

**TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE  
LOCATION: UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
DATE: MARCH 30, 2013**

Moderator: Donald Newell

Recorder: Sherry Powell-Wilson

Town officials seated at head table: Susan Lombard, Town Clerk, Selectman Ronald Rudolph, Selectman Clem Blakney, Selectman Chris Rossignol

10:01:16 Don Newell: I call this meeting to order. Charlie, do we have a presentation of the flag?

10:03:20 Charlie Schaefer: We're ready.

10:04:08 [recited together] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

10:04:21 Don Newell: It's a great day. Thank you all coming out, we have a wonderfully attended meeting. I have a few things to take of before we read the first Article and get underway. First of all, record of the vote from yesterday, that is for selectman a term of three years, the results are Chris Rossignol, 163 votes, and Jean Bourg, 143 votes. Chris is elected as Selectman and I will swear him in at this moment.

10:04:49 Don Newell: On the Unity Utilities District, there were 28 votes for Kevin Spigel, one vote for Lois Ongley, and 31 votes for blank, so blank wins. I'm kidding. Kevin Spigel is your Unity Utilities District Trustee. Is Kevin here? In the back. And we don't have to swear him in do we? Thank you, Kevin, for serving that.

10:05:14 Don Newell: Chris, will you come up?

10:05:17 Chris Rossignol: I, Chris Rossignol, do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State as long as I shall continue as citizen thereof, so help me God. I, Chris Rossignol, do swear that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my abilities, to teach incumbent on me as moderator of the Selectmen according to the Constitution and law of the State of Maine, so help me God.

10:06:11 Don Newell: Thank you very much. Congratulations.

10:06:18 Don Newell: And he's not the moderator of the Selectmen, he is the Selectman.

10:06:25 Don Newell: Every year I review the Moderator's Manual to pick out those things that are important that everybody knows, not just me and, so, I'm going to share some of that with you. The green cards, and these are in no particular order, in order to recognize registered voters, we have these fancy green cards and there will be times when I call for the vote that I will ask you to raise your green card (raise your hand and your green card). If you do not have one of these, then you should come forward and pick it up. If you have one of these and you're not a registered voter, then you should come up and turn it back in. I don't think we missed that.

10:07:20 Resident: Does everyone get one?

10:07:21 Don Newell: Yes, well, anybody that doesn't have one, come on up. When we're considering articles, you'll notice that the source of the funds is provided in the Article as a note. This is typically not written in the Article itself. I'm going to take a moment for some of our newer people to make sure they know what those mean. In fact, I'm going to ask Susan what the first one means. It says to appropriate and my guess is that is appropriation surplus.

10:08:05 Sue Lombard: From taxes. Where are you looking?

10:08:14 Don Newell: They are really taken from taxes? There are a couple of those, or at least one, that says to appropriate "x" number of dollars, that means to take it from taxes. Then you have to take from surplus. The Town currently has a surplus balance of approximately \$440,000, and we see that some of these Articles will call for taking those funds from surplus. When it says to raise, that's from taxation. If it says administrative fees, that, i.e., is from administrative fees for licensing, etc., in the Town. And, then there is excise tax. That is the taxes that we pay when we register our vehicles. Then, lastly is carried forward, and we don't do that on all the accounts but in some of the accounts it's appropriate to carry balances forward to the following year. You see that happen in the summer and winter roads, i.e., and there are others.

10:09:25 Don Newell: One of the goals of rules of town meetings is we issue a warrant to post in advance and that gives the voters an opportunity to know what's coming, and have some sense when that Article is to be taken up at town meeting. It doesn't mean you can't change the order but we do it cautiously because of the folks that do come for specific articles.

10:09:58 Resident: For clarification on one of your earlier things, one of the articles says to raise or appropriate. So you said appropriate was from taxes, and raise is from taxes so what is the difference?

10:10:14 Don Newell: Because of that, the voters are as informed as they can be about what is transpiring. There is one example here where it doesn't quite meet that letter, and I'm going to take the liberty to just talk briefly about this so you will know what is coming.

10:10:37 Don Newell: Article 27 is an article that we had routinely over the years and we oftentimes will add a little bit to our balance to update our Comprehensive Plan so that when the time comes that we need to do that, we have a balance to start with. A lot of work that has gone on here in the last couple of months that ties directly to the Comprehensive Plan, and the outcome of that was a request to the Selectmen that we have an article in this warrant that provides an opportunity to consider whether or not a Comprehensive would be initiated now that is substantial funds to fund that. This Article doesn't quite say but if the people in this town decided that this Article is good enough for us to be able to have that debate within it, and so that is why it's there. Because we thought folks would be concerned about this whole amount raised and, consequently, the total tax bill they're going to get next year, I want you to just be aware that we're not talking about \$500.00 or \$1,016.47 in that Article. We could be talking about as much as \$20,000 and you'll hear a lot more about that. I just wanted you to know in advance that is a significant article that will be debated as we get to that later in the day.

10:19:42 State Representative Brian Jones: Thank you, Mr. Newell. I'm Brian Jones. I'm your State Representative in Augusta. I will say something about Town Meeting first. This is the purest, direct democracy that has ever existed in the history of the world. Men and women, all free, above the age

of 18, get to participate directly in the democracy. Now, if we mess this up in Unity, it's our own fault. If things get messed up in Augusta, however, you can blame it on me and my other comrades in the Legislature. A couple of things that we're working on right now, as Mr. Newell pointed out, the current budget proposal before the Legislature really has the potential of having a powerful impact on your property taxes. The budget considers cutting revenue sharing, the circuit breaker for our low-income neighbors, the Homestead exemption, which will affect all of us personally, and then the tractor trailer excise tax. You really need to vote. I understand the implications of this. We have to find a way to pressure Legislature to quit passing the tax burden down as property tax on us because your Selectmen are in a real bind about how to make up those loss revenues to the Town. Similarly, there are cuts to the educational budget, that if they can't be compensated for in RSU 3, those are also going to fall back on your property taxes, so you really need to be alert and pay attention. Also, Unity is in line for some bond monies that were voted quite a few years ago and haven't been released so please alert to that as well. The real thing I want to mention to you is that many of you didn't vote for me, many of you don't know me but I still represent all of you. That means for me to represent you I have to hear from you. My contact information is in the Town Report. Please feel free to call me or send me an e-mail or a letter at any time and I'll get back you. One of the other functions of the Legislature constituent services is if you find yourself balled up with issues regarding State government, give me a call and I'll do my best to help you out with those. I can't represent you if I don't hear from you. Please stay in touch. Thank you.

10:22:24 Don Newell: Thank you, Brian. Three other thank you's.

10:22:38 Resident: Is it possible for me to speak? I just want to address one issue. I would just like to say I am very proud that we have a direct democracy but I have never been so ashamed of our town when I went this morning to my son's for a walk and found much of it buried under road rubble. So, I am not going to stay because, frankly, I'm quite angry but I know our Cemetery Committee does work very hard for us. I don't know where the decision came from to change the roads to where we plow up onto people's cemetery lots, and I hope that the townspeople here will fix that problem.

10:23:24 Don Newell: A special thanks to Monica at Crosstrax for providing the home-baked roles today at lunch, and to the Nason's of Jim's Salad for providing the coleslaw and dressing and, overall, to future MSAD3 for being available today to provide your lunch. Now, there is a provision on that. The lunch costs you \$7. If you leave before lunch and don't do lunch, it costs you \$10, so it's a really good idea to stay and have lunch. I'm kidding, but we want you all to stay and partake of that. It's a terrific cause and they use the money very wisely for our children. Are there any first timers here at the meeting? Great, two or three.

10:24:16 Don Newell: I have a brief pitch to you first timers. We do everything possible at this meeting to treat first timers like all-the-timers. There's no difference in this hall. You might hear a louder voice or whatever, but you all are equal and we want and need to hear your voice. If you have any questions about this meeting as to how to have your voice heard, just holler or Mr. Moderator or hey you or whatever, get my attention. Say this is what I would like to do, how do I do it, and I'll walk you through so you are just like an all-the-timer.

