

TOWN OF ROCKPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
SATURDAY – APRIL 5, 2014
ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL

MODERATOR: We now move on to the Annual Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting started at 10:29AM. It was moved, seconded and carried to omit the reading of the warrant.

TOWN CLERK, PAT BROWN read the Officer's Return.

MODERATOR: The last article of the Special Town Meeting was Article P so if anybody feels that they need to take a break please do so. We're going to take the next Article out of order because of the emergency nature of today's events and that is Article M is going to go first and then we will go into our numbered Articles.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article M.

ARTICLE M: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation exempting the position of Police Chief from the Civil Service Law, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition.

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE POSITION OF POLICE CHIEF OF THE TOWN
OF ROCKPORT FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the position of police chief of the Town of Rockport, shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Section 1 shall not impair the civil service status of any persons serving in the position of police chief in the town of Rockport on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER SARAH WILKINSON: I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation exempting the position of Police Chief from the Civil Service Law as set forth in article M in the warrant, and on page 62 of the April 5, 2014 town meeting Voter's Booklet provided that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Any discussion? Or first any discussion, comments from the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee or I'll hear from Chief McCarthy if he wants to speak.

TOM MCCARTHY, CHIEF OF POLICE: Mr. Moderator, thank you very much for moving this article. (Moderator: A pleasure Tom) As you know we're very busy right at this time trying to locate an Alzheimer's patient so as far as the article goes I do not support this article. As the

chief, I have nothing to lose, I'll be retiring in the near future, I have no ax to grind with any department. I'm not supporting this article because I don't think it's in the best interest of the police department; I don't think it's in the best interest of the town and I think if this article passes it will have a profound effect on the future of your police department.

The primary function of a police chief is to run the police department and to provide public safety and the decisions the chief makes are sometimes difficult and civil service provides a certain amount of protection to a chief of police in that civil service was originally incorporated into the town some fifty-four years ago and basically what it does it protects the chief from outside sources politically or otherwise that would influence a chief's decision making process and that's basically why civil service was originally brought forth to the town. As far as our department goes we're a small department we don't have a lot of opportunities for advancement. We don't have a lot of opportunities that you get in a bigger police department where you have detectives, you have gangs you have all kinds of other opportunities whether it's K9 or drug enforcement. In our department our police officers wear many hats and that being said they need their protection as well even if you vote to take the police chief's position out of civil service, your police officers will remain in civil service through attrition until the last person hired.

What's more important is in-house candidates are vested in the community. They plan their career here. They raise their families here. They care about their community. They're part of you, they're part of me and they care about what's happening in their community. If outside sources are brought forth there is no guarantee that you are going to have that. For me personally, I have many, many people that come into my office that want to talk to me about personal issues or they're having problems with their children and so forth and over the course of many years, I've been the chief for nearly eighteen years and on the force for about thirty-six years, I've developed a lot of relationships professionally and personally with many of you here today and that's very important for a chief to have. The trust, they know when they come into my office and they want to talk to me about a confidential situation that it's never going to leave my office. I have things in my files that nobody will ever see and I would never volunteer them. I will give you an example. When I first became chief, I'm not going to mention any names, there were some conflicts between a couple of the selectmen and another selectmen. The third party came into see me to talk about that conflict and about many, many issues going on in that person's life. I did my report. I did the investigation and it stayed with me but one of the selectmen approached me and demanded that I give him that report and I said "No, I will not give you that report. That report contains confidential information that you're not privy to." Well that particular party went right to District Attorney's office and tried to force me to turn over that report. Fortunately the District Attorney's office agreed with me and that report was never released but it was really to discredit another person, another rival.

The local needs of the town are well known with every member of our police department; not just the chief but all the members of the police department. When you bring in outside resources many times it's like headhunters they put their names in, they'll put their names in to be a candidate for the police position here in Rockport and they may stay three years, they may stay five years and build up their resume and oftentimes, talking to many chiefs they move on to another police department where there may be more money or better opportunity for them. A civil service chief basically stays with the department. Chiefs really don't lateral out too often. They're committed. They stay with their police department. They care about their community and they are dedicated to the police department. I'll give you another example, in Ipswich they've had five chiefs in the 54 years that they've been in civil service. They took the chief's job, the fire chief's job out of civil service and since then they've had ten fire chiefs, twice what they've had for police chiefs.

My position on this is I don't support this article and I'm asking you not to support this article. You have many, many fine people on your police department that are ready and willing to step up as soon as I retire and I feel they deserve that opportunity. I feel they should be protected by civil service so they can make the decisions without being influenced by anybody and make the decisions on their own, so that being said I hope you do not support this article. Thank you.

Applause.

PAUL MURPHY, BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Good morning, Paul Murphy from the Board of Selectmen I want to make something completely clear we have a fantastic police department

without exception, from the patrolmen to the sergeants to lieutenant and we are very, very lucky to have a chief like Tom McCarthy (applause). This vote and it will, town meeting will determine it and I think that's where it should be. This vote will only remove the chief's position from civil service all other positions: lieutenant, sergeant, parole officers are not affected to today's article. This would not affect the current chief it would start with the new chief when we hire a new police chief. If today's vote is affirmative the article will go forward to the state legislature and that will go through their process. Many people across the commonwealth, not all people, but many people across the commonwealth believe that the civil service system is broken and that's why we brought this to the town meeting. Many towns across the commonwealth have removed the civil service aspect of it and we're going to decide today if the town meeting wants to do that. Civil service no longer certifies appointments or promotions even this change has not brought about any relief even the simplest requests take them a long time to respond. Removing the town from civil service allows greater flexibility in hiring the town can decide what is important in picking its next chief of police and it's not dictated by the commonwealth, the town of Rockport would decide. The Selectmen support this and let's see what happens when we all vote. Thank you.

TOM DELANEY – 70 Eden Road – First sort of a disclaimer I'm also a member of the Personnel Board. I am not speaking for the Personnel Board and as far as I can remember this has not been considered or brought up with the Personnel Board. So I just wanted to have that disclaimer first. I really have two types of questions and I want to say that I think the chief makes very good points. The first question is sort of a technical one but that is what would be the role of the Personnel Board either implementing the changes or in the new system that is set up so that's one question. But furthermore, I wonder what is meant specifically by the proposal which refers to taking the position out of civil service. Civil service is a generic term and Mr. Murphy just referred to the civil service system. It means a lot of things to a lot of people so what is it that we're really being asked to approve today.

Wikipedia which I don't think, you know, would meet many academic requirements nor is it sitting on the replacing the law books in many law offices. Wikipedia gives just two definitions. It says the term civil service can refer to either a branch of governmental service in which individuals are employed or hired on the basis of professional merit as proven by competitive exam so it's a generic definition in that case or they say it's the body of employees in any government agency other than the military. So again just what is it that this article would do? According to the town meeting voters booklet it would exempt the town from Chapter 31 of the general laws regarding the town police chief. I went and read an article in the past issue of the journal Police Chief magazine and it was on this subject and it stated that there were 233 pages on the rules and precedents of civil service in Mass General Laws, the title Chapter 31. So I wonder has the town reviewed with counsel all 231 pages to see what the implications would be? And if there is a...in using a term as common and sometimes misconceived as civil service it only refers to employment sometimes people only refer to employment examinations or rules and is that specifically and the only thing that we're referring to here and let me, let me just say in closing sort of a personal comment, personal comment not personnel my first job in public personnel I had to learn the difference between personal and personnel and how to spell it. I did that..it reminds me..I'll get to my point in a second.

I took an engineering drawing class for a semester of college that quickly convinced me I wasn't meant to be an engineer but one of the things you had to learn to do because I went to Union College in Schenectady New York, was how to spell Schenectady I ruined about the first five drawings that I did because I misspelled Schenectady. My apologies to any Boston College hockey fans who may be in for a disappointment at the frozen four next Saturday night but on the campus of Union College there's one statue it's for Chester A. Arthur who is our presidential alumnus. What did old Chet ever do? You look up the only thing you'll usually see Chet credited for is he was the father of civil service. This was about 130 years ago. Fifty years or so ago my first job out of Schenectady I went to work for the New York State Civil Service Department advising municipalities on personnel matters like how to be good policemen. Now I would be the first to admit certainly in the last 130 years, certainly in the last 50 years many, many times the personnel system and the policing systems have changed but you do have

MODERATOR: You are just about out of time Mr. Delaney.

TOM DELANEY: Ok you do have where the police and government come together. You do have politics and I think there's an important need to consider the implications of this change. Thank you.

MODERATOR: And attorney Klein is going to respond to your comments. He has memorized all that material and he told me he can spell Schenectady.

LINDA SANDERS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Would you like me to answer the first part of the question about the involvement of the Personnel Board? I'll just answer the first part about the involvement of the Personnel Board, it would be unchanged whether it's civil service or not because it happens back at the recruitment. If we could get a list from civil service we would have to use that list. If we don't have civil service we still have to do the same kind of recruitment and due diligence. We still strongly encourage everybody from inside to apply, nothing's precluded there. It's just the matter of the list and the role of the Personnel Board they would stay the same in the recruitment process whether it came from a list or not which would be a representative would be on an interviewing panel prior.

DARREN KLEIN: From Kopelman & Paige through the Moderator: This does not involve the entire 232 pages it's simply involves the police chief position. If this article is seeking to remove the entire police department from civil service it would involve a lot more issues. From a legal standpoint it really involves two issues the most important; the biggest issue is the hiring and recruitment of the police chief. Under civil service law basically an examination is held and there can be interviews but ultimately civil service will certify a list. At most the town would be able to pick from three candidates and that's only if three candidates pass the examination. There are many times with the police chief and the fire chief examination that fewer than three people pass so under civil service law in the best case scenario the town would be able to choose from one of three candidates. If the town did not pick the top person on the list the other people on the list who were higher, so for instance if the town picked the third person the first and second person would be eligible to file an appeal with civil service commission alleging that it was an improper bypass. So basically it can become a very long and expensive process and really again the town is limited at most to be able to pick one of three candidates and again I do state that if you look at some of the recent examination results it's not uncommon for less than three people to pass so that the town may be bound to only hire from one or two candidates. If the police chief position is removed from civil service than the town would have a lot more flexibility as the board said in hiring candidates from adding different criteria that they wanted as far as experience and education and other issues they would have a lot more flexibility. It does not in any way state that just because the town may leave civil service that every current member of the department would still be eligible to apply for the position and there's certainly nothing if this action is approved today that would in any way prevent any current police officer from being the next police chief or the next police chief down the line. It just increases the flexibility of what the board can consider and possibly how many candidates they can consider. And then really, the only other legal issue that would be dealt with is currently under civil service law a police chief is essentially given life long tenure in the position meaning he or she can only be removed for just cause, which is a pretty high standard. The town has also adopted in my understanding what's referred to as the week chief police statute which is Chapter 41 section 97. That also gives protection in that a police chief can only be removed for cause during his or her term of appointment and under section 97 a police chief can be appointed for up to three years so if the police chief position is taken out of civil service then at the end of every three year period, if that's the term of the appointment, it would be an option for the Board of Selectmen to possibly not reappoint the existing police chief. Currently under civil service like I said it's a lifelong appointment and you would need just cause to terminate. Again, under section 97 even if civil service is removed you would still need cause to terminate a police chief during his or her appointment but if at the end of a three year term or the end of six, a subsequent three year term the Board of Selectmen felt that they wanted to go in a different direction they would have the ability to do so.

JOANNE WILE: I do not support this motion. Just because the selectmen support it we don't have to be blind followers. Civil service came into effect to fight corruption. People were getting to be police chiefs who were very influential or had friends. We have a wonderful police department here a lot of patrolmen get on the police department but they don't stay, they use it as a stepping stone to go somewhere else. Some of our good policemen have gone to Boston but those who have stayed they should be commended and they should be supported and especially

our chief and our chief says no to this motion and I think that as a vote of confidence to our wonderful police department we should vote no on this motion.

HERB WESCOTT: Do you have any clout with the Moderator, Sarah? (laughter from the Moderator) Mr. Moderator – Herb Wescott, Allen Avenue – I'd like to direct four questions to the chief through you. First of all, how long has he been a resident of the town? Secondly, how long has he been on the police force? Thirdly, how long has he been chief? And fourth, how many men and women has he recommended to the Board of Selectmen for appointment?

MODERATOR: O.K. he's answered a few of them but he can do that again. Chief.

POLICE CHIEF TOM MCCARTHY: Could you repeat that? (laughter) I moved here when I was thirteen years old. Mr. Wescott: How long have you been on the police force? Chief: Thirty-six years Mr. Wescott: How many years have you been chief? Chief: I'm going on my eighteenth year. Mr. Wescott: How many men and women have you taken before the Board of Selectmen to be selected to be on the police force? Chief: Over an eighteen year period? Mr. Wescott: A reasonable guess. Chief: Probably 12...15 Mr. Wescott: How many of them have been rejected by the Board of Selectmen? Chief: How many what? Mr. Wescott: How many of your candidates or the people brought forth for approval have been rejected by the Board of Selectmen? Chief: None. Mr. Wescott: Thank you sir.

MODERATOR: Are you now or have you ever been a member of Communist Party? (laughter) Sorry.

HERB WESCOTT: I want to in the dialog that's come about in this particular matter there's been some talk about why the police chief should be a member of the community. How well does the police chief know the community and know what's going on in it? The Chief and I have had perhaps three telephone conversations most of them of a personal nature. The first one I remember clearly lead to a minor altercation and when we were completing a conversation the Chief said is there anything I can do to help you Mr. Wescott? And I said yes, sir what do I have to do to get a permit to carry a gun in this town and the Chief said to me "Mr. Wescott as long as I'm Chief you're never going to get a permit." (laughter)

I would ask anybody in this town to point to me any business, any agency, any company, corporation where an individual starting out at the bottom of a ladder has an opportunity to move upward, forward take on additional responsibility and hopefully promotion and you can't tell me one. Every member of this board or its predecessors have given unanimous approval to every selection or every person that the chief has taken forward including the last appointment or the inclusion of the office lieutenant all your comments have been unanimous. All your comments have been full of praise. To take this step now, in simple logic would be to say that you do not agree with how the department has been run. Who is in it or what your confidence is in the long term. Having said that and since this motion requires a majority vote and since the attendance here to me seems rather scarce I would amend the motion.

To have it set forth at a time future for additional discussion and a more logical sense presentation of why the Board of Selectmen thinks we should politicize the office of chief of police. Thank you.

MODERATOR: We have to deal with that motion now and that's why we like to get them ahead of time and the motion as phrased is out of order and does not comport with our bylaws so we're not going to consider that motion. Anything further? We'll hear from the Selectmen first and then we'll keep going around.

SARAH WILKINSON: Good morning. I didn't prepare to speak on this because I didn't think we would have to but just a few things that have been said that I think we should clear up. By no means at all as the chief actually opened his comments do the selectmen and the police department have any issues whatsoever with hiring support we could not support our police department more fully I think than we already do. The issue that's before us is purely a position that we want to take out of a program that's been basically broken. In looking for the next police chief, whenever that is, the selectmen will look however we can to find the best police chief possible and we hope that we can have, our next police chief will be as successful as our current chief and last as long or longer so to do that we need whatever tools are possible to do that and

we feel that taking this position out of civil service will give us the best possible opportunity and won't bind us in getting those candidates. As Darren Klein said earlier I think the key words he said were flexibility and being bound and if we take this position out of civil service it simply gives us the flexibility to create our own pool of candidates which we hope would include lots of current policemen in Rockport, people who live in our community but also anyone else who may feel that they could be successful in the job. So we are clearly trying to make it as successful a department as we have had for the last eighteen years.

(RETIRED)CHIEF TOM O'MALEY: Dodds Lane – I got on the department back in the early 60s and my goal then was to be chief of police. I worked hard. We have fine policemen in this department. We're almost a crime-free town and it's because of the diligence of the people that, the officers that we have today and they've all come up through guidance. They know the town. I know when I was the chief I knew a lot of things that, as the chief says, and just kept them to yourself but you (emphasis) knew who, what, when the characters, the ones that weren't characters. You've got a fine department. You've got a lieutenant that would make an excellent chief, you've got two sergeants that would make excellent chiefs and they know the town, they've lived here. I know I came in from Gloucester but I was here from the time I got out of the marine corp. until I married a Rockport woman and I've lived here ever since. And I have great respect for this police department and I'm proud of the men that are there now and I really think, that somebody said in the paper, it's kind of, you know, you've got an officer coming through who wants to be chief or he wants to be a sergeant or he wants to be lieutenant, you bring somebody in from outside they don't really know the town and I know a lot of departments have done it. I've heard pros and cons about when I go to chief's practices and I just feel that you've got enough qualified people in this department that they can take over as chief of police. The board still selects one of the top three and I know it gives an officer in this department a chance to study to be chief that won't pass the exam. Thank you.

EILEEN FORD: 25 ½ King Street – First of all let me say that I have nothing but pride in the police department of Rockport but after 28 years here I've noticed a lot going on in Gloucester and it seems to me that this was very beneficial for them so all I am saying is if there really is no risk at all or no insinuation of any problem with the present police department, in the future if we ever did have a problem we would have an option, as you said, to go more flexible and to go as Gloucester did. It seems to have been working out for Gloucester and when I realize it's a sore point to compare Rockport with Gloucester. At the risk of antagonizing everybody I think sometimes the close knit feelings you have in a small town can be as harmful as they are helpful and I would consider this as something for the future if we ever need it and if we don't we just keep on the way we are with a very good police department. Thank you. (applause)

MODERATOR: O.K. the man with one name, wait for microphone guy.

(SIDNEY) WEDMORE: 155 South Street – A question first: In under civil service does that limit the pool just to present members of *our* police department or can it be anyone in this Commonwealth of Massachusetts? And then a second question.

DARREN KLEIN: Under civil service law they, the Board of Selectmen, have two options. They can either request a departmental civil service list and in that case the only eligible candidates would be from the police department and again, that could be up to three people or it could be as little as one or two or sometimes even zero meaning that if nobody passed the examination the town would be required to make what's called a temporary appointment. The other option is the Board of Selectmen has the right to request a statewide list and again you would be limited to three people that could be three people from outside the town, that could be three people from within the department if they finish in the top three in the statewide examination or it could be a mix of whoever the top three score-getters are.

