column in the GD Times which will include contact information. We meet the last Tuesday of the month at town hall at 5:00, next on April 26th, and the door is always open.

Rather than read aloud what you see published, instead I need to inform you that there may be an inaccuracy in it because this activity report submitted to the Board of Selectmen in January, indicates the Town of Rockport is in compliance with a federally-mandated requirement to assess annually its vulnerability to potential attacks on its water supply, by terrorists or other sources. It was noted at last year's town meeting this regulation began with the Patriot Act immediately following 9/11. After considerable effort to research and to determine if this is in fact happening in our town, following the 2002 regulation, the Ad Hoc Water Committee was given assurance by the town that this Vulnerability Assessment does exist and is current on an annual basis. Since submitting the report to you, the Ad Hoc Water Committee, continued its effort to verify that Rockport is in full compliance.

Unfortunately, at this point in time, the Ad Hoc Water Committee is unable to confirm to this body the existence of a current Water Vulnerability Assessment for Rockport. We plan to persevere in the year ahead on this and other initiatives to conserve and preserve our previous water supply, and we welcome your participation. Thank you. (Applause)

MODERATOR: Thank you – okay you have heard the motion; any comments, questions, concerns? All those in favor of accepting that report and extending that committee's actions until next year's Annual Town meeting, please say aye. Opposed say no.

That motion carries and it was unanimous.

Now on to Article Q

ARTICLE Q (13): To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2015 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Moderator*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHAIR ERIN BATTISTELLI: I move that the Town accepts the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2015 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded and that can be found in this very beautiful 175th Annual Report which is available for free in the back of this auditorium and a lot of work goes into this by an awful lot of volunteers and so if we move to accept it – all those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries and it was unanimous and accepted with gratitude. Thank you.

ARTICLE G (14): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Capital Reserve Stabilization fund to pay for future capital expenditures; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*) (*requires 2/3 vote*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER JUNE MICHAELS: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Capital Reserve Stabilization Fund for the purposes of Article G as printed in the warrant.

(Page 66) SUMMARY EXPLANATION Article G asks Town Meeting to deposit a portion of the certified free cash into the Capital Reserve Fund to help pay for major capital purchases and projects that are unable to be covered from annual appropriations of free cash or transfers between accounts.

MODERATOR: And the text of that is found on page 66 and that was moved and seconded. It requires a two-thirds vote. Any discussion? All righty – you’ve heard the motion; all those in favor please raise those placards. Great, thank you. Opposed the same sign.

Okay that is accepted and that was unanimous.

So now we will go to Article O which will be followed by Article H.

ARTICLE O (15): To see if the Town will amend the Zoning By-Law to allow large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, by inserting the following in the By-Laws as Section IX:

“LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to promote the creation of new large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations (“LSGMSPVI”) (250 kW or greater) by establishing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification, repair, and removal of such installations to ensure public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources, and provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations. The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and/or repair and removal of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

B. APPLICABILITY

This section applies to the initial construction of LSGMSPVIs and to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment. Smaller scale building mounted solar or photovoltaic installations which are accessory to a lawful principal use on the same lot are not otherwise subject to the requirement of this section, but must comply with the other provisions of the Zoning By-Law as applicable.

C. DEFINITIONS

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (LSGMSPVI): A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground, not roof-mounted, and has a minimum nameplate capacity of 250 kW DC.

On-Site Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A solar photovoltaic installation that is constructed at a location where other uses of the underlying property occur.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of Direct Current (DC) electric power production of the photovoltaic system.

Site Plan Review: Review by the Planning Board to determine conformance with the Zoning By-Law, as provided in Section X of the By-Law.

D. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LARGE SCALE GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

The following requirements are common to all LSGMSPVIs to be sited in designated locations.

a. Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations

The construction and operation of all LSGMSPVIs shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, environmental, Wetlands Protection Act, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the state Building Code.

b. Building Permit and Building Inspection

No LSGMSPVI shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit.

c. Fees

The application for a building permit for a LSGMSPVI must be accompanied by the fee required for a building permit.

d. Site Plan Review

Any LSGMSPVI shall undergo site plan review by the Planning Board prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this section. LSGMSPVIs shall be constructed, installed, used and modified in conformity with a site plan approved by the Planning Board in accordance with Section X Site Plan Review of the Zoning By-Law and the further requirements set forth herein. The Planning Board shall review and act upon the site plan review of an LSGMSPVI within 90 days of its receipt of an

application determined to be complete. The requirements set forth herein shall be applied coincident with and in addition to those requirements set forth in Section X. The requirements of this section shall take precedence in the event of a direct conflict.

(i) General

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(ii) Required Documents

Pursuant to the site plan review process, the project proponent shall provide the following documents:

(a) A site plan showing:

- i. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
 - ii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation and structures;
 - iii. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures;
 - iv. One or three line electrical diagrams detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and over current devices;
 - v. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting systems, and inverters;
 - vi. Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;
 - vii. Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;
 - viii. Name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and,
 - ix. A description of how land clearing and construction shall be performed in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Zoning By-Law governing storm water discharge, land disturbance, provisions for handling toxic or hazardous materials, and post-construction storm water runoff.
- (b) Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see Section D.e);
- (c) An operation and maintenance plan (see Section D.f);
- (d) Zoning district designation for the parcel of land comprising the project site (submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel identified is suitable for this purpose);
- (e) Proof of liability insurance written by companies licensed to provide such insurance in Massachusetts and with coverage limits at commercially acceptable levels;
- (f) Description of financial surety that satisfies Section D.m.ii. The project proponents shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal of the proposed facility prepared by a licensed engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.
- (g) A public outreach plan, including a project development timeline, which indicates how the project proponent will meet the required site plan review notification procedures and otherwise inform abutters and the community.

The Planning Board may require additional information, data or evidence as it deems necessary pursuant to the Site Plan Review process, or may waive documentation requirements as it deems appropriate.

(iii) Professional Review

The Planning Board may engage, at the applicant's expense, professional and technical consultants, including legal counsel, to assist the Planning Board with its review of the application in accordance with the requirements of Section 53G of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The Planning Board may direct the applicant to deposit funds with the Planning Board at the time the application is accepted, and to add additional funds as needed upon notice. Failure to comply with this section shall be grounds for denying the application. Upon approval of the application, any excess amount in the account attributable to that project, including any accrued interest, shall be repaid to the applicant.

e. Site Control

The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed LSGMSPVI.

f. Operation & Maintenance Plan

The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the LSGMSPVI, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

g. Utility Notification

No LSGMSPVI shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Building Inspector that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

h. Dimension and Density Requirements

(i) Setbacks

An LSGMSPVI shall be set back from property lines consistent with the applicable regulations for the underlying zoning district, with the exception of necessary interconnections with utility transmission or distribution facilities.

(ii) Appurtenant or Accessory Structures

All appurtenant or accessory structures to a LSGMSPVI shall be subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-Law concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other, and shall be landscaped and screened from view by vegetation, located underground, or behind berms, and/or clustered to minimize visual impacts.

i. Design Standards

(i) Lighting

Lighting of LSGMSPVIs shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the LSGMSPVI shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

(ii) Signage

Signs on LSGMSPVIs shall comply with requirements of all applicable sign regulations and shall be limited to:

(a) Those necessary to identify the owner, provide a 24 hour emergency contact phone number, and warn of any danger.

(b) Educational signs providing information about the LSGMSPVI and the benefits of renewable energy. LSGMSPVIs shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

(iii) Utility Connections

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Planning Board, shall be made to place all utility connections from the LSGMSPVI underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

(iv) Screening

A buffer or green strip planted with live shrubs or trees, predominantly evergreen, shall if feasible be maintained between the perimeter of the LSGMSPVI and any abutting property line or street unless the existing natural growth is adequate to provide an equivalent buffer. Such a buffer shall be designed so as not to create a hazard upon entrance or exit from the facility. The Planning Board may vary or waive this requirement consistent with minimizing negative effects on abutting property.

j. Safety and Environmental Standards

(i) Emergency Services

The LSGMSPVI owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Fire Department. Upon request the owner and/or operator shall cooperate with Town emergency services in developing an emergency response plan, which may include ensuring that emergency personnel have 24 hour access to the facility. All means of shutting down the LSGMSPVI shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the LSGMSPVI.

(ii) Land Clearing

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the LSGMSPVI or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws. Significant tree cutting is strongly discouraged. Should tree cutting be required the applicant should offset the loss of trees by planting an equivalent number of trees of similar species of (size and caliper) on-site or on an area specified by the Planning Board.

(iii) Drainage and Groundwater Protection

A LSGMSPVI shall comply with any drainage and groundwater requirements set forth in the Zoning By-Law, which requirements shall be imposed and conditioned as appropriate through the Site Plan Review process.

k. Monitoring and Maintenance

(i) Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions

The LSGMSPVI owner and/or operator shall maintain the facility in good and safe working condition, and shall schedule inspection by a competent professional at least once every twelve (12) months or more often, pursuant to industry standards and practices. The results of the inspection and any resulting repair work shall be submitted to the Planning Board and the Building Inspector within thirty (30) days of receipt by the owner and/or operator. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the LSGMSPVI and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

(ii) Modifications

All material modifications to a LSGMSPVI, after issuance of the required building permit, shall require further Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.

(iii) Contact

The owner and/or operator of a LSGMSPVI shall identify a responsible person for emergency purposes and public inquiry and shall at all times throughout the life of the of the installation maintain current contact information (name, address, telephone number and e-mail address) for such person(s) on file with the Building Inspector, the Fire Department, and the Planning Board.

l. Insurance

Prior to commencing operation, the owner or operator of a LSGMSPVI shall provide the Town Clerk with a certificate of insurance showing that the property has a minimum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in liability coverage by occurrence in the aggregate or five million dollars (\$5,000,000) general liability insurance, and that the Town is an additional named insured thereon. Such certificate shall be supplied on an annual basis to the Town upon the renewal of said insurance policy.

m. Discontinuance or Decommissioning

(i) Removal Requirements

Any LSGMSPVI or substantial part thereof not in operation for a period of one hundred eighty (180) continuous days or more without written permission from the Planning Board or that has reached the end of its useful life shall be considered discontinued and shall be removed. Upon written request from the Building Inspector, addressed to the contact address provided and maintained by the owner and/or operator as required above, the owner/and or operator shall provide evidence to the Building Inspector demonstrating continued use of a LSGMSPVI. Failure to provide evidence within thirty (30) days of such written request shall be conclusive evidence that the installation has been discontinued. The owner and/or of the installation shall notify the Planning Board and Building Inspector by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal.

The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the notification date of discontinued operations. Decommissioning shall consist of:

(a) Removal from the site of the LSGMSPVI in its entirety, including all associated structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission/distribution lines.

(b) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations

(c) Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Planning Board may allow the owner and/or operator to leave landscaping or designated below grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

(d) Reinstatement of gravel or ground cover consistent with the surrounding landscape.

(e) Removal of all above ground foundations and supports to a depth of one foot below existing grade.

If the owner and/or operator of the LSGMSPVI fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section, the Town shall have the right, to the extent it is otherwise duly authorized by law, to enter the property and remove the installation at the expense of the owner and/or operator of the installation and the owners of the site on which the facility is located.

(ii) Financial Surety

The owner of a LSGMSPVI approved in accordance with this By-Law shall provide to the Town, acting through the Planning Board, a form of surety to cover the cost of removal in the event the Town must remove the LSGMSPVI and remediate the landscape. Such surety shall be in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Planning Board, which may be an escrow account, bond, or otherwise, and shall be provided prior to construction. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation. Such surety shall remain in force for so long as the project is in existence, and the owner shall annually provide the Planning Board and Building Inspector with proof that the surety continues in effect. Lapse of surety shall be a violation of this By-Law and the Town may take appropriate enforcement action. Surety will not be required for municipal or state owned facilities.

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF LSGMSPVI OVERLAY DISTRICT

The LSGMSPVI Overlay District is hereby established. The boundaries of the LSGMSPVI Overlay District are shown on a map entitled "LSGMSPVI Overlay District," which is hereby incorporated in the Town Zoning Map. The LSGMSPVI Overlay District shall be considered superimposed on the other districts depicted on the Town Zoning Map. LSGMSPVIs are allowed as of right in the LSGMSPVI Overlay District. The provisions and requirements of the underlying zoning districts remain in effect, in all other respects.

F. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Section is invalidated, such invalidation shall not invalidate any other provision." and by renumbering all subsequent Sections of the Zoning By-Laws and modifying all references elsewhere throughout the Zoning By-Laws to reflect the Section number changes; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Planning Board*)

; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR HERMAN LILJA CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING BOARD: I move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning By-Law to allow large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations as printed in the Warrant as Article O and as shown on pages 73 through 81 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded and again, page 73. Any discussion on this?

BRUCE REED: Member of the Green Community Task Force 32 Pigeon Hill Street – and I'm not sure how much people know about the green community task force and what green community means so I thought I'd give a really brief overview of it. Basically it's something that started about three years ago as a member of the DPW Commissioners we had this woman come in from the state started talking to us about the green community initiative and I would say that I think the three of us knew nothing about the green community initiative but to shorten the story a little bit about a year ago Joe Parisi, the Director and I went to a meeting in.. at Holy Cross about energy and what we learned is that the..about half of the cities and towns in the state are now part of the green community and what we discovered is there is a lot of money out there for energy initiatives and we were taking advantage of this so we started to do a little bit of work and we got a seven member board or committee put together under the auspicious of the Board of Selectmen and we're now working through this process of becoming a green community because there are a lot of real advantages to the town. One is we become a good steward of the environment would take care of it number two is we become eligible for grant money to come into the town to be spent only on energy issues.