10:25:04 Don Newell: We're getting near the end here. Please turn to page 56 and we will have a moment of silence for those who have passed since our last meeting. The following townspeople will be missed: Clair H. Lewis, Mr. Richard C. Jose, Linda L. Constable, George L. Mitchell, Dennis B. Huff, Lorrie N. Gerry, Austin J. Grant, Vernon L. Bagley, Patsy A. Mesaric, Donna Whitney, and one who is not on that list, Coral Clifford. Let's have a moment of silence.

10:26:19 Don Newell: We dispensed with Article 1 yesterday at 12 Noon and I was elected as the Moderator. Article 2 was to run the election of the Town officials. That has been completed and I have given you the vote. We're on Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Maine Moderator's Manual 6th Edition as the rules of procedure for the meeting. Moved and seconded. Open the floor for discussion. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor say aye, opposed no. Motion carries.

10:26:55 Don Newell: Article 4, To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

10:27:31 Don Newell: Article 5, To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Municipal Officers of the Town to expend not more than \$250,000 for the purpose of constructing a new town office for the Town on a lot located at 74 School Street and described on tax map 17, lot 6 (a portion of), said lot deeded back to the Town from RSU #3 (the "Project"), and to borrow to fund the Project by issuing and selling general obligation bonds or notes of the Town, which may be cancellable bonds or notes, not to exceed \$250,000 outstanding at any time and further authorize the municipal officers to do any and all things and execute and deliver any and all contracts or documents necessary or convenient to issue the bonds or notes of the Town and construct the Project.

10:27:40 Don Newell: There are two parts to this. I don't need to read those into the record. You all have your materials there. I will make one reference to Part 1, when you see those items that add up to total indebtedness, interest is not indebtedness so that total \$877,854. You can see those numbers. We've got a motion and second so that Article is on the floor for discussion. Discussion? Jean?

10:28:59 Jean Bourg: In a way, because I have done a little survey over the last month, and talking to people. As we prepare to borrow \$250,000, I think some other people need to be heard from who live on Wand those who live on the Waning Road or Town Farm Road because borrowing this money probably means that their road needs will not be addressed, just to give them the opportunity because there may not be another opportunity, another warrant for them to seek. Some people from this road are here. What has happened is the School Board has transferred the lot to the Town so the proposed site for the new town office has been secured and there is no time limit on building on it. People should realize that.

10:30:39 Don Newell: Are you speaking in favor of this Article or not?

10:30:40 Jean Bourg: I'm speaking "informationally" about it.

10:30:40 Don Newell: Okay. Any further discussion? Seeing none...I'm sorry, did I have a hand over there?

10:30:49 Anne Doan: I wasn't expecting to talk today. My name is Anne Doan. I live on the Waning Road. I have a question. Does approving this Article mean that our road won't get fixed? The Waning Road is like the Town Farm Road, it is very much in need of being fixed. I heard there was discussion about turning it back into a dirt road, which I think is fiscally irresponsible. I have paid taxes here for 34 years. I'm not trying to throw a monkey wrench into your plans for a new town office but what I'm doing is trying to understand when the road will be fixed, and what your plans are. Every tax payer deserves a decent road.

10:32:07 Don Newell: Just so you know, I'm going to be a little careful about how broad this discussion goes, or any discussion goes, when we come to one of these Articles. A lot of that discussion was about a road and the first part of your question was certainly appropriate and that is, does the approval of this, the funds for this project, have an impact on whether my road might be considered for improvement or not. I'll ask Clem Blakney to respond to that.

10:32:41 Clem Blakney: Thank you for bringing that up. I will a little pensive on this hoping that someone would bring it up because, I think, we have in general have to have education on where we stand on our roads. There's a lot of passion between Chris and I in terms of the roads. Passion, tension, and everything because we see all of our roads going downhill, and we're at a crossroads and I don't mean that as a pun but it is, in a way, it's very true we're at a crossroads in terms of we need to decide how we're address the issue. But, to answer your question, in terms of will this money that is allocated for the town office remove the money for the road? No. That has been categorized and we will not take from one just to appease the other. That's the first part of that. I don't how far we want to go into detail but if that answers the question, we're going to leave it at that.

10:33:37 Don Newell: Thank you very much. We will be talking about summer roads in just a little while.

10:33:44 Dennis Jones: Yes, that Jean was saying something about maybe this town office doesn't need to be built this year? What I mean, can we stay where we are for another year?

10:34:04 Don Newell: The question is, can we stay in the present Town Office for another year?

10:34:09 Clem Blakney: I think it was also stated that we don't have a timeframe here. We do have a timeframe. The administration has encouraged us to move in finding a place to stay. We cannot take advantage of staying in that forever. They have dedicated options that they want to do with that space down there and for us to just go sitting on our thumbs and not do anything for a bit is not going to be an option for Heather Perry, the administrator here. So, there is not an option of not going forward on that. Chris, did you want to add anything?

10:34:48 Chris Rossignol: The only reason they're allowing us to stay at this present time is because they see forward momentum in the project that we are trying to accomplish. If we cease momentum, they will probably cease our availability of the space that we have.

10:35:05 Clem Blakney: Did everyone hear that?

10:35:0 Don Newell: The superintendent is seeing that the Town is moving aggressively with a plan and as long as that is happening, they'll be satisfied.

10:35:19 John Piotti: I just want to applaud the Selectmen and the many members of the community who have worked very hard on moving forward with developing our own town office. It's needed, it's a great thing to see. I do have a question for the Selectmen. I'm assuming the answer is yes but I just want to get clarity. I'm assuming there will be a public hearing after you go out to bid, have a final plan, and the community will get a chance to see exactly what and exactly what the financial arrangements are before proceeding. Is that correct?

10:35:53 Clem Blakney: That is correct. This is not a building for us to hang our hat in. This is your building and we want your feedback on that so very much. We are at the tip of the iceberg in terms

of everything that has to go forward with that piece of property over there, and there is a lot of town input that we ask the community to be involved in.

10:36:13 Beth: I wanted to say thank to the Town Office Committee who worked weekly hard the last spring, summer and fall. I remember looking into the Minutes and I was just so amazed, looking for options and working on everything. I'm so appreciative of that. At this time, I understand that we're going to keep this discussion to this issue, but it's a huge amount of money in the budget, and I want to weight some other factors, one being roads and there is some maintenance for the roads in here. There is serious repair that's needed for the roads. I want to fix the roads. I'm down at the end of the Waning Road so I'm paying for that in terms of auto repair and time spent getting anywhere. In terms of roads, I'm wondering about this huge surplus that we have.

10:37:34 Don Newell: You said in terms of the road so your conversation about the town office project has ended?

10:37:41 Beth: No, I asking for consideration of the whole financial picture.

10:37:49 Don Newell: Okay. I'm going to respond to that question because it's a good one and it's relevant so I'm going to see if I can get you a response. Clem and Chris and Ron, we're trying to get a handle on the impact of doing this project to other things that the Town might do without a serious increase in taxes. We all know that it costs money to get a town office, and if you don't own it, you're renting so this is not free. So, as you gentlemen know, it would be wonderful to talk about what is the annual cost of this new facility relative, and we know this is not part of the past, but relative to what we have paid in the past for rent.

10:38:33 Chris Rossignol: What I can tell you is that with all the numbers that are here on the \$250,000, if we borrow the full amount at the suggested interest rate of 2.75, anybody that pays a \$1,000 tax bill, will be looking at an increase of about \$15.50 on that \$1,000 for the town office.

10:39:07 Don Newell: That doesn't answer the question. What would happen if you continued to lease space for the Town? How does that relate to your annual cost of servicing this debt?

1039:21 Chris Rossignol: As far as if we were to go back to the original town office and lease that for a \$1,000 a month or whatever it, I don't have those numbers.

10:39:34 Don Newell: Well, you all get the point. It costs money to have a town office. Once we pay for this town office, that cost will disappear leaving maintenance and utilities.