SIDNEY WEDMORE: Thank you, so if I understand it the Board of Selectmen right now has the ability to select from a wide universe of potentially able candidates.

DARREN KLEIN: Any time that they were going to make an appointment they have one of two choices. They could request a departmental examination and that would mean the only eligible people that would even take the exam would be from the Rockport police department or they have the option to request what's called a statewide examination and that would be open to a

pool of people both within the Town of Rockport police department and other police departments as well.

SIDNEY WEDMORE: In that case I'm even more perplexed because other than Mr. Murphy's allusion to somewhere someplace the civil service system is broken what compelling reason has come about that after fifty years of a workable police department endorsed by all of the present and previous chiefs here that we should change this? Is there an elephant in this room somewhere that we're not hearing?

MODERATOR: Just to let you know after we finish this particular article we are going to do a stretch break. Just to let everybody know. Anyone from the Board of Selectmen want to respond to that?

ERIN BATTISTELLI: To just address your question I think it was almost about two years ago that Chief McCarthy came to the board with calling for the lieutenant's exam and then soon after that there was an appointment of a lieutenant position and that was kind of a progressive move for the department. The chief made a really good case for that. Since that time our board has also hired three civilian dispatchers for the department and we have never had that before as well. So this is another example of sort of what we felt was a progressive move for the department.

DARREN KLEIN: I just wanted to point out one last legal related issue – again on the option of the statewide examination the reason why many communities do not go that route is because again you really are at risk of who may become, who may be on that list because again in the end you're only going to have a choice of three candidates. So that is why the statewide examination is pretty infrequently used because you really give up control at that point meaning you just have no idea who are going to be the three people which are going to be your only choices for that position.

LAURA EVANS: 77 High Street – I'm still puzzled about why the selectmen are suggesting this change and I'd like to understand. What it sounds to me like hiring criteria for a civil servant is based strictly on performance in a test? What's the difference between the hiring criteria for civil service and non-civil service? Question and then I have a comment.

MODERATOR: We'll have legal answer your question and we'll look to the selectmen to also answer it in just a moment.

DARREN KLEIN: Under civil service the traditional type of appointment is based mostly off of a test. There are certain scores given for things such as experience and education but it's only given a very limited weight on the final score – the main type of score is from an examination. There is another option if approved by civil service where you can build in, what's called an interview panel it's known as an assessment center but even that is given a score and the exam is given a main component. The again, at the end of that whole process what will come back is a list. Assuming three people pass the examination the board will be limited to appointing one of those three. Again, if less than three pass the examination under really any of those scenarios it will be a smaller group than three people.

LAURA EVANS: It seems to me that I'm not seeing a compelling reason to change the current system. I think the police force is doing a great job and that I'm with Chief McCarthy and I'm against Article M.

SARAH WILKINSON: I actually, I don't think it's it is a huge deal. The biggest change – difference is that if we were allowed if we could do if it was pulled out of civil service and the selectmen could do a search however we wanted we could form a search committee and then have a pool of candidates and those candidates would not be sent to us back, you know basically from the results of a test with us needing to choose from the top three. The candidates could be from all over including in town and then we could, you know, set up, I would, I mean I'm speaking for myself here but I would envision a search committee which would include, you know, selectmen and obviously town administrator, you know, I don't even know who else but it would be however we decided to get the best police chief. The reason that we're trying to do this now is because it's we're thinking that the current is going to retire in the near future as he said. We haven't had to do this in eighteen years so that's why it's coming up now. Nothing earth shattering has happened there's no kind of secret behind this. I think we've made, as Selectman

Battistelli said a few progressive moves in the past three years and surprise, surprise we're actually trying to do something a little bit out of the box which is the civil service system and trying to get, you know, a progressive department, a progressive department with the best possible staff that we can.

ROBERTA JOSEPHSON: 1 Seagull Street – My question is if Rockport stayed with the civil service process and got, for instance three candidates and the interview committee said we don't like any of them. Can they go back to civil service and get additional candidates?

DARREN KLEIN: It's a great question. The answer is that a list is generally, what's called the, active for a two year period so if three people were on the list that the board decided were not qualified to become police chief what the board, what the board, the board's not required to make an appointment they would have to for that entire two year period actually appoint a temporary or what's called an acting police chief who would not be a permanent police chief, he would just be in an acting or temporary capacity and they couldn't get a new list until that two year period expired.

CHARLES PETERMAN: I find this whole debate over Article M to be a little bit fuzzy and the reason is this Article M provides protections to the police chief as he serves and provides political independence that was the central point I believe our current chief was making. With regards to any relief to the appointment I don't understand why this is phrased as relief from the entirety of Article M as opposed to simple relief for the point of appointment while still affording the chief the full protection of the civil service, after the appointment was made.

MODERATOR: We'll hear from the other gentleman and then we'll get you an answer.

CHRIS DONATO: 146 Main Street – I was going to reiterate exactly what he said but also I don't see why we wouldn't want to have the best person for the job. I mean I don't think anyone is making any comments about the department as it is or the chief. Everyone thinks that they're great and we voted for the selectpeople to represent the town. I personally trust their decision and I don't see why we should pigeon hole them into picking one of three people. The best person for the job should be the person to get the job and hopefully they'll be able to assess whoever has an opportunity to apply.

DARREN KLEIN: The typical special legislation that's passed in most cities or towns looking to take a similar action is similarly drafted if not exactly. You can't quasi take a position out of civil service. It is conceivable that the town could adopt a bylaw giving the chief similar protections but you can't like half take a position out of civil service or at least I would say I'm not aware of special legislation where it's just sort of half taken a position out of civil service although again, it is an action the town can take an action to give any employee including the police chief similar protections through a bylaw change or even through, I guess, additional special legislation but again this is the typical form. One thing the legislature almost always requires is that the incumbent, such as Chief McCarthy, that the act not affect the incumbent in office but it would only apply to the successor.

MODERATOR: Anyone wanting to speak on this matter who has not spoken before.

BRUCE REED: Now I guess I'm a little confused about the whole debate. I think we as a town would feel pretty com..or I feel comfortable in knowing that the selectmen have more than three choices to pick from for being police chief. They can pick from within the force if they like, they can go outside if they like they can pick a patrolman if they like it just gives them flexibility to do the right thing. As far as, I know in my career I've done a lot of hiring I can't imagine having three people put in front of me based on a test saying these are the only people you can hire. So and I think it's the protection of the next chief that can be handled easily in the contract or bylaw so you know, I'm totally in favor of this proposal. I think it's the right motion.

JONATHAN RING: 9 Pooles Lane – I'm going to vote no on this um because we couldn't postpone it to another meeting for further study. The reason I'm going, it's not to say that we can't ever um exempt this out of the, the um, the service requirement um but if we're going to do that we need an alternative procedure, an alternative process and so a process for selecting a police chief whether it's a um subcommittees or search committees and so forth should actually be developed before we exempt the police chief out of the civil service exam. That would be the

right way to do it that way we know what the alternative is and we know exactly how we're going to proceed in the future of selecting the police chief. To not have that process in place before um we make the exemption um just basically might lead to a little bit of disorder and um in terms when that time does come to um select a new police chief um so I'd wait on this. I'd vote no. We can always bring the motion back at another meeting um when we have the process in place. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Anybody else who has no spoken on this. Wait for the microphone person.

MARCIA SIEGEL: 1 Castle Lane – We've been talking about how the selectmen choose the police chief. I believe the question is civil service also applies to protecting the person after they're hired.

TAMSEN ENDICOTT: 1 South Street – and just to throw my townie bona fides out there I've lived here all my life too and I'm very happy with the police department but to me this is an opportunity for us to be able to hire the absolute best candidate available to us whether that person comes from town or comes from across the bridge. Thank you.

HANK BETTS: I've had a lot of experience with either hiring people to be in leadership positions or being looked at myself. I've known lots of supervisors in leadership positions who shouldn't have taken the next promotion and fail at that position but they were wonderful in the previous position, guys who are were second or third command in a large plant who wanted to be plant managers and they got their job and failed at those jobs and should have been really happy being second and third command and in fact one of the, one of the wonderful things that we used to joke about is what you really need for you is a man with outstanding performance with no potential 'cause that guy will do a great job for ya. Sometimes people ah get to have a high potential and ahh a lot of time those people in private industry rise to a level of incompetence and they actually many times leave the corporation because they failed and if they hadn't taken that next step ahh they would have had a wonderful career. Now what does that have to do with ahh what's going on here it's just what the selectmen said they want a wider pool that's not to say that someone in Rockport isn't the most qualified or at least as good as anything else but when you start limiting yourself to the three people and and you're down to the third person who makes is a great whatever and you know that that that chief position just as Chief McCarthy says he's dealt with all kinds of situations aaaaa that the top person always has to deal with and it's different than black and white, law and order, it's how do I really deal with this situation ahhh and it's just it goes beyond taking a test. That test, I know how many guys and women taking tests aren't great on tests and you wouldn't put them in that leadership position ahh just cause, just because they passed a test. There's a lot more to and police, the police chief's job is, as our present police chief has shown, has demonstrated that goes well beyond a test and you have to be very, very careful and I think that's all the I wouldn't expect the selectmen to try and go outside the department if they had or outside of the town if they had someone equally qualified or close to being equally qualified they'd be crazy to do that ahh and why would they do that if why, why would they do that. I don't think they would but it's just the flexibility if they're down to someone who let's face it say ya know this guy's a law and order guy but he's not inflexible. That's probably not the guy you want as police chief and you want him right where he is. He's doing a great job ahh where he is so you need to think about that.

MODERATOR: O.K. we're hearing from people who have not spoken before.

SUSAN MORRIS: Babcock Road – Move the question.

MODERATOR: O.K. move the question, so that requires a two-thirds vote. All those in favor of moving the question raise their card. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign.

O.K. we're going to go right to the question. See the article, you can read the article. Does anybody have any questions about what it means? All those in favor of Article M please raise your voter cards. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

MODERATOR: Was there a question? LINDA SANDERS: He wanted the votes counted.

CHARLES PETERMAN: I felt that was not a clear majority. I'd like a counted vote.

MODERATOR: You want a what? I'm sorry, say it again.

CHARLES PETERMAN: In previous town meetings when we've had a close vote there's been a motion to have a counted vote.

MODERATOR: O.K. are you going to be a teller. We need some tellers. Anyone who wants to be a teller, please come forward.

The Town Clerk swore in the tellers and explained the sections of the voting areas. Tellers volunteering were Mel Michaels, Lee McNelly, Rob & Darlene Trumbour, Frances Fleming, Tamsen Endicott, Ed Hand and Charles Peterman.

MODERATOR: Please stay in place; we're going to do a standing vote in a moment. If you are here and you are a voter, other than a teller, please be seated. If you're a nonvoter, please go to your section in the back and be seated. Alrighty.

All those in favor of Article M please stand and remain standing to be counted. Division 1: 37 – Division 2: 12 – Division 3: 34 and Division 4: 25 (108 in favor) Thank you. Now please be seated.

All those opposed, now please stand and be counted. Division 1: 15 – Division: 2:16 – Division 3:12 – Division 4:12 (55 opposed)

The motion carries 108 to 55.

We will now do a stretch break.

TOWN CLERK: I will entertain a motion under Article 1.

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 BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHAIR ERIN BATTISTELLI: I move that the town designate the Treasurer to be the agent for the various trust funds of the town.

Moved and seconded

TOWN CLERK: Any comments? Discussion? All those in favor raise your hands. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

I will entertain a motion under Article 2.

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.

LINDA SANDERS: No motion

TOWN CLERK: I will entertain a motion under Article 3.

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*)

LINDA SANDERS: No motion

TOWN CLERK: I will entertain a motion under Article 4.

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 through E and I for salaried employees; and
- B. Compensation Schedule F for elected officials.

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

LINDA SANDERS FOR PERSONNEL BOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID KEARNS: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedules A through E and the Compensation Schedule I for salaried employees, 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.

Moved and seconded.

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? Seeing none, we'll take a vote. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay.

The motion carries.

LINDA SANDERS FOR PERSONNEL BOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID KEARNS: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedule F 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.

Moved and seconded

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor raise your hands. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

TOWN CLERK: I will entertain a motion under Article 5.

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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALLY HESS: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$26,016,841 for all items under the FY15 FinCom Recommendation column in the Table of Estimates under Article 5, as printed in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet on pages 44 through 50, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive, and as funding therefor, raise \$24,530,720 and transfer the following sums from the designated accounts for the purposes specified, namely,

- \$ 16 from Cemetery Perpetual Care to 402 DPW Cemetery
- \$104,475 from Ambulance Reserve to 231 Ambulance
- \$ 53,879 from Parking Meter Fund to 212 Traffic and Parking
- \$ 46,127 from Parking Meter Fund to 293 Parking Clerk
- \$150,000 from Waterways Improvement Fund to 295 Harbormasters
- \$168,666 from Free Cash to 131 Reserve Fund
- \$116,156 from CPA Fund to 700 Debt and Interest
- \$455,531 from Water Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs
- \$391,271 from Sewer Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs.

With two exceptions at the bottom of page 50 in that the sum of \$178,596 Department 305 North Shore Vocational Tech assessment be replaced by the amount of \$306,280 and the Public

Education Total and the Grand Total reflect the same adjustment amounts which totals become: \$13,631,925 and \$26,016,841 respectively.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen this is kind of an important part of our town meeting, dealing with the budget. There are two places you should be looking – one page 43 and going forward 44 of the booklet and we're going to handle this the way we normally do. I'll go through each section, Moderator is 114, Selectmen is 124 etc. and I'll go through that in a little bit after we hear from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, we'll do that the same way we always do it. If you want to have further discussion on any particular section we're going to do the holds as we always do. The numbers are going to look a little bit differently this year than they have in previous years and that is explained at page 10 of your Voters Booklet and in a moment the Chairman of the Finance Committee will go through some of these changes with you and make introductory remarks so that you understand the budget items and you see some of the changes this year and it will make a little bit more sense to you. Chairman Hess.

WALLY HESS CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Before we go through the detail of all the budget numbers, the Finance Committee thought it would be a good idea to outline the major elements of the Town's finances, both spending and revenues. Hopefully most of you have had an opportunity to read through the Report of the Finance Committee that begins on Page 10 of your Voter Booklet. In addition to a brief financial overview, this report describes the key financial decisions for today. It then discusses some of the highlights of Article 5, operating budget before laying out the key elements of operating expenses and revenues. We believe the decisions you make today should be made in the context of these elements.

The total proposed spending, in the aggregate is \$32.6 million, and is comprised of the following parts:

\$25.9 million for the Town and Schools Operations, which is Article 5, I'm going to use numbers, the numbers that you see in the book before the amendment that was just suggested because of the North Shore Voc Tech change so \$25.9 million is the Article 5 numbers that's the bulk of the budget today and that's for town and school operations.

\$1.4 million is for Capital Items, which is Article 6,

\$3.5 million of spending is through the Enterprise Funds and those funds are funded solely by Water & Sewer rates there's no tax cost to the Enterprise Funds,

And in addition there's \$1.8 million of School spending that's funded by sources outside of the Town, for instance school choice would be one of the major ones.

The \$32.6 million includes \$275,000 which the School Committee, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen are recommending where we increased the annual funding to the schools, we did this so as to avoid an override this year.

Our waterfront as you heard earlier is one of our major assets, but it also can be a large and unpredictable expense. Compared to other towns our size it requires a larger share of both our operating and capital budgets.

Our annual debt service expense will increase by close to \$600,000 in the next couple years, just to pay for capital projects approved in the past few years and those being requested by the Town at this Town meeting. This, along with other increasing needs, will make the Town's budget very tight in the next couple of years.

Similar to most towns in the Commonwealth, Rockport has significant unfunded liabilities for pensions and for health care, health insurance for employees our auditors estimate that the aggregate of these unfunded liabilities is about \$45 million. In addition there are many important upcoming capital needs that could exceed over the next few years \$20 million. So we have our work cut out in the future.

Now we don't have time today to talk through all of the elements of the Finance Committee report. However, we thought it would be instructive to go through one part of it. We chose to discuss the Schools portion of the report in a little more detail, since it represents more than half of the Town's budget. Although the School Committee is solely responsible for the school budget, we have described in the report its major elements along with the financial support it receives from the Town and from non-town sources. I will run through the highlights of these numbers now. So please turn to page 16 of your booklet, we're going to walk through some of the numbers on page 16. The way this is set up is we have three columns of numbers. The first one is the actual numbers for FY13 which ended last June. The numbers in the middle column are the year that we are currently in and the numbers that you see here are the numbers that were appropriated last year at this town meeting and then the FY15 column is what's in this year's budget. So let's look through these for a couple of minutes. The top third of the page, roughly is all of the fully loaded expenses of the school system. The middle third of the page looks at all the sources of revenue that the schools get and then the very bottom of the page is some adjustments that I will refer to toward the end.