It's just something that I found amazing when we started doing our work on this last September that Rockport in FY2015 spent two million dollars on energy that's electricity, oil, gas, diesel etc. and part of our goal is to reduce that factor by some twenty percent over the course of five years. If you relate that into dollars that's \$400,000 a year that the town would be saving on energy and that's part of what we're doing so real quick we have five criterion that we have to pass one is we have to find a location to put and we felt a solar farm is the best way for Rockport to proceed in the sense of covering this criteria so the committee looked at every location in town that is owned by the Town of Rockport and we determined the best site for this would be at the transfer station, we'll get into, and that's what this bylaw is all about is allowing us to put a solar farm there. Another criterion which is also dealt with by this bylaw change is just to make it so we can license this in a timely fashion in less than a year so we have to put things in place to make sure that we can do this. Third we build a plan to reduce that energy, we haven't got there yet that's our next step. We'll have a company come in and work with us to evaluate our buildings and so forth to determine where that twenty percent savings is. The town will have to and the Selectmen and the School Committee both have agreed that they will purchase fuel efficient vehicles. Some people think that that's a little bit dangerous it's not because most of our major equipment in town, police cars, fire equipment, ambulances, DPW equipment is exempt so we probably only have a handful of cars in town that we have to make sure now meet, I think the number is 29 miles per gallon highway and around town.

Then lastly is a stretch code provision that we'll talk about at the special town meeting on April 30th because that does need to come through town meeting as well so that's what it's all about and just one other figure, a couple of figures that I think are important to note is that of the 155 cities and towns every other Cape Ann town is a green community and if we..I just took a look at Beverly, Essex, Gloucester, Manchester, Hamilton, Wenham and they have raised through grants \$2,357,748 from..because they a green community and that's what we're attempting to do and the interesting thing is all that money goes into saving additional money for the town because it's all about energy savings so this is a good thing.

Mr. Moderator if I could turn it over to Ed Hand to talk about the actual..(Moderator: Please) Thank you.

ED HAND: 20 Landmark Lane – A member of the Planning Board also of the Green Community Committee. Mr. Moderator, I read the GDT this morning and it started off in one of the articles talking about the fact that it took seven pages in our booklet to put this zoning bylaw article out for your inspection. I'm going to try and shorten it a bit so I want to just hit the high points. Looking at the overview of proposed large scale round mounted solar photo voltaic installation zoning bylaw amendment and overlay district share this somewhat unwieldy title but in order to simplify things for town meeting I will refer to them in the future as large scale solar installations.

The purpose of the bylaw change, the purpose of the change to the Rockport Bylaws Section 9 will become Section 9 of the Rockport Zoning Bylaws to provide a location for the development of ground mounted 250kWDC or greater, solar installations to qualify Rockport as a green community sort of like playing a game of cards you know you have to ante up a certain amount that's what we have to provide. We have to provide this is one of the five criteria does not mean we are building the solar system necessarily we can if we wish to or somebody else could just have to have it available. To give you an idea a 250 kilowatt system would require approximately an acre of land and be large enough to provide 8% of the town's municipal energy use, electrical energy or to get a sense of scale it would be equivalent to about a 330 horsepower engine some of you may have that much in your cars or enough power to provide 40 to 50 typical homes. The proposed bylaw provides standards for the placement, design,

construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations. These standards address public safety; they minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual and inevitable decommissioning of such installations.

This bylaw is based on a model bylaw from the Mass Department of Energy Resources it incorporates elements of several other Cape Ann communities that have already become green communities in their bylaws and also adapted to reflect Rockport's needs and existing zoning bylaws of Rockport.

As of Right Siting – now that's a key to this thing as a right siting or by right siting refers to uses that are allowed in a zoning district such as in the single residential district you can build a single family house by right. In the proposed overlay district that we're talking about the development of a solar installation may proceed without the need for additional special permits, variances, amendments, waivers or other discretionary approvals but it is subject to Site Plan Review to ensure conformance of local zoning ordinances and bylaws. Projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the Building Inspector in accord with the Site Plan Review. Now we have conducted a hearing, the Planning Board did, public hearing and we received some pushback from neighbors to the proposed area, overlay district who lived on Main Street. We listened to them and we significantly reduce the area that we designated as an overlay district well beyond where we actually said we could do it. In other words we reduced it significantly. The boundaries are shown of the proposed overlay are shown on a map of the overlay district which will be incorporated in the town zoning map – if we could have that on the board, the overlay district shown – you've got that in your books on page 82 but to just throw it up here too. Now this is a large, this is a southeast facing slope of the transfer station landfill so if you look at that you will see that it doesn't cover the parking lot it merely covers the south facing slope and I think we have a photo of that too of the south facing slope – yah – that is an area which has a slope to it goes down eventually to a brook. It is mowed and kept clear by the DPW it's as I say southeast facing has good solar exposure and is an optimum place to place the solar field. The overlay district allows large scale solar systems but the provisions and requirements in the underlying zoning district remain in effect in all other aspects. Large scale solar installations have been approved for development on 76 closed landfills in Massachusetts, 43 of these are already up and operating so it's something, it's not rocket science it's something that has been done before. It will be done extremely carefully if we do do anything like that or if anybody else develops it it'll have to go through also geotechnical analysis and things like that but it's feasible and it's working effectively in other communities.

Now I mentioned Site Plan Review. Site Plan Review is a vehicle that we have in town already its part of the zoning bylaw. It provides for, in this case, it provides for expediting permitting to meet the green community's certificate criteria #2 which is that we be able to this from one year from the time somebody applies for a large scale solar system developed on this overlay site up until it gets a building permit. This bylaw provides enhanced review of aspects specified to large scale solar installations. Construction and operation of all such systems shall be consistent with all applicable local state and federal requirements and safety and environmental standards emergency services, land clearing and drainage and groundwater, all will be in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and bylaws. As any Site Plan Review copies of the application are received by the Planning Board and disseminated to a number of other town boards and committees for review and comment including: the Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Building Inspector, Chief of Police, Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Public Works, Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals so all of these agencies get this application and they have different degrees of comment and some of them can actually or as a condition of such is the Conservation Commission which would affect installation.

Finally to protect the town in case this thing gets abandoned or discontinued, discontinued or decommissioning states the requirement for decommissioning and financial surety to the Town of Rockport in case of abandonment. The Rockport Green Communities Committee urges your favorable vote on this Zoning Bylaw to qualify Rockport to be take advantage of the many qualitative and financial benefits of becoming a green community. Thank you.

JUNE MICHAELS: For the Finance Committee – The Finance Committee voted to support this Article. Our discussion centered on trying to answer a question and that some of you may have which is what will this cost the town in the future? The answer is we don't know yet but the goal is to enter into a partnership with a solar company and so the construction costs would be paid for by another company that wants to build a solar panel field in Rockport. The company would pay the Town of Rockport either rent or to lease the land or credits in the form of a credit on our electricity bill but first we have to agree to the zone and then we would deal with how we would build such a field in the future but the goal is not for the town to engage in additional costs but to enter into a partnership with a company to build this. Thank you.

WILHELMINA SHEEDY: Hello everyone. Mina Sheedy for the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen has voted to support this Article. This zoning bylaw amendment and the adoption of the required overlay district is one of the criteria for Rockport to be designated as a green community by the commonwealth. This would allow us to be eligible to compete for Massachusetts green communities' grants to fund projects aimed at reducing Rockport's annual municipal energy costs by 20%. This will,

the passage of this Article will enable the Green Community Task Force to develop a plan to reduce our energy consumption and the Board of Selectmen fully supports this Article. Thank you.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I think it's a fine idea. I'm for it. The committee that put it together has put in an enormous amount of effort and we owe them certainly a vote of thanks. That isn't to say that all of the answers are there and that other things about it can't be fixed. If you look at the map on page 82 you see the district delineated and you noticed that there is no surveyor's stamp, there is no engineer's stamp. It has not been surveyed and that's acknowledged in the disclaimer at the bottom right corner of the page. "This map was created by Rockport GIS" for those who don't know that's Geographic Imaging Systems and should be spelled out and then skipping down "but is not intended to represent authoritative and is not to be used for conveyances" that's significant because if we're actually going to get something put there as June Michaels has just been referring to we're going to have to get the lot surveyed. Something else you want to notice about the map and that is that the western boundary which runs roughly southwest to northeast 914' is not coincident with any lot boundaries. On the contrary that runs across two different lots. That's significant too when you come to finding somebody who would be prepared to build on the site another reason you would have to have it surveyed it's also significant when you get to the section on setbacks, if anyone's had a chance to read this, that doesn't work.

I had concerns about how we would dispose of the property if anyone wants to build such a facility, by dispose I don't mean sell, I submitted my question to the Board of Selectmen on the 25th of March and have yet to get an answer although I've asked three times since. The question being whether it would be a lease or a license if we get some promising group that wishes to build there perhaps even now the Board of Selectmen would deign to answer they are in session in the course of this meeting and could vote one way or another to tell us what they intend. I'll read you something that I got from town counsel I submitted some questions and thank you to Darren Klein who provided this since he wrote it I guess he vouches for it. "Who controls the lots within the overlay district?" The question was directed to the Board of Selectmen or Town Administrator, here is a response based on what we know "the overlay district includes portions of town owned parcels, assessors map 19, parcels 49 and 52C. The parcels were conveyed to the town in 1969 by deeds to "the inhabitants to the Town of Rockport" i.e. to the town which would have placed them under the control of the Board of Selectmen. The Town Administrator or other town official would know whether custody and control of the parcels was subsequently transferred to another town board. To answer the question that is implied but not directly asked it would require a vote of town meeting to approve a change in use if any and authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease the property so like many things from lawyers that's helpful but leads to yet more questions what would be a change in use? What is the supposed use now and is it the Board of Selectmen or the DPW Commissioners who control these parcels?

I hope we have some answers to those questions and then if I'm given the floor a second time I'll offer an amendment that will fix the section on the setbacks which does not work as written.

ALAN MACMILLAN: Mr. Moderator speaking for the Conservation Commission, I'm a member of the commission – dated March 30th 2016 to Bruce Reed Chairperson of Green Community Task Force from Lawrence Neal, Chairman Rockport Conservation Commission – Support for Green Community designation – At its March 16, 2016 meeting, the Rockport Conservation Commission voted 4 to nothing, there were four members attending, 4 to 0 to support – support Rockport's endeavors to attain Green Community designation. The commission discussed the Task Force's presentation, including the many requirements associated with becoming a Green Community. In addition, some of its members have attended the informational public meetings which have been held on the subject.

The purpose of the Green Community designation is to reduce energy used by the community. This will save the community money while reducing the impact to the natural resources. The grants available to communities in support of this designation will help Rockport to reduce its energy usage and meet the required goals. The commission applauds the Task Force for bringing it to the town to consider. The Town of Essex received the Green Community designation earlier this year, leaving Rockport the only Cape Ann community without it. The Rockport Conservation Commission supports the Task Force's efforts and hopes for its success.

Just one little further aside on this we're being lit up in this room by electricity lighting those lights 50% of electricity generated in the United States today comes from burning coal to boil water to run steam turbines to make that electricity. Plant Scherer in Macon Georgia provides about 50% of central Georgia's power, plant Macon in Georgia, plant Scherer in Georgia has two 1,000' tall smoke stacks two 24 story high boiler rooms and gets three 17,000 ton coal trains every 24 hours. That plant burns the contents of a mile and a quarter long 17,000 ton coal train every 8 hours to provide electricity. This is a huge benefit for the community and by being designated this way we get to be eligible for grants to help us become less dependent on nonrenewable fossil fuels. Please consider what we're voting for although not directly related in my talk it is directly related what we all need to do to preserve our planet for future generations. Thank you. (applause)

ERIN BATTISTELLI: To attempt to answer Toby's question – at this point in the process it is too premature to narrow it down to lease vs license and we want to keep all of our options open.

(A person spoke who is not a registered voter – the comments will not be part of this transcription)

DON CAMPBELL: 5 King Street Court – Selectman Sheedy alluded that there were multiple criteria. I'd be curious to know what they were and I fully support this, by the way and have we talked to other communities to find out how they got certified how long the process was and what those criterias involved and was there any cost to the town involved in that as well?

SANDY JACQUES: Somewhere I think I read recently that Essex got \$150,000 which was directed to their library as a result of being a green community or at least that is what was alluded to in the paper. I was wondering are there other benefits in the opposite direction in terms of not what it would cost us but what grants we would be eligible for.

CHARLES PETERMAN: 22 Pleasant Street – With the provisions made for infrastructure it says all reasonable effort is there any way we can get input as to when that reasonable effort falls back upon on the town to provide in terms of the electrical infrastructure for hooking this up to the grid? Is any of that going to fall on us as the responsibility or is that going to be strictly of the operator and the utility?

DAVE PERRY: 8 Seagull Street – Good afternoon and thanks for the questions. I think they're all pretty good ones you might have to help me remember some but there was a young man over here that talked about solar power and how we use it in our daily lives and he also talked about storage and I think that just points to a long term goal of the committee. I don't think it's..you can do it today and just leave it for the future. You know I think we want to take advantage of every change in technology that might occur that could help the town out and storage is certainly on the list. The gentleman straight ahead, in the dark, you asked about (audience noise) Oh, you know I don't think you could tell that absolutely 100% until you get to the final design and who's doing it but right now I think our best answer is it would be a combination of National Grid and with whoever the developer might be.

TOBY ARSENIAN: Just the title of it LSGMSPVI – I think we should call it the alphabet soup or happy sun overlay district but seriously the great jumble of initials is wrong – photovoltaic is one word so the V should come out of there and that throughout the Article. You can say that's trivial and it is but it's also sloppy somebody else can make an amendment to change that I won't. I didn't hear any answer really from the selectmen on whether it's to be a lease or a license we clearly aren't going to get an answer and I'm right to be suspicious because in the case of the youth center back of Evan's field that was done as a license to avoid taking it to a town meeting. The Board of Selectmen, five people that any duly posted public meeting that would be in Rockport not Lawrence, can vote a license but if it is to be a lease it has to come here to the town meeting for our vote and so that is something to keep in mind. I don't think that's a reason to vote against it but it is a reason to be suspicious and keep a weather eye on the Board of Selectmen who in such cases are not to be trusted.

On the section on setbacks which I find the numbering of the sections very hard to follow, it seems to be under h and i on page 76 and I'll read it as it is now written and give you the proposed addition: (i) Setbacks – An LSGMSPVI shall be set back from property lines consistent with the applicable regulations for the underlying zoning district, with the exception of necessary interconnections with utility transmission or distribution facilities.