10:39:44 Beth: I'm just curious also about the surplus that the Town has of \$400,000 and, also, we have a huge unknown as far as what we're going to be paying, what's going to be passed down from the State, so it just seems that there is a lot involved. It's seems like isolated budget decisions that we don't know and I'm curious about that surplus, what is that earmarked for?

10:40:16 Clem Blakney: Often we like to call that \$400,000 surplus. It's not really surplus as much as it is buffer. It is one of the things that provide us able to continue operating the Town when we run of money before the taxes come in. It also gives us a better credit standing when it comes to borrowing or even grants in terms of money coming in this direction when we have, if you want to call it, a better checking account/savings account, it gives us a better standing in relation to the State. Those are some of the things that come into play with that buffer, and it is a plus to have that because it's one thing that we're pretty proud of and I'm not mediator here but we've been pretty

frugal in this town and we're really blessed because of our frugality in terms of having this to have to build a town office without borrowing an extensive amount.

10:41:41 Don Newell: I can answer a little bit of the question about, and it would be wonderful if all of us knew exactly what the future would bring, and we're trying to respond to your question. Susan has passed along some general information about what the implication might be of the town office and, again, consider that doesn't take into consideration that we're going to pay lease on a town office eventually. But, a 3.23 mill rating increase, if you look at the town office in that compared to what it would cost alternatively, in your mill rate, the Governor's budget, and we all know that is really not firmed up, a 1.8 mill increase, as school and county as well as town cost of potentially 1.2. You can see, as high a 3.23 mill rate increase on all the things out there hanging at this time. Sue informs me that the balance of our funds, which is on page 58, is funds available but not surplus. Surplus is an account that we keep track over the years and I pulled that balance. The surplus balance is \$358,000, and the Budget Committee has recommended if you add up all the things that we are discussing today and voting on, they suggested \$65,000 to be used from surplus to fund the Articles in this book, which would leave you with a \$293,000 surplus balance at the end of the day.

10:43:45 Jean Bourg: Just one comment that I'm glad we're discussing the town office borrowing in terms of our total debt, and in terms of things that are coming down upon us that we have no control over. We have to look town office borrowing, the roads borrowing, if choose to do that in terms of our total indebtedness, and what is the limit of debt that we can maintain and still give people some relief on their roads. Our road budget, I think summer road repair budget is \$286,000 and we know that the magic number to do one mile of road, to pave it, is \$240,000 so those figures are relevant today.

10:44:44 Dennis Jones: Is there any way to take the summer road article and move it forward? That would stop a lot of this. People are worried about their roads.

10:45:03 Don Newell: I hear you, Dennis, and yes, we can do that.

10:45:06 Dennis Jones: I think it would save a lot of questions.

10:45:10 Don Newell: What number is that, Dennis? Article 20, as the moderator, I do not have concern about taking that out of order if it is the will of the group.

10:45:41 Resident: Do we have an open article on the floor at this point?

10:45:50 Don Newell: I will take some comments on the timing of this and then we'll make a decision.

10:46:01 Jim Kenney: This is a question to the Selectmen dealing with the borrowing of the money for the school. I believe the money borrowed this year in 2013 for to put up the new school does not cancel 2014. Am I incorrect? I mean the town office.

10:46:25 Sue Lombard: It will not be this year.

10:46:27 Jim Kenney: It will not be in this year's taxation.

10:46:32 Don Newell: Dennis, what I'm going to ask you to do is to modify your motion to one that says this Article currently being discussed will be tabled until right after Article 20. A motion is on the

floor to table this discussion until after the completion of discussion of Article 20. Motion made and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:47:10 David Smith: I'm not necessarily interested in tabling it, to change the order, but if the concern is that people may have some of their questions answered by Article 20, there is really not anything in there for major summer roads reconstruction to the best of my knowledge. Not anything that is going to address several miles of the Waning Road and Town Farm Road so I'm not sure to what degree that is going to address people's concerns.

10:47:46 Don Newell: Ann Lowe: Would you please just address, I don't know if this is just rumor or what but would you address the comment about turning the Waning Road back into a gravel road.

10:48:11 Don Newell: Not now we won't because I have a motion to table on the floor and I have to discharge that. If we can deal with that then I will invite you to make that motion.

10:48:26 Resident: I would like to go ahead and vote on the town office and then we can deal with the roads. My road is terrible, many of them are, but I see them as two separate things.

10:48:43 Don Newell: Okay. Other discussion? Let's call a vote on the motion to table and I'm going to ask you to do it with green cards. All those that are in favor of tabling discussion on this Article until we've completed work on Article 20? Thirty nine. Those opposed? Forty five. Motion defeated.

10:49:50 Don Newell: We will continue the discussion on Article 5.

10:50:35 Penny Picard Sampson: Good morning. We worked for a lot of months, every week, on the town office. We took everything into consideration, leasing, renting, and building, and for the best bang for our dollar was to build. When we got all of the estimates, we are building, actually, what I consider as a low-cost town office yet we can be proud of having. So, even though we will be starting to pay, if we approve it, next year, it's a relatively, and I did the quick math, low amount overall, over the 10 years. I figured probably \$28,000 per year for the town office. We're all in favor of fixing the roads but we do need a town office and over the course of time it will save us more money. Just get it built now. Thank you.

10:51:50 Don Newell: Thank you. So what Penny said is that \$28,000 per year for the 10-year period, keep in mind, that \$250 of that over the 10-year period is reduction of principal. So, the actual cost is less the principal component of those payments. Other hands?

10:52:09 Bob Curry: I live on the Waning Road and I would love to see my road paved. However, the cost of borrowing to build a new town office right now is pretty low. We're not going to get that money any less expensively than we're going to be able to get it right now. Projected over the lifetime of that building, it's cheaper to build a building at our current interest rates than it is to and lease. It just makes no sense not to go ahead with building now.

10:53:02 Nancy McIntire: I also did a little simple arithmetic with a calculator. I divided out the \$250,000 by the number of registered voters in the Town, which is 1,565, and this is registered voters, and it comes out to \$160. That divided into less than \$.50 a day. What if we had a capital campaign? Everybody is concerned that their taxes are going to go up, and we're going to have to borrow the money, and we're going to be paying interest back over how many years. If we did a capital campaign and every registered voter contributed \$160.00, and if you feel you don't have it



then stop buying coffee twice a day at whatever that costs and contribute it to the town office, and we could pay for it in a year and be done with it, and we'd have a beautiful town office and we wouldn't have debt to pay for year after year after year.

10:54:22 Don Newell: Nancy, I can tell you know that the people at the Depot Store, Crosstrax, would be a little upset! Any other hands?

10:54:32 Andy Reed: I just want to say that we owe a great thanks to the school district because we got a piece of property that is going to be larger than anything else we've looked at, it's going to come to us as a deeded piece of property, and it's going to be town property. They worked hard for us and we ought to applaud and say thank you.

10:55:12 Gail Chase: Hi, I'm Gail Chase and I live on the Clark Road. I'm saddened here because I don't think the question of our surplus was adequately addressed. Maybe Sue could remind us of what good government practices are with respect to the amount of surplus we are expected to have. I think our accountants would come up with something, "X" percent of your budget and, my question is should we use surplus for this instead of borrowing?

10:55:55 Don Newell: I'm going to do that before somebody else over there wanted to speak too so don't hesitate to get into line. What the auditors have said is that 10-15 percent of your annual budget should be a bare minimum. Without including the two big ones, the county and school of \$2,500,000, so that is a \$150,000 that should be in hand.

10:56:44 Jim Kenney: The question about what is our annual budget, we're not really new to the dollar, it is around 1.4 million, and that is with the county and the school, about 1.4 million.

10:57:02 Don Newell: So \$140,000 to \$210,000 is what the auditor is suggesting should be a balance that we hold.

10:57:09 Bill Wade: My question is the Article seeks construction of the town office. Do the funds also cover the demolition of the old high school?

10:57:27 Don Newell: The answer is yes, it is included.

10:57:30 John McKenney: I don't disagree that we need a new town office but what if we get this project half done and we didn't raise enough money to finish it? Where are we going to get the additional money?