Rockport Public Education			
Expenses	FY13	FY14	FY15
Labor	\$ 9,356,755	\$ 9,650,211	\$ 9,955,131
Operating Expense	\$ 853,294	\$ 870,580	\$ 817,826
SPED Outside Services	\$ 1,384,687	\$ 1,875,188	\$ 1,713,916
Needed to Operate - Direct Expenses	\$ 11,594,736	\$ 12,395,979	\$ 12,486,873
Other School Expenses Paid by Town:			
Debt Service (700)	\$ 274,075	\$ 168,575	\$ 215,884
Pensions & Benefits (900)	\$ 2,304,519	\$ 2,379,633	\$ 2,382,201
North Shore/Essex Voc. Tech.	\$ 143,838	\$ 162,217	\$ 178,596
Retired Teacher Health Insurance	\$ 284,947	\$ 352,998	\$ 425,820
Total Other Expenses	\$ 3,007,379	\$ 3,063,423	\$ 3,202,501
Total School Expense	\$ 14,602,115	\$ 15,459,402	\$ 15,689,374
Revenue			
Town Contributions:			
Base Funding - ATM Appropriation	\$ 9,780,672	\$ 10,232,038	\$ 10,727,560
One-Time SPED Expense Contribution		\$ 253,000	
Debt Service (700)	\$ 274,075	\$ 168,575	\$ 215,884
Pensions & Benefits (900)	\$ 2,304,519	\$ 2,379,633	\$ 2,382,201
Retired Teacher Health Insurance	\$ 284,947	\$ 352,998	\$ 425,820
North Shore/Essex Voc. Tech.	\$ 143,838	\$ 162,217	\$ 178,596
Total Town Contributions	\$ 12,788,051	\$ 13,548,461	\$ 13,930,061
Independent Revenue:			
School Choice	\$ 924,927	\$ 1,155,000	\$ 1,150,768
Circuit Breaker	\$ 207,805	\$ 240,991	\$ 320,000
Grants	\$ 418,445	\$ 300,000	\$ 275,000
Fees	\$ 103,349	\$ 120,000	\$ 75,000
Total Independent Revenue	\$ 1,654,526	\$ 1,815,991	\$ 1,820,768
Total School Revenue	\$ 14,442,577	\$ 15,364,452	\$ 15,750,829
Note: The Town receives Chapter 70 from the State, and Medicaid payments from the Federal Government. It pays School Choice Sending.			
Total Town Contributions (from above)	\$ 12,788,051	\$ 13,548,461	\$ 13,930,061
Less Chapter 70 Reimbursement	\$ (1,304,118)	\$ (1,324,168)	\$ (1,377,981)
Less Medicaid Assistance - SPED	\$ (88,522)	\$ (60,000)	\$ (88,000)
School Choice Sending	\$ 102,676	\$ 164,069	\$ 154,605
Funded from Tax Levy	\$ 11,498,087	\$ 12,328,362	\$ 12,618,685

Let's start at the top. Obviously the overwhelming largest expense is labor and that's salaries for everybody in the school system whether they be teachers, administrators or whomever works for the school system. The next thing is all the other operating expenses of running the school building and the associated expenses that are non-labor expenses. The third line is SPED outside services, that's special education. Let me spend just a minute on special education because it's an important part of the School Committee's budget. The overwhelming majority of the students who require special education actually receive that in the school building during school hours. The school department has special education professionals that work with those students for some of their school day and those students also by and large attend most of classes with the rest of the students. The line here that says Outside Services refers to the minority of the students who need to be dealt with outside of the school system where the Rockport school system just does not have the resources to deal with some of these very intense situations and you can see that line is very volatile – it went from \$1.384 million two years ago up by about \$500,000 to this current year and then we think it's going to go back down, or the School Committee thinks it's going to go back down by about \$150,000 or so in the coming year. Very volatile number I want to come back to that in a moment. Anyway, the sum of those three lines is the “needed to operate” budget. That's the budget that the School Committee deals with they have sole control over that between them and the school administration. So that is what you see in their bottom line budget the \$12.486 million.

Now there's another \$3.2 million worth of expenses incurred by the schools that are not in their operating budget but are paid by the town and you can see the overwhelming bulk of that \$3.2 million is pensions and benefits for active employees and also the retired teacher health insurance, makes up virtually all of that additional amount of money that is spent. The town pays those expenses directly outside of the school budget, in addition to the school budget. So the aggregate amount of money that is spent by the schools is \$15,689,000.

Now let's look and see where that money comes from. The first line down under Revenue is the town meeting appropriation. That's the number \$10.727 million that we'll be voting on today. That's the number that has been requested and has been recommended by the Finance Committee. Then when you look at the next four lines of numbers those are merely recitations of the numbers that are paid directly by the town so that they're the same as the other school expenses paid by the town up above. So the total town contribution is \$13.930 million.

Now in addition to that the school, as I mentioned, they have what we call independent revenue, which is revenue that comes into the school system that is not provided by the town. There's a \$1.8 million of that. About two-thirds of that money comes from school choice. As you're probably aware the school department has about 200 students that are non-Rockport residents that have opted to come in to the Rockport school system and the school system receives something, a little bit more than about \$5,000 for each of those students.

One other line that is worthy of note is called Circuit Breaker and not self-explanatory. Circuit Breaker is an amount of money that comes from the state to partially offset some of the expenses of the SPED outside services. It's meant to dampen down some of the wild swings SPED outside services which the School Committee does not really have control over. Anyway, that's another set of independent revenue.

So you can see the total school revenue of \$15.750 million is roughly equal to the total school expense so things are reasonably in balance this year. I want to make a note at the very bottom of the page because the town actually doesn't experience the whole \$13.930 million of contributions it has some adjustments to that the largest one is a Chapter 70 grant that comes from the state. We expect that to be \$1.377 million this year, that's what's in the governor's budget so that will come in to help offset some of these expenses. We also receive some money from Medicare for certain SPED students that require medical services and then the town pays directly when Rockport students opt out of the Rockport school system. You can see not very

many do but that's another adjustment so the very bottom line of what the school system costs the town is \$12.618 (million) and change.

I want to make just one more comment before we start with the numbers. I want to talk about SPED one more half minute. We're going to be recommending this year to set up a new thing called a SPED stabilization fund. It was part of our discussions with the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen earlier this year to help eliminate the need for the override. One of the requirements or one of the concerns of the schools was that as you can see that SPED outside services number bounces up and down a lot. So we're going to recommend establishing this SPED stabilization fund that will help dampen some of those swings. You'll hear more about that later when we get to Article K.

O.K. I think we're ready for the details.

MODERATOR: All right. Turn to page 44 in your booklet. I'm going to through the departments and if you want to hold for further discussion any of these sections please, when we get to that section say "Hold". Are you ready? O.K.

The moderator read off the department numbers. The departments held were 122, 124, 131, 147, 161, 400, 510, and 914.

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
114	MODERATOR				
	Stipend	122	125	128	
	Operating Expense	113	113	114	
		235	238	242	
	Pension & Benefits	2	2	2	
		237	240	244	
122	SELECTMEN				
	Five Selectmen Stipends	7,191	7,191	7,191	
	Town Administrator	108,807	110,980	114,860	
	Assistant Town Administrator	55,000	60,000	61,200	
	Office Manager	42,021	42,651	43,504	
	Meeting Support Clerk	5,814	5,900	6,018	
	Operating Expense	30,216	30,895	35,054	FinCom printing expense
	Audit Services	36,000	53,000	36,000	One time audit in FY14
	Youth Center Operations	41,000	41,410	48,000	
		326,049	352,027	351,827	
	Pension & Benefits	91,501	122,828	140,629	
		417,550	474,855	492,456	
124	SELECTMEN COMMITTEES				
	Economic Development Committee Expenses	56,559	56,559	31,559	Reduce FY 15 by \$25K
	Historical & Historic District Commission Expenses	152	152	500	
	Town Art Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000	
	Millbrook Meadow Committee	274	274	275	
	Rights of Way Committee	2,304	2,304	3,304	
	Beautification Committee	640	640	1,000	
		61,929	61,929	38,638	
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE				
	Operating Expense	5,885	5,883	1,100	FinCom printing transferred to BoS
	Reserve Fund, less transfers granted	277,654	303,500	303,500	
		283,539	309,383	304,600	
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT				
	Town Accountant	72,884	80,760	70,000	Beginning range for new hire
	Town Accountant Staff	89,914	93,699	95,573	
	Operating Expense	29,199	23,010	22,495	
		191,996	197,469	188,068	
	Pension & Benefits	63,074	70,986	68,071	
		255,071	268,455	256,139	
141	ASSESSORS				
	Assessors Stipends	3,183	3,231	3,296	
	Assistant Assessor	53,560	54,363	55,450	
	Assessor Clerk	33,204	33,297	33,960	
	Operating Expense	5,383	5,412	4,910	
	Outside services	12,110	12,110	1,660	Expenses transferred to IS&T
		107,440	108,413	99,276	
	Pension & Benefits	82,876	89,240	87,029	
		190,316	197,653	186,305	
147	TREASURER/COLLECTOR				
	Town Treasurer	69,587	71,050	72,471	
	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	45,142	45,820	46,736	
	Other Salaries/Wages	74,354	75,780	77,292	
	Operating Expense	38,472	42,340	41,349	
	Outside Services	29,470	29,530	29,598	
	Tax Title Fees	16,052	16,045	16,060	
		273,077	280,565	283,506	
	Pension & Benefits	80,710	94,508	96,131	
		353,788	375,073	379,637	
151	LEGAL - Fees & Expenses	113,022	114,149	116,433	

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,046,576	1,147,454	1,171,848	
	Operating Expense	1,081,936	1,127,817	1,118,740	
	ATM Authorization	2,128,512	2,275,271	2,290,589	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	127,908	22,263	150,565	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	429,421	503,110	570,817	
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,685,841	2,800,643	3,011,971	
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
210	POLICE DEPARTMENT				
	Police Chief	108,891	110,890	116,300	
	Police Lieutenant Salary, incl shift diff	77,402	92,508	96,041	
	Police Sergeants	221,274	240,006	248,637	
	Police Officers, incl OT, Court Time and Shift Diff	818,711	814,433	839,939	Base pay level funded pending new contract; 25,000 in OT savings
	Civilian Dispatchers	4,533	100,533	96,000	
	Other Staff Salaries & Wages	84,123	86,291	87,732	
	Personnel Expenses-Uniforms, Training, Travel	28,861	28,859	29,453	
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance	41,195	41,195	41,477	
	Facilities Expense	42,420	42,595	42,770	
	Equipment Maintenance-Radio, Computer	39,520	39,518	37,034	Copier exp transferred to IS&T
	Telephone	14,750	14,750	9,417	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
	Other Operating Expense	10,100	10,100	10,100	
		1,491,780	1,621,678	1,654,900	
	Debt Service	211,273	207,580	203,000	
	Pension & Benefits	398,530	434,919	448,077	
		2,101,583	2,264,177	2,305,977	
212	TRAFFIC & PARKING				
	Sergeant Stipend	6,433	7,800	7,956	
	Parking Meter Attendants	11,545	11,545	11,775	
	Personnel Expenses per Contract-Transportation	16,626	24,625	24,866	
	Operating Expense	8,981	16,578	8,996	
		43,586	60,548	53,593	
	Pension & Benefits	261	281	286	
		43,846	60,829	53,879	
215	LIFEGUARDS				
	Lifeguards (Seasonal)	21,204	45,504	46,414	
	Operating Expense	7,918	7,918	7,918	
		29,122	53,422	54,332	
	Pension & Benefits	307	660	673	
		29,430	54,082	55,005	
220	FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Fire Inspector/Chief	18,917	18,917	21,720	
	Firefighter Stipends (AOC)	116,521	116,525	118,855	
	PT, Seasonal & Special Labor	5,744	5,814	5,930	
	Personnel Expense-Training	13,504	17,004	17,303	
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance, Equipment	21,068	22,065	22,285	
	Facilities Expense-Heating, Electrical	33,580	33,580	45,648	
	Other Operating Expense	6,504	6,503	5,721	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		215,839	220,408	237,462	
	Debt Service	128,660	131,700	131,184	
	Pension & Benefits	19,108	20,272	19,316	
		363,607	372,380	387,962	
225	FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Forest Fire Warden Stipend	3,062	3,154	3,217	
	Deputy Stipends	4,333	4,350	4,437	
	Firefighter Stipends	16,769	17,030	17,371	
	Labor, Part Time	1,212	1,210	1,234	
	Operating Expense	3,115	3,109	404	Internet exp transferred to IS&T
		28,491	28,853	26,663	
	Pension & Benefits	368	373	381	
		28,859	29,226	27,044	

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
231	AMBULANCE				
	Department Head	8,223	8,223	8,387	
	Direct Labor (Stipend)	78,220	79,920	81,518	
	PT Labor & EMT per call Wages	28,027	28,024	28,585	
	Personnel Expense-Training, Dues	9,090	9,090	9,181	
	Vehicle Expense-Maintenance, Fuel	6,409	7,409	7,483	
	Outside Services-Billing, Medical	21,715	21,715	21,932	
	Other Operating Expense	11,156	10,155	9,246	Phone/internet exp to IS&T
		162,840	164,536	166,332	
	Pension & Benefits	1,669	1,684	1,718	
		164,509	166,221	168,050	
241	INSPECTION SERVICES				
	Building Inspector Salary	65,445	67,880	69,238	
	Part-time Labor	42,964	43,121	43,380	
	Operating Expense	6,584	6,950	6,745	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		114,992	117,951	119,363	
	Pension & Benefits	51,048	56,923	57,257	
		166,040	174,874	176,620	
249	ANIMAL INSPECTOR				
	Animal Inspector Stipend (APT)	1,672	1,748	1,783	
	Operating Expense	230	230	130	
		1,902	1,978	1,913	
	Pension & Benefits	24	25	26	
		1,926	2,003	1,939	
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT				
	Director's / Deputy's Stipends	4,250	4,378	4,465	
	Operating Expense	750	750	-	
		5,000	5,128	4,465	
	Pension & Benefits	62	63	65	
		5,062	5,191	4,530	
292	DOG CONTROL				
	Dog Officer Salary (APT)	8,883	8,158	8,321	
	Assistant Animal Control Officer	3,602	3,765	3,840	
	Operating Expense	4,486	4,485	3,980	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		16,971	16,408	16,141	
	Pension & Benefits	181	173	176	
		17,152	16,581	16,317	
293	PARKING CLERK				
	Hearing Officer Stipend	1,225	1,237	1,288	
	Parking Clerk	15,022	15,172	17,424	
	Operating Expense	3,331	3,358	2,773	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
	Admin&Collection Services	24,130	24,130	24,371	
		43,708	43,897	45,856	
	Pension & Benefits	236	238	271	
		43,943	44,135	46,127	
295	HARBORMASTERS/SHELLFISH				
	Harbormasters	42,594	43,230	44,095	
	Assistant Harbormasters	3,665	3,830	3,907	
	Asst Shellfish Officer & Warden	3,371	3,531	3,602	
	Seasonal, Part-Time	17,191	11,972	12,211	
	Equipment Maintenance-Radios	6,767	7,441	7,515	
	Boat Maintenance	9,230	10,153	10,256	
	Float, Ramp Repair/Replacement	27,977	28,954	29,244	
	Office & Other Operating Expense	11,477	15,610	15,380	
		122,272	124,721	126,210	
	Debt Service	-	-	3,785	
	Pension & Benefits	30,592	32,428	31,855	
		152,864	157,149	161,850	

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
297	HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE	515	515	515	
	PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,845,029	2,000,700	2,055,602	
	Operating Expense	431,989	459,343	452,143	
	ATM Authorization	2,277,018	2,460,043	2,507,745	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	339,933	339,280	337,969	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	502,385	548,040	560,102	
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	3,119,335	3,347,363	3,405,816	
400	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS				
	ADMINISTRATION				
	Stipends, Salaries & Wages	196,345	240,090	244,692	
	Office Expenses	35,949	34,691	21,869	Phone/copier transferred to IS&T
		232,294	274,782	266,561	
	Pension & Benefits	63,175	71,258	78,568	
		295,470	346,040	345,129	
	PUBLIC PROPERTY (incl parks & seasonal)				
	Wages, Regular & OT	306,733	330,460	336,713	
	Operating Expense	276,517	290,008	195,067	
		583,250	620,468	531,780	
	Pension & Benefits	140,041	149,280	151,393	
		723,292	769,748	683,173	
	HIGHWAY, GENERAL (incl gar, water, wastewater, OT)				
	Wages, Regular	243,827	254,821	259,918	
	Wages, OT	36,928	13,482	14,342	
	Highway Expense	222,205	226,495	228,761	
	Garage Expense	74,531	73,357	73,479	
		577,490	568,155	576,500	
	Pension & Benefits	103,265	110,348	113,285	
		680,756	678,504	689,785	
	HIGHWAY, SNOW & ICE				
	Wages, Regular	35,803	37,191	37,934	
	Wages, OT	38,692	39,272	40,058	
	Operating Expense	39,986	40,388	40,388	
		114,481	116,851	118,380	
	Pension & Benefits	11,193	14,505	15,114	
		125,675	131,356	133,494	
	TRANSFER STATION				
	Wages, Regular & OT	100,139	110,733	112,773	
	Operating Expense, mostly haulage	282,954	285,322	286,664	
		383,093	396,055	399,437	
	Pension & Benefits	32,926	35,121	36,060	
		416,019	431,176	435,497	
	CEMETERY				
	Wages, Regular & OT	106,479	113,367	115,574	
	Operating Expense	8,928	9,320	9,415	
		115,407	122,687	124,989	
	Pension & Benefits	52,831	56,339	57,039	
		168,238	179,026	182,028	
	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,064,947	1,139,416	1,162,004	
	Operating Expense	941,070	959,582	855,643	
	ATM Authorization	2,006,017	2,098,998	2,017,647	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	716,173	494,444	572,127	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	403,432	436,851	451,459	
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	3,125,622	3,030,293	3,041,233	