I move to add to that the sentence “for the purposes of the LSGMSPVI bylaw, the perimeter of any portion of a lot or lots that is leased or licensed for a LSGMSPVI facility will be treated as a lot boundary” and that's a lot to absorb or follow but the zoning regulations all together deal with lot boundaries when you talk about setbacks and what you've got here with the overlay district are not lot boundaries, again look at the map on page, I think 78 (actually page 82) and you'll see that the entire western boundary of it is not a lot boundary so if we don't add something that boundary doesn't meet the standards of a lot and you don't get any setbacks along that boundary. I submitted this I thought to town counsel and it didn't get through. That would correct this I thought that something along the same lines should be done with the section on screening on the page following, page 77 but I'm not sure on that and I didn't come up with anything. Anyway I think the committee and perhaps the Planning Board should comment and say whether they'll vouch for that amendment.

MODERATOR: All right Toby, why don't you come up here and talk to Linda and we'll try to get that typed and shown to you. All right, so now the amendment will be before us before we vote on the district and I want to hear from somebody from the commissioners to speak to that and any of the other technical things that Toby brought up.

ED HAND: The boundaries which we're talking about here are zoning boundaries so on the side of the (long hesitation) MODERATOR: Watch out for aircraft

ED HAND: Speaking without microphone – Excuse me. The property boundaries that we picked up is the transfer boundary here, this is also transfer station land down to here, at this point we followed a line which went down to this corner and over here we picked up this change in direction here and ran it down to the middle of this point here, this line here another property line. That’s what gave us the overall shape. We wanted to use clearly defined points so this could be then surveyed very simply. There is no intent to step back 50’ or whatever the local requirement would be from this property line or not this property line, excuse me this boundary line this is merely an overlay. Over here I suppose if the town wanted to do something here yes, a setback from there would be required but that’s not the issue here this is an overlay and remember this goes through Site Plan Review in any case which would delineate the actual what could be used Conservation Commission will probably restrict it say 50’ from the wetlands here so this is not a piece of property which would have setbacks so I don’t think it’s an issue.

MODERATOR: Our microphone runners are out actually sunning themselves at this site right now so we’re going to have to walk to the various microphones.

DANA JORGENSSON: It is an overlay. It is not meant as lot lines. This is important for the town. You can look to Gloucester who is a green community and has the three sisters. There’s an agreement that is negotiated between the utility and the city and that company that put the wind turbines there. The City of Gloucester gets back \$350,000 annually. We may not realize that much in credits for our electricity but this overlay district is the first step to looking forward to some benefit to the town not only financially, but to become a green community and there are grants behind that designation. It is worthwhile, please vote in favor and do not amend this as it sits – let it go. If when there is something to be licensed or leased at that time if it seems that there is something that is amiss let’s come back and amend but first let’s get through this first step in tact. Thank you.

DARREN KLEIN – Kopelman & Paige through the Moderator: Really to just reiterate what was said by the last two speakers in response to Toby’s amendment and I’m not exactly sure I exactly understand what Toby’s trying to accomplish but I think the important point is this is an overlay district it creates additional zoning requirements the underlying zoning requirements all still apply and I think that’s what the Planning Board was saying is that you don’t need to restate the original zoning requirements, these are additional zoning requirements.

MODERATOR: Now we’re just going to sweep around this way. Then don’t worry the next time we’ll sweep around this way.

ALAN MACMILLAN: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Toby has some good ideas but the Conservation Commission, which I’m a member of, recently attended at the beginning of March a statewide Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions meeting - annual meeting at Holy Cross University in Worcester. This issue that we’re dealing with here was one of the hot topics it is a new issue. What Toby is proposing is kind of, in a way micromanaging something that we’re only beginning to understand. On the Conservation Commission if you come to us you want to put in a new septic system we tell you where you can put it we don’t tell you how to do it that’s for the engineers who build it. I would like to remind everyone that again this is the beginning of a new era with these photovoltaic power generating systems in what we’re voting for here are all kinds of details about how this process will take place and all of these details really require your input nothing is going to happen behind the scenes here. I’m on the Conservation Commission the very site we’re discussing will be a Conservation Commission issue. All of these issues have public meetings. If you don’t come and you don’t participate in the process you’re part of the problem so Toby please don’t try to micromanage something that’s for in the future after we have discussed, gone over plans, figured out how we’re going to do this but again public process. Thank you.

SUSAN MORRIS: 10 Babcock Road – I agree with this Article but let’s move the question.

MODERATOR: Well we can’t really move the question yet because we’re still considering an amendment but we can move the amendment. Yeah, so, we need a two-thirds vote there so all those in favor of moving Toby’s amendment please raise your placard. (Audience noise) His amend is. We’re just dealing with the amendment which is to change the language per this slide which is to add the following sentence: “for the purposes of the LSGMSPVI bylaw, the perimeter of any portion of a lot or lots that is leased or licensed for a LSGMSPVI facility will be treated as a lot boundary” we’re just moving that question.

Question? (someone from audience speaking) We’re moving to consider this and end discussion about it. (Darren Klein – the only thing you’re voting on is the amendment) and we’re moving the question and that’s what’s before you now as to whether to end debate so we can vote on this. Are there any questions about that?

All those in favor of ending the debate on this particular amendment please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign. That carries so now we are going to consider this amendment. All those in

favor of amending this zoning overlay district by adding that sentence please raise your placard okay all those opposed the same sign.

That amendment fails.

Now we're back to talking about the whole question which is the zoning overlay district that's going to require a two-thirds vote when we get there unless we're done talking about it and I don't see anybody's hand raised so I'm going to consider that we're ready to vote on this.

All those in favor of amending the zoning bylaw to allow large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations as printed in the Warrant as Article O and as shown on pages 73 through 81 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet please raise your placard. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign. Okay there were a couple so this did pass and it did pass by more than two-thirds of the votes.

The motion carried by more than two-thirds.

ARTICLE H (16): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund created under Article N of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting to cover future benefit obligations to retired employees; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER WALLY HESS: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund for the purposes of Article H as printed in the warrant.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion on Article H? All right, you've heard the motion all those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion passes.

ARTICLE J (17): To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Grit Pumps and Detritter Mechanisms Replacements account the sum of \$100,000 to a Wastewater Plant Master account for the purpose of making repairs to the Wastewater Plant facility; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Department of Public Works*)

MODERATOR: There is no motion on Article J.

ARTICLE M (18): To see if the Town will vote to renew its authorization of the Board of Selectmen in compliance to Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 7C, Tax Title Land, of the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, to sell or otherwise dispose of said tax title properties on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take such other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote; said properties being identified as follows:

- Address of 59 High Street as shown on Assessors Map 18, Lot 26
- Address of 8 Marmion Way as shown on Assessors Map 26, Lot 109;

or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Selectmen*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTMAN PAUL MURPHY: I move that the Town renew its authorization of the Board of Selectmen in compliance with Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 7C, Tax Title Land, of the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, to sell or otherwise dispose of the two tax title properties as listed on pages 71 and 72 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take such other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. We will consider these independently. We're going to have a vote in 59 High Street and then we're going to have a vote on 8 Marmion Way so I'm exercising my huge discretion to divide this. Any discussion?

FREDERICK TARR: We've been talking a lot earlier about attracting young families to Rockport and the value of their children in the schools and so forth I would hope and unfortunately I brought this up last year when these and I was told that town meeting could not dictate to the selectmen terms and conditions but I would hope that when these lots are sold that the selectmen put in a term or condition that would allow affordable housing if you want to call it that so that Rockport families can stay in Rockport. I don't think we need any more multimillion dollar messes on our hands I think what we need is some people born and brought up in Rockport to be able to buy a home and stay here so I would hope that the

selectmen would set the sale up to favor Rockporters and their descendants rather than outsiders. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Build a wall around them. (laughter) Okay any other comments?

TOBY ARSENIAN: Mr. Tarr's ideas are indeed the right ones and apropos of the Economic Development boondoggle I went to talk to the Town Administrator and part of that discussion she told me that the town intended to sell the 59 High Street property with affordable restrictions. That sounds wonderful but the devil is always in the details and the details are wrong. The property would be sold with a restriction keeping it affordable for 30 years. Thirty years is a very long time in terms of a human life span but it's by no means forever and 30 years from now does anyone in this room suppose that the world is going to be a kinder, gentler, less competitive place. Would anyone suppose that the need for affordable housing would somehow miraculously be solved? The answer here is I believe to deny the selectmen permission to sell the lot then they can come back and reconsider or alternately we could go the route that the town did with the high school apartments on Broadway which were leased long term, I believe 99 years, and somebody else could be found to build on the site. You all remember the gift house probably no one in this room would trust the Town of Rockport to build the affordable housing after that debacle and the Town of Rockport need not build affordable housing if it were leased to some other outfit such as Action Inc. or Harbor Light or Habitat for Humanity someone else could build the housing and we could have affordable housing on the site. If that strikes you as an idea worth pursuing I can't guarantee you that we'll get there but I can assure you that if we give the selectmen permission to sell the lot that's not what we're going to get. If you want to see permanently affordable housing on the site the first step and the first and necessary step is to deny the Board of Selectmen permission to sell this lot.

MODERATOR: Was there a motion within that or just a comment? I was talking to town counsel on another matter. Toby?

TOBY ARSENIAN: The hope and intention would be to reject permission to sell the lot in which case it would remain with the Board of Selectmen and they might reconsider and come up with something that would be good permanently rather than 30 years.

MODERATOR: Any other comments?

MARCOS PITTORE: Just a comment for Toby. Restrictions can't go more than 30 years unless they're granted to the commonwealth unless you renew it right before 30 years and extend to 50 so 30 is not anything weird it's just how it works.

MODERATOR: Okay no discussion here – address the comments to all of us.

MARCOS PITTORE: That's all I wanted to say because it's germane.

HERMAN LILJA: Planning Board Chairman – I'd like to speak to the general thought of the town in terms of our conversations with the administrator that the town is truly concerned about not having affordable housing and I don't think that the issue associated with this lot is where the problem is or where the resolution is. I think that given the current interest on the part of the administrator and the Planning Board and others in town to create more affordable housing we recognize that the town has a limited amount of affordable housing and the state is interested in seeing us achieve a 10% level. That will take some time but I think that we can work towards that without becoming overly concerned about how this particular piece of property is sold and to whom it is sold.

MODERATOR: All right you've heard the motion. We'll split it we'll take two votes so now we're just going to talk about 59 High Street. All those in favor of the town renewing its authorization of the Board of Selectmen in compliance with Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 7C, Tax Title Land, of the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, to sell or otherwise dispose of said tax title properties on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take such other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

Now we'll ask the question as of 59 High Street. All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries as to 59 High Street and now same question as to 8 Marmion Way. All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries so Article M carries as to both properties.

We now go to Article N, N as in November which will be followed by L.

ARTICLE N (19): To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws CHAPTER 2. TOWN MEETINGS, Section 2. Time of Meetings, Paragraph b. by replacing the word “Monday” in the last sentence with the word “Saturday”; or act on anything relative thereto. (*By Petition*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR PETITIONER EILEEN FORD: I move that the Town vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws CHAPTER 2. TOWN MEETINGS, Section 2. Time of Meetings, Paragraph b. by replacing the word “Monday” in the last sentence with the word “Saturday” as printed in the Warrant as Article N and as shown on page 72 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet.

EILEEN FORD: 25 ½ King Street - Bear with me this is the only petition I’ve ever done, so it may be the last one but this is mainly as an older person I have always loved town meeting I’ve lived here ~~29~~ 30 years and I’ve rarely missed a spring town meeting because it’s in the daytime and I’m usually wide awake at that time. In recent years though I and a few other elderly people can’t make the town meeting in the fall even though we would like to because not only some of us don’t drive after dark but also it ends late. Last fall, from what I heard from people who did go to the meeting, I wasn’t one of them; it ended at 11:00 p.m. the nights were out by the time they got out of the building. One woman had to have help getting to her car in the dark other people said it was the worse town meeting they ever went to. One point I’m trying to make is that if you’re trying to get more people to come to meetings like this one the daytime is when most of us are still awake. At night you run the danger of only having a few show up so I’m just hoping that today I know you’ve made a lot of changes for the better and spring town meetings it goes a lot faster now than it used to. We used to sit here eight hours (Moderator interjects: We’re not done yet) and at times I wonder if we’ll beat that record today but I’m just asking that with all the good changes you have made and all the work that you do to make it possible for more people to attend that I hope you’ll consider this and let the voters decide if this would be a good idea that we could have it in the daytime. We could be out by noon maybe if it’s only a three hour meeting. Thank you.

MODERATOR: We’ll hear from the Government & Bylaw Committee for the first time in a long time.

SANDY JACQUES: Thank you Mr. Moderator in particularly thank you for spearheading, getting this committee back in place and also the other four members of the committee who stepped forward to volunteer for this I think there were eight or nine total so two of them are sitting with me in the audience, Brian Sullivan and Roy Toulan. If Bruce is here or Robert is here I’ve not seen you yet but Bruce Sunstein and Robert Sonia – are you here? Alright, I don’t want to embarrass you but invite you to come up with us.

First of all I’d like to thank Eileen for putting forth this petition that’s how we get things done sometimes and we’re here to debate this motion. The Town Government and Bylaw Committee is charged by the Town of Rockport Code of Bylaws with the responsibility to review and make recommendations directly to town meeting on all articles in a warrant which may have an impact on the Town of Rockport Code of Bylaws. That’s obvious that’s what we’re doing here with Article N. Accordingly, the committee reviewed and determined that the effect of this Article N and the motion on the floor to change the day of the week on which to hold Fall Town Meeting from Monday to Saturday of the second week in September is neutral as to the overall structure of the bylaws and is consistent with the Town of Rockport Code of Bylaws. So that’s our first official act we voted on that 5 to 0.