10:57:50 Clem Blakney: One moment for conferring. We all extending all avenues in doing our very best to keep it under \$250,000 so how we use that money in this timeframe fiscally and be as smart and effective as we can. We are bound with that cap of \$250,000. That means it may take longer but we want to keep it and are required to keep under \$250,000. I guess that's the best answer I can give at this point.

10:58:50 Jean Bourg: I think it's very important that we not spend a dime more than \$250,000 and one of the things that we looked at, on the Town Office Committee, was the design we have right now is about 1,600 square feet. It was quite shrinkable to 1,400 in order to stay under that limit. Extremely firm limit because it was quite doable with some extra built in there to cover contingencies.

10:59:29 Lucia Picard: I may be way off base here but what is confusing people, we talked a lot about the budget and all but I don't see how throwing this \$627,854 bond in with the town office stuff may be throwing people off and confusing them. I just want to firm that up.

11:00:03 Don Newell: We tried to let folks know what the total indebtedness is as they enter into a discussion like this and that is what that is all about.

11:00:12 Jonathan Doughty: First time here. I live on the Crowell Road. My question is do we save ourselves the \$36,000 and borrow from our own surplus to pay back the surplus instead of borrowing some other place and pay interest. I don't know if that is feasible or if it is possible that it would save us money.

11:00:34 Don Newell: So, self-finance which means you would take from surplus and, according to the numbers that Susan has given me, you would end up with \$43,000 in surplus remaining, and you would be borrowing funds in order to run your town until all the tax revenues come in. So you would be out borrowing at rates that are higher than 2.75, at least on some of those funds so you'd have to be real careful with planning like that.

11:01:02 Jonathan Doughty: Would that be including that offer that he was talking about, that \$430,000, is that including the surplus?

11:01:15 Don Newell: I confused it earlier because I read the total funds available at \$440,000 but when the auditors look at that, the funds that are surplus to the town wasn't that \$440,000 figure so don't consider that.

The actual is \$358,000 and built into today's discussion is possibly allocating \$65,000 of that from properties that are new this year.

11:01:41 Jonathan Doughty: How much surplus is used before the tax income comes in?

11:01:49 Jim Kenney: I do have a sense of that and you can read it in the taxes not paid, three pages of it. That funds this town until the taxes of that year are paid. So instead of borrowing money, at a higher interest rate, that money carries us forward. Also, there is an Article in here, in the back of the book, that carries us through the last upwards to the last two months of the year until the books close and they move to this meeting to get authorized to proceed again. Did I do that right, Sue?

11:02:39 Sue Lombard: Yes.

11:02:42 Eric Warman: I live on the Stevens Road over by Thorndike.

11:02:49 Don Newell: And your road is perfect, right?

11:02:50 Eric Warman: Oh yeah! I have the question that \$250,000 seems like an awful lot of money, and Lucia was talking about shrinking the square footage to 1,600 square feet, I'm not sure exactly what that dimension would be. Thorndike just built a town office and for some reason they decided that the Masonic Hall wasn't good enough for Town Meeting day anymore and this building, in my mind, is perfectly good enough for Town Meeting day, it's only one day, so are we looking to build a town office that is so huge that we don't have to use this building anymore? Are we going to build an office or a warehouse?

11:03:46 Chris Rossignol: The building that we're building is 36 x 52. It's basically a small home with an attached garage, so \$250,000 is in the ballpark as far as the construction of that goes, and that is the cap.

11:04:23 Don Newell: I don't see anyone at the mike. Let's vote. All in favor please raise your green card. Opposed? Motion carries for a new town office. That was very good. That's what it's all about.

11:04:53 Don Newell: Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$67,986.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee recommended to raise \$62,158.27, and that we carry forward \$5,827.73. Motion is on the floor. Are we ready for discussion?

11:05:20 Penny Picard Sampson: When we had the Budget Committee meeting and we were talking about increasing salaries, there wasn't a figure at that time of what the actual cost-of-living increase was going to be so it was thrown out for 3%. I looked fresh this morning and the cost of living for 2013 is estimated to be between 1.4 and 1.7 so, in doing the math, that would actually give us a total of, if we only increased the administrative assistant's salary by 1.7%, which is the high end of the estimate, it would increase the salary by \$718.00 a year versus the \$1,267.00 that we gave at the Budget Committee meeting, which is a difference of \$549.00. I would like to amend the amount raised or appropriated to \$66,888.00 and, with that being said, one more point...

11:06:55 Don Newell: You can't make a point until I get it seconded. Do we have a second? It is moved and seconded.

11:07:00 Penny Picard Sampson: Okay, the Town of Unity, we're known as being nice. We need to run it as a business so we can't look at Susan Lombard, we can't look at Charlie Porter, we can't look at Clem Blakney, we have to look at them at administrative assistant, code enforcement officer, selectman. If we were paying on likability, Clem would be a multimillion. My point is if we run the Town like a business, I think a 1.7 cost-of-living increase, which is the high end, would be fair. Thank you.

11:07:45 Don Newell: So, we have a motion to amend on the floor, and that would be to, what's the reduction figure, by \$549.00, to a total of \$66,888.00. I think it's easier to get a grasp by reducing that amount by \$549.00, which would reduce the Town Clerk's salary by that figure. The floor is open for further discussion.

11:08:11 David Smith: My concern is that the proposed amendment seems to be singling out one person so far. I don't know of anybody else's salary was increased a little bit by the 3%. Your's was the only one, Sue?

11:08:45 Sue Lombard: It is just administrative assistant's salary.

11:08:52 Penny Picard Sampson: In this particular article, that was the only position. We're also looking at code enforcement office and the fire chief has asked for a pay raise too so those obviously are not included in this article but will be addressed. I'm going to make those same points later, Dave.

11:09:12 Jim Kenney: For a period of four years, the Selectmen did not take an increase at all, am I correct, Sue:

11:09:28 Sue Lombard: 2.5

11:09:29 Jim Kenney: Did not take an increase at all for four consecutive years.

11:09:41 Lucia Picard: In going forward, looking at the Town Warrant, I totally believe in charitable giving, and I believe in compensating our Town employees because they do an amazing job. However, when looking at all these budget items and things, to consider that the economy has been rough on everybody and I, myself, had to go three years without kind of pay raise and have my benefits suspended. I would love to be able to give to everybody all the time but everyone is struggling so, I think, taking what Penny said into account as far as running this a little more fiscally tight and, you know, it doesn't mean we can't in the future but maybe we really need to consider what are debts are, what our future be, and what can we really afford.

11:10:38 Don Newell: Further discussion? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. We're now dealing with the amendment to Article 6, and the figure would be \$66,888.00 if you approve this amendment. All in favor of the amendment please raise your green cards. And, those opposed. The motion is defeated. The motion to amend is defeated. Now we're back to the main motion. The floor is open for continued discussion on the main motion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:11:29 Don Newell: Article 7, To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$5,737.00 for the Code Enforcement Officer for the ensuing year. Budget Committee recommends to raise \$5,737.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:11:53 Don Newell: Article 8, To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$2,050.00 for the Animal Control Officer for the ensuing year. Budget Committee recommends that we raise \$2,050.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

11:12:08 Penny Picard Sampson: I just wanted to make a point while we're throwing out raises. Thirteen years ago I stopped being the animal control officer. The salary then was \$2,000.00 a year. So, 13 years ago and the Animal Control Officer has not gotten a raise. Just a point.

11:12:41 Lois Ongley: I am wondering why the amount is decreased this year from last year.

11:12:55 Don Newell: Look at pages 30 and 31 in the book and it will review that. It's the supply component of that, the salary stays the same. For some reason we didn't think we needed additional funds for supplies. That was the requested amount. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Does everyone have the Town Report with them? Is there anyone who doesn't? The reason I ask is because I'm only required to read the Article, not the source of funds and, so, from here on I'm not going to read the Budget Committee recommended, etc., and I'm just going to read the Article and get the motion and move forward.