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
500	HEALTH AND WELFARE				
510	BOARD OF HEALTH				
	Board Members Stipends	-	-	546	
	Sanitary Inspector	33,358	33,860	34,535	
	PT Admin Asst	15,292	15,525	15,836	
	Seasonal Labor - Beach Testing	1,254	1,275	1,298	
	PT Public Health Nurse	5,790	6,420	5,591	
	Operating Expense	25,350	26,700	22,050	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		81,044	83,780	79,856	
	Pension & Benefits	21,757	23,620	24,025	
		102,802	107,400	103,881	
541	COUNCIL ON AGING				
	Director	41,176	41,175	41,998	
	Clerical Part Time	-	2,400	2,448	
	Operating Expense	15,176	14,641	13,487	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		56,352	58,216	57,933	
	Pension & Benefits	26,967	28,526	28,381	
		83,319	86,742	86,314	
543	VETERANS SERVICES				
	Veterans Agent Stipend	3,117	3,165	3,228	
	Operating Expense	520	520	520	
	Veterans Allowances	60,000	60,000	60,000	
		63,637	63,685	63,748	
	Pension & Benefits	45	46	47	
		63,682	63,731	63,795	
	HEALTH AND WELFARE SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	99,987	103,820	105,480	
	Operating Expense	101,046	101,861	96,057	
	ATM Authorization	201,033	205,681	201,537	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	48,770	52,191	52,454	
	TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	249,803	257,872	253,991	
600	CULTURE AND RECREATION				
610	LIBRARY				
	Department Head	69,532	70,575	71,987	
	Other Direct Labor	252,663	264,237	265,343	
	Operating Expense	4,217	4,213	4,253	
	Energy	28,230	28,230	28,512	
	Library Materials (19%)	94,000	96,764	98,055	
	Contractual	43,200	43,953	46,096	
		491,843	507,972	514,246	
	Debt Service	-	-	1,860	
	Pension & Benefits	138,342	147,432	148,286	
		630,185	655,404	664,392	
630	RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE				
	Recreation Director (incl seasonal labor)	26,997	27,000	27,540	
	Clerical Part-time	12,960	12,960	13,219	
	Operating Expense	6,699	4,370	10,060	
		46,656	44,330	50,819	
	Pension & Benefits	391	392	399	
		47,048	44,722	51,218	
635	GRANITE PIER				
	Seasonal Labor	12,569	12,755	12,755	
	Operating Expense	8,989	8,989	8,989	
		21,558	21,744	21,744	
	Pension & Benefits	182	185	185	
		21,740	21,929	21,929	

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
638	THACHER & STRAIGHTSMOUTH ISLAND				
	Direct Labor	5,150	5,150	9,200	
	Fuel	6,000	6,000	6,000	
	Other Operating Expense	4,550	4,550	4,550	
		15,700	15,700	19,750	
	Pension & Benefits	75	75	133	
		15,775	15,775	19,883	
692	MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE	2,609	2,608	2,608	
	CULTURE and RECREATION SUMMARY				
	Labor	379,872	392,677	400,044	
	Operating Expense	198,494	199,677	209,123	
	ATM Authorization	578,366	592,354	609,167	
	Debt Service	-	-	1,860	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	138,991	148,083	149,004	
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATIONAL	717,357	740,437	760,031	
700	DEBT AND INTEREST				
	Maturing Debt Principal	1,234,000	894,000	889,000	
	Maturing Debt Interest	242,093	248,593	274,272	
	Temporary Debt Principal	-	-	188,696	5-Year Computer Plan
	Temporary Debt Interest	1,728	24,110	11,803	
	TOTAL DEBT AND INTEREST	1,477,821	1,166,703	1,363,771	
900	OTHER				
911	RETIREMENT FUND, ESSEX REGIONAL	1,067,646	1,198,469	1,376,414	
912	NON-CONTRIBUTORY PENSION	9,572	-	-	
913	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	25,000	50,000	50,500	
914	GROUP INSURANCE				
	Health	3,773,640	3,839,678	3,812,910	
	Life	11,639	11,639	12,803	
		3,785,279	3,851,317	3,825,712	
916	FICA/MEDICARE	187,875	225,001	232,033	
917	SICK LEAVE / BUY-BACK	57,538	87,720	89,474	Reduced to guideline
940	INSURANCE EXPENSE	370,255	382,765	418,411	
943	FUND TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND	86,081	-	-	
	TOTAL OTHER	5,589,245	5,795,272	5,992,545	
	ARTICLE 5 TOWN DEPARTMENT SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	4,436,411	4,784,066	4,894,979	
	Pension & Benefits (Incl in 900)	2,828,390	3,032,874	3,191,933	
	Operating Expenses	3,210,871	3,231,045	3,150,117	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	1,203,746	998,128	1,147,887	
	TOTAL ARTICLE 5 BEFORE SCHOOLS	11,679,418	12,046,113	12,384,916	
	PUBLIC EDUCATION - TOWN CONTRIBUTION				
300	Base Funding from Town - ATM APPROPRIATION	9,780,672	10,232,038	10,727,560	
	One time SPED Contribution	-	253,000	-	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	2,304,519	2,379,633	2,382,201	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	274,075	168,575	215,884	
305	North Shore Vocational Tech-ATM APPROPRIATION	143,838	162,217	178,596	
	TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION	12,503,104	13,195,463	13,504,241	
	GRAND TOTAL ARTICLE 5	24,182,522	25,241,576	25,889,157	

Adjusted NS Voc 306,280 Total Public Education 13,631,925 GRAND TOTAL 26,016,841

MODERATOR: The Chair will entertain a motion to vote on all non-hold items. Do I have a motion from somebody that the town appropriate the sum set forth in the fiscal year 2015 recommended budget column except for the items that were held.

WALLY HESS: So moved.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. We are voting on the items that have not been held. Anyone have any questions on that? We'll do the numbers afterwards but we're voting on everything not held. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

That motion carries.

Now, let's talk about the hold items. 122 anyone want to discuss 122?

TOBY ARSENIAN – 95 Granite Street – in fact I'm puzzled whether I want to subtract at this point or when we come to general pensions and benefits towards the very end. If you look down at the bottom of

the section 122 Selectmen Pensions & Benefits in the right handed recommended column we have a figure \$140,629 I move to subtract \$51,575 from that sum which would leave, if my addition is good, subtraction, \$89,053. These are the funds that pay for the insurance benefits for the Board of Selectmen and members of their family and from what I've been informed by town counsel any town employee who receives a stipend is eligible for these benefits. It's my feeling that people who serve on the Board of Selectmen do so out of love for the town and their fellow citizens. The stipends I think are a mistake because they would not conceivably begin to properly recompense the people for the amount of effort that they put into the job if they do it anything like properly. So the stipends merely cloud the issue but the stipends are if not nominal they're a negligible sum. That's not true of the health insurance benefits. Fifty-one thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars is not small change and such expenses are only liable to grow. I'm sure at what time the Board of Selectmen chose to avail themselves of these benefits. I think it's improper that they should be doing so. I understand that it is all together legal. I've got here a letter from the Town Administrator that I'm not quite sure how to interpret as to what will happen if we vote against the benefits which is what I'm suggesting that we do.

Certainly, members of the board are not serving in the hopes of getting these benefits or at least we hope they're not serving in the hope of getting these benefits and presumably they won't all turn tail and run and quit in a fit of pique if they're deprived of the benefits and we'll be fifty, we'll be \$51,575 richer. Perhaps we'll hear from the Board of Selectmen how they justify taking the benefits.

MODERATOR: In a moment I'm going to have town counsel respond because we had anticipated this issue. Toby was kind enough to provide us with his inquiries ahead of time but I will tell you at the outset that it will be improper and delving into personal matters to talk about any individual person or to ask any individual person or groups of people whether they take or don't take any particular benefits. So we're talking about the numbers and the issue as a whole and not asking anybody to give that personal information at this meeting. So I'm going to turn it over now to attorney Klein.

DARRIN KLEIN: Thank you. Darrin Klein through the Moderator – I thought it would be helpful for town meeting just to get a brief summary of the Massachusetts laws on public employees and health insurance so very quickly I'll summarize for you, all employees and elected officials who work more than twenty hours a week are eligible by law. The town is required by law to offer health insurance to any employee, any paid employee or paid elected official who works at least twenty hours a week. Unpaid elected officials or unpaid employees are not eligible for health insurance. The third category is elected officials who are paid through a stipend who work regularly less than 20 hours a week. They are eligible for health insurance through a vote of the Board of Selectmen so it's the Board of Selectmen not town meeting who has the authority to make certain elected positions eligible for health insurance. It's my understanding that the decision on which elected positions are eligible for health insurance was made over twenty years ago so that process and practice has been in place for at least twenty years. If town meeting doesn't provide sufficient funding for the town's health insurance costs it automatically gets added to the towns' tax rate under General Law Chapter 32B, Section 3. Obviously the Board of Selectmen can amend or change its vote on which elected positions are eligible for health insurance however we almost always, I would say always advise that to the extent the board was going to change a long standing practice of vote of which elected positions are eligible our advice is always make that effective at the end of any current elected official's term of office to avoid any possible legal or due process that challenges for getting essentially a benefit taken away in the middle of a term. So although the board does have the ability to change its vote to add positions, to delete positions which are eligible for health insurance and again we're only talking about elected officials who are paid who regularly work less than twenty hours a week our advice is that any such change should be implemented at the end of any current officials term of office.

KAY HAPSHE: 21 Curtis Street – I view health insurance as an equitable issue. If we limit the serving on the selectmen's board to those that can obtain insurance elsewhere I feel will prohibit those who are willing and able to take on this herculean task of helping with our town's management and I am adamantly in favor of any health insurance costs being applied for the selectmen that is necessary and appropriate.

TOBY ARSENIAN: It seems that we are not able to choose what we are voting to support. You're left with all of Article 5 and with the impression or at least I had the impression that we were picking and choosing in what we would pay for and now we're told that we're not picking and choosing. That if we

don't agree to fork over the money, that is if we don't approve the additional fifty-odd thousand dollars that it comes out of the tax rate anyway so you're not in a marvelous restaurant choosing from an extensive menu you're strapped down and being forced fed. That's what it amounts to and when Darren Klein says that it would only be proper, we're not talking about legal but proper to terminate the benefits at the end of the terms you may remember that the terms of the selectmen are all staggered so at that rate we could never terminate the benefits and I'm inviting the Board of Selectmen who are in session during the course of this meeting to pause and decide to take a vote to terminate the benefits for all town employees who take the stipends. I'm asking them to do that now.

MODERATOR: And Toby when we get ready to vote I'm going to need a figure by which you want to change 122. Okay. I'll need it again..okay.

FRANCES FLEMING: 12 Pleasant Street – I feel like this benefit is quite expensive for the town and I think that if you have available to you when you serve in this position other means of subsidized health insurance you shouldn't take the towns'. I'm a retired teacher and my former school that employed me pays my health insurance up to 70 percent. I could have dropped that and taken the town's health insurance paid in full I chose not to partly because I was afraid I might screw up my teacher's health insurance I have to say but when you work for a place or somebody in your family does and health insurance is available to you paid I have a problem with the town paying it. That's my personal stand.

MODERATOR: And just a little bit of correction there, it doesn't pay, the town doesn't pay in full, they pay 75%. Anybody else who hasn't spoken on this.

HERB WESCOTT: Just a question for information. In terms of elected officials, is there a necessity in number of years served as an elected official before you can assume you will have lifetime payment or does it end when service ends?

MODERATOR: There is no lifetime payment but I'll let Mr. Klein answer that.

DARREN KLEIN: Darren Klein through the Moderator. Any employee, whether elected or appointed, is only eligible for insurance as an employee while they're employed by the town. The day they leave the employment whether it be through not running for office, through losing their seat, or through retiring/resigning they are no longer eligible for health insurance as an employee. A retiree of the town is eligible for health insurance but for elected officials the only way you could even potentially be eligible for what they call credible service is if you earn at least \$5,000 and it's my understanding that none of the selectmen earn a stipend that's at that amount so none of the board members could add these years of service as selectmen to become a retiree.

JONATHAN RING: 9 Poole Lane – I'll vote in favor of Toby's motion because it is expensive for the town on a single individual plan it could be as low as three to four thousand dollars that's the 75 percent kicked in or as much as a family plan up to seventeen thousand dollars the 75 percent kicked in, upwards of that amount. You know it varies between those two amounts obviously and the amount could be, you know, reduced and spent elsewhere so that's why I would vote in favor of the motion. Thank you.

JOHN PENALOZA: 46 Main Street – You mentioned that the stipended positions could be eligible for a certain type of coverage if they were in excess of \$5,000. Is that a year?

MODERATOR: I think you may be apples and oranges. I think the stipended positions are eligible and you only get credit towards retirement if you make \$5,000 or more per year.

JOHN PENALOZA: I see and are there any stipended positions that make \$5,000 or more per year?

MODERATOR: DPW Commissioners – is that true? No – no.

JOHN PENALOZA: And a second part of the question would be from what you mentioned in terms of the legal ramifications of offering the health insurance we would need to strip the stipends in order to eliminate the health coverage. Right?

DARREN KLEIN: Again for elected officials they would need to earn a stipend to be eligible for health insurance. That is correct.

MIKE LAMOUREUX: 128 South Street – I think being on the Finance Committee we recognize how much work and effort that the people, the selectmen put in. However, I don't think I can support the motion that Toby brought up because it basically is taking all the money out and taking out all the benefits. I do agree with Mrs. Fleming however that people who have group insurance and have eligibility to that group insurance and have a company that's willing to pay the 75 percent should not refuse that benefit in order for the taxpayers of Rockport to pick up that amount. I think the law was put in that if you had a person that was a realtor, didn't have any group insurance, the town would be glad to put them into a group program so they wouldn't have to pay an individual basis. Even though what is happening is legal, I don't know morally if I feel it's right. So I think that we probably have to go back and come up again next year with some sort of a motion that would say that if a person has eligibility to get group insurance that they would not be able to partake in the town benefits and those that did not have eligibility for group insurance would be able to partake. So I think that I'm in favor of providing benefits for those who do not have group coverage. I am not in favor of providing group benefits or have the town pay for people that do have group coverage and refuse it.

MODERATOR: And again, just to let you know that technically speaking this is not a town meeting question in terms of who does or does not get provided benefits. Right now we're just dealing with subtracting or a motion to subtract some amount of money from a budget item. In terms of the policy that is squarely in the hands of the Board of Selectmen.

HILDY FEUERBACH: 15 Pigeon Hill Street – Thank you. I think that this information today is very helpful. It is information that I've never really had the answers for so I think it's great. I do have a question as to whether or not a person serving on the Board of Selectmen is entitled to an individual plan or if they are entitled to opt for a family plan. Thank you.

MODERATOR: It would be either or. Anybody else?

LAURENE WESSEL: 18 Hodgkins Road – I'd just like to make a brief comment. I've worked in the private sector for over 25 years and as an employer I don't think that we could convince any employee to work 20 hours for \$3,000 a year especially with the Board of Selectmen that we have that is as qualified as they are and the credentials that they have and in the private sector if your husband or wife also has health insurance then it's your right to choose which health insurance policy better suits your family. It's your right. So I vote for supporting keeping the health insurance for the selectmen.

MODERATOR: O.K. the motion by Toby Arsenian is to reduce section 122 selectmen budgeted items by, if you would give us that amount again,

TOBY ARSENIAN: The amount which came from the selectmen's office is \$51,576 and clearly the only solution is to strip the selectmen of the stipends.

MODERATOR: O.K. so the motion is to decrease the budgeted item on section 122 by \$51,576. All those in favor please raise your card. Opposed the same sign.

The motion fails.

MODERATOR: So now we move on to section 124 selectmen committees.

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street – Under selectmen committees you have Economic Development Committee expenses at \$31,559. I move to decrease that by \$25,000 which would leave \$6,559. Up until two years ago we were giving the Economic Development Committee six thousand dollars and change, it says here \$6,559 and they managed just fine with that then they became ambitious or greedy and asked for an additional \$50,000 last year and the year before and the Finance Committee, I would say most improperly, voted to support it and the town meeting most generously, I won't say foolishly, voted to support it as well. In most towns these expenses are covered by the Chamber of Commerce. Here we are expected to pay. We are told that tourism supports the town, it seems to be a generally accepted truth only it turns out it's not true. Tourism does not support the town. This isn't my notion. The Finance Committee has investigated how residents make a living and it turns out that 7 percent of the population makes a living out of tourism, 7 percent a small minority. So this is a subsidy for private enterprise, a subsidy for a small minority. If you're feeling generous we could pay for insurance for various people. We could pay for secretarial help for the town's lawyers, doctors, insurance agents; we could pay for insurance for the town's carpenters, plumbers, landscapers. You rightly recognize those suggestions as absurd. Paying for the advertising budget of the Chamber of Commerce is in no way different it is a bad habit we have fallen into, it is a bad habit we can no longer afford. If none of that strikes you as making sense ask yourself a question two years later and the better part of \$100,000 spent is the town a better place to live in? Two years later the better part of \$100,000 additional spent ask yourself is my life here any better?

MODERATOR: Mr. Wescott, wait for the microphone person. My, what a nice microphone person we have.

HERB WESCOTT: I've got a case on Sara. We kick this corpse down the road about every year. The last time I attended an Eco Development Committee meeting was by invitation on August the 11th, 2011. I'm not going to argue about budget assessments, money to be spent. I'd like to have in my account

everything that's been spent on consultants within this particular group. But from August the eleventh twenty-eleven when the outgoing Chair stated that we would have a grocery store and an inhabitant in what would have been the Blacksmith Shop by the end of the year and as that committee has organized over the last several years the same statement has been made – my curiosity is will we ever see a grocery store?

LANA RAZDAN: I must make some adjustments so, sorry. It's tough being short. Yes, we do kick this around every year and I'd like to answer a couple of questions. First of all, as the current Chair of the Economic Development Committee I have never promised anyone a grocery store or made those statements. Those are attributable to the former chairman. And in answer to Toby's questions the committee is not about promoting tourism. We have a very broad charge which is promoting the Town of Rockport and that covers a lot of territory so what we have done over the last few years that I've been the chairman is to try and get to the bottom of what is driving both the demographics in the town which we know are a huge problem. If you look around you you will see that most, you don't see a lot of young people in this room. We know that our real estate we have a lot of second homes we would like to see more younger families moving in. That's a huge problem it's been put to me by various committee members that it's something we need to work on and it's obvious to me we do need to work on it. The other thing as Toby mentioned is business development, is Genzym going to relocate to Rockport? I don't think so. But what other firms might be willing to move here and if we don't have a grocery store yet why don't we. We have a lot of anecdotes, a lot of people's opinions on things what we don't have is really hard data. As a volunteer committee that doesn't get a stipend, doesn't have a secretary, and just has people working on these questions voluntarily we've been using your funds to really try and explore those issues and come up with some real data and then we can come up with solutions. It's not about promoting tourism at all although that is a very important, even if it's 7%, it is important to our business base. I would refer you to page 68-69 in your booklet. Anticipating Toby's questions about what we do I wanted you to be under no doubts about the things that we've done. In fact, in previous years we did not spend the entire allocation we were given because quite frankly I'm not a great fan of use it or lose it. My feeling is if we didn't have anything solid to spend your funding on then we wouldn't spend it and we would turn it back to the town which is what we did.