The committee understands the reasons underlying the petition including increasing the public participation in Rockport’s town meeting form of government, especially concerns for the safety of Rockport’s senior citizens traveling in the later evening hours. Town meeting, you folks, has the authority to approve this motion. If approved, the impact on public participation would be evaluated after the bylaw change is implemented. Alternatively, more information by way of attendance data, citizen preference, hearings could be gathered and assessed over the next few months along with the broader issue of increasing town meeting attendance and then reported back to town meeting in September at the next regularly schedule Fall Town Meeting with a recommendation. Parenthetically having checked this morning with our town clerk and with town counsel there’s not guarantee if we did approve this that it could be implemented in time since it has to go to the Attorney General through a process so that we could in fact implement it at the next Fall Town Meeting. The Town Government and Bylaw Committee would seem to be the logical choice to undertake this fact finding and evaluation task reporting as it does to town meeting directly through no other town entity, respectfully submitted Sandy Jacques, Chair, Bruce Sunstein, Brian Sullivan, Robert Sonia, Roy Toulman. Thank you.

MODERATOR: We’ll get to you in a moment. We have a member of the Board of Selectmen coming up.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: I’d also like to join Sandy in thanking Eileen for bringing this forward because it’s another example of how we all are trying to look at town meeting increase attendance and make it better and to that end the board felt that it may also be best to gather some more information from the public to help determine whether a change like this would increase attendance. We also talked a little bit about how the wording as it is right now may not take into account a conflict that we’ve ended up facing in the past in the spring town meeting and that is on Saturdays, you know, a certain holiday, a religious holiday or

whatnot so we'd want to include language that would say for example if we went this route the second Saturday in September unless it fell on a holiday in which case it would be the third week or something to that effect so the board this morning, voted to refer this to the Government & Bylaw Committee to begin that process and hopefully..and I'd like to offer a motion but I'll step back before I do that to allow some other people, if that's okay if they'd like to make some comments before I put a motion on the floor but if that motion did pass then maybe we could revisit this issue in the fall so I'll hold off on the motion.

ERIC HUTCHINS: 45 Pooles Lane – I certainly respect this petition and I certainly will respect the vote of town meeting on this. I just want to voice my opposition to it which is frankly; the second week in September is about the single best time of the year in this entire town compared to this time of year which is often cool and rainy, can be a nice day. Personally I'm limited in good daytime to do fun activities with people, the public etc. and I significantly prefer to keep fall town meeting in the evening as a business session so I certainly would be in opposition to this. I'll attend either way most likely but if it's a real nice day and I've got something else going on second week in September is pretty nice.

JONATHAN RING: I rise in support of this motion because having..there are a lot of also working people that are working late at night that may be attending town meeting either late or not at all and..and it would maybe be better to have it on the weekend like this for those that aren't working on the weekend but either way I think that it's a good motion and I support it. Thank you.

BONNIE QUINT-KAPLAN: 14 Drumlin Road – I wonder what is the track record of the evening meetings versus the daytime meetings. What kind of statistics might already exist on this?

ZENAS SEPPALA: The lady that just spoke took the words right out of my mouth because I was going to say we have to sign off and get checked off whenever we want to get these orange cards and I would think that there's plenty of data sufficiently existing that you could make a comparison between the fall town meetings in the evening and the spring town meetings in the morning to make some kind of at least rough judgement right away and I would just sort of maybe ask the Town Clerk if they've done any comparisons since this article has been before the town for a few weeks if not that's fine but if they have maybe they could provide some kind of comparison.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Since I became town clerk we have been tracking the numbers that come to town meeting. Notoriously the fall town meeting is much fewer people, generally about 200 maybe less. The reason why we're able to hold the fall town meeting in the auditorium is because it holds 350 people and I've never seen that auditorium full. In the gymnasium we can hold 800 people. Look around you. It might be something, I have the numbers, Linda did get the numbers for us. For the annual town meetings in the last three years in 2013 we had 301 people in attendance, in 2014 we had 208 people in attendance, and in 2015 we had 296 people in attendance so you can see our annual town meeting is not that well attended the fall town meeting is even less attended. So I mean it might be town meeting's consideration at this time to think about maybe if the numbers are this small that we could handle our annual town meeting and our fall town meeting in the auditorium which would be much more comfortable for all of us so I mean this is something that town meeting can decide. Right now we've been holding it here because there is a chance that you get overflow. If you get overflow you need to have a place to put people and the last time we had an overflow was the year of the alcohol question that went in and since that time our town meetings have not been that well attended.

Those are the numbers. I can get you more specific numbers if you need them for the last three fall town meetings but as I said we only pulled together for the annual this time.

MODERATOR: We'll hear from everybody.

SARAH WILKINSON: I'm not speaking for the board right now but I think after our discussion this morning we all have personal reasons why we prefer one or the other but I think referring it to the Government and Bylaw Committee makes sense because I would love for them to do some polling of people that don't normally come to town meetings because I think it's pretty safe to say that the couple hundred people that are here now I see most of your faces at every town meeting so we're going to come no matter when it is but I'd like to talk to the people who don't come but are interested in issues and see when they would prefer, why they would prefer it because I'm going to come no matter what but those other people I'd like to see why I think with a little bit of polling which is very easy to do nowadays we can get more data than we already have.

KATHLEEN CAHILL: I do understand that there isn't going to be a perfect time for everybody but a lot of us work on Saturdays myself included and it's..I'm paying somebody to work in the store right now and it's a rainy day and I'm probably going to lose money on it. I don't want to do that in September. I think having the spring town meeting which is a longer one here on a Saturday is a good idea. The fall town meeting tends to be a little shorter and I like the Monday night. Thank you.

SUE-ELLEN KRESH: 18 Forest Street – and I don't have a preference so much as to whether its Monday or Saturday but I think somebody did mention the issue of holiday and I believe that the fall, the previous fall meeting was either on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur and so I would ask that whoever is looking at the calendar consider that it's not on a high holy day for any particular religion or any faith and take that into consideration. Thank you.

MODERATOR: And normally I don't speak to these but I think I will speak to this one because it involves town meeting. It's my impression that what we have right now is a compromise we have one meeting on a Saturday in the spring and in the fall we have a meeting on a weeknight and the people who are inconvenienced at one are the people who can attend the other etc. One of the things and one of the reasons why I would support the motion that I believe will take place to refer this back to the Government & Bylaw Committee is because there are a lot of factors that we're trying to consider in terms of changing dates of town meetings one of which is that we're trying to get voting clickers and that may require us to coordinate with another community so that we can save some money and for example work with Manchester who might rent some for a few days in which case we want to amend our bylaws to make sure that we're not meeting at the exact same date and time but that we meet close to when Manchester meets. The other issue of course is religious holidays and as I mentioned earlier to the selectmen of course every time there's a meeting on a Saturday that is the Jewish Sabbath and so if we have one meeting on a Saturday and we increase another meeting on a Saturday we have that issue. We've tried to work around for other religious holidays you know Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Passover, Easter and the hope would be that the Government & Bylaw Committee or the selectmen would craft something that would take those into consideration so that we would only do this once and we would come up with something that would be that would work and take all those matters into consideration and I apologize for speaking on this but I think it is important. We will hear some more of you and then Erin will make her motion.

SUSAN HAND: 20 Landmark Lane – I'm glad that you mentioned that Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath under any circumstances we have to take that into consideration. The other is (Moderator: I get special dispensation from the Rabbi so I'm okay but..) the other is perhaps there is a group who would volunteer to drive senior citizens who are unhappy about driving at night.

MODERATOR: A couple more comments and then we'll hear from Erin and we'll have more comments after she makes her motion.

SANDY JACQUES: Just to show that we've been thinking about this too and I'm just going to float this as to get a sense of the meeting but if the bylaws were fairly general in terms of we need a fall meeting because we have to balance the budget we need a spring meeting to tend to business but what if we said so that two years in advance of any meeting we would review the conflict and we would leave it up to the Moderator for that particular year to resolve that conflict or somebody would do that so we wouldn't have to look out 50 years and plan out every single year with some English language that would cover it. Just a thought that one of the ideas that popped up as a way to maybe take a way around some of the religious conflicts just a thought that that the idea of polling I think is definitely a way to go and having hearings is another way to go so we're in favor of that even though we don't have an official meeting today to take a vote on this idea but I think we would all accept such a motion from, oh here she is, from the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Okay Erin we'll hear from you and then we'll hear from everybody else after you make your motion.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: Mr. Moderator I would like to refer this matter to the Government & Bylaw Committee, make a motion to that effect.

MODERATOR: And they'll report back to the town in the fall, is that what you want to add to that?

ERIN BATTISTELLI: and report back to the town for the fall town meeting.

MODERATOR: Perfect! Thank you. Okay now we can continue discussion. Anybody, I saw some hands over here. All right you have heard the ...oh another individual

EILEEN FORD: I just want say thank you – thank you for considering it and also I didn't realize there would be so many different people that didn't sign my petition that were against it and also good reasons but I just want to say that I'm grateful for all the help I got in preparing this petition by Linda, the Town Administrator and also I'm glad too that I still have a voice in town meeting 'cause I sure don't have one in national government and I appreciate the fact that we can all disagree here without hating each other. (Applause) We're all entitled to our opinion. (Applause)

MODERATOR: Well I can speak for everybody Eileen we're very fond of you and I'm fond and I really love everybody who comes to this meeting and who wants to participate regardless of your views on anything so I think these things tend to work themselves out and I appreciate you caring enough to bring

this petition. Any other discussion on this? We'll be voting. I'll just hear from a few more people. I want everyone to feel like they've spoken their piece on this.

ZENAS SEPPALA: I don't think we need to have any polling or more however if that's the wish of the town that's fine with me I'd just mention that we've asked, there's been a motion made to get a report back in the fall town meeting. I've been a victim I think of that type of action before where that report is all that will be given to the fall town meeting and any motions to change it again will have to come at a, you know, next spring or later so it's delaying whatever decision is going to be made by at least one town meeting.

MODERATOR: I think I can speak for the Board of Selectmen and other town entities that I'm sure between now and then they will hear from the Government & Bylaw Committee and based on that there may in fact be proposals to make changes to the bylaw which could possibly come before this meeting in the fall but I'll...would that be the case? Anyone else have any questions, comments before we act on the motion that's before the town?

Okay, you've heard the motion which is to refer the subject matter of this Article to the Government & Bylaw Committee and in the hopes that they will have hearings on this and maybe polling and will consider the larger issue of voting in general and other matters affecting town meeting and we will at least get a report before the next town meeting or at the next town meeting but the hope is that they will report to maybe the Board of Selectmen prior to that and we can get such actions in place to make some changes. All those in favor of making that referral please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

So now we have L which will be followed by I. The Chair will entertain a motion under Article L.

ARTICLE L (20): To see if Town Meeting supports changing the Rockport Parking Ban from no on street overnight parking between November 15th and April 1st to no on street overnight parking during snow emergencies and subsequent cleanup; or act on anything relative thereto. (*by Petition*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR PETITIONER AMY SEABROOK: I move that Town Meeting support changing the Rockport Parking Ban from no on street overnight parking between November 15th and April 1st to no on street overnight parking during snow emergencies and subsequent cleanup.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded and before we hear from the petitioner, attorney Klein wants me to remind you that town meeting can't direct the Board of Selectmen to do anything in this regard that this would be advisory but they promise to hear you and to act accordingly.

RAE FRANCEOUR: 87B Main Street – We believe the winter parking ban in Rockport has outlived its usefulness. It's time for the town to replace the 4 ½ month overnight parking ban with a ban during snow emergencies only. This fall my husband and I, my husband started by going door to door downtown and in the surrounding neighborhoods and he spent several days doing this and talking to..businesses and neighbors. He left a copy of a proposal every much like I'm reading to you right now with everyone. A few days later we all, we went back to each, each business and asked them to sign a petition and we spoke with most everyone again. We got around a hundred signatures which I brought with me just because I don't think all those one hundred people are here today but only two of the people we spoke with didn't sign a lot of the people on this petition are from the downtown area but not all of them by any means. I think the ban should be changed because we have a red alert system that can let us know when there's a snow emergency. Two, we have a changeable sign system near the police station that can also display snow emergency messages. Three, Rockport has a great new mobile friendly website that can also display snow emergency notifications just like right now or until April 1st it was displaying notices of the winter parking ban. Almost everyone has a cellphone or a computer and they can check the website further storms are now forecast days in advance as we know.

Things have changed a lot in Rockport in the last couple of years a lot of the downtown motels have changed owners and they don't want anyone to rent parking spaces overnight in the winter which has really made it difficult for lots of people living in the downtown area. When you are lucky enough to find one of those spaces it's expensive and that's in addition to paying for the resident parking. I'm talking \$150.00 and up per family member per car and there aren't enough spaces in the downtown parking lot to accommodate everyone and what spaces there are seem to be disappearing. Handicapped and elderly residents in our town have a hard time walking from those distant parking lots which may be one or two or three blocks late at night when they've come home from a meeting or somewhere to their homes. It's dark, it's cold and sometimes there's black ice. The empty streets of Rockport give a bleak and vacant message to visitors and to the town, the town residents. As we've heard today from the selectmen and the Rockport Economic Commission they're spending \$52,000 this year in trying to get visitors to come to Rockport in their shoulder seasons and also to interest young families in moving here.

If we look less like a ghost town in winter downtown I think we could help businesses including restaurants stretch their season also in that regard we would be able to come and go more freely with cars that are easily accessible in front of our homes and this activity would signal to our neighbors, residents and the rest of the world that Rockport is open for business. I think if we were lucky enough to have something like this happen to us we should be considerate of the downtown businesses and that police should pay attention so that people aren't parking there for extended lengths of time in front of businesses and I think there's a way to work that out with vigilance with regard to law enforcement.

I think that with the help of our local papers and social media we can easily communicate the ground rules for a new system of parking. Violators should be fined and towed. I don't think they'll be that many 'cause they're not violating the rules as they exist right now but there will be violators but they won't violate the rules for long because of the rigorous enforcement and the stiff penalties. I also would like to see if we were able to consider this a resident's winter parking task force be enacted when we started the lease law. The task force would work with the police, the DPW and the community to help spread the word and with enforcement and I think it would make an easier transition. Many people that we've talked to have pointed out that the plows run around the clock not just during those hours between midnight and 6:00 often they don't run at all between midnight and 6:00 they run during the day. I think that without, with a parking ban that is 100% during emergency snowstorms there will be no cars on the street at all for however long the ban exists it could be a day it could be a day and a half like they do in other towns. I think that would actually make snow removal easier. I think there's an issue here I know the selectmen haven't, haven't approved this they haven't, this is not something they've asked for here and so it's not, they haven't voted in favor of this. We've been to the selectmen meeting a couple of times in the fall but there's an issue just sheer consideration for the town's people who live downtown and in areas where parking is an issue and it's somewhat of a humanitarian and caring issue and I hope that enters the discussion as well. Thank you for your time. (applause)

SARAH WILKINSON: Thank you. The Board of Selectmen voted not to support this petition by a vote of 4 to 1, I believe it was. The Board of Selectmen works closely with DPW operations on how to keep our streets clear and safe for all of our residents. I think we can all agree here that our roads in the winter are the best on Cape Ann if not the whole North Shore. It is not the DPW vs. the citizens, the DPW works for the citizens. Our DPW has repeatedly told us that with the current equipment and manpower they have in order to keep the roads clear for both plowing, sanding and salting the parking ban works best. The Police Chief has also agreed with this.