11:13:39 Don Newell: Article 9, To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$55,000 for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. Budget Committee recommends that we raise \$38,561.67. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands, all in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:14:10 Don Newell: Article 10, To see if the Town will vote that the revenues derived from the Fire Department charges, refunds, grants and contract payments shall become a part of the Fire Department Maintenance & Operations and the Firemen's Compensation Accounts in addition to funds appropriate by the Town. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:14:32 Don Newell: Article 11, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Fire Department on the following accounts for the ensuing year, and you will see that list of accounts there: The last one, the generator purchase of \$10,000 has been deleted prior to the printing of the official warrant so that is no longer part of the consideration of this Article, so it is only salary, fire truck fund, maintenance and operations, and fire house loan payment. I'm going to turn to Dennis for discussion on this.

11:15:06 Dennis Turner: I'm Dennis Turner, the fire chief. The reason to increase in the salary of the firefighters, including an increase for the fire chief of \$300.00, \$100.00 for each one of my assistants, and for my firefighters that will bring them up an \$8.00/hour pay. Also at this time, I would like to let people know if you live in the area of a fire hydrant, you want to let your insurance company know as it may help lower your insurance rate. Also, let them know we have an automatic mutual aid and what that means is if we have a fire call in Unity, other towns are dispatched at the same time. Some of you here in the town, the day we had the fire on Main Street, you saw that we had several departments here from Waldo County, Prospect, fire departments from Dixmont, Detroit, Pittsfield, and we had even from Winslow. We have the manpower to go fight a major fire in the Town and you should let your insurance company know we have these capabilities. Also, we're working on to lower our insurance rating here in town. Right now, we are a class 9. On our fire reports, if we write down the towns that have responded, and the number of personnel that each town has had here, part of the process that we need to go through, by ISO to come in later, and will get help on downgrading to a.... Now you can make your point.

11:16:57 Don Newell: Thank you, Dennis. Dennis, explain to me before you leave the mike, under the fire truck fund it says \$10,477.30, and yet the Budget Committee recommended raising \$20,000. Can you explain why that is.

11:17:11 Dennis Turner: What we want to do is pay the fire truck off next year, I believe that is \$10,000, so next year will only have to borrow \$10,000 to finish paying the truck off and that \$10,000 will have next year to start on having a fund for another fire truck and if we can keep on doing this, we'll be able to do the same thing when it comes time to purchase another truck, we'll have the majority of the money in our hands.

11:17:50 Don Newell: Are you suggesting that the trucks don't last forever? Any other thoughts or comments on this Article? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:17:56 Don Newell: Article 12, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for E-911 for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed no?

11:18:03 David Smith: Just as a point of order, you're reading an article and it being moved but there is never any mention of the money. You said that you didn't need to do that. Somebody somewhere along the way needs to actually say what it is they're wanting to have...

11:18:33 Don Newell: Thank you very much. What Dave is telling us is that when we move an Article, it has to have a dollar figure associated with it. When I said I'm not reading these figures is unless you make a motion to change it, the figures are going to be the amount that is recorded below that is recommended by the Budget Committee. So, it is a Budget Committee recommendation and unless someone says I want to move to amend that amount, that will be assumed that's the figure. Is that satisfactory with you, Dave?

11:19:05 David Smith: You're saying that's legal...

11:19:31 Don Newell: The Budget Committee recommended the amount, that will be...I see people are following along. I'll go ahead and read all the numbers. If at any point, anyone has a question, raise your hand.

11:19:46 Andy Reed: If you don't read the Council amounts, is it going to be in the Minutes?

11:19:46 Don Newell: It won't be in the stenographer's report. I'll read the numbers. So, where am I, Article 13, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Electricity for the Town Lights for the ensuing year Requested \$8,000.00, Budget Committee recommends raise \$8,000.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:20:12 Don Newell: Article 14, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center, and Universal Waste Facility for the ensuing year. Requested amount \$19,290.69, Budget Committee recommends raise that amount. Moved and seconded.

11:20:34 Resident: I have a question. Since everybody is running numbers, I did too. That represents a 23% increase from last year. Is there a particular reason that increase is high compared to the 3% that we were given on the Town Budget.

11:20:58 Don Newell: Thank you. If you will move to page 37, you will see some of the details that go along with that.

11:21:01 Clem Blakney: Thank you for asking that. It gives me a chance to get on my stump and talk about recycling, but I won't get too much onto that. My point is, yes, it was increased simply because the sale of materials, we didn't get as much as we did the previous year so, essentially, the Town was charged that amount that we were not able to gain from selling materials. It goes up and down depending on resources and commodities and, we end up having to charge back the Town for the loss of revenue that we received from materials that we're recycling. It did still take them out of the stream, and it still reduced what we sent to the [inaudible], but the Town had to pay more simply because we couldn't get as much on tonnage on each of those items.

11:21:55 Charlie Schaefer: Has the tonnage gone down or up?

11:22:02 Clem Blakney: Excellent question on that and, actually, that's two-fold. Charlie asked about the tonnage, if it's gone up or down and, actually, the tonnage went down as well as the dollar amount per tonnage. So, due diligence. I ask every one of you to see what you can do to recycle. Rethink and revisit that. Tonnage went down, dollars went down, charge back to the Town went up.

11:22:33 Don Newell: Further discussion on Article 14. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:23:00 Don Newell: Article 15, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to Penobscot Energy Recovery Co. For the ensuing year. Requested \$75,000.00, Budget Committee recommends raise \$50,820.10. Floor is open. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:23:25 Don Newell: Article 16, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring for the ensuing year. Requested amount \$3,500.00, Budget Committee recommends raise \$3,500.00. You will note that the expended amount last year was \$1,457.50, and that is because every other year we're allowed to have reduced monitoring, and so this is the high year, and that's why that figure is higher. Floor is open. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:24:02 Don Newell: Article 17, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Curbside Recycling Pick Up for the ensuing year. Requested amount \$9,116.62, Budget Committee recommend raise \$3,500.00 Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Just as a side note on that. This is the last year of a multiyear contract with Sullivan's. It will go out for bid later this year for the next round. How long does a contract run, Susan?

11:24:34 Susan Lombard: Five years.

11:24:36 Don Newell: Article 18, To see if the Town will vote to increase the trash sticker fee from \$1.00 to \$1.25 each and the dumpster tipping fee from \$3.00 to \$3.75 per cubic yard for each dumping. Moved and seconded. My notes say this is for curbside pickup and fuel surcharges. The floor is open.

11:25:22 Tabitha Littlefield: We're raising our taxes already through the previous three articles in order to take care of garbage, why are we also raising this tax, because this is a tax, that's what it is. But we just voted three times to raise it all already.

11:25:44 Don Newell: Good question, who wants to handle that. I know the answer. Can I answer that? If you approve this Article, the people that are putting out the trash gets it paid for. They pay a bit more for it than all of the residents so we move a little bit of the cost from taxpayers in general to the people who are producing trash.

16:26:08 Tabitha Littlefield: But we already just voted to...

11:26:14 Don Newell: This is a separate issue. This is the fuel charge surcharge, and the curbside pickup cost.

11:26:34 Matt Picard: I'm going to move to amend this to \$2 per sticker to help pay for all the other Articles that we just voted on, and encourage people to recycle.

11:26:55 Don Newell: That's interesting. The motion is to amend the Article to change the figure from \$1.25 to \$2 and that is out of order because the figure is written in the Article and we don't have that authority at the Town Meeting to increase it. We can decrease it but we can't increase it. We can't do that. Good try.

11:27:16 Lynn Warman: I'm Lynn Warman. I believe in personal responsibility in paying to remove our own trash but we own a dirt road that everyone thinks is the dump and if we put those stickers up to that price, please come on my road and help clean up.

11:27:36 Tom: I think a \$.25 difference isn't going to make any difference in amounts of trash that people throw out. Particularly, in mind of what Clem said about us not generating enough recycle support, I think an increase to \$2.00 or \$1.50 might give us a little bit more money without changing attitudes.

11:28:10 Jim Kenney: I'm asking the Selectmen and I believe it is true, you do not have to go down to the Town Office and pay \$.25 for a parking ticket. The tickets you have at home are usable. The new ticket sales can go up in price.