This current year we have had a really energetic period and we're looking at several things to address just the questions that I mentioned earlier. One of the most exciting things is we're in the process of doing a business blueprint. We are having a very well credentialed economist Barry Bluestone do a business analysis of our town. He is going to get us some real economic data that we can push against and then we will put together a group of just about any concerned citizen that wants to attend to look over his results and to try and come up with an action plan for how we can attract business to the town and what kind of businesses realistically those could be. We can say we want a certain type of business but whether we have the things to attract it is another question and before we expend resources on spinning our wheels I think we really need to know what exactly we are able to attract. That's one thing, another way we're addressing the issue is we're doing real estate assessments. We're putting together a focus group of young families who have recently moved to town that have children in the school system and try and figure out what brought them here, what are they looking at, what social media, what are the price points of their real estate, what are the real issues? Not what we think are the real issues but what are they really. We're also developing a questionnaire which will go out to a broader survey to answer those same sorts of questions and once again may I mention this is all volunteer driven we don't have any consultants. We don't have anybody working on this but us. We also like to leverage our funds in conjunction with the four cultural districts which you may know about on Cape Ann we have worked to develop a smart phone application which can be used by someone who's preplanning a visit here or who is here and wants to do business or to go to a certain restaurant or stay at a certain inn that's beneficial for all of us and by working together with other groups that have like-minded goals we're being able to leverage the funds that the town has given us into something that we couldn't possibly afford to do on our own. Next weekend you will see people out on the street, sidewalks between Dock Square and the train station – we're doing way finding, there is much like the freedom trail in Boston we have a bunch of volunteers who are going to be putting together pathways to better lead people from the train station to downtown to our historic sites to our beaches to our retail establishments reduce the sign clutter and we're doing it in conjunction with the MBTA and also with the Chamber of Commerce getting information in their publications. The last thing is promotional outreach. This is the one that most people might consider fluffy but if we're trying to reach people who want to move here, people who want to do business here, we need to get them where they are and that is on social media, that's a 24-7 thing now it's not enough to just have an ad in the newspaper or a print booklet that you send out to people. You have to be on this all the time. Once again, it's a volunteer committee with people who have other things that professionally that they do we don't have the time or the expertise to do this so we do need someone in a professional capacity to do that.

We are not trying to replace the Chamber of Commerce because that is targeted towards a very narrow base of paying members. Might we benefit some people in town who are members of the Chamber? Of course, our job is to benefit everybody here. We're working very hard to do that we did get our budget reduced on the recommendation of the Finance Committee this year by \$25,000. I respectfully accept that because obviously the town has other pressing needs but I would suggest if you want to see the future

vitality of this town you need to address your demographics and you need to address your business base, and no one has done that as of yet and we're working hard to do that so I'd appreciate your continued support to do that by funding us as it's suggested in the booklet. Thank you. (Applause)

MODERATOR: Anybody else before we wrap this up with Toby giving us the motion? All right Toby, go ahead.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I already gave the motion, hard-hearted to deprive them of the \$25,000. It is a subsidy for private enterprise whatever else you may call it. I'm glad that Lana Razdan and her committee returned the money that was not spent to the general fund; actually that's a requirement not generosity. If you've not spent the money or encumbered it, that is contracted to spend it, it has to go back to the general fund. I'd be curious to know how much has gone back out of the \$100,000 additional. When we hear about attracting young families to Rockport yes indeed that sounds appealing. I look around and I realize that a fair number of us are elderly and the young don't come and maybe that's true about the real estate in town as well. The real estate is pricey, so pricey that young families are fenced out and nothing that the Economic Development Committee might do or wish is going to change that in any way. As for luring businesses to the town I would think in a free enterprise society that it is up to businesses to do the research to find the appropriate places for their own setups that it's not an appropriate function of local government to subsidize private enterprise in that way.

MODERATOR: O.K. the motion before you is to reduce the Selectmen Committees 124 by \$25,000. All those in favor of making that reduction, please raise your card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

We move on to 131 Finance Committee.

TOBY ARSENIAN: 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: No real dollar amounts so no need for a vote. We move on to 147 Treasurer/Collector. Is there a motion? All right, we move on 161 Town Clerk. Is there a motion?

PAT BROWN: 3 Jerden's Lane – I move that the town amend the amount set forth and recommended by the Finance Committee column, item 161 Town Clerk for warrant Article 5 as follows: Town Clerk from \$61,200 to \$65,000 for a total Town Clerk budget of \$116,317.

Moved and seconded.

PAT BROWN: The discussion of salary increases at town meeting is very difficult. I feel the time has come to present my case and ask for your support. Since the year 2001, the clerk's salary has not kept pace with the rest of the non-union salaries in town. Town Hall non-union employees have received not only cost of living increases but also merit increases and bonuses. The Town Clerk, as an elected official, is not considered eligible for merit increases of any kind. As a result, the Town Clerk's salary has fallen far below the salaries of other personnel. The Town Clerk presently is the lowest paid department head. This amendment seeks to bring some parity to the Town Clerk's salary.

The slide that's up is from the proposed salaries for FY2015 and it's taken from the Personnel Board Compensation Schedule. As you can see the Town Clerk is far below the others. Even with this proposed amendment the clerk will still be the lowest paid department head in town.

Chief of Police	\$111,047.40
DPW Director	\$106,635.90
Town Accountant	\$ 82,375.20
Asst. DPW Director	\$ 79,976.93
Treasurer/Collector	\$ 72,471.00
Library Director	\$ 71,986.50
Inspector of Bldg.	\$ 69,237.60
Town Clerk	\$ 61,200.00

I'd also like to add that there are four department head assistants presently who make more money than the Town Clerk.

The position of Town Clerk has many responsibilities that have increased dramatically over the last ten years. Rockport is fast coming into the electronic age with more and more digital manipulation being required, not only locally but at the state and federal level. A few examples of these duties include: archiving and digitizing vital records from 1840 forward; scanning, copying and adding new records that

can be searched electronically; skillfully using software programs such as Voter Registration Information System, Vitals Information Partnership, Data National Corporation, excel, access, word and adobe acrobat; certifying official forms for births, deaths, marriages and business certificates for easy computer access; implementing the use of computers at the polls and creating spreadsheets for easy tallying of votes - this particular item won't be necessary if you vote for Article 6 which would be requesting electronic tally machines – certifying and distributing budgets for all town departments following the annual town meeting; continuing education on digital information.

Citizens come to the Town Clerk for answers. The Town Clerk's knowledge of how this municipality works helps all Rockporters wade through the process of working with public boards such as the Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, the Historical Commission and the Conservation Commission. Whether it be to file an application or simply to get information on how the Board works, the Town Clerk is your best source. Citizens are sure that if no one else knows, call the Town Clerk, who will be able to tell you how to get it done. Want to run for public office, maybe start a special interest committee or get an article on town meeting floor, where do you start, the Town Clerk.

I am asking that you support my amendment. Other employees of the town have their performance evaluated and are given recommended merit bonuses. This is an opportunity for the public to evaluate the job that I've done and will continue to do in the future. As an elected official I am answerable to you and I take my responsibilities very seriously. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Any discussion?

ED HAND: 20 Landmark Lane – I would like to see the same numbers for FY2005. That would make the point very well. Do you have that? Perhaps through you, Mr. Moderator I could ask the Clerk to read those numbers.

MODERATOR: No I did not I was talking to town counsel. What was the question? He's getting them. 2005? We don't have them. O.K. Any further questions or comments on this particular item before we vote it?

WALLY HESS: Chair of the Finance Committee – the Board of Selectmen suggested that we, that the increase this year be 2% along with all of the other non-union increases that's because last year we made a big adjustment. You don't see it on this screen but you can see it in your booklet. We made a big adjustment, we had a discussion like this and we brought it up to what the board thought was the appropriate level so I think we were all worried about if we take one non-union individual and increase her by more than 2% the rest of the employees, who would be capped at 2% we'd have a problem so therefore we, we agreed wholeheartedly with the suggestion coming from the Board of Selectmen.

KAY HAPSHE: 21 Curtis Street – I know my next comment is going to sound like I'm giving money away but I am adamantly in favor of this increase. Frankly when I sat here and was reading through the list I was appalled to see the difference in salary ranges and the town clerk, to me as a resident, is a very valuable resource. When I go in, I ask a question, I get an answer. It's great. And I no way know you in any personal basis or manner. I don't even, frankly know, where you live. So on that aspect my comment is I do think this range of salaries is inequitable and I think it should be addressed and I don't think it's an issue of what the other staff members will request. I think it's an issue of fairness.

MEL MICHAELS: I would only say I hope you vote for this. If you think about this even at this level she's below everybody else in this kind of position. I almost made an amendment to raise it to \$69,237. I won't do that I understand the budget is very tight. If you were going to pay our town clerk by the hour and pay her overtime you couldn't afford her.

EILEEN FORD: 25 ½ King Street – I agree with what has just been said especially seeing that. I don't know much about salaries but in this town but doesn't seem like assistant to any group should be higher than somebody that does the job that good old what's-her-name does.

MODERATOR: Good old what's-her-name

TOBY ARSENIAN: I think the figures up on the screen are telling and persuasive. What might also be useful by way of comparison, if Pat Brown has it, are how much town clerks are paid in similar towns, towns of approximately the same population in this area that would give us also another purchase on what we're doing now.

PAT BROWN: It's difficult to compare town clerk's salaries to areas because the cost of living in various areas certainly is much more than in other areas. It also is that many areas, town clerks are going from elected to appointed. That's happening through the commonwealth. The town voted with a non-binding question just two years ago to keep this position elected. So if you look in comparison when the job is appointed it's substantially higher than when it's elected. So the comparison is pretty tough to make because you're not working with apples and apples, your working apples and oranges – elected vs appointment and then where it is that you live. It makes a difference with the cost of living and you all know that the town clerk *has* to live in town in order to run for election.

MODERATOR: O.K. you've heard the motion which is to amend section 161 Town Clerk by adding \$3,800. to the salary of the Town Clerk. All those in favor please raise your card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

Nice job Ms. What's-her-name

Now we move on to section 400 on page 48. I haven't missed any have I? Not bad for \$128.00 a year. Department of Public Works, administration. Is there a motion? Alrighty then. We move on to section 510 Board of Health. Is there a motion?

TOBY ARSENIAN: After what we've recently heard about the Board of Selectmen's health benefits I would think stipends would be a poisonous word and if you look at 510 Board of Health the very first line going across is board members stipends and there weren't any figures for 2013 or 2014 and now all of a sudden there's a figure of \$546. I move we eliminate the line item \$546. for board members stipends and adjust the total accordingly. Here again, as with the Board of Selectmen, we couldn't begin to pay the people who do the work Dr. Wedmore, Dick Merringer and Russ Sandfield for the hours that they put in. We're all indebted to them and we're also indebted to the health agent and I think it merely clouds the issue to be giving them stipends and as you've been made aware it could very well turn out to be the tip of the iceberg, just the sort of thing on page 6 the Finance Committee advises you against small expenses which then could or will balloon. So if you choose and this is an innovation here worth noting to fund this \$581..\$546 it's anyone's guess whether you're going to end up paying for health insurance for the Board of Health as well. I suggest that we eliminate the \$546 and I would like to know whether members of the Board of Health asked for this and why the Finance Committee, given their good advice to the voters about small expenses that then balloon, saw fit to recommend it.

SYDNEY WEDMORE: 155 South Street – Board of Health – I've been on the Board of Health for near thirty-six years I think this is a typographical 'cause when I started off the stipend was \$100 and it's gone up incrementally since then to what you have now. But that is a typo we have been getting stipends all along. If you want to do away with this I don't think it will make a hell of a lot of difference but hopefully you won't make me pay back the last 36 years of stipends. (Laughter)

MODERATOR: Anybody else want to talk about stipends? Alright, you've heard the motion to reduce that number by \$546 for the Board members stipends.

(Unknown): Sorry just one comment. Does a stipend also imply that that's eligible for health insurance then?

MODERATOR: They're not elected, right? They're appointed not elected so they're not eligible. So you're just taking away his hundred somewhat dollars.

You've heard the motion to reduce the Board of Health stipends by \$546. All those in favor please raise your card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

We now go ahead to Item 914 group insurance. Is there a motion there? No motion.

O.K. we voted on all of the hold items so now we have to have a motion which is on page 43 but we need to give the Finance Committee some time I guess to...

LINDA SANDERS – Town Administrator: I have the new numbers.

MODERATOR: Oh? You have the new numbers. You're good.

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator, I move to approve the held numbers.

MODERATOR: The held numbers as voted. We're now having a motion to approve those. We've discussed them all. It's been moved and seconded. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

LINDA SANDERS: O.K. Mr. Moderator I move that the town appropriate the sum of \$26,020,641. under the FY15 or as adjusted under the FY15 Fin Com recommendation in the Table of Estimates under Article 5 as printed in the town meeting voter's booklet on page 44 thru 50 all for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 inclusive and as funding therefore raise \$24,534,520 and transfer the following sums from the designated accounts as printed in the voter booklet.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: You've heard the motion. Any question on that motion? All those in favor. What should we do this time? Raise your voter's card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

We have a budget. Give yourselves a hand - APPLAUSE

We move on to Article 5A.

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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator – Finance Committee Chairman Wally Hess moves that the Town appropriate from Water enterprise fund revenues the sum of \$1,649,200 for all items under FY15 FinCom Recommendation column on the Table of Estimates under Article 5A, Water Enterprise for the operation of the Town's Water Enterprise on page 51 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5A: TABLE OF ESTIMATES				
	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
WATER ENTERPRISE				
Administration	66,457	67,454	68,803	
Direct Labor	456,563	467,985	477,345	
Overtime	18,047	18,318	17,664	
Fuel, Light and Power	161,278	171,890	173,609	
Operating Expense	171,471	194,486	190,722	IS&T
Clothing Expense	3,400	3,434	3,468	
Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Debt Service	158,402	162,857	231,529	
Shared Employees Wages, P&B	152,525	152,525	152,525	
Direct Pensions & Benefits	225,743	240,790	250,335	
Bldg/Liability Insurance	33,200	33,200	33,200	
Transfer to Sewer	1,501			
ARTICLE 5A SUMMARY				
Labor	541,068	553,757	563,812	
Energy	161,278	171,890	173,609	
Operating Expense	224,871	247,920	244,190	
Debt Service	158,402	162,857	231,529	
Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	412,969	426,515	436,060	
TOTAL ARTICLE 5A	1,498,587	1,562,939	1,649,200	

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion? All right. You've heard the motion, all those in favor please raise your card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

We move on to 5B on page 52.

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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator – Finance Committee Chairman Wally Hess moves that the town appropriate from sewer enterprise fund revenues the sum of \$1,801,596 for all items under the FY15 FinCom Recommendation column on the Table of Estimates under Article 5B, Sewer Enterprise for the operation of the town's Sewer Enterprise on page 52 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

ARTICLE 5B: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
		FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
SEWER ENTERPRISE					
Administration		72,457	70,499	71,909	
Direct Labor		435,511	446,723	455,659	
Overtime		16,918	17,171	16,495	
Fuel, Light and Power		230,060	232,360	234,684	
Operating Expense		239,799	241,507	245,878	Phone exp transferred to IS&T; Increased Gloucester chgs for extended lease
Reserve Fund		271,510	50,000	50,000	
Retained Earnings Deficit Reduction		37,083	37,083	37,083	
Debt Service		469,689	459,539	298,617	
Shared Employees		111,576	111,576	111,576	
Pensions & Benefits		210,375	224,673	251,995	
Bldg/Liability Insurance		27,700	27,700	27,700	
ARTICLE 5B SUMMARY					
Labor		524,886	534,394	544,063	
Energy		230,060	232,360	234,684	
Operating Expense		548,392	328,590	332,961	
Debt Service		469,689	459,539	298,617	
Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund		349,651	363,949	391,271	
TOTAL ARTICLE 5B		2,122,678	1,918,832	1,801,596	

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

That motion carries.

We move on to Article 6.

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*)

ARTICLE 6

FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY

Section A – General Fund			<i>Number 1</i> Paid From	<i>Number 2</i> Paid From	<i>Number 1</i> Paid From	
	Description	Requested	Free Cash	Borrowing	Other Funding	
General Government	Voting Machines	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000			
	Long Beach Survey	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000			
Information Systems & Technologies	School Network Upgrades	\$ 153,000		\$ 60,020	\$ 92,980	WAN Netwk Fnd
	School Intercom & Clocks	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		
Police	Cruiser Replacement	\$ 40,660			\$ 40,660	Pkg Mtr Fund
	Parking Meter Upgrades	\$ 49,000			\$ 49,000	Pkg Mtr Fund
					\$ 89,660	
Schools	School Pickup Truck	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000			
	Carpet Replacement	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Kitchen Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Bathroom Upgrades	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000			
Public Works	General Road Improvements	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			
	Hwy Drain Pipes & Equip	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Fuel Monitoring Equipment	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000			
	GPS – GF Portion (33 1/3 %)	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400			
TOTAL		\$596,060 \$408,040	\$ 253,400 \$225,400	\$160,020	\$ 89,660	\$92,980

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$580,040 for the items printed in the FY2015 Capital Outlay list on page 54 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet under Article 6, Section A – General Fund as items under number 1 and to meet this appropriation, \$253,400 shall be transferred from Free Cash, \$89,660 shall be transferred from Parking Meter Reserve, \$92,980 shall be transferred from the Wide Area Network account and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.

Moved and seconded

MODERATOR: Any discussion?