A few notes just on other systems because I know there's a lot floating around. We do not currently have the small equipment to plow around cars in many of our narrow streets. That's not to say that we couldn't get it but we don't currently have it. We use Code Red which is a voluntary non-inclusive system. We do not have reverse 911 and we don't currently have means to tow cars that would violate the order – Tally's deals with Gloucester. Years ago the town worked with local private garages that did our towing and lastly we remove our parking meters and put in the mini Christmas trees from November to April so we currently have no way of monitoring cars that stay on the street all night and then don't move during the day when the businesses are open.

I have a feeling that the businesses in town who signed this petition didn't all have this explained to them because if we were to allow parking overnight in front of those stores we would need to find a way to make sure people didn't park in one spot for days. That would most likely involve leaving the meters in. In terms of could we have another system of course we could and we aren't close to that but until the men and women who care for our roads are okay with the new system the Board of Selectmen will have trouble supporting it. I would encourage the petitioners and I actually love the idea of a resident's winter parking committee, I would encourage them to go sit with the DPW and see what they think it would take in terms of equipment and manpower to make a shift to a different system. Work with those who work for us. Thank you. (applause)

ARDIS FRANCOEUR: 87 Main Street – I have a few comments in response to what the selectwoman just said. The first is if the DPW doesn't have the equipment, the small equipment necessary to plow late at night I do wonder how they do it during the day when cars are parked on the street during storms. Secondly she alluded to the fact that business owners weren't explained...the matter at hand wasn't explained thoroughly to business owners and that's actually spurious and untrue. They spent many hours in the end talking to residents and business owners about all of the ramifications of this on both sides. There was a third one, what was my third one – I don't remember but I do think that a lot of this is due to convenience and some people don't want to be inconvenienced but the residents are inconvenienced in a way that's ultimately dangerous to them and I would like you to consider it. Thank you. (applause)

LAURA HOLLOWELL: 37 High Street – I can understand why it can be very difficult for the people who don't have a place to park near their home. One of the things that I appreciate about Rockport is that our current system requires people to find places if possible on their property to park and what this does is really keep the street peaceful, what some may see as a ghost town I welcome in the winter as much more attractive streetscapes than streets lined with parked cars. I think my biggest problem is that right now

because most people have to strive to find parking on their own street it keeps the places available for visitors and for businesses during the day. I think it would really change the nature of our town if our streets were lined with cars but more important where are all those cars going to go in a snow emergency? What will happen in a winter like last winter when the snow emergency lasts for months rather than for a day? I don't think T-Wharf and the parking by the town hall are going to accommodate all of those resident's cars as well as perhaps cars from residents who might have visitors who get stuck in a snow emergency.

PAUL MURPHY: Care to guess which selectman supported this one? I have great respect for the DPW, the commissioners, the police chief, the police officers but I do really believe that this ban, we've outlived this ban and we can...we can't be the only community that can't figure this out. Most communities have a snow emergency and they get the cars off. Rockport could do it as well. It might take a little time and I agree with Sarah Wilkinson to form a committee that would be great, I'd be happy to sit on it myself but I hope that people would support this. There's no such thing as these sneak up snowstorms we know it's coming days in advance almost ad nauseam with the media reporting the storms so I think we can do this and I'd hope you'd support it.

HERMAN LILJA, Chairman of the Planning Board - One thing that has not been mentioned by anyone this morning and was mentioned in a conversation that I had with my son this morning who happens to be an ambulance driver in town and the issue of safety on the part of the ambulance drivers access to property on the part of the ambulance drivers and the police that respond to emergency calls has not been considered. The concept of there being absolute certainty that the weatherman is right is a false concept so therefore you at least have to think in terms of the small roads in Rockport the difficulty in having large equipment and the ambulances and fire trucks are in fact broad pieces of equipment. Expecting them to pass down a narrow road with cars parked on one side and inconvenienced further by snow. On those occasions when it does happen and it will happen is probably a concept that has to be mentioned so therefore I'm saying my piece and please consider it when you vote.

KEVIN CARRIGAN: 87 Main Street – I agree with Mr. Murphy that the DPW and the police have done an amazing job especially last February but this year we didn't have much snow and I know the DPW has to be out there when there's an inch of snow or a foot of snow but we probably had ten days this year when they were out doing stuff, it might have been fifteen or twenty but four and a half months that's a long time to not be able to park on the street so I'm in favor of lifting the ban.

CHARLES PETERMAN: I'm in favor of reconsidering the parking ban as it currently stands but after we have a period of study by the DPW to tell us exactly how much more time and money they'd have to spend clearing our streets and how much additional inconveniences would be incurred. Having lived down in Somerville and Cambridge with narrow streets and snow emergency parking bans the number of times I heard people threaten to take a lawsuit against the town for clipping their car or well, saw fistfights over parking spots which I hope won't happen here. I can't look at this type of alleviation of our current parking ban as sensible.

CATHY MEANY: 16 Summit Avenue – and I agree with Paul Murphy I've been at a lot of the meetings where this has been brought up in years past and some of the points I want to make I live on Summit Ave. so we are plowed early and often and sanded all the time but this ban is only for a few hours a day. In the morning when my husband's got to go to work or I do we move a car out into the street if it snows it's in the street and they have to go around us so a lot of the arguments about this just don't meet reality. An example is going to be on Monday there's supposed to be three inches of snow but our parking ban's over so the DPW is going to have to deal with it that day if there's a snowstorm in the middle of the day they have no power. In other towns snow emergencies are whenever they're in effect the DPW is in control clearing the streets and we have to get out of their way as someone said storms don't happen on your schedule at night. My daughter's in Swampscott and this year they did a trial run there and it's been great. I think two, the two examples of the last winter, last winter we had so much snow that the DPW would have been better served by having a snow emergency ban and more control over the, you know, the parking situation. This year the opposite was true we had very little snow yet we all had to move our cars around all night and go along with that. I thought it was going to be a big expense and then I, for lights and all, then I was going through Salem and other places. The blue lights are just installed on the electrical poles so that can't really be much of an expense to install those.

One of the other arguments I heard was about the Code Red and it was sited that not many people in town have signed up for it. I've managed those systems for school communities and the reality is if you don't use it and you don't make it useful people don't sign up for it. Right now what do we get calls about? Brown water. If we don't make, you know, use that thing we should, you know, we should be getting calls about town meeting and about other things happening in town so that people understand that that system is a useful system for us and we get more people to sign up to get the phone calls. I think those were the points I wanted to make. Thanks.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: A couple more comments and then we'll move the question.

ALAN MACMILLAN: I'm hearing an awful lot of comments from all sides of the fence here. I'd like to propose a motion. I'd like to make a motion as we did with the previously I'd like a motion that we study this. The safety aspects are critical. Last winter, the winter of 2014-2015 February in particular downtown Main Street was a single lane. The outer end of Phillips Ave in Pigeon Cove was a single lane. There was no place else to put the snow. One gentleman over here pointed out the fact that in an emergency, I think it was a man from Cambridge someone pointed out the fact in a true emergency situation your house is on fire you have a one lane street you have cars coming the other way what are you going to do? What about the police coming at three o'clock in the morning for some kind of an emergency and you can't get through the street because it's snowing, the DPW is trying to clear and it's one lane and the storm was worse than the weather forecasters predicted. I really think this needs to be studied. There's too many open questions here right now to vote on this right now so I propose that amendment to put this to study by the town.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: So Alan is amending this to ask for a task force study to study this and then come back to the fall?

ALAN MACMILLAN: To the fall town meeting.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Fall town meeting. Do you want to refer it to the DPW Commissioners?

ALAN MACMILLAN: Yes and they the DPW Commissioners do have public meetings. (audience noise)

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Well it's up to Alan. Alan is making an amendment to this motion. Motion to refer to committee.

ALAN MACMILLAN: I make a motion that the Board of Selectmen study the issue and report back at the fall town meeting.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Okay, does anyone second? (seconded) So now we're speaking only about referring this to the Board of Selectmen for study and referring back in the fall. Any comments on that? Come to the podium please.

DAVID KAPLAN: 14 Drumlin Road – this might be a question of parliamentary procedure would be would it be acceptable to offer the additional wording with the sense of the meeting this is something a lot of people want and that the sense is they want to find a way to makes this happen if possible et cetera.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Well are we ready to vote on the motion on the floor which is to refer..oh, we're not ready to vote. Would you like to speak?

DAVE PERRY: 8 Seagull Street – First of all I think snow removal has been a really big plus in this town for a very long time (applause) and I don't think we want to make it an issue. The problem that I hear is downtown and I've got to agree they've got serious issues with parking vehicles so if we're going to go ahead and think about this or put it in a study committee, now don't just think about it as town-wide. I think most of the town is A-Okay and we don't have any problems and I'll tell you one of the things I think about is last winter when we had snow closing our streets down and if somebody decides on the day after a snowstorm or two days after to park out in the street and you can't get emergency vehicles through you really got a problem. That only has to happen once so I think we need to consider the issue downtown but I don't think we have to create a town-wide mandate. Thank you.

PAT BROWN, TOWN CLERK: Now we're speaking only on the motion to refer to the Board of Selectmen.

JIM UGONE: 33 Main Street – and I agree about all of the issues we've discussed and it relates to the motion on the floor and that one thing though from my perspective is being a downtown resident we are so appreciative of DPW for the job that they did during the big storm and every year. This is a year we haven't had snow so it becomes painfully evident when weather is with us rather than against us and for those people like myself who live downtown there's nothing that I want to pass that would make the roads a mess for me the day after the storm. I still have to live there so I'm completely in favor of doing whatever the DPW needs to keep our roads safe downtown exactly the way they've always have been and I, you know from the observations that I've made at this meeting and the concern both from the microscopic myopic position of the people town versus town-wide a committee would be absolutely appreciated by those residents downtown and I'm not sure I heard that DPW were to be part of that process and I know that where selectmen was but I think we'd be counterproductive without having them there to help us through this to determine if there is anything we can do and if so how we go about it to make it a better town. You know we compare ourselves to other towns for all sorts of matters from green issues et cetera. Yet there are many towns, I did the research from Hull to Newburyport about the implementation of winter bans and I have that information available and they do work well. The most regional local is Manchester who when I've spoken and visited their DPW they have no issues with

making it work. Am I certain that can happen in Rockport - no. Am I sensitive to the needs of the DPW - absolutely and I think a committee to research this further would be awesome so that's in support of the amendment.

PAT BROWN: Okay. Anyone else want to speak to referring this to the Board of Selectmen to study? (from audience – vote) We have one more comment from Sandy Jacques and then we'll vote.

SANDY JACQUES: You may not all realize this but the DPW Board of Commissioners are appointed by the selectmen. The selectmen are elected by the voters – people that aren't even here so therefore I think it's most appropriate on an issue like this that it be remanded to the selectmen to deal with. It isn't a Government and Bylaw Committee issue it isn't a DPW Commissioner only, they are in a position as our elected officials to deal with such an issue. The DPW Commissioners do a great job but they're appointed by the selectmen.

PAT BROWN: Erin would like to speak to that.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: If town meeting votes to refer it to the Board of Selectmen we'll be happy to look into it and pull in everyone that we need to study the issue.

PAT BROWN: Okay so now we'll be voting just on the motion to refer this to the Board of Selectmen for further study, to create a task force and then report back to fall town meeting. All those in favor raise your placards. All those opposed the same sign.

That passes so we will be referring this to the Board of Selectmen to create a task force to study this and report back next fall.

On to Article I.

MODERATOR: And Article I will be followed by Article K. All right, the Chair will entertain a motion under Article I. (Noise) You're going to have to go to a microphone.

BONNIE QUINT-KAPLAN: I feel like we had a motion come on the floor that about about referring this to Article L to the selectmen but I don't think we got a sense of the meeting about what the meeting would like to see come out of that. The selectmen have already rejected the idea of lifting the ban and making it more selective and now we're just sending this back to them so I don't think we've really had a chance to vote on Article L.

MODERATOR: No, we're done with that one. I appreciate your comment. We've had this discussion for a long time. They heard the sense of the town I'm quite confident of that so now we have to go on to Article I.

ARTICLE I (21): To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ the Community House revolving fund as voted in Article H of the September 8, 2014 Town Meeting to which receipts received in connection with use of the Community House shall be deposited and may be expended by the Director of Public Works for Community House building maintenance purposes, said sum not to exceed a certain amount in FY2017; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Department of Public Works*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR DPW COMMISSIONER BRUCE REED: I move to reauthorize the Community House revolving fund in accordance with Mass General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and approve Article I as printed in the Warrant and as shown on page 67 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet; and further to set the maximum expenditure for such fund for FY2017 at \$14,000.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion here? You heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

Article K which will then be followed by the last Article – which is Article F.

ARTICLE K (22): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer, or borrow a sum of money to design, construct, and equip a new DPW Facility at 2 DPW Way off Upper Main Street, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, and if funds are borrowed for such purposes, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority; provided, however, that if borrowing is authorized, the appropriation authorized under this article shall be contingent upon voters' approval of a so-called Proposition 2½ debt exclusion, as provided in G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C(k); or act on anything relative thereto. (*DPW Commissioners*) (*requires 2/3 vote if borrowing*)

Town of Rockport, Department of Public Works

Proposed Department of Public Works Facility Project

Our existing Department of Public Works Facility has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. In the late 1990's, the Town recognized the need to replace the existing facility. Since that time, several studies have been completed and each verified a new facility is needed. In 2007, the Town hired a consultant specializing in the design of DPW facilities. The consultant, working closely with the Town, has developed a proposal for a new facility, which meets the needs of the town for many years to come.