11:28:28 Don Newell: Starting Monday so when the hardware store opens in the morning you can go buy one of those tickets?

11:27:34 Clem Blakney: Seriously, the hardware store, Edward's, they all have a supply of those tickets at the lower price so, you can save some money there. The point is, \$.25 and it's been mentioned, studies from other towns have shown that it did not create an adverse effect of people throwing garbage at the end of dirt roads.

11:29:03 Don Newell: If you're looking for a good reason why you should be at Town Meeting, you just had one. You need to go buy those remaining stickers. If further discussion?

11:29:13 Dennis Turner: Don, I have driven around the town and a lot of the garbage that we have out there is mattresses, couches, old chairs...people have no place to take them so they drag them down the road and dump them.

11:29:28 Clem Blakney: To answer that question, we do have Spring Clean-Up week, all of those stickers are there they will come pick up those mattresses and everything else, so don't forget that. There is a cost involved though, but that way it's not going to the end of the roads.

11:30:03 Lynn Warman: Things like tires beside the road cost me money to get rid of, aluminum storm door that cost me \$25 for then to pick up....in the spring pick up. I'm just frustrating.

11:30:24 Annie Shepley: My name is Annie Shepley and I was asked to serve on the UARRCV Recycling Board. It's been quite an interesting experience. Recently, I met woman from another town and she has me beat. She only puts out three bags of trash a year. I hold that as a benchmark that I'm striving for. By the way, there's a fairly new couch on the side of Rt. 202, not far from Clem or Ron's house, it hasn't been rained on yet, I just noticed it, it appeared last night.

11:31:13 Jim Kenney: To the lady that I don't know who had to pay \$22 to get an aluminum storm door removed. We do have a metal bin, that could've been thrown into that at no cost to you. We've had that as long as I can remember.

11:31:21 Lynn Warman: It was years ago. Just another note, we had an old mattress that grandma thought we should just throw over onto the town office yard. It laid there by the side of the road five months.



11:31:39 Don Newell: I'm going to ask you to vote on the motion to limit debate. Those who would vote all in favor, aye? And those opposed, no. I'm going to call the vote. The Article we're calling the vote on is Article 18 and that is to increase the fee to \$1.25. All those in favor, aye. All those not? Motion carries.

11:32:41 Don Newell: Article 19, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Metal Recycling Bin for the ensuing year. Requested \$1,500.00, Budget Committee recommended raise \$1,500.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:32:58 Dennis Jones: Don't we get paid for that?

11:32:59 Don Newell: The question was do we get paid for the metal and the answer is yes. Please go to page 39 for the rest of the story. We got \$1,100.00 for that and went directly to surplus so it doesn't show up there.

11:33:33 Dennis Jones: What's the money for? The attendant?

11:33:34 Don Newell: Yes. Last year the expenditure was \$880.00 for the attendant, and \$331.59 for Hazardous Household Waste Day. Seeing no further hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:33:53 Don Newell: Article 20, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Public. The request was \$287,511.49 for summer roads, and \$177,000.00 for winter roads and the Budget Committee recommended those amounts. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:34:05 Resident: I just have a question. What is the difference between summer and winter roads?

11:34:03 Don Newell: It snows in the wintertime so salt, sand, and plowing. In the summer it is road construction.

11:34:40 Jean Bourg: It would be helpful to have an explanation of how the \$286,000 will be spent this year.

11:34:59 Chris Rossignol: The proposal right now that that we've been discussing, the Selectmen, is that designated \$150,000 of that to reclaiming, paving, and finish coat. The remaining \$100,000 would be spent on general maintenance-type stuff, ditching, patching, tree removal, and so on. The \$36,000, in there are monies that were left over from projects that didn't get accomplished last year so they will be utilized in those this year.

11:35:45 Don Newell: If you go to pages 39 and 40 you will see a summary of what the money was spent for last year, so it is broad. There are a lot of things that go on with those funds.

11:36:03 Pam Curry: What are you going to pave?

11:36:15 Chris Rossignol: Town Farm. We're going to try and finish that. There are two miles left to finish that project.

11:36:24 Pam Curry: And will you have enough to finish that project?

11:36:26 Chris Rossignol: Not this year. That will do another half a mile.

11:36:28 Don Newell: The question was, what's going to get paved and the answer is the Town Farm Road, and then the question would there be enough to do it all, and the answer...

11:36:33 Chris Rossignol: Not completely.

11:36:37 Don Newell: How much would be left?

11:36:42 Chris Rossignol: Right now we're sitting on two miles of hot top that needs to be replaced, and a mile of hot top that has been replaced but needs to be top coated. After this year we'll do as much as we can for the top coat and then as far as the \$75,000 will allow us for reclaim and the new coat of hot top...so that will leave 1-1/2 miles of the rest.

11:37:14 Tabitha Littlefield: I live on the Bailey Road, it's a dirt road, and it is miserable in the springtime. The cause of all of the problems on that dirt road are caused by the school bus. There are no children on that road that attend public school. I have called the school about this in the past and they tell me our road is not on their bus route. Two buses go by twice a day and rut up that road, and it is a posted road. There is a weight limit because of the mud problem. They cause ruts that, I kid you not, are a foot deep and as wide as the school bus tire. We can't get out of our driveway. It is already starting for this year, and you have to fix it every year. It's the school buses that cause it, they drive on the road and it's not on their bus route, there are no children on that road that go to public school, they are all home schooled. They don't need to be there but they do it anyway. I would think that the Town would address that issue with the school and force them to stop using that as a short cut. They would save money on fixing that.

11:38:26 Don Newell: Where is the Bailey Road?

11:38:32 Tabitha Littlefield. Stevens Road and Town Farm Roads.

11:38:35 Matt Picard: For those people who don't know me, I also live on the Waning Road. My discussion is that I have talked to Clem about this before is the proper upkeep and maintenance of established roads. I don't know how long it's been since we graded the sides of the roads but when you have a berm of dirt holding water into the road, it quickly deteriorates them. I've also discussed the fact that I would rather live on a pot-holed asphalt road than a dirt road. If it takes a town vote to pave the road, then I don't know why it wouldn't take a town vote to turn a tarred road back to dirt. I'm hoping that the people that live on the Kanokolus Road are going to get a tax abatement for the ridiculousness they have to go through to travel that dirt road. We definitely need to look at building our roads properly in the first place with proper materials, proper techniques, and making sure the people paving them are putting the right amount of asphalt on them. We have roads that have been built in recent years that are already starting to have water run down the middle of the roads seriously deteriorating right now. We really need to take a commonsense approach to how these roads are being built and how they are being maintained rather than saving a dollar now and spending two later.

11:40:17 Don Newell: Thank you. The question was, it wasn't asked specifically but I think it deserves an answer, can you take a paved road and go back to a dirt road without Town approval?

11:40:32 Jim Kenney: You cannot change the character of a road without the vote of the citizens. You get that in road scholar training sessions.

11:40:49 Don Newell: It was done. The Kanokolus Road got de-paved.

11:40:57 Charlie Schaefer: Several years ago, Ron and Jim and Maggie Wilcox spent a lot of time and effort to develop a comprehensive road plan. Are we still following that?

11:41:17 Ron Rudolph: Yes, it's the right way.

11:41:32 Penny Picard Sampson: I'm fortunate enough to live on Routes 202 and 9 so I don't have a pothole issue close to town. However, I occasionally ride around on back road that are almost dirt at this point. I know we can't ask for more money in this Article and I am fiscally conservative, as everybody knows, but I am not opposed to paying more money, even if we have to have a special town meeting so we can get some of these roads fixed because, realistically, a mile isn't a lot. Just to my brother's house is five miles and it's too far to travel so I don't go visit him very often. That's my excuse. So, this is a just a general question, what would it take realistically to get a special town meeting to possibly look at appropriating more.

11:42:40 Don Newell: Just so everybody knows, there is no restriction on the amount of money that you can raise under Article 24, summer roads. The reason we could not do that on the fee for a sticker was that the money was actually incorporated into the Article. In this case, it's not. There is a request and a recommendation, you can exceed those particular numbers. Further discussion?