CHARLES PETERMAN: I see a line item for voting machinery. My chief concern with this is, as an electronics computer security professional, most of these devices have been found to be fraudulent or have potential for fraud and I'm fearing that we're going to incorporate a device that no person in this town and town administration has the ability to audit effectively. From Ohio through Nevada down through Texas and through Florida there have been massive incidents of fraud that have hinged on very expert knowledge of these automated voting systems. I would oppose the \$28,000 allocation if it's going to be used for such.

MODERATOR: Any discussions about fraud? Anybody from the town want to talk about...

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator, we have found a miscalculation in the original motion. May I repeat the motion or (Moderator: You may, please)

FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$436,040 for the items printed in the FY2015 Capital Outlay list on page 54 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet under Article 6, Section A – General Fund as items under number 1 and to meet this appropriation, \$253,400 shall be transferred from Free Cash, \$89,660 shall be transferred from Parking Meter Reserve, \$92,980 shall be transferred from the Wide Area Network account and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects.

MODERATOR: Since that is such a big discrepancy does anybody want to talk about that? Anybody with an abacas?

BILL WAGNER: Member of the Finance Committee – The discrepancy came about just in the wording of the motion, the table shows a total of \$596,060 and subtracting out the \$160,020 gives you the \$436,040 so the total Capital is \$596,060 comprised of \$436,040 and \$160,020. I think there were some modifications made in our deliberations that resulted in this higher figure at an earlier point.

MODERATOR: Thank you. Now let's talk about voting machines – fraud and voting machines. Anybody? Voting machine fraud. How these work. There was a question or a concern about voting machines being subject to fraud and the question is does anybody have any inside information on that?

TOBY ARSENIAN: After that confusion I'm glad the Finance Committee have at least a table to hide under if not a rug but I was not aware we had moved from the initial motion to discussing the line items. I move we delete the line item voting machines at a cost of \$28,000. I think Mr. Pitman has hit the nail on the head. The people who create these machines are very clever indeed. I'm a total dummy at even simple gadgets but the people who make them are very clever and so are the people who program them and unfortunately there are also, out there in the real world, people who are yet cleverer still who are able to jimmy the programs and the results that come out of the machines are not what went into them. What we have now is very simple and old fashioned and believe it or not it works.

I stopped on the way in to talk to the people who are checking off the voters who are also some of the people who run the votes through the machines when you go to vote and they say it works and they enjoy doing it and I believe they're paid a pittance, not a stipend that will entitle them to health insurance. They enjoy doing it and it works so if it isn't broken why are we going to fix it. Why are we going to spend all this money on machines when we don't know for certainty what will come out of them. I was there at the Board of Selectmen's meeting when the man who is going to sell the machines made his appearance and he a very jovial voluble person, he was a fine salesman. When you put in votes for write-in candidates those can't be counted by the machine. It has great abilities but not miraculous ones so those all have to be counted by hand. If you wish to vote for Toby Arsenian's dog Yaro for selectmen or Vermin Supreme for president you'll have to have it counted by hand and speaking of fraud I'm distrustful verging on paranoid but there have been instances in which there have been voting fraud. You read newspapers and you're aware of these things so what happens if somebody doesn't like the results that come out of the machine. I don't like them I say I want a recount. How much does that cost and as a matter of procedure what do you have to do to get a recount? I'm just one suspicious, disgruntled individual. Does it take a hundred people to petition to get a recount? How does it work? And I'd remind you what we have now plain human beings counting the ballots works just fine. (applause)

MODERATOR: Miss What's-her-name is going to talk about that.

PATRICIA BROWN: I came in on the tail-end of what Toby was talking about so if I miss something please...(Moderator inaudible). I just want to point out first of all these are tallying machines they only count the votes. So the process will be exactly the same, as you have been doing for years. When you go into the polls you will take a ballot and on the ballot all of the people will be listed and what you will do is take your pencil and color in the little circle next to the candidate that you want. It's similar to when you were taking the SATs in college. You're just filling in a little circle and then that ballot, which is a paper ballot, which you can count manually if you like or you can take it and you can put it into a tabulator. What the tabulator does is it reads the vote similar to when they were grading your SAT test

and it tells who, how many candidates get how many votes and at the end of the night you ask it to tabulate and it comes out with all of the information that you need and everything is counted. You'd know right away who won for selectmen, who won for Board of Assessors and it would be immediate rather than sitting there for sometimes until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning and counting ballots. Our ballot counters are the *best*. They do a wonderful job but this is more efficient. It's electronic. It's the way of the future. There are no hanging chads; it's still a paper ballot. If you have write-ins the machine recognizes there's a write-in on the ballot and it spits it out so that we can take those ballots and count them manually. It's the best of both worlds – we still have our counters working for us but we have instant gratification, we know immediately who's won and who's lost and for those people who have hung around town hall until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning that's kind of a relief not having to wait. Did you have other questions Toby?

Fraud? Everything is calculated. It's through a machine. If you feel that you need a recount you can do that. You would just come to the Town Clerk's office (I think recounts are within so many days – discussion between town clerk & moderator).

MODERATOR: This of course is of course differently then how they do it in Crimea.

DARREN KLEIN: My understanding is for an election, a non-ballot question, but for an election for office that only the candidates can actually petition for a recount; citizens can petition for ballot questions.

MODERATOR: So for now we're still talking about voting machines and there's a question in the back so please wait for the microphone person and please for now just voting machines and then we'll go down the list in a moment.

MARCIA SIEGEL: 1 Castle Lane – I find it a pretty expensive way to get a fast answer from the election. Twenty-eight thousand dollars is a lot of money.

JOHN PENALOZA: 46 Main Street – Also working in an IT background I have serious misgivings about the trustworthiness of many of the voting machines. There was actually a very good research done locally in Massachusetts at Harvard University and MIT where these voting machines were compromised by viruses inserted potentially even by a voter that could reprogram itself to export whatever count was necessary and then remove traces of it. Those cautions I don't think have ever been seriously addressed in the U.S. products available for voting, automated voting and I don't see a need to, by the convenience of a few hours on voting night, in exchange for what we have as a working manual procedure. We're lucky enough to be a small community that we can pull this off in one night without any problem and have full faith in our results so I don't see a reason to compromise that.

LAURA EVANS: 77 High Street – and I've run an electronic publishing business in town for over thirty years and I too am highly suspicious of voting machines and think if we have a human-based process that works we've got a small community. It's not the money I think going down the slippery slope of getting voting machines is a bad idea for our community.

MODERATOR: We're only going to have a few more questions on this.

MEL MICHAELS: I think efficiency is great but I don't think so in this case. I really like a paper ballot. I enjoy going in. I've helped sometimes count the ballots it's not that long, it's not that difficult. With all deference for efficiency and everything else that the town clerk... I really think that this is working here. I think we should keep it the way it is.

MODERATOR: Last comment on voting machines.

TOM DELANEY: 70 Eden Road – Would these be used at both the local elections and the general election? Or are we just talking local elections?

MODERATOR: All elections.

TOM DELANEY: O.K. so then I do understand that in the last congressional election now these were not the official results but the congressmen's office was unable to tell what the results were until Rockport called in and that was close enough and... because our tallying the ballots took longer.

PATRICIA BROWN: Tom is correct in what he says. We call into the Associated Press after an election has been counted and many municipalities call in quickly but Rockport sometimes there are, we have to wait until all of the ballots are counted and I will not call in with a preliminary number. I will only call in once I know what the number is so there are times when we call in quite late and they don't know what Rockport has until that final number is tallied. Is that what you were addressing Tom?

MODERATOR: O.K. so the motion is on that first line item on Article 6 to delete the \$28,000 requested for voting machines. All those in favor of making that deletion, please raise your card. Thank you. All those opposed please raise your card.

That motion passes so no voting machines for this year.

O.K. now, any other line items anybody wants to amend?

CAMILLA AYERS: 135A Main Street – more a point of clarification on the overall. Do I understand that the overall motion does not include the \$160,000 for IT and is that going to be requested in another motion or has that been deleted?

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator, it's in the borrowing – it's in the second part of this motion.

MODERATOR: O.K. Anybody else? Anybody other than Toby. Anybody who is Toby.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I move we delete the line item Parking Meter Upgrades at a charge of \$49,000 and adjust the total accordingly. These are the meters so gifted they can dance and sing. If you recall we bought \$50,000 of these treasures last year. I wonder if anyone has had \$50,000 worth of pleasure out of them. Perhaps that's a silly question. The meters are an investment. They're an investment of a very strange sort. You buy these and you will pay and pay and pay. The only way the Board of Selectmen can justify spending another \$50,000 on parking meters when we have parking meters that work just fine right now is because the board intends to raise the parking rates and in fact that is exactly what happened last year when we bought the first installment of these meters. Now somebody else can turn to the Board of Selectmen and ask them if they're fixing to raise the meters – meter rates again but you won't get a straight answer. You shouldn't get any answer at all because you have to hold a public hearing before raising the rates and at least in theory – underline in theory – the decision on raising the rates is not made until after you have held the hearing. But you've got to look to what has happened and judge from what will happen in the future from your experience that's not the \$49,000 the entire cost of this article. You might wonder what became of the old meters that were replaced with the dance and sing meters. You might hope that they were sold to some less progressive town or perhaps recycled for the value of the metal. No such luck they're lurking up at the DPW yard where they're going to rise again and bite you that is because one of our local heroes who will at present remain nameless has hatched a scheme to take those meters and spread them out from the center of town. Some people think there's a killing to be made in parking meters.

MODERATOR: Any local heroes or otherwise wanting to address this? Heroines? It's a quarter for the first two minutes by the way.

ERIN BATTISTELLI: The board feels that this is an appropriate use of the parking meter fund. We're going in a direction of having parking meters that accept people's credit cards, which you go to other towns that is an option for you. We did raise the rates last year. At the moment, as far as I know, there's no move on our part or desire to increase the rates again. I don't know anything about schemes or lurking parking meters anywhere so..we just feel that this is going in the right direction for the town and we don't support a motion to decrease the amount.

MODERATOR: Any schemers on the Finance Committee? (Someone at microphone) I don't think that's working, you have to put money in it.

We didn't hear that so when you do the answer will you repeat the question?

ERIN BATTISTELLI: Yes, I'll repeat the question. Laura asked how much more revenue we took in last year with the increased rate on the parking meters and I'm sorry but I don't have those figures. I know that is was significant. What I would be concerned about is because we raised the rates and did not, for a little while, have the credit card friendly parking meters it was troublesome for people to have that many quarters so my guess is that there will be a significant increase over this next tourist season once all these meters..and I think that most of the meters are in place in certain sections of Rockport, right Joe?

WALLY HESS: I was outside in another discussion so I did not hear all the details but I think there were two points – one is are parking meter rates going up but I don't think that's being decided today, that's something later. And the other question related to what we are doing with the old meters, is that true? I don't think there's a specific plan for that either but the general philosophy of the Finance Committee on parking meter revenue is that it's a user fee and over the next few years, as I mentioned earlier we're going to have a few very tight years and we can either have tax overrides or higher taxes or we can try to keep our user fees at a reasonable rate so we think the investment in the new parking meters is a good idea we highly recommend that.

MODERATOR: O.K. the motion is to reduce the parking meter upgrade by its entirety or \$49,000. All those in favor please raise your card. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

Any other items on this list? And if not I'm going to ask Linda to do the math and give us the new figures. Okay, if you would.

LINDA SANDERS: O.K. you want the motion over or the adjusted number?

MODERATOR: I would give us the new figures and where they're coming from and then we'll be able to vote.

LINDA SANDERS: The new number in the motion is \$408,000 that's with the voting machines out and the free cash is \$225,400 from free cash.

MODERATOR: And the rest of the figures are the same?

LINDA SANDERS: Yes

MODERATOR: O.K. so the total amount is 4-8-5? \$480,000...4-0-8..4-0-8-0-4-0. Is that correct?

LINDA SANDERS: \$225,400

MODERATOR: And free cash is 2-2-5-400 and all the other figures stay the same. Is that correct? Any questions on that? All right, all those in favor of the motion as amended please raise your card. Thank you. All those opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

And now Ms. What's-Her-Name is going to handle Article 6A and 6B.

LINDA SANDERS: Mr. Moderator, Ms. Town Clerk we didn't vote on the borrowing of this article yet. The second part of this motion.

PATRICIA BROWN: So I'll hear the second motion.

LINDA SANDERS: Yes, Ms. Town Clerk – Finance Committee member Bill Wagner moves that the town appropriate \$160,020 for the items printed in the FY2015 Capital Outlay list on page 54 of the Town Meeting Voter's Booklet under Article 6 Section A General Fund as items under Number 2 and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow the sum of \$160,020 pursuant to GL Chapter 44 section 7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefore and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases.

Moved and seconded

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion?

JOHN DAVID HERLIHY: 20 Smith Road – If we just saved \$28,000 from the free cash because of the voting machines can't that be applied instead of borrowing \$160,000?

TOWN CLERK: He's asking if we could take the money that's not used for voting machines out of free cash and apply that towards the money we borrow.

LINDA SANDERS: I would defer to the Finance Committee to work on that.

WALLY HESS: We're currently debating exactly what we're going to do with that \$28,000 of free cash but our initial thought right now is to take that \$28,000 and add it to our.. deposit into OPEB reserve. When we get to that motion or we get to that article we saved that article for last because that is the residual and as I mentioned earlier we're about \$45 million dollars behind in our unfunded liabilities and OPEB is the biggest segment so whenever we get a chance to put money into OPEB we think we ought to do it. But technically we could go and reduce our borrowing but we think a better use is going to be another deposit into the OPEB reserve.

TOWN CLERK: So I guess the question is were you amending the motion or asking a question? Any other questions? Further discussion?

O.K. so this is a borrowing request it's going to require a two-thirds vote. All those in favor please raise your placards. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries by more than two-thirds.

Now we go onto Article 6A.

ARTICLE 6A

FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY

Section B – Water Enterprise Fund
Transfers:

Paid From Paid From From

Description	Requested	Free Cash	Borrowing	Amount
25 Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds	\$150,000		\$150,000	
Water Meter Replacements	\$ 11,700	\$ 11,700		
Water Main Replacement	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		
Rapid Sand Filter & Sed Basin Rehab	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000 Water Ops
Flat Ledge Quarry Pumping Improvements	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	
GPS – Water Portion (33 1/3 %)	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400		
TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE	\$277,100	\$ 67,100	\$200,000	\$ 10,000

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)

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$11,700 for Water Meter Replacements, \$50,000 for Water Main Replacement, \$10,000 for Rapid Sand Filter & Sediment Basin Rehab, and \$5,400 for the Water Enterprise Fund portion of the DPW GPS for the following items in the column marked "Requested" under Article 6A, Section B – Water Enterprise Fund, on page 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and to meet this appropriation \$67,100 shall be transferred from Water Surplus and \$10,000 shall be funded from the Water Enterprise Fund Operations, and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.

Moved and seconded.

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor raise your placard. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

There's a second motion under 6A.

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$150,000 for Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds and \$50,000 for Flat Ledge Quarry Pumping Improvements as listed under 6A, Section B, Water Enterprise Fund, on page 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$200,000 for such purposes under G.L. Ch. 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefore, with the intent that, while such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town, the payment of the debt service on such borrowing be made from the Water Enterprise fund; and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Moved and seconded

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? Seeing none – this requires a two-thirds vote. All those in favor please raise your placard. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries by more than two-thirds.

Now I'll take a motion under 6B.

ARTICLE 6B

FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY

Section C – Sewer Enterprise Fund				
	Description	Requested	Paid From Free Cash	Paid From Borrowing
26	Fine Bubble System Repairs	\$100,000	\$100,000	
	Grit Pumps & Detritor Mechanism	\$380,000	\$190,000	\$190,000
	Water Meter Replacements	\$ 11,700	\$ 11,700	
	<u>GPS – Sewer Portion (33 1/3 %)</u>	<u>\$ 5,400</u>	<u>\$ 5,400</u>	
	TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 497,100	\$ 307,100	\$ 190,000

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)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$307,100 for the items under Article 6B as printed on page 56 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, \$307,100 shall be transferred from Sewer Surplus, and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Moved and seconded.

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? All those in favor raise your placards. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

LINDA SANDERS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE BILL WAGNER: I move that the Town appropriate \$190,000 for the Grit Pumps & Detritor Mechanism as listed marked “Requested” under Article 6B, Sewer Enterprise Fund, on page 56 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$190,000 for such purposes under G.L. Ch. 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor, with the intent that, while such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town, the payment of the debt service on such borrowing be made from the Sewer Enterprise fund; and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Moved and seconded.

TOWN CLERK: Any discussion? This does require a two-thirds vote. All those in favor please raise your placard. All those opposed the same sign.

The motion carries by more than two-thirds.

Now we’re going to go on to the lottery. I’m going request that the Assistant Town Clerk draw the first two.

MODERATOR: Let’s have a motion under Article N.

ARTICLE N: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to or any lesser interest, including, without limitation, a lease with a term of thirty (30) years, in the below described parcel of land located on Straitsmouth Island and shown on Assessors Map 29 as Lots 1 and 2, off the coast of Rockport, Essex County, Massachusetts and/or the improvements thereon, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said thirty (30) year lease agreement for a nominal fee for occupation of the two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island known as the Keeper’s House and the Oil House and the land thereunder and other property rights appurtenant thereto as to provide access to said structures, and to execute such other documents and take such other action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town for the purpose of preserving, maintaining, and accessing said historic and the separate lighthouse parcel on said island owned by the Town of Rockport; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Committee)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR THACHER AND STRAITSMOUTH ISLAND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SYDNEY WEDMORE: I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease from the Massachusetts Audubon Society a parcel of land or any portion thereof and the improvements thereon located on Straitsmouth Island and shown on Assessors Map 29 as Lot 2 for a 30 year lease and for such a fees, including a nominal fee, as the Board of Selectmen deems to be appropriate, and to execute such other documents and take such other action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town for the purpose of Article N as printed in the warrant and found on page 63 in the Town Meeting Voter's Booklet.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Any comments? Discussions? Wedmore like Bond.