What does the DPW do?

Maintenance and repair of all public roads.

Drainage system maintenance and repair.

Maintenance of the water distribution and sanitary sewer collections systems.

Emergency response for snow removal, wind storm damage, water breaks, road hazards, flooding, and post-accident road cleanup.

Town tree maintenance and removal.

Maintenance of the multi-million dollar fleet of DPW vehicles and equipment.

Maintenance and management of town plans and records and overseeing town projects.

Support of other town departments and town wide events.

Maintenance of all town parks, beaches, and other town properties including cemeteries.

Why does Rockport need a new facility?

Existing facility built in the 1950's with minimal upgrades since that time.

Current facility is outdated and inefficient for today's needs.

Sizes of vehicles and equipment have increased significantly between 1950 and today.

The maintenance area is inadequate and unsafe.

Building lacks proper ventilation, heating, and drainage.

Building lacks proper employee facilities such as locker, shower, and toilet facilities.

Inadequate space for vehicle and equipment storage resulting in a diminished equipment life.



Existing DPW Facility



Winter water main repair



Maintaining beaches and town property



Existing storage is inefficient and unsafe

What are the benefits of moving to a new facility?

Improved efficiency of all DPW services, including response times to emergencies.

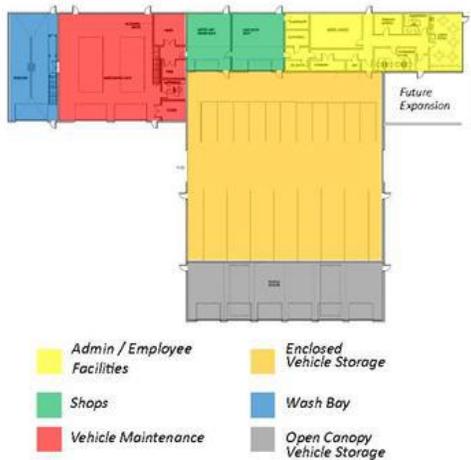
Improved safety and universally accessible for staff with a code compliant, ADA accessible, and OSHA compliant building.

Safer roads for the public with faster response times during storms.

Extended vehicle and equipment life from indoor storage requiring less costly maintenance.

A fully ADA compliant site with proper drainage and pollutant control.

Elimination of investment in repairs to an existing sub-standard DPW Facility.



Overall floor plan - not to scale



Overall site plan - not to scale

What is proposed?

The current DPW building was constructed in the 1950's. Since then, only minimal improvements have been made to the building, yet the DPW's responsibilities have increased significantly.

In the 1990's, the Town recognized the need to upgrade the existing facility.

In 2004, the Town completed an initial feasibility study to replace the existing DPW facility. In 2007, the Town hired Weston & Sampson, a firm with experience on more than 100 public works facility improvement projects in New England, to prepare a new updated feasibility study for a new Public Works Facility. This report confirmed the town's initial findings from the 1990's and again in 2004 that the existing facility was in need of replacement. Furthermore, the report identified the deficiencies with the existing facility and the negative impacts to the operations resulting from the unsuitable conditions at the substandard existing facility.

The findings of the feasibility study have been reviewed and updated by the Town and Weston & Sampson over the past nine (9) years culminating in the recommendations outlined in this document.

The additional cost to the average single family home is \$136 per year, (\$11.33 per month), on average for a 30 year borrowing period at 4.5%. To help control costs, the DPW will be self-performing a portion of site development work for the project.

The Town feels this proposed facility meets the current and future needs of the DPW and will lead to more efficient operations resulting in better service to the Town.

We invite you to contact the DPW for more information regarding this project at 978-546-3525.

LINDA SANDERS FOR PAUL SENA BOARD OF DPW COMMISSIONERS, CHAIRMAN: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$8,830,000 to design, construct, and equip a new DPW Facility at 2 DPW Way off Upper Main Street, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, which funds shall be expended at the direction of the Selectmen, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(3), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any borrowing pursuant to this vote shall be contingent upon the voters' approval of a so-called Proposition 2½ debt exclusion, as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C(k). (requires 2/3 vote)

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Just a point of clarification if you happened to have read the Gloucester Daily Times and I believe they said it was 18 million or 19 million that other 10 million goes to the Moderator's salary (laughter) and so the Times apologizes for that...but you know, just pass it.

JIM GARDNER, DPW COMMISSIONER: 1 Pleasant Street - No the 10 million is going for three 3.3 million dollar houses for the three commissioners. (laughter)

Hi I'm Jim Gardner one of the DPW Commissioners. If you haven't already, in the booklet on pages 69 and 70 there are some explanatory slides and bullet points there having to do with the proposed new DPW

facility and although I don't want to take your attention away from what I'm going to be saying it would be good if you could have a glance at that as well. Also I'm going to make the basic case for the new facility but afterwards we have a number of people here who will be speaking to it in more depth. We have Don Greel and Bill Aspesi two of our foremen who actually work out of the facility who will speak to the current conditions. We have Jeff Alberti from Weston Sampson our design firm that can speak to the structural issues of the current facility and also the design and costing of the proposed facility and I believe that someone from the Finance Committee is going to speak to the financing options for it.

So let's see the current DPW building was built in 1956 and it was built simply as a garage. It was an uninsulated structure basically a Quonset hut and it was used to shelter the vehicles the town had at the time. Two years after it was built some office space, a bathroom and a simple heating system were added to it but since 1958 there's been virtually no improvements made to the building. Okay, the specifications of the building were consistent with the building codes of that time and the building was sized to accommodate the number of vehicles the town owned in 1956. Of course since then the town has grown, the number of roads in the town has grown and the role and responsibility of the DPW has grown as well but the building has remained unchanged.

Okay, one of the primary shortcomings that we have with the building not the only shortcoming but the basic shortcomings we have is that it is simply inadequate as a storage space. The building was meant to shelter the vehicles that we had in 1956 but we currently utilize thirty-two different vehicles and even parking them as tightly as possible we cannot fit them all in the building. So you can see here, every day we take the vehicles out of the building we put them back into the building. When we put them back into the building we have to park them a few inches apart so close in fact that the mirrors are overlapping on some of these trucks.

Okay, this is a view of what the inside of the storage structure looks like when the vehicles are inside. As you can see it's extremely packed. Now this creates a number of problems, number one there is a high likelihood you know of running into another vehicle. It is incredibly time consuming and difficult to put these vehicles in and out in this configuration and if there is a time when we need to get a vehicle out after they've all been put in – say there's a water main break at two o'clock in the morning and we need a specific truck well we have to get almost the entire fleet out to get any one truck out. Okay, despite the fact that we squeeze as many of our vehicles in as possible there are still several vehicles and a lot of equipment that we have to leave outside. Roughly three-quarters of a million dollars' worth of town equipment is left outside throughout the year because we do not have room to put it inside. Equipment stored outdoors has a significantly shorter useful life and a much lower resale value so as you can see here we have a backhoe front loader, a few dump trucks, some plows and some truck beds that are all left outside and if you go up and take a look at the truck beds or the plows, those have been there the longest, you'll see that every one of them is rusting out. Okay, this believe it or not is the area where we maintain our fleet of 32 heavily used vehicles. We have no room to lift the vehicles the way the maintenance is done is the vehicles are driven up onto blocks and the mechanic crawls under the vehicle to do oil changes or lubes or other types of service to them. I mean that's the sort of thing you would do in your own garage to your own vehicle if you were handy but it is very difficult to maintain a 32 vehicle fleet that's supposed to be available 24/7 doing it like this.

Okay, the office space in the building is similarly overburdened. The supervisor's office serves as, this is the supervisor's office by the way, and it serves as a shop area, a tool and supply storage area, a work break room, a document storage area and every once in a while it actually serves as what it's supposed to be which is a private office but generally it's where everything else goes that isn't vehicle related. This is the bathroom facility we have for our 25 man DPW crew. So for the last 20 years different groups of DPW Commissioners have looked at the problem of what to do about this building and as residents of the town we are all very sensitive to the fact that there is a very high sticker shock value to replacing the building. We've looked at it I know that groups of DPW Commissioners have looked at it in the '90s, in the 2000s, and now again in 2010s. I can tell you that every estimate we've gotten back on it, on replacing the building has fallen somewhere between five and ten million dollars depending on the specifications, depending on whether we think we reuse any of the existing building and how much storage space and office space we think we're going to have in it but basically it has always been a very expensive project and a project that frankly has precluded us from trying to bring it to town meeting because we're afraid that no one's going to back it but at this point we have a facility that is really a problem. Okay, this building, I mean you could name a building code or a structural code or an OSHA requirement and this building does not meet it. Basically what we found is that the only option is for us to raze the building and build something new. This building, despite the fact that everything we store in it has gasoline, motor oil, lubricants, other types of flammable materials; this building has no fire suppression system. It has no fire separation capability. It has an inadequate carbon monoxide detection system. It's not ADA accessible. It has an inadequate air exchange and ventilation system. It has an insufficient fire egress openings. It has an inadequate number of bathroom facilities for our crew; no female facilities at all. The structural capacity the roof is maxed out. There is no insulation in the building. It is energy inefficient. It is operationally inefficient. It is extremely cramped and it is unsafe in virtually every way.

So we are proposing at long last to have a new building put in its place. A building that would address the code deficiencies of the building that would provide adequate storage and maintenance space for the town's fleet of vehicles and provide safe and efficient space for the town's employees. Alright this is an overview of the existing facility you can see the main DPW building that's the garage with some office space and then the two other buildings to the left are the salt shed and the sand shed and what we're proposing is to expand the space of a new building – the existing building is 8,000 square feet the new building would be 22,000 square feet but we would consolidate the sand and salt shed into a single structure and that's the proposed overview so it basically sits in the same place. It is bigger about three times bigger as it is now although we're taking up a little less space with the salt and sand shed. So, again the purpose of our bringing it to town meeting the funding doesn't happen here. We're asking for a debt exclusion which means that it has to go to the ballot and the whole town has to vote on this okay so all we're asking for you to approve is for this to go to the ballot for the town to have the opportunity to vote on it. It would also give us an opportunity to get more people up to the barn as we call it to have a look at the conditions and also make a more complete case to the town on why we need it what the advantages are going to be and also how we're going to fund it.

We know the facility is grossly inadequate full replacement is the only option and I think the reason we're bringing it now is because we feel we have a fiduciary responsibility to give the town the option to vote on it now. Every year that we wait the replacement cost on this goes up by four to five hundred thousand dollars. We know that we can't continue to use it as is. There have been four towns just in the close New England area in the past three years I believe that have suffered catastrophic fires or snow collapses that were built in the same era as our building basically the same type of construction and they've not only lost the entire building but they've lost most of their fleet as well and we don't want to wait until that happens to do something about this.

So we hope that you support us in this project and ask that you support the motion to put this on the ballot. Thank you. (applause)

MODERATOR: And before we hear from anybody else I just want to alert you that Senator Tarr is in the hall and senator (applause) I would just like our official records to reflect that we thank you for everything that you do for our community.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: Thank you Mr. Moderator. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support Article K. We feel it's time. This project's been before the Capital Improvement Planning Committee for consideration for at least the last four years since I've been on that committee but with competing needs faced by the town the committee did not move it forward for those years. This year recognizing the critical need to replace the DPW barn and replace it with a real DPW facility the CIPC recommended to the board and to the Finance Committee to fund this project as Jim said using a debt exclusion and then that goes to the May ballot. We're forced to spend money on this building every year and we'll continue to do so until we address this problem and those costs include energy costs. We need to protect our assets and again as Jim said the equipment deteriorates. There's inadequate storage and the treatment possibilities for the equipment is so limited but more importantly our employees who are working in the subpar conditions to say the least and if you have participated in the tours you know what I'm referring to. Someone recently described the DPW at a meeting as first responders and I had never really thought of it that way but it makes sense that they are and should be considered part of our public safety force. During a snowy winter the time and effort to prepare our vehicles to hit the ,he condition of our roads in general throughout the whole year, our water sources, how we deliver clean water to our residents to name a few of the ways that the DPW every day effects our lives. It's time for a new facility to support these efforts. Thank you.

PAUL MURPHY: Just very briefly. When the schools back in the mid to late '80s there wasn't enough room here so we addressed it and we built this beautiful two building complex in 19..I think 2004 we replaced the police station which was built..the former police station was built in 1939 when they had about seven patrolmen and it was obvious that we needed to replace it. The barn was built in 1958 as Jim had mentioned it is not safe that's the bottom line. It is not safe for the men and women that work there and we need to replace it. It's not going to get any cheaper and this is the way to do it so I hope you do support this. Thank you.