11:43:05 Dennis Jones: What kind of a contract did we have for plowing the roads this winter? Three years, one year, two years?

11:43:28 Don Newell: In the future, Dennis, we need you on the mike. So, what was the term of the contract for plowing winter roads is the question right?

11:43:30 Chris Rossignol: It's a three-year contract.

11:43:33 Don Newell: Three-year contract. Was this the first of the three?

11:43:36 Chris Rossignol: Yes.

11:43:41 Dennis Jones: Is there a probational period or anything like that? I had to plow my road myself this winter. If my house caught on fire no way would Dennis ever get to it - I had two feet of snow in the road. They did a horrible job.

11:43:56 Don Newell: And you will be reminded to talk about that when we're discussing winter roads.

11:44:10 Dennis Jones: This is all one Article.

11:44:12 Charlie Schaefer: Who has the contract for plowing our roads in the winter?

11:44:25 Clem Blakney: Farley & Sons. They are from Rockland-Camden area, Farley & Sons. We appreciate all of your comment. We got lots of phone calls and this is the only way that we can make corrections to this situation. Probation, if you want to call it, we don't have a probationary clause in there but I'm telling you what, the only way we can fix the problem in terms of improving, we need your feedback. Article 9, The Selectmen reserve the right to evaluate the contractor's performance any time during the first year, and cancel or continue the remainder of the contract time

as deemed appropriate for the benefit of the town. There you go folks, and we appreciate all the feedback that you have given us and, I tell you what, it has brought a lot of things to the table in terms of corrections we need to address before next year's snow hits.

11:45:39 Charlie Schaefer: Was it put out for bid?

11:45:46 Clem Blakney: Yes, we had competitive bidding of several different bidders.

11:45:57 Dennis Turner: I went out several times, especially with the big snowstorms, and we had roads that were not plowed. Emergency vehicles could not get there. I stopped and talked to one of the drivers and asked them about it and they said they were told to just keep the main roads open and that was it until after the storm. We had several roads that were not plowed, emergency vehicles couldn't get through.

11:46:27 Chris Downie: I've only been here two years. We're blaming the plow people and, I agree. They did a lousy job, however, on the blizzard we had a few Saturdays ago, we called a Selectman and that Selectman told us the State of Maine told them to stay off the roads and they pulled the plows. Absolutely ridiculous. I don't think that when the State of Maine says people stay off the roads that they mean the plows. We have an elderly lady who lives up our road who is ill. I've seen the ambulance. I don't know her. If that woman to have an emergency, God love my husband who used to be an EMT might be able to save her but nobody else would've got in that road. We had somebody with a snow blower go down the road at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to snow blow the road in case of an emergency vehicle. So, before we yell at all of our plow people. I believe Mr. Jones did an excellent job - we just need them to know that when the State says to pull vehicles off the road, they don't mean the plows.

11:47:29 Dennis Jones: I didn't do the plowing.

11:47:38 Don Newell: This woman was suggesting when you did it in the past. Order, order please. We're going to respond to the question of not allowing the plow trucks on the road.

11:47:59 Chris Rossignol: What actually happened is the State pulled their own plow trucks off the roads and when that was done, that was when...during that snowstorm, the State pulled their plow trucks and that's when Farley & Sons decided to pull their trucks and park them until daybreak.

11:48:22 Emily Newell: We had a really awful plow company right from the start and I don't think they are learning. I think we need to quickly consider a different company, they need to do a better job. I want to encourage the Selectmen to look at, if it was a one- year, we have to get out of that contract. It probably coming up real soon.

11:49:03 Ron Rudolph: Emily, there might be an answer to that. These are new guys, they don't know the rules too well. When we receive complaints we listen and call in all of the plow guys, every one of them, and we tell them what's wrong and then correct it.

11:49:36 Emily Newell: I trust that you did talk with the plow company and did give them suggestions and feedback to try and improve but I don't think they listened. Throughout the year they continued to plow the berms to the side of dirt roads which is just going to deteriorate them.

11:49:53 Bill Wade: I contacted the company directly. I took pictures the next morning around 10:00. They had made one pass at 3:00 in the afternoon the day of the big storm and then they did nothing

after that. There was just a narrow passageway, nothing like a fire truck or ambulance could get through the Town Farm Road where I live. I took some photos of some places that had drifted over three feet. This is about Town liability because State law requires, as far as I know, that town roads have to be maintained in a passable condition. I told them flat out that if or my wife suffered any damage because the fire trucks, ambulance, or fuel trucks could not get through, I would sue them. That's one solution but it's not the best one.

11:51:07 Donald Newell: I would like to take a little liberty here on the plowing contract issue alone. I'm sensing a general feeling here. I think that that the Selectmen need to have the feeling of everyone in the room as opposed to just those who have been able to get to the mike so far. We have learned that we have some time to have something done regarding plowing and so I would like to ask the voters to use your green cards and indicate to the Selectmen whether you have an interest in terminating that contract and finding the next best alternative or to continue the contract. One, do you have an interest in terminating the contract and seek the next best alternative? Those in favor, this is a straw poll. Those that are opposed?

11:51:52 Chris Rossignol: Don, just a head's up, the next best was \$70,000 more.

11:52:09 Don Newell: The next best was \$70,000 more.

11:52:23 Dennis Jones: We paid \$177,000 for them to practice last year. This is not their first year although it is here. They do, I believe, two or three other towns. They do Waldo, Camden...they've done this for 30 years they told me.

11:52:36 Penny Picard Sampson: My Aunt Rosemary was stressed with the condition of the Kanokolus Road and I don't blame her. Both sides of my family are buried on that road. My concern is and has been since I found out that road was turned to dirt, what would happen to the cemetery. I'm not on the cemetery committee but I think I want to be because I spend a lot of time down there. Anyway, how much would it cost to pave from Main Street to the end of the cemetery like it used to be back in the olden days knowing that we really don't have to ditch, there is no brush up there. The road bed should already be there. So, how much would it actually cost to pave that little stretch of road?

11:53:39 Chris Rossignol: I'm going to guess and say in the vicinity of \$125,000, that's just a shot in the dark based on a mile of road. I know it's not a mile but based on a mile of road being about \$236,000, I'm going to say in the \$125,000...it may not be a half mile.

11:53:59 Dennis Jones: That price you just gave, is that to reclaim it too?

11:54:09 Chris Rossignol: Yes, it is. I'd have to sit down and do the math to really...

11:54:14 Resident: How much is hot mix in place per ton?

11:54:16 Chris Rossignol: \$80.00 a ton. In place.

11:54:22 Penny Picard Sampson: Do we know how many tons it would take?

11:54:24 Chris Rossignol: I don't have the numbers right in front of me, Penny. I can get you the numbers.

11:54:30 Lucia: Just one observation on winter roads. I would watch two trucks go in tandem up and down my road, the first one sanding, the one behind would be plowing. I watched them do it all day long. Secondly, earlier on we were talking about town votes for appropriating a larger amount for the summer road budget and things like that. I just wanted to kind of throw out if we had a special town meeting to increase the budget for summer roads, would the townspeople have any say in how it would be expended only because it has always been a mystery to me every year on the roads that I travel to work, I see them ditching the roads, then spreading it with seed and hay and all of this other mystery stuff, only to then have to plow it all summer long and then have to dredge it up again. That, to me, is like throwing money into the ditch. If the townspeople had any say in how a summer budget was expended, I would say let's just leave the ditches and put more money into pavement.

11:55:57 Don Newell: I'm going to ask the question of the Selectmen, how our citizens, our voters, can be involved in the decision making regarding road?

11:56:03 Clem Blakney: I would agree. I think we need a special meeting just for the roads. I'm going to basically say that in the last few years, the cost of paving a road has gone up dramatically and putting us into a pickle. We cannot support all of our paved roads, and unfortunately, with the invention of these wonderful paved roads, we're now paying for it because the cost of oil has gone up and up and up, and we can't keep affording to have this habit that we have of these wonderful roads. We're at a point, at a crossroads where we're going to have to address that issue. That's why we need a special town meeting to educate, to get everyone involved to see what we can do with the roads. It's happening all over and we need to address the issue. This is not the time and the place to do it because we have other issues but we need to address this.