SYDNEY WEDMORE: Wedmore, South Street, 155 – Are we ready to have some fun? Time was when most traffic approached Rockport from the east and the lighthouse on Straitsmouth and the island shepherded that traffic to safe harbor in Rockport. That went on for two hundred and fifty years and then time changed. The harbor became obsolete, the lighthouse and the island neglected and the island near forgotten and I direct your attention to page 64 in the booklet. That's a visual summary of what has happened in the last three years during which time the Thacher Island Association as well as the Town Committee has worked in collaboration with the Audubon to reverse that neglect and the Audubon has offered to the town the opportunity to lease the buildings on Straitsmouth for thirty years, renewable lease, for \$1 a year. With that in hand what is proposed is to rehab the rest of the house that's out there which has already been winterized with new siding, new roof, new chimney and to put in place a summer keeper program similar to what we have on Thacher Island. We also intend to put a float in place to facilitate a safer landing on Straitsmouth and to cut a circumferential trail around the island to ease passive recreation – bird watching to those who are able to get out to the island. This lease will allow us to do it. It will also in essence have the town now have those buildings. Now, one could ask why put money into a building in which few go, few see. One could argue that same thing about the Motif – no one lives there, few go in and yet that's very much a fabric of our town. It's visited visually by everyone who comes here and those who see it are the better for it. In a similar vein from Point de Chene to the South end anyone looking eastward in the morning can see that lighthouse and that island giving up its night vigil to the dawn and I think we're the better for it.

This is not a huge project. There are no insurmountable objects. We have the resources, we have the talent and we have the enthusiasm. What we are asking for is the town to give us the permission to continue this stewardship. I hope you vote for it. Thank you. (applause)

TOBY ARSENIAN: To start with I don't think the motion is a legal one because no sum was mentioned. Dr. Wedmore said a dollar a year and I would ask town counsel to offer a ruling and maybe someone should change the motion. I don't think it's proper to authorize any expenditure without naming a sum.

DARREN KLEIN: Through the Moderator – I think the motion is legal but if they want to spend a dollar, as I think I just heard, there can be a friendly amendment to add the appropriation of a dollar to the motion.

TOBY ARSENIAN: Well, to start with I don't approve of the motion but I think it ought to contain a dollar sum since we're not voting unknown sums of money. We already have a lighthouse out on that island and unless you've got a boat and are able-bodied you can't get out there. If you can get out there if you have a boat and are able-bodied you're not welcome in the lighthouse we're lords and proprietors but you're not free to go in it. Now we're going to have a house as well only we're not going to have it we're going to be tenants not owners. What exactly is the purpose of it? Are we going to have tea parties out there? Are we going to play poker? Are we going to run a nursery school? Seriously, what is the intended use of the house? Also, when are we going to have transportation for the public out to the island? When will that start on a regular basis? And three questions for the Finance Committee. Do we have any estimate of what it will cost the town to bring the house up to proper useable condition? Do we have any estimates of what it will cost the town to maintain the house over a course of thirty years and do we know what it will cost the town in added insurance premiums for the house?

MODERATOR: All right I'm not going to require the amendment I think nominal includes a dollar but if there are any answers to those questions. That's great if not we'll vote.

WALLY HESS: We don't have any formal answers to those questions, Toby.

SYDNEY WEDMORE: As far as answers to the questions Toby raises. I would say this is very much an elegit to the stewardship that's been exercised on Thacher Island there has been a small amount of town money out there which is the operating budget for the Thacher Island Town Committee. Now there also has been CPC funds expended out there and the CPC was voted by the wisdom of this town to be used on projects exactly like this. On Thacher Island there has been an excess of \$250, excuse me \$2.5 million

worth of improvements done there and save for that which was funded through the CPC, all of that was through foundations, grants or donations. I would anticipate the same process for Straitsmouth. As far as getting out there right now there is a reality that it is a difficult island to access and unless one is physically able and facile you put yourself potentially at risk to do that so no there is no plans in the approximate future to have tourist boats going out and landing on Straitsmouth. What we do intend to do though is make the opportunity safer for those who are able to get out by kayak or their own boat to get on the island, walk about and to have the support of a summer keeper out there to either give them information or help them or direct them should those needs arise.

FREDERICK TARR: I think looking out on Thacher Island with that lighthouse and that lonely house out there is an iconic view from the town. It's a beautiful sight. I used to go out there when I was a kid and when Eddie Wendell owned it and the house was still in good shape and it is a magnificent dwelling and we've used parts of it frankly on Thacher Island but the house now has been enclosed and good shape. Last summer we...with people here we completed a rough trail from that end of the island all the way to Gap Cove..ah Gap Cove used to be the landing..remember the steps going up and so forth. That's not going to be done next week but as Dr. Wedmore mentioned there are a lot of kayakers, a lot of people in rowboats and small boats now that do go out there and a..use the trail that we have or just muck around and it's a really it's a part of old Rockport I think that really has to be preserved and used. Yes I'm looking forward to when there is more use out there but we're working on it and not much town money but a lot of townspeople's sweat have gone into what's been done out there so far and a..we're planning on doing more this year so without any major expense to the town I think we're going to preserve a part of the town that really deserves...protecting. Looking out at that island remember the lighthouse is about gone we fixed that up now. That house is about to fall down as you can see by the pictures that's now been weatherproofed. It's fairly good condition we still got a lot of work to do inside but at least it's going to be there for I hope the enjoyment of generations to come as a...picture of what Rockport was and can be with the lighthouses with the lonely stations of these people had to live in and it's a wonderful sight and I would hope that the town would go along with the preservation and it won't cost much for the town money-wise but I think the loss would be a great loss to the town otherwise. Thank you.

MODERATOR: All right, you've heard the motion. All those in favor raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

We move on to Article O which will be followed by Article F.

ARTICLE O: To see if the Town will vote to amend its vote taken under Article F, fifth, of the September 9, 2013 Fall Town Meeting, appropriating Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 as a grant to the Thacher Island Association for the restoration and preservation of the Straitsmouth Island Lighthouse, to further provide that such funds may be used for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the other two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island, known as the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and the Oil House, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Community Preservation Committee*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR RUTH GEORGE: I move that the Town amend its vote taken under Article F, fifth, of the September 9, 2013 Fall Town Meeting, appropriating Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 as a grant to the Thacher Island Association for the restoration and preservation of the Straitsmouth Island Lighthouse, to further provide that such funds may be used for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the other two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island, known as the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and the Oil House, including all incidental costs related thereto.

Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE: Hello, my name is Ruth George I'm the chairman of the Community Preservation Committee. CPC applications request and strongly urge applicants to apply for additional funding sources that are available, committed and/or applied for. That's one of the tenants of our CPC application so with Thachers Island and Straitsmouth coming to us they came last year, we appropriated \$25,000 and over this past year Thachers Island Association has done an outstanding job applying and obtaining grants for other projects in addition to the CPC funding. This past year they were awarded grants from the Patterson and Manton Foundation as well as individual donations that enable them to complete the repairs to the lighthouse itself. The Community Preservation Committee is asking your support to transfer such funds from the 2013 fall town meeting to be used for the other two historic buildings on the property known as the Keepers house and the Oil house.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I object to it on procedural grounds to start with. We vote all of the Community Preservation funds at one time in the fall and that makes sense all the things are there before you on a

menu and you can pick and choose amongst them. Now we're told that this has to go first. All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others. It was the same way with the appropriations for the Millbrook project. Those didn't go through the capital funding process. That's, you know, just about procedure. I think that we should know before we start distributing the community preservation funds how much we have in the pot for this fall and how much the projects that have applied for the money come to. I gave Ruth George notice of this before-hand so it should be possible to answer that question. When we were discussing the previous article Dr. Wedmore said that it wasn't going to cost the town much money. I don't know whether \$25,000 is much money or little but we're off to a fast start at costing the town money and I suggest to you that it is only the thin end of the wedge. That was the way it proved with the Straitsmouth Island lighthouse and that is the way it proved to be with Thacher Island. Now the Thacher Island Association has an excellent record of drumming up money privately. A lot of the improvements that went forth out Thacher Island were privately paid for and we're all greatly indebted to them for raising that money and doing the work. But here we are asked to spend the Community Preservation funds in the spring when we don't know what the other projects will be in the fall and I would suggest to you that if we're going to spend money on fixing up buildings we should be spending money on fixing up town buildings that have some actual use.

MODERATOR: Yeah, this was an appropriation made in a prior year it's just adding to a purpose so there's no further appropriation here. Any other, that's okay, any other comments?

You've heard the motion all those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

We're going to move on to Article F.

ARTICLE F: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to pay for state mandated real and personal property revaluations; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR ASSISTANT ASSESSOR DIANE LASHUA: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to a Property Valuations Fund for the purposes of Article F as printed in the warrant.

Moved and seconded.

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

The motion carries.

We move on to Articles A, B, C and D. The Chair will entertain a motion under Article A.

ARTICLE A: 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. c.90, so-called "Chapter 90 monies"; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Department of Public Works*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR DPW COMMISSIONER BRUCE REED: I move that the Town expend the sum of \$192,749 or such other sum as is made available to the Town under the provisions of §34(2)(a) of G.L. Ch. 90.

Moved and seconded

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

The motion carries.

We move on to Article B.

ARTICLE B: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds \$3,000 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 \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to Action, Inc., 180 Main Street, Gloucester, MA.

Moved and seconded.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I moved we add \$1,000 to the appropriation for Action Inc. and designate that \$1,000 for the operation of the Homeless Shelter.

Moved and seconded

TOBY ARSENIAN: This afternoon when we're done discussing and disputing we all have comfortable houses or apartments to go back to not everyone is so fortunate. So far as we know, there are no homeless people in Rockport. We don't provide any place for the homeless to stay. Gloucester provides a shelter for the homeless. Action, Inc. provides that shelter. Just think what a stink what an unpleasantness there would be if someone proposed to open a shelter for the homeless here in Rockport. We're spared all of that. We're safely off the hook. Generosity is a fine thing. The key question is – can we afford it? I can't answer that question for you but to put it in perspective if your property is assessed for half a million dollars and we pass this additional one thousand dollar appropriation you will be paying an additional twenty-seven cents on your tax bill in the coming year. I hope that we can afford it.

MODERATOR: Okay – there is a motion on the floor to increase that appropriation by \$1,000. Any further discussion on that? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no. That motion carries so now the Article and the motion is for \$4,000 for Action. Any further discussion on that? All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article C.

ARTICLE C: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds 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 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HAWK: 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, Massachusetts.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Any discussion? You've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article D.

ARTICLE D: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for SeniorCare, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER ELIZA LUCAS: 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 SeniorCare, Inc., 5 Blackburn Center, Gloucester, Mass.

Moved and seconded

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

The motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article E.

ARTICLE E To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for The Open Door or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER 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 The Open Door., 28 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

Moved and seconded.

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

The motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article R.

ARTICLE R: To see if the Town will vote to retain 'SWAPSHOP' and 'BOOKBARN' facilities items for personal use for Rockport residents, and re-open the 'METAL PILE' to residents seeking items for personal use; or act on anything relative thereto. *(By Petition)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR SIGNER OF CITIZENS PETITION TED TARR: I move that the Town retain the "Swap Shop" and "Book Barn" facilities' items for personal use for Rockport residents and re-open the "Metal Pile" to residents seeking items for personal use.

Moved and seconded.

FREDERICK TARR: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I still remain cheap. The swap shop I think has been a tremendous help to a lot of people in this town. The crowds around that swap shop might be very inconvenient and might take some time from the town employees which is the objection I guess of the DPW Commissioners. However, I think that the social center as well as supply center for many families in the town. It is a great advantage and the book barn I think provides a lot of good reading. I know I get books there occasionally and the metal pile, which I've never been able to find out why they closed it, used to be open is a good supply for a...lawn mower wheel or a tomato case or frankly crutches have been in there and walkers and wheelchairs which should be down at the Legion or somewhere where they're recycled and for use. I don't know why that's closed but for the main thing I don't want...I brought up the metal pile at a DPW meeting one night and I was told at that time that I asked about metal pile and I was told by Jim Gardner that they were thinking of closing the whole facility because it was too much of a nuisance. Now we did..we had violations up there to be sure. We've had some people in town who have been piling up things but we've had some outsiders come down and try to grab the metal pile or grab something of value for resale. You'll notice that the article says for personal use only and for Rockporters only. I hope that will help a little bit we have people in this room that have been a great help in the swap shop disposing of unwanted goods. But as I say, it's actually both the metal pile and the swap shop to a great extent stuff goes out and the same stuff comes back a few years later so the town's not losing any money. But for someone who wants a storm window for a cold frame or a bicycle for the kids or many of those things a wheel for a lawnmower or little bits and pieces. I know I done.. before they close the metal pile I did some bridges in the woods on some of the trails..material from there. It's been a great convenience to a lot of people as well, as well as the social center and I would certainly hope that people would maintain the center I don't know that there is any serious talk about closing it but I hope that restricting it to Rockporters and for personal use will help end some of the complaints. So again, I would like a..I don't know how much authority this vote has but I think it's a good indication of how the people in this..in this hall, at least, feel about having that open and use for people of the town of Rockport. Thank you.

MODERATOR: There's a woman in back who wants to do some trash talking.

UNKNOWN: (loudly) Move the question!

MODERATOR: O.K. that requires a two-thirds vote. All those in favor of moving the question please raise your placard. All those opposed the same sign. All right, the question is hereby moved.

All those in favor of Article R please raise your placard. All right, opposed the same sign.

The motion carries.

ARTICLE Q. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VIII of the Zoning By-Laws, "Coastal Flood Plain", by deleting the first paragraph of Section VIII Coastal Flood Plain District, Section B.1 and inserting in place thereof with the following:

"The Coastal Flood Plain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Rockport designated as Zone AE, AO, or VE on the Essex County Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM" or "Map") issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Essex County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Rockport are panel numbers 25009C0309G, 25009C0317G, 25009C0319G, 25009C0328G, 25009C0336G, 25009C0337G, 25009C0338G, 25009C0339G, 25009C0476G and 25009C0500G dated July 16, 2014. The exact boundaries of the District are defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Essex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 16, 2014. The FIRM and Flood Insurance Study report are incorporated herein by

reference and are on file with the Town Clerk,
Planning Board, Building Inspector and
Conservation Commission.”

; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Planning Board*) (*requires 2/3 vote*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN HANK BETTS: I move that the Town amend Section VIII of the Zoning By-Laws, “Coastal Flood Plain” as described in Article Q and printed in the warrant and found on page 66 of the Town Meeting Voter’s Booklet.

Moved and seconded.

ED HAND: 20 Landmark Lane – a member of the Planning Board. I’m quoting now mainly from a letter of Paul Orlando our building inspector but the article proposed for town meeting, Article Q, is asking the town to change the zoning bylaw to reflect the most recent flood maps approved by FEMA. Quote: “Failure to do so will result in the suspension by FEMA from the national flood insurance program according to Colleen Bailey of Mass DCR Flood Hazard Management Program.” There’s been a lot of speculation on the news and in print as to whether the maps may be flawed. As you know the town did file an appeal resulting in a favorable outcome for changes in the downtown and Long Beach areas. The town chose these individual areas for appeals since they were the areas where changes would affect the greatest number of properties. That appeal is considered resolved and closed by FEMA. There are still avenues people can pursue if they object to the map designation for their individual properties. FEMA has a process to file for map revision. Its acronym is LOMAR for any further changes that may be requested to the maps. A LOMAR is the process to change the maps for specific locations on a smaller scale. This is a process that people can pursue at any time. In summary the warrant article is asking people to change the bylaw to reflect most recent maps that FEMA has adopted, failure to do so **will** result in the town being suspended from the national flood insurance program. The article is not asking the town to agree with nor approve the maps. It is merely asking them to amend the bylaw to reflect most recent FEMA maps. We do not feel that town meeting is the forum to discuss any individual grievances people have with the process or whether an individual property should be included or changed by the revised maps. This is what the letter of map revision process is for. Pass this amendment.

HAROLD MALLETT: 33R Rear Granite Street, Pigeon Cove – I want to thank the town administrators and staff for helping me to research the FEMA maps and to put me in touch with the engineer at Applied Coastal Research that did the appeal for Rockport that covers Main Street, Bearskin Neck and Long Beach. It does not cover the area from Back Beach to Pigeon Cove and to the end of Andrew’s Point. Now, I realize that individual property owners can do a LOMA and do a study to appeal their own section if it has not been appealed. The state of Massachusetts under the direction of Representative Keating from the south shore tried to get FEMA to appeal or redo all the maps for all of Massachusetts. FEMA denied that and said that individual communities would have to pursue map appeals or revisions in order for FEMA to consider modifications now the town has written to FEMA asking FEMA to do more of the areas that weren’t done but FEMA, and for FEMA to pay for that, but FEMA says they will not do it. Under the Insurance Act, the Flood Insurance Act, that was just passed by congress there is a section in there that states: “The technical mapping advisory council is charged to review the new national flood mapping program authorized under the 2012 and 2014 flood insurance reforms.” The law requires the administrator to certify in writing to congress that FEMA is visualizing “technically credible data and mapping approaches”. The appeal for Rockport that the sections that were appealed and will be approved counted the mapping that was done by FEMA. The FEMA mapping was done with an easy solution because they were in a hurry to get it done. It used wave calculation based on Pacific coast wave action. The appeal done by Applied Coastal Research for Rockport criticized that and had it changed so that their appeal included Atlantic coast wave action. So now we sit with half of Sandy Bay subject to Atlantic coast wave action and the other half of Sandy Bay subject to Pacific coast wave action. It doesn’t seem right. So I am asking the Board of Selectmen who had written also to Senator Warren to support a redoing of the maps and I’d like to hear from the Town Administrator and the selectmen if they’re going to continue to pursue having remapping done for the rest of Rockport and if they will contact the engineers that applied Coastal Research to determine what the cost would be to the rest of the town.

MODERATOR: The answer to that question is yes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, I’ve asked for estimates from Applied Coastal to do the rest of the town and I have them. I don’t have the money for them yet but I did receive the estimates and I haven’t looked for money yet and I haven’t figured out how to do that but it’s not a dead issue.