BILL WAGNER, FINANCE COMMITTEE: I wanted to speak to the aspect of the..well first off I wanted to say that the Finance Committee considered this item and voted unanimously to support it. I won't reiterate the reasons because they've already been stated by others. But I thought it was, that it's important to address the debt exclusion aspect of the proposal and it's been a number of years since we've had one so there may be new people here, I would be one of those but I think it's important for people to understand what a debt exclusion is. So a debt exclusion is just that. That service is excluded from the, from Proposition 2 ½ limitations. Under Proposition 2 ½ property taxes in the aggregate for the town can be raised 2 ½ percent per year in the aggregate on top of that there's a concept called new growth which is improvements and new homes whose assessed value will add to that tax base and therefore to the overall taxes. Debt exclusion that's service costs for debt exclusion items are added on top of that so one way of

thinking of it it's excluded from the limitations and then it's added on top of it. So yes it's an addition to your taxes for the period of time that the debt is in place and only for the amount of the debt service that is being paid for in that current year. I tried to prepare a simple example – we'll see whether it's that simple using approximate figures for the current fiscal year in the next two basically our base tax levy is around 20 million dollars. The first column FY'16 I've taken out these other increases so as not to confuse the issue. Our debt exclusion currently is \$718,000 or \$719,000 so the total tax levy is \$20,719,000 for an average home and I've defined this as a \$500,000 home the taxes are \$5,600 roughly for FY'17 you take that 2 ½ percent on top of the 20 million dollars you get a half million dollars new growth estimate is \$150,000 so we have total taxes of \$20,650,000 if this proposal goes forward and is approved by the voters in the spring the estimate by the Town Treasurer would be the debt exclusion increased to \$890,000 that's on top of a reduced figure from \$718 there's an addition of..I'll get to that figure about \$185,000 for FY'17 for the initial year so a total increase would be 4% to \$21,540,000 and the average home - \$500,000 home the taxes on that would increase to \$5,790. The next year the impact is much greater because that's the first full year of debt service under this proposal and you can see that the figures are roughly the same obviously I played with the math it wouldn't quite work but you'd say 2650 plus 650 is \$21,300,000 but our debt exclusion goes to nearly a million and a half dollars and the total taxes would be \$22,800,000 in round figures. That increase would be 5.8% on top of FY'17 because of that full year impact and let's go to what does this mean to you've kind of seen what it meant to an average homeowner. What we have is total principle of \$8.8 million under two different scenarios one is a 30 year bond at 4 ½% interest rate and the second option would be a 20 year bond at the same 4 ½% interest rate. Interest on top of the principle brings the total payments over the 20 or 30 year amount to over 13 million. It's almost 15 million in the thirty year scenario and a 20 year scenario it's 13.1 million. Let me just mention at this point town municipal finance generally operates with a level principle payment unlike your homes where you have a level payment over the course of whatever you borrow for so on a level principle payment we'd take the 8.8 million dollars and divide by 20 or divide by 30 and that would be the same principle being paid over the course of the 20 or 30 year period. The interest therefore reduces in each year so I think in the case of a home mortgage that you may be familiar with your principle payments are very low in the beginning and it's mostly interest. The interest comes down somewhat as the principle goes up. This is very much different from that in that the interest portion goes down much more dramatically and although you're always going to pay that that principle portion that is over \$400,000 for a twenty year bond.

So what we see in FY'18 the first full year in the 30 year scenario it's \$685,000 an additional debt service in a 20 year scenario it's \$847,000. I'll note that the previous one that we did, the police station, which was in 2003 that was done over a 20 year period. The school roof was around the same time was a 20 year period so the borrowing is up to the Board of Selectmen when it comes time to borrow as to what term is chosen and exactly what kind of payment period but using past practice we might expect that it would be a 20 year version. The average homeowner and I know that the numbers have changed in what we've seen in the 30 year scenario for that first full year would be \$190 on the \$500,000 home; 20 year principle would be well \$249 on the slide. There's other figures that are around \$230 for that same \$500,000 home. The impact to your taxes if you have an average home is 3.4% or 4.4% actually the impact to your taxes is that percentage regardless of whether you fit the average home or whatever home you fit because the tax rates are constant over the course. The impact on the tax declines over the course of the year you know so you would expect much lower impacts are you get say 10 years out. That's shown on this slide – 30 year in the middle set column 20 year on the other set. You can see that that \$847,000 on 20 year slide, the 20 year column decreases to \$756,000 in five years. I think that's, that pretty much covers what I wanted to say and hopefully that helps your understanding of what happens with a debt exclusion. As has been mentioned because it is an override to a proposition 2 ½ law it requires approval by the voters at a general election which would occur in May – if it's approved here tonight. Tonight? Hopefully it won't be tonight – (laughter) – this afternoon. Thank you. (Applause)

MODERATOR: And it would be on the ballot May 3rd. Is that correct? Is there anyone that wants to speak against this before we hear from more public officials or anybody else? Just to get a sense of where the town is on this. Okay that should guide up appropriately.

HERMAN LILJA: Alright there is an aspect of this that has been omitted and it may have been discussed at other presentations but not at this one and that is that they..well the Planning Board has a responsibility for a plan for the town future planning the administrator of the town is interested in the future planning of the town and this is one piece of that future plan. Periodically we have to replace the facilities that we have to forego this only puts us further behind the eight ball with regard to what ultimately, excuse me, has to be dealt with whether you're talking about the fire station in Rockport whether you're talking about the fire station in Pigeon Cove or you were talking about the DPW complex so if we take this step it's a good first step it's essential not the first obviously a new high school, new roofs and new police station are all part of that same plan but there is nothing really on paper that says we are going to do or take a particular step at a particular point in time to make sure that we are continuing to replace the structures that we have in town. It seems to be only when we get to the point where we can't tolerate something any longer we ultimately face up to it and make the decision to replace it so I fully support this. The Planning Board did not take a vote on this we were not asked to take a vote on it but I feel comfortable in saying

that the members of the Planning Board would in fact be with me on this and would support the adoption of this motion. Thank you.

ED HAND, PLANNING BOARD: No we weren't asked to vote for it but I definitely support it. My wife and I moved five years ago to Rockport from a community much larger very well run impressive DPW but I'll tell you something I'm amazed at what I see being done here with rousing minimal capabilities in terms of equipment and stuff. I would hope that the ingenuity I've seen and the ability of the can do attitude of the DPW here can be spent out on the streets doing the work that needs to be done not back in the garage trying to get oil out of a truck up on a little block or spent time moving stuff in and out of a garage so I would fully support this. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Okay I next again want to hear from anyone who is opposed to this or who has a motion to amend it some way so I said I'd go around this way so I'll go right here. Someone opposed or someone who is going to amend. Opposed or amend. Okay, Mr. Arsenian.

TODY ARSENIAN: The DPW do a fine job for us, for the town and we should try to do the decent thing by them. I'm all in favor of the project I'm concerned about who is going to get stuck with the bills in the long run and I'm not just thinking of the tax bills. I went to the meeting, the Finance Committee had with the DPW Commissioners when the commissioners were making their pitch for Finance Committee support on the project and I was able to ask a question whether any part of the bills, the costs of the project would be billed to either of the Enterprise Funds and although the commissioners had not voted on it two of them said that they had no intention of doing that and the third nodded and none of the Finance Committee members said anything but at the subsequent Finance Committee meeting several members of the Finance Committee did indeed think that some of the costs of the project could be tacked onto the expenses for the Enterprise Funds I wish to offer an amendment which would go just before the last sentence which starts "any borrowing pursuant" and what I would add is this: "no part of the costs of this project will be billed to either the Water Enterprise Fund or the Sewer Enterprise Fund". We pay for it once on the taxes I think we should grit our teeth and do it but I think that's paying enough. I don't think we want to find later that we're going to pay increased sewer or water bills in addition. The commissioners agreed with me and I would hope that they would speak up in favor of the amendment. Whether or not they do if it's totally unnecessary because of the way it's worded if it is the case the expenses could not be transferred legally to either of the Enterprise Funds then town counsel should tell us that. In that case I'd offer to withdraw the amendment. As I say I'm all for the project.

DARREN KLEIN: Kopelman & Paige through the Moderator – My understanding of the article is this is an article that's seeking a bonding that would be excluded from the debt so I guess I'm just maybe back to Toby I'm just trying to understand if the money is going to be borrowed excluded from the tax rate I'm trying to understand your motion which would then say but the DPW and the sewer can't get billed because again the appropriation would be a borrowing that's excluded from the tax rate there is no other funding source in the motion so I guess I'm just not sure that I understand why your motion is necessary.

MODERATOR: I'm going to hear from Toby one last time on this but my sense is based on that discussion that this, that your amendment Toby is not in order but I do want to hear from you.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I would like the commissioners to say publicly that they had no intention of billing any of the expenses of the project to either of the Enterprise Funds and that is what two of them said at a Finance Committee meeting. If they would say that publicly here by me that would be sufficient and I would offer to withdraw the amendment. I'm not very trusting and when it comes to the Enterprise Funds there's reason not to be trusting.

MODERATOR: I am shocked by that but we'll hear from the Board of Commissioners (laughter)

DPW COMMISSIONER: Well Toby is omitting a few elements of the conversation. I think what we told him was that not only did we have no intention of using either of the Enterprise Fund revenues to pay off the debt but we also told him that it wasn't up to us to make that determination that it was our understanding that because it was a debt exclusion it was necessarily something that was outside of the Enterprise Funds. I mean we could be wrong but we certainly had no intention of using Enterprise Fund revenue to offset the debt lev so you know maybe town counsel can explain. I think what Toby is worried about is that it is a debt exclusion but it's going to get paid back by we're going to apportion some, some part of the payback to the Sewer and Water Enterprise Funds it will be paid back that way also out of the taxes but I – I'm not sure that's possible.

DARREN KLEIN: And again, not again I want to start by correcting something I said – I said once or twice "excluded from the tax rate" I meant to say excluded from the tax levy but the point I made is still accurate the only funding source is a borrowing which will be excluded from the tax levy. If monies were going to be needed to, if monies were going to be used out of the Enterprise Fund you would have to come back to town meeting to put that type of article on a warrant and it would need to pass. The only

funding source in this article is a borrowing which would be excluded from the tax levy so it could not be paid out of the Enterprise Fund right now anyway.

MODERATOR: We're back now on the merits of the article as presented and I only want to hear from people who are opposed to this otherwise I have a sense that you're ready to vote. Is there anyone opposed that I want to hear from so we'll start right there and we'll go around?

CHARLES PETERMAN: I'd just like one clarification. What amount, what percentage are we currently paying in taxes that is excluded from the total levy or excluded from the tax rate? How high are we currently in excluded taxes?

MODERATOR: Okay, we hear your question we're going to hear some more and then we'll maybe get answers all at the same time. Anybody else who wants this clarified or is in opposition for now? Dana?

DANA JORGENSSON: I'm expressing concern. I don't know how to divide the question and if I could I would because I still maintain that what we're being asked to do is to allow \$8.83 million dollars debt exclusion. When this conversation started several months ago it wasn't \$8.83(million) it was \$7.8 (million) that went to \$8.3 (million) to \$8.5 (million) and now it's \$8.8 (million). At the very least it should say "up to" \$8.83 (million) furthermore we're being asked to do this with conceptual designs. There is not a design that has a stamp of a professional engineer on it and I'm concerned. I'm also concerned that we have other first responders in town in an inadequate building where's that going to come from? When are we going to have to deal with that? When are we going to have to deal with other facilities that need replacement that will come on the heels of this debt exclusion and as a consequence I object to the language that's before us and I would ask that we do \$1.0 million for soft costs to bring on an OPM. I still believe that this is the right way to go – that we have professional engineering done that we have the money available to get the RFP out and know what our costs will be in reality and go in the fall and then do it, not now you don't – I'm sorry I know this building is desperately needed. I know these employees are working in terrible conditions and they shouldn't be. They should be moved out of that building and they should be in..I'm sorry the term I haven't got it on the tip of my tongue but they should be in temporary facilities on the grounds now not in that building that is ridiculous. The building is necessary but I don't believe that this is the right way to start. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Okay we'll hear from a few more people and then we'll have responses.

JILL BELL: 63 Marmion Way – Just a point of clarification I believe we're voting whether to put the ability to raise this money on a ballot. If we decide yes will there be design review? I don't know or are we voting on the proposed building in that location? In the slides that we saw?

MODERATOR: We're collecting these questions and we'll get them all answered. Yes, sir.

ROY TOULAN: 20 Gott Avenue – and I'm a member of the Government &Bylaw Committee. I don't oppose the project. I think it's absolutely necessary. I have questions about whether the \$8.8 (million) is a solid number or not and the main issue sort of to follow this along with what the lady said back there are there any environmental issues with this building? It strikes me the age of the building what it was used for it's prime to have some environmental issues if there hasn't been an environmental study done why not if there has been an environmental study done and there's some cleanup that has to be done that should be factored into the costs so again I have no problem with the project. My issue is how solid is this cost and one of the main issues I have is environmental given the nature of the building and what it was used for and how old it is.

MODERATOR: All right, collecting questions. We have somebody over here and then I'll get to somebody over there. Yes sir.

JACK MEANY: 16 Summit Avenue – I too am in favor of replacing this building. My base.., my basic question is we're replacing an antiquated building with about a 22,000 square foot building. Twenty-two thousand square feet a great deal of it being vehicle storage space, etc. etc. At \$8.8 million without land acquisition and without, without any um with some of the work being done by the DPW we're still looking at \$400 a square foot which seems like an outrageous number. You can build a lot of commercial facilities for a whole lot less than \$400 a square foot even at prevailing wage which I know the town is required to pay so I guess my question is about what is going into this facility that is driving the cost so far up to \$400 a square foot.

MODERATOR: We'll get you some answers and then we'll hear from everybody. Sandy not to worry. Go ahead.

DPW COMMISSIONER: We have a lot of questions built up and I'm not even sure we can remember all of them. First of all I'm going to introduce Jeff Alberti from Weston and Sampson has been helping us with the design and the costing elements and can speak a little more specifically I can tell you that the

building estimate cost per square foot is slightly under \$400 per square foot you're right I can also tell you that our cost per square foot is highly competitive with the cost per square foot that every other town that's done a facility like this in New England has had to pay I can also tell you that most recent cost per square foot for buying real estate residential real estate in Rockport is only slightly less than that so look it is an expensive project but we have looked at this in detail we have tried to find the least expensive ways of doing this and um despite the fact that it does sound very expensive we are at we have no more resources to throw trying to find a less expensive way to do it unfortunately. We don't believe there is a less expensive way to do it unless we were to leave more things outside I mean the current design as it calls for is going to have a canopy and some things are not going to be inside but they will be under a canopy so anyway let me introduce Jeff he can speak to some of these issues a little more specifically.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

JEFF ALBERTI, WESTON & SAMPSON: Thank you Mr. Moderator through you I did make some notes from some of the questions and I'll just try to be brief on those. The first question was are you voting on the plan that was presented – that is a conceptual level plan and typically the next step in the process is to work with the alternative that's developed and work with the community and public works to develop the most efficient alternative so we put some effort into confirming that the program that's being proposed will in fact fit on the site and that it would be an efficient construction type but there's definitely the ability as you move forward with this project with the next phase to make any adjustments based on public input through the process. The second question was is the \$8.8 million a hard number and I think the questions were has an environmental assessment been done and what is included. We have been to the site we have gone through and have an understanding of the site history we haven't done a physical assessment of the subsurface but what we have done based on what we know what we've seen as we carried sufficient contingencies what we refer to as design or pricing contingencies within that number to accommodate any of those potential unknowns and then the building costs themselves are all based on actual costs from facilities that were constructed in 2014, 2015 so we have some really up-to-date numbers for very similar facilities and we have carried the additional soft costs to cover that and finally there was the question about the square foot cost and I think that was addressed that this is based on what other Massachusetts communities are doing for very similar types these are very cost effective pre-engineered metal building systems there. The most cost effective you are going to find for a facility of this type. One of the questions finally was what drives these costs a lot of people refer to these as barns and that's what they were in the '50s and '60s but today's facilities do have to be designed to meet today's standards starting with the DEP storm water management standards so we include all the proper storm water detention and recharge systems that are required. The building systems themselves they just don't exist now but the HVAC system has to be designed to have continuous ventilation for the staff so that you don't have what you have now which is the buildup of dust and soot within the spaces. They have carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide sensors, again required by code. We have gas monitoring systems throughout the building but we also have a fire detection and fire suppression system, again that doesn't exist now but we're required by code to include those and the electrical system will be designed to support the maintenance operations that exist so bringing the building up to today's current codes there and then finally a couple more items would be the industrial equipment as we talked about the mechanics are basically on their backs with snow and ice and water dripping on them. This will allow us to have proper industrial equipment within the space so that will again meet current standards and all of this is being done with Massachusetts prevailing wages and that does have an impact on the cost and that's all factored into these.