11:57:03 Don Newell: And, just so you know, if the voters want to do it here, we can do it. I don't disagree with what Clem is saying, I'm not making a statement on that but I just want to reiterate that this is Town Meeting and we've got everybody here. If you want to make adjustments in this budget you can do it. It seems to me that the takeaway for this for our Selectmen is next year prior to our annual Town Meeting there ought to be a hearing talking about the roads and what the budget is all about, what they plan to do and how they plan to do it...

11:57:37 Jonathan Doughty: How many miles of road need to be reclaimed for paving. Any clue?

11:57:43 Chris Rossignol: We've got 34 miles of road.

11:57:47 Jonathan Doughty: Thirty four miles at \$250,000 a mile...

11:57:53 Chris Rossignol: Not including any of the ditching and culverts...

11:57:56 Jonathan Doughty: Which means that if you don't finish you lose that pay. So, we're looking at what figure?

11:58:09 Chris Rossignol: I don't honestly know. You could rough figure it.

11:58:14 Jonathan Doughty: Ten million dollars. In order to fix all the roads that need to be fixed, \$10,000,000. How much does it cost to grade a mile of road?

11:58:31 Chris Rossignol: To grade? It's \$200 an hour. I think it's \$200 an hour.

11:58:36 Jonathan Doughty: How much can they do? How long does it take to grade a mile of road on average?

11:58:38 Chris Rossignol: Dennis, I'm going to have to rely on you for this one.

11:58:40 Dennis Jones: Toby does 20 miles of dirt road...I believe it's something like eight miles. Toby does like eight roads and it costs us \$7,500? No, that's to do it twice, \$7,500 and ditching.

11:59:05 Jonathan Doughty: I live on the Crowell Road, which is a back road. My wondering is can we afford a paved road over a dirt road. Dirt roads are a nuisance, I realize with the ruts and all that, but can we afford it whereas if we turn those miles and miles of road into, some of those miles, especially the back ones into dirt road, I live on the back road of all back roads. I'm going to be driving on more than one dirt road to get out. Are we looking at anywhere near the cost of maintaining a 10-year paving system at the current rate. That's my question. I want the town to think about that because we're going to be costing more if the oil goes up. If the oil stays the same, \$10,000,000 to keep our roads paved.

12:00:17 Don Newell: Dennis, I have to ask you to talk into the mike. Nobody can hear you.

12:00:24 Cindy Jones: I'll try to stop him.

12:00:17 Resident: You guys say you have a comprehensive plan to take care of our roads and maintenance. It's been 18 years since I've seen any action on my side of town. I own a house and you have to shingle your roof every year. There has been no hop top in my area for 18 years.

12:00:52 Don Newell: Is that the Crowell Road?

12:00:54 Resident: Yes. I figured it out. I have paid over \$50,000 in excise tax and property tax in the last 17 years to get a little patch. I want results.

12:01:14 Don Newell: We can do this for a couple three or four more hours. We have an awful lot of people who have their own road. I'm trying to extract information for the Selectmen and so one of the things is it would be wonderful to have a hearing where we could learn this stuff and it would be fine to have our Selectmen have the answers.

12:01:55 Lucia: I just wanted to address the young fellow that just spoke. In my experience, I have worked for over 20 years in a place where my office is at the End of a two-mile dirt road. I can't imagine being a homeowner or somebody with children that has to live on a dirt road that is literally impassable for several weeks out of the year. So, when we're talking taking paved roads, potholes and ruts, I had to find a different way to get to work because my road was so bad and the Town Farm Road is so bad. I had to go back through Freedom to get to where I work and then have to park and ride share in with somebody in a giant SUV. That is why we're all talking about being conservative with budgets and other charitable giving because we know these expenditures are huge.

12:02:50 Don Newell: I'm going to encourage people now to talk about the Article and that means are you going to propose an amendment to this Article or not. I have mentioned a couple of times, if you want to spend more money get your amendment up there and let people decide do they want to support you or not.

12:03:12 Jean Bourg: I have a question. If we decide to increase the amount for the summer roads, where does the money come from?

12:03:28 Don Newell: You would make that part of the motion.

12:03:33 Jean Bourg: Okay, part of the motion would be to borrow or taxation.

12:03:40 Jacquelyn: I would like to make an amendment that we vote on this Article as it stands because we do need to have the money but an amendment would be that there is a special town meeting on roads.

12:04:05 Don Newell: You can't force a special town meeting as part of our warrant today. I'm just trying to make it as crystal clear, if it is unanimous that we want a hearing, we want information as a voting body.

12:04:24 Jacquelyn: Okay, what I'm saying is we can keep talking forever here about this. We might as well vote on this Article and then have 10% of the voters to have a special town meeting. For the Selectmen having heard that the town is concerned, I feel they would call a special town meeting. I don't think that additional talk at this time is of any benefit. Let's vote on the Article.

12:05:00 Don Newell: That was a motion to move on the previous question. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? Motion carries on Article 20 as read. We are at lunch but before we go to lunch I want to give Senator Mike Thibodeau a moment to talk to us, if it's your will to do that. We need a two-third vote. I would like you to use your green cards if you would like Mike to speak.

12:05:07 Senator Mike Thibodeau addressed the voters.

12:09:17 Don Newell: We are going to request a motion to recess for lunch. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye? We will come back and go to work at 1:00.

[BREAK FOR LUNCH]

13:01:25 Don Newell: Let's get started. Article 21, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Requested amount \$22,600.00, Budget Committee recommends to raise \$19,352.46. Motions and seconded. Floor is open.

13:02:32 Penny Picard Sampson: I went to the Town Office yesterday. Sue was prepared for me to ask this question. When I asked you yesterday about Town cemetery budget she said she would have the information for us today about what the sexton does. I believe the sexton's salary is \$4,500 per year.

13:03:32 Don Newell: Lynn Warman is going to respond to that question of what does a sexton do.

13:03:44 Lynn Warman: The responsibilities of the cemeteries sexton are 1) keeping an accurate record of the name, age, and sex of each internment. Vital information of each burial, ascertaining that all burials are in legal lots keeping a record of all lots sold by location, maintain plans for all of Unity's cemeteries, and on said plans for the location of lots purchased and the holder thereof. Maintains all grave sites, makes certain that all graves are opened and closed under the direction of the State, local and federal laws. Making sure that payment for a lot is made before it is opened. Maintains all cemeteries in orderly condition including the grounds, the shrubs, the stones, and



roadways. All activities noted in the Town of Unity cemetery ordinance those as signed by the Unity Cemetery Committee. Supervise the installation of all monuments and stones. Maintains the cemetery borders, and last year he did a lot of cutting of brush and trees around the edges of the cemeteries. He also supervised the care of the mowing and all care of the cemeteries. Sets markers for stones. Any other questions.

13:05:32 Don Newell: We're looking on page 41 for the details of this. Anthony Brillard was the sexton, he was paid \$4,500.00 and then the labor, \$1,552.50, what was that?

13:06:01 Lynn Warman: That was cutting brush, he and three other people who were working with him, cutting brush around the cemeteries. The Boulter Cemetery was one.

13:06:11 Charlie Schaefer: Who is this Wilco's PowerWashing?

13:06:17 Lynn Warman: That was power washing of the stones on one side of the Pond Cemetery, the right side. Power washing is washing the lichens and stuff that grows into the stone. I asked him how often we need to do that and he said it depends on the weather how quickly the mold and lichens grow back. As a Town, we have a responsibility to take care of especially the veteran's stones making sure they are kept up. That's part of Maine law. Anthony makes sure that old, soft stones can't be power washed. They are eroding terribly as it is.

13:07:43 Penny Picard Sampson: This is my concern. When we buried mother last year, nobody set the markers, I determined where the stone was going to be. When we put her in the ground, nobody came to say this is where you can put her, we decided where to put her. I really wonder, and then knowing how many actual burials we have per year, and seeing sometimes when the cemeteries