TOBY ARSENIAN: We have the marvelous technology you notice the screen over there but there are no maps. We’re being asked to substitute a new set of maps for the ones that the government has declared obsolete and no one has invited you to see the maps. That strikes me as extraordinary and also most unfair and I vehemently object to it. I can see the need to substitute the maps because if we don’t do as we’re

told we end up with a whole zoning section that is nonfunctional but I'll tell you something, if any of you have bothered to read the zoning section Coastal Flood Plain it's not functional anyway the way it's written. It needs to be rewritten. It's useless as written so there you go with the maps and you're told if you're aggrieved you can go out and get a letter of map revision. Here we have what the town of Rockport paid \$24,000 for, to get the revision for those in several areas of the town leaving everyone else out in the cold to fend for themselves. This is what you pony up just to get your foot in the door for an appeal. Ariel imagery, mathematical data from the GEODAS data base, LIDAR data from 2007, 2010, 2011, engineering analysis and mapping for Long Beach, this was the town's appeal, WIS wave data and statistical analysis, SWAN model input and output files, CHAMP model input and output files, proposed map revision, engineering analysis and mapping for Sandy Bay wave run up and over topping analysis, proposed map revision, technical memorandum and appeal letter. All of that just to get your foot in the door and obviously there aren't six people in the room who knows what any of that means. I certainly don't know so you're put to it to go out and hire an expensive private consultant. The government issuing the maps which they know to be defective has declared anyone who owns property in the coastal flood plains to be guilty and now it's up to you to prove yourself innocent and pay for it and then if you succeed the government will give you back the money that you've spent on the appeal. The government will give you back the money? That's you and I, the taxpayers who are paying for all of this folly. I don't know whether you want to approve the maps or not but whether or not you do, you do not have a functioning Coastal Flood Plain bylaw.

MODERATOR: The maps by the way are in the building down in the passage way and they're available on-line at the Moderator section of the town website. Any other comments?

ED HAND: I agree with both the previous speakers that the situation may not be fair, it may not be what we'd like to see happen but I think we're going to have to go ahead and do it. I think that it sounds like the town is already making the right moves to try to get this done on a more equitable basis where individuals won't have to pony up this bunch of acronyms. The whole flood plain, flood map situation is ebbing and flowing, no pun intended, it's changing. Now there's talk about grandfathering you know certain situations with the rates but I think the simple answer..simple question we're asked today is – do we approve these nebulous things which haven't even been published, talking July 14th or July of 2014 so these maps really haven't been final and published yet. But if you want to keep our insurance, which I think that those of you who are on the coast, I'm a 160 feet up in the air up Landmark Lane so I'm not really worried about it but I think a lot of you may be in a position so I think we want to vote to approve the maps whatever they are and then we move ahead with these other approaches to try to solve the actual problem and make it palatable.

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

The motion carries by more than two-thirds.

We move on to Article K.

ARTICLE K: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Section 5B of G.L. c.40 to create a special purpose stabilization fund for use by the School Committee for special education-related expenses, and for such purposes, to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money into said special purpose stabilization fund; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHAIR ERIN BATTISTELLI: I move that the Town create a special purpose stabilization fund for use by the School Committee for special education-related expenses and for such purposes to appropriate and transfer from the following accounts those amounts as listed below and totaling \$200,000:

Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 172.67
High School Conference Build Fund	\$ 7,133.51
Elementary Maps	\$ 2,781.97
School Health Index	\$ 304.52
Middle School Music Fund	\$ 751.77
Shlopak Technical Fund	\$ 460.00
Tower Fund Unexpended Balance	\$ 26,271.95
2004 Technology Fund	\$ 190.02
2009 Foundation Reserve	\$ 9,000.00
Free Cash	\$152,933.59

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. Any discussion?

ERIN BATTISTELLI: The Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the School Committee and the Superintendent all support this article. By creating such a fund we're in a better position to address a spike in special education expenses which can occur when a student or students move into a district requiring these much needed services. Future town meetings can vote to add to this fund to build an appropriate reserve to deal with future expenses.

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

The motion carries by more than two-thirds.

We will go on to Article L.

ARTICLE L: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate additional sums of money for any or all Rockport Public School expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Schools' departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, provided, however, that all additional appropriations authorized under this article be contingent upon voters' approval of a so-called Proposition 2½ override exclusion, as provided in G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C; or act on anything relative thereto. (*School Committee*)

My understanding is that there is no motion, is that correct?

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Yes

MODERATOR: We move on to Article J.

ARTICLE J: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$120,000 to the Capital Technology account to pay for computers, networks, communications, and other technology tools and devices; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Information Systems and Technologies*)

MODERATOR: My understanding is that there is no motion under Article J. There is no motion under Article J.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article S.

ARTICLE S: 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 6 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2013 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article W, and extend the term of the Committee; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Moderator*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER SARAH WILKINSON: I move that the Town hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Water Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 6 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2013 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article W, and extend the term of the Committee.

Moved and seconded.

LAURA EVANS: 77 High Street – I'm a volunteer on the Ad Hoc Water Committee and we've had a pretty difficult year this year losing Al Boulter and Alan Hovey another member also moved away. We have..the Boulters were kind enough to give us all of Al's records for the last decades and we have them in the DPW and our committee is in the process of selecting, scanning, organizing, filing all this stuff. We're actively looking for more volunteers who have engineering background, history of Rockport background, conservation. We're looking for at least two more members, maybe some students ideally we're talking with the high school about maybe getting a student to do some community service, work with us to help us integrate Al's files but if anybody knows any potential volunteers for this committee we'd really welcome them. Thank you.

MODERATOR: No health insurance though. Well..moving to accept that report with gratitude all those in favor say aye. Opposed say no.

The motion carries.

We now move on to Article T.

ARTICLE T: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2013 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Moderator*)

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER PAUL MURPHY: I move that the Town accepts the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2013 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting.

Moved and seconded.

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

The motion carries.

Article P:

ARTICLE P: To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the parcels listed below from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at public auction to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of said 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 33 Atlantic Avenue as shown on Assessors Map 22, Lot 140
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*)

MODERATOR: We're going to divide that so that each one of these addresses is addressed separately when we vote them but we can talk about them all at once.

LINDA SANDERS: So how would you like the motion?

MODERATOR: Just read the whole thing and then we'll vote on it.

LINDA SANDERS FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMBER MINA SHEEDY: I move that the Town transfer care, custody and control of the three parcels as listed in Article P of the warrant and found on page 66 of the Voters Booklet, from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at a public action to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to convey said parcels, as set forth in Article P as printed in the warrant.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: And what we'll do is we'll do 33 Atlantic followed by 8 Marmion 'cause I think we'll have other discussion on 59 High Street.

Any discussion on any of these or all of these all together?

MIKE FARRAGHER: 56 High Street – I just have a general question on the wording I don't quite understand it says otherwise dispose - to either auction it off or otherwise dispose. Just wonder what the other options are before we consider any of these properties. Thank you.

MODERATOR: Either town counsel or town administrator want to cover that? Hold on, June Michaels is direct this discussion.

JUNE MICHAELS: In the past we've done several things with tax title land besides sell it. In fact, I believe we moved some tax title land into permanent conservation easements. These are all properties that have houses on them and are in the downtown area. We could presumably want to build a new lighthouse on one of them or find some town municipal purpose, we could do that too.

MODERATOR: We could play poker there.

DARREN KLEIN: Through the Moderator – no that was well said, it just it gives besides for selling or selling at an auction. It gives the board the flexibility to dispose of the property in other ways as well; it could be through an easement there's a number of ways it could be done.

SUSAN MORRIS: Babcock Road – I guess I'm still not understanding the wording. Could this property be sold to - from the Board of Selectmen or whoever to a *friend* or does it have to go for public auction if it's not going to be used for a lighthouse.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: It has to go to public auction to be sold. It can't be sold, it can't be sold even by somebody you don't know.

SUSAN MORRIS: So anyone in the town could bid on this property?

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Yes (Moderator: Public auction) unless there's a conflict.

SUSAN MORRIS: Unless there's going to be a lighthouse(Moderator: unless it's otherwise limited here today) okay.

ELIZABETH MURPHY: 21R Pleasant Street – I was wondering if there's been any discussion about maybe having something put on the lease of these three properties that it has to be a year round residence for people who are going to live in town, raise their kids here, things like that or if you could even do that.

DARREN KLEIN: It gives authority to convey the land the terms and conditions are within the authority of the Board of Selectmen; town meeting can't, can't limit certain types of..certain types of purchasers so that's not within town meeting's authority.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I guess we're talking about all three properties at this point but I'm interested in the 59 High Street property. Thirty-three Atlantic Avenue and 8 Marmion Way which may not be in apple pie order because of being situated in rather pricey neighborhoods are worth a small fortune even in their present state. So since they were tax title property it probably makes sense to sell them the more so is we're desperate for money. That's not quite the situation with 59 High Street. That's in a near ruinous condition now and it turns out to the selectmen's surprise that that is legally a duplex. So um Eliza Lucas may come after me with a hatchet or a submachine gun but I think it might do for affordable housing. We've talked a lot about affordable housing from time to time and not a great deal happens and to be sure our one brush with affordable housing the gift house was a most painful experience but presumably we would not repeat those sort of mistakes. We would not have the opportunity to do so and if we go forward with the article as it's now written you're giving the selectmen permission to do basically whatever they please but really the intent is to sell the property.

It would take months to put 59 High Street in any state in which you could sell it in any event to good advantage so if we put off or defeat it for now the authorization to sell 59 High Street the selectmen between now and then might consider the possibility of reviving the building, restoring it for the purpose of affordable housing. If we give them permission on all three right now, they're sold, they're gone, we get the money and that's it and it's a chance we won't have again. So when we come to vote on 59 High Street, having heard what Darren Klein said that you can't limit the selectmen's power if you're giving it to them I would suggest that we defeat the motion to authorize them to sell 59 High Street not because we won't eventually do so but because we could hang onto it until the fall and perhaps be able to use the site for affordable housing. It doesn't make a commitment to do that in any way but it keeps our options open.

MODERATOR: Just by manner of explanation when we get to 59 High Street you actually can limit the purpose, you could limit that to affordable housing if that's what the meeting advised at least that's my understanding.

DARREN KLEIN: through the Moderator – if the Board of Selectmen is given the authority to convey it you can't limit the terms of that conveyance however you can, obviously if the Board of Selectmen are not given the authority to convey it then they wouldn't have the ability to do so. So there's several ways to accomplish what you want to do you could do it for the purpose of affordable housing or you could just do it for general municipal purposes which includes any purpose except for the ability to convey it so I'm not sure which way you want to try to accomplish what you're trying to accomplish.

MODERATOR: All right, so let's handle the first two first and then we'll go back to 59 High Street.

SARAH WILKINSON: I just want to clear something up. I don't think that at this point the selectmen should be limited in anything, I don't think..we actually just took control of all three properties so we want to leave all of our options open. Town meeting puts control of what to do in the selectmen's hands and then we go through the process of figuring out what to do with each property but at this point it doesn't seem to make much sense to put limits onto any of the properties because we really just took control of them and haven't even started to figure out what to do. In fact, we just got the assessor's cards on the properties a few weeks ago. Thanks.

MEL MICHAELS: I'm very much in favor of affordable housing but you don't know how much work there is to do on this property, I don't either it could be way out of sight to make it into affordable housing. I think you're better off letting the selectmen make a judgment, bring your ideas to them after this is done and perhaps use that money to buy a piece of land in which you could then put affordable housing. That's one way to go about it, you could buy a much larger piece of land and then you could go to Habitat for Humanity or other places like that to begin to get properties. It's a long process but it may be a better way to go. I think they should have the flexibility to make a determination here.

ELIZA LUCAS: 57 High Street – I just want to clarify something and speak as a resident of High Street I'm just letting you know why Toby mentioned that I would mind if it was affordable housing and that's because the house is about three or four feet from my house so as it pertains to 59 High Street I'm an

abutter and I will be recuing myself from anything to do with that property as a member of the Board of Selectmen and I'm also in favor of affordable housing. Thanks.

MINA SHEEDY: Good afternoon. I just wanted to point out the article permits the selectmen to use the property for general municipal purposes. That definition does not include the sale so we can still keep the affordable housing component but we need to sell the property with that restriction in the deed. We don't want to be unable to sell the property whether it's for affordable housing or not. We don't, I don't think we want to become landlords of any of these properties. So I just want to be clear about that. General municipal purposes will not permit you to convey the property.

MIKE FARRAGHER: I agree with Mr. Michaels' assessment and I do not agree with Toby's ideas for the development of 59 High Street. I think the residents particularly of High Street and of the town have lived with that property as an eyesore for too long a time and anything that pushes that resolution is just not acceptable. Now I'm also in favor of affordable housing but I think a step has to be taken to get that property resolved and I think putting it off 'til the fall just does not make sense and as a resident of High Street I really do think we ought to take a decision today put it back in the hands of the selectmen and we can work with the selectmen as far as what happens to that lot. But putting it off is just not an option. Thank you.

MODERATOR: O.K. we're going to move the question on the first two, on 33 Atlantic and then 8 Marmion Way then we can keep kibitzing on 59 High Street.

So the question is – see if the town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the parcel, namely 33 Atlantic Avenue from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at public auction to the Board of Selectmen for the general municipal purposes of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of that property on terms and conditions as the board deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

We're just going to limit ourselves first to 33 Atlantic Avenue so that's what we're voting on – requires a two-thirds vote.

All those in favor, 33 Atlantic Avenue only, raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

O.K. 33 Atlantic Avenue passes by more than two-thirds.

Same question but now 8 Marmion Way. All those in favor raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That passes by more than two-thirds.

Now we don't have to talk about those, let's go back and talk about 59 High Street and just by way of disclosure I'm a board member on the Affordable Housing Partnership Corporation. Any further discussion on 59 High Street?

CHARLES PETERMAN: I drive past that house virtually every day for the last several years and not only is it an eyesore but if you took a look at the accumulation of junk and materials you'd have to wonder how much of an environmental hazard it is. Getting it off of our collective responsibility and into private hands as quickly as possible makes the most sense. Holding on to it is just asking for prolonged agony.

MODERATOR: Any further discussion before I'm sure Toby's going to offer an amendment of some sort.

TOBY ARSENIAN: I'll have to ask advice on how to do this. I wish to subtract the selectmen's authority to sell the house at this time.

MODERATOR: Delete the words "and for conveyance".

TOBY ARSENIAN: I move to delete the words "and for conveyance"; delete the words "for the purpose of conveyance" and this does not commit us, God forbid, to keeping ownership of the house. No one in their right mind wants it. It might make a perfectly good site for affordable housing or it might not. The Board of Selectmen, as Sarah Wilkinson pointed out, has just got the cards, that's the assessor's cards, so they've not had any time to look at any of it or how it might be disposed of and once it's disposed of its gone. No one wants to see the town as a landlord but that might indeed be an appropriate thing. In the application for community preservation funds for this fall from the Rockport Housing Partnership, which Mr. Visnick is an officer, there is the suggestion that other outfits, not theirs, would undertake to manage property that the town might own so you don't want to see the town as a landlord but the town perfectly well could be a landlord and not suffer all of the trials and pains of being a landlord that's exactly the situation that the town has with the old high school at the foot of Broadway. That was turned over to Harbor Light Community Partners on a long term lease that required special dispensation from the state and they manage it so it's quite possible that some other outfit not the town of Rockport which we don't want to see as a landlord could manage the house and it could be affordable housing and rented not sold. What you have to know about affordable housing that's sold as we'll discover to our displeasure this fall is that it can only be held to affordable standards for thirty years and then it goes back to market rate. So

that's a snare and a delusion but if you vote for the amendment now you've not decided anything other than giving the selectmen a few months to look at the possibility of turning the house into affordable housing. I hope you'll do so.

MODERATOR: Any further discussion from the selectmen? And when we're ready to vote Darrin is going to read how the amendment will sound. All right, Sarah Wilkinson.

SARAH WILKINSON: Toby you're exactly right once it's gone its gone; which actually sounds great to me because we don't need to be the landlord for any more houses but that isn't to say that we could not create and sell it with an affordable housing stipulation which we have done with other properties in town.

TED TARR: Mr. Chairman I just want to say that I think the DPW deserves a big round of applause for the clean-up that they've done on that property. It was quite a job. I've invited them to work on my hall closet but they've done a beautiful job on that property and I think they deserve a vote of thanks.

MODERATOR: Any further discussion before we vote on the amendment? Okay, Attorney Klein do you want to ...now we're going to vote on the amendment; which will be to restrict the selectmen from the ability to sell and if it passes Attorney Klein will read what that will sound like. The amendment is to restrict and prevent the selectmen from being able to sell the property.

All those in favor of that amendment please raise your placard. O.K. all those opposed the same sign.

That motion fails.

Now we will have a motion as to whether to authorize the town to transfer care, custody and control of that parcel from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at public auction to the Board of Selectmen for the general municipal purposes of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of that property on terms and conditions as the board deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote; said property being identified as 59 High Street.

All those in favor please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion passes by more than two-thirds.

We're now looking at H followed by I which is a good way to end, with I.

ARTICLE H: 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*)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LINDA SANDERS: There's no motion for Article H.

The Chair will entertain a motion under Article I.

ARTICLE I: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum 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 DAVID COYNE: I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$107,618 or some other sum to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund for the purposes of Article I as printed in the warrant.

Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Any discussion or questions? All those in favor, please raise your placard. Thank you. Opposed the same sign.

That motion carries.

The Chair will entertain a motion to dissolve this Annual Town Meeting but first I will thank all of you who have gone through all of this wonderful meeting today, democracy in action and a special thanks to our microphone persons for doing a wonderful job.

Moved and seconded. All those in favor of dissolving this meeting please raise your placard, all right, opposed the same sign.

The motion carries. Thank you very much – enjoy your afternoon.

The Annual Town meeting dissolved at 3PM.