SANDY JACQUES: I'll try to be very brief on this but in my memory I remember a meeting we had at conference room A with the Board of Selectmen and we were looking at a plan of what the town could do over the next 20, 25 years we hired, the town had hired an architectural firm engineering firm to help us through that it was a plan all laid out and it was what we were going to do first, second, third and fourth. Well we got into the meeting and all of a sudden Joanne Wile said well why don't we do the police station first and she recommended that we put it up at a blank field next to the DPW water treatment plant and within five minutes a plan that had been worked on for a year was totally taken apart and put back together again in that sequence. Then a committee was put together it was a citizen-wide committee we had two selectmen we had two senior citizens that are no longer with us Fred Grover and Don McCarthy, we had DPW John Tomasz, George Robertson and we were charged I was on it representing the Finance Committee we were charged with coming up with a police station so what did we do. We hired we didn't even hire we interviewed twenty-five architectural firms we gave five of them \$5,000 each to produce a model. We brought the models out here and we got 150...\$250,000 to do a design. The charge was to come back with biddable documents which we did. We came to this meeting I stood up here and we recommended a \$3,000,000 cost; \$250 for recovering the already sunk costs \$2,500,000 for the building and \$250,000 for contingency. We came in under \$3,000,000 however the construction firm that we had to pick was the low bidder. That's no longer a requirement we can go to any bidder that we consider to be qualified and disqualify even the lowest bidder. That contractor sued us because he said.. or that firm said we didn't tell him about all the granite that was in the ground even though he was the contractor that did Kitefield and he knew that it was all, we settled that so we went over the \$3,000,000 but I think what's not being presented here is unfortunately because I think a lot of work has gone into that component

maybe they don't have biddable documents but to ask for \$9,000,000 you'd never build your house that way no one would ever do a project that way in my opinion. I mean that committee did a hell of a job for the town and we did it in a way that if you ran a business you'd never do it this way a Board of Directors I, I think that they have the information and the problem is that it hasn't been understood. Maybe there's a better way to do it but on the other hand maybe they've got the right way to do it so I'm a little torn because experience personally in other businesses it would have been done differently. I was on the committee that built the pregnant..not the pregnant the pregnant pencil in Boston, the First National Bank in Boston building you know how it goes up like this and like that it's called the pregnant pencil building but anyway and you know that was a hundred million dollar project but proportions are the same you know you really need to know I think more about this so I said I wasn't going to do this but having heard the argument somebody raised the question about has an environmental study been done well how do you know you don't have any idea you have to do those things you have to do those things and come back with the results to know what you have. How do you know what's underneath there for granite. You don't know. We didn't know. We estimated how many tons of it one of the things that we did in that project was we decided to build a full cellar instead of a half cellar so we would have an archives storage unit. I don't know if anybody knows it but there's a beautiful archives storage facility all the air-conditioning environmental control underneath the police station. The police officers have a gym so they can maintain their good health. They used to sit in a..if you've seen it where the parking clerk has been up until now that was the police station. It was so obvious but and it's so obvious that these people need it as well but you know are we going about this in a way that's going to be satisfactory or are they going to come back and say and because it's nothing to fault nothing to blame we wouldn't do this for the schools. You know that something wasn't taken into account because we didn't take the time to do it. It's been twenty-five what is it if you take fifty-six now it's what sixty years since that facility was built and we've been trying. I've (Moderator speaks) I'm at five minutes or fifty seconds? Alright I know you hear me it's just I'm passionate about this. I get accused of being too passionate. I think that what we should do if I were to do this now I think I would make a motion to give them enough money to do the million and a half dollar, five hundred thousand dollar whatever come back with biddable documents you can do this in a time frame if the engineer has done his job right he's got five months to come back with biddable documents then we can know what we're talking about in the fall town meeting. It is restricted to financial we never were restricted to just financial issues it could be properly evaluated then and then we'd know what we're talking about maybe it would be nine million maybe it would be seven (Moderator: Okay, thank you)

SARAH WILKINSON FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: I think it's important to note that as we approach, I don't know 10 past 3(PM) that this is just the first step and approving this here would get it on the ballot which would give the DPW Commissioners time to continue to educate the public about this project and I just want to clarify I think Dana asked earlier if the motion could be changed to appropriate a sum *up to* a certain amount. Town counsel has informed us that you have to appropriate a certain amount but you certainly don't have to spend or end up borrowing all that which would..we would get to that point but today here is the first step and I know lots of people have been to the tours at the barn, lots of people have seen the video and I think moving forward and getting it on the ballot would give everyone the appropriate time to really learn about the project and more details about it. (applause)

MEL MICHAELS: 22 Landmark Lane – I think that at least since the year 2000 the DPW have been treated like Cinderella before the fairy godmother showed up so I think we really owe them something we certainly owe them a building. Just a couple of quick questions – one is what is the useable life of this building can we estimate that yet? And will it maintain the standards required under the safety code in many years, in the many years to come and the third question is you talked about some structures that sounded more temporary than permanent will those have to be replaced eventually?

MODERATOR: Okay, I'm going to hear from one other person who hasn't spoken yet and then we'll hear from the consultant – Mr. Tarr.

FREDERICK TARR: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I'm facing a crisis similar to that of the DPW only a lot smaller. A lot of you know that I have the old army SUV I just had it into the garage and I was told by the mechanic I can tell this has been stored outside near the ocean you have to have work on the frame you have to have all your lines replaced you have to have your brake cylinders replaced the thing is a wreck. I don't know if I can afford to have it fixed or not but that's what happens and this is a good mechanic not here but this is (laughter) what happens when equipment is stored outside. Unfortunately it does do it any good and nothing we can do about it so I would support the DPW having at least a canopy over some of the equipment if not the ability to store inside otherwise it's going to cost a lot more money in the very near future. It's going to cost me if I have it done. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Sorry to hear about your car (laughter) caa.

JEFF ALBERTI, CONSULTANT: Thank you Mr. Moderator. With regard to the useful life, useable life of the building we design all buildings to achieve a 50 year life expectancy as a minimum but obviously with proper care those systems in those structures should last longer. We design it to meet today's codes and standards I wish I knew what they were going to change to in the future but what we've seen is a

substantial amount of change is seismic wind load, mechanical codes, we've seen very minor changes recently so I feel that this building will #1 be energy efficient it will meet all the code requirements and meet all the life safety requirements and I anticipate that there wouldn't have to be any major changes on that in the future. We are including temporary facilities as someone mentioned earlier we want to get them out of those facilities into temporary facilities that's included within that budget that was established that'll allow if that proceeds the whole construction period is one year so if you move forward with this now you can actually shorten up the time that they're in the temporary facility and I think that was it for questions.

MODERATOR: Anybody else who has not spoken before we hear from Charles over there. Anybody else?

CHARLES PETERMAN: I was taking a look around for competitive projects that were done in Massachusetts – thank goodness for Google – Wayland Massachusetts 42,000 sq. ft. DPW facility \$11 million total; sorry square foot dollar cost \$261. The Bourque Arena down at Endicott College 42,000 sq. ft. \$8.5 million I think that we need to take a look at competitive projects and really get an assessment. The \$400 seems high.

MODERATOR: Let me hear from one other person and then I'll try to get a bunch of questions for you to answer.

CATHY MEANY: I came here in favor of this project. I really was. I'm no longer in favor of us putting this number out there. I think \$400, I know you're saying that's a real estate number but we all know real estate includes the land and the land is the greatest part of the number that we pay and the facility itself, the building is the smaller number so \$400 is crazy and I think putting out \$8.8 to the voters we don't even have a building designed and that's a very large number. It's going to fail on a 2 ½ on an override for this. I think we need to what Sandy Jacques said we need to have a real competitive proposal put out there and have some real numbers for the town to vote on.

JAMY MADEJA: 2 Holbrook Court – I am in favor absolutely of the safety and security in changing the current conditions for the first responders, I'll call them and replacing the building. I'm in favor of putting to the voters a prop. 2 ½ override that's a necessity. I offer and ask if there's a way to look into modular construction to save considerable costs. A number of my clients have built very sophisticated complex buildings at enormous cost savings because it's modular. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Anybody else we have not heard from yet? All right Herm I'll get you also Duffy.

HERM LILJA: I can appreciate the concerns that people have with regard to the cost and not having a better handle on it. If in fact this project is delayed and an additional study is expected between now and when it is brought up again there has to be monies available for the engineering and the other consultations that would go into developing something that is considered to be better proposed so um there needs to be a motion by somebody that if we are to delay this then we have to equip the DPW with funds to in fact come up with the information that we all seem to desire. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Why am I thinking Jaws when Quint comes up? (laughter)

DON GREEL, HEAD OF OPERATIONS: We've been living kind of tough lately but we're making it every day, we go out and do the job, we do it for almost every person in here. I've been in every one of your households for a sewer break or water break or a drain problem. Mr. Liebow, head of the school, and kept it open during the week when they had back-ups in their sewer. We didn't have to close it 6 o'clock in the morning we didn't have to I'm the guy that drives by your house every day and fills your driveway with snow (LAUGHTER and applause) and it's not nice I know because my wife shovels out mine (more laughter) but I do appreciate the shovels you have given me over the years that ended up in the back of my truck from a toss. I appreciate it and the reason we do that is 'cause the guy up there, which I won't talk about, 'cause he makes us do that but we're living tough. We'll make it if we don't do this – we have to but the money that's coming up now is, if we get this done as soon as possible we're not paying for temporary housing. The prices that Jeff's given us takes care of everything. When we move out we have a place to put the mechanic in to fix trucks, it will be housed it won't be great but it will be warm. If we don't do it now its \$500 a year I mean \$500,000 a year. I just think it's time to try to do it we've been the last on the board for a long time we've helped the Police Chief out when he came, the new chief we did a new parking lot for him; we did Mr. Liebow a new parking lot. These are the things we do we just did a beautiful job, a granite job down on Front Beach that was a \$10,000 job for us (applause) but an \$80,000 for an outside contractor.

I've got guys that deserve it I think. I think it's time. We've got some guys here that go out all night sanding and plowing. They go out on water breaks. That's another thing, I have been out in front of your house with a jack hammer at 2:00 in the morning, I'm sorry but *he* tells me to do that so I think it's just

time. It's...I don't want to pay for it either. I mean, my wife and I both work for the town it's not a great, a great pay but we love it here and we won't go anywhere. Thank you. (Applause)

JEFF ALBERTI: Thank you Mr. Moderator – a couple of questions I just wanted to respond to. The first was regarding the cost comparisons, I think probably the most important thing I can tell you is that we look at it as an apples to apples so the \$384 per square foot that was discussed that was not just construction costs that was construction costs, construction contingences, soft cost, your architectural engineering fees, your resident engineering costs, OPM costs, permitting, testing, temporary facilities and then a construction contingency because with every project you really need to carry that construction contingency all the way through to the end so if you back out those soft costs what we're talking about is a \$312 per square foot construction cost. There was mention about the town of Wayland. I actually spent three years of my life on that job and went to every construction meeting so I have a very good sense of that facility so the average bid price on Wayland escalated out to \$278 per square foot so that was the construction bid in 2014 so as you begin to look at all these projects and you break out the apples to apples comparison this actually falls right in the middle of the pack from the projects that were recently bid so again I think it's important to back out those soft costs when you begin talking about construction costs.

There was a suggestion or a mention about modular and we have received a lot of questions on that and we've actually been in touch with the Attorney General's office to determine if that's an option. Modular is defined as a building that's shipped equipped with all the systems in it and this because of the volume is really a pre-engineer metal building and it's not shipped with those facilities within them so modular is not really an option for this type of facility and they don't make modular units large enough for the volume that we need to store the equipment and conduct the maintenance and then I also wanted to just mention someone suggested or mentioned how good are these cost estimates. As a firm Weston and Sampson and my team we've been involved in over 100 public works facilities in New England so it's really one of our specialties and so we've assembled all the data from those projects and then we've actually been working on this since 2007 when we began our initial feasibility study we've gone through the programming assessment we gone through the site analysis we developed concepts and then we take those concepts and we've actually developed multipage cost estimates so we didn't just take \$312 a square foot and apply it we went through and looked at every space and we prepared detailed cost estimates and then carried the escalation cost to help with that. Thank you.

MODERATOR: You've heard the motion, it requires a two-thirds vote, all those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries with more than two-thirds and I so declare it.

MODERATOR: Do I have the greatest mother-in-law in the world or what? Please everybody give her a round of applause. (Applause) She's kept me hydrated, you guys have kept me hydrated – it takes a village. Article F!

ARTICLE F (23): To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to pay for state mandated real and personal property revaluations; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR SELECTPERSON ELIZA LUCAS: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$30,000 to a Property Valuations Fund for the purposes of Article F as printed in the warrant and on page 65 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Any questions? Comments? You've heard the motion all those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion to dissolve this meeting.

Moved and seconded. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

Motion carries.

The annual town meeting dissolved at 3:28PM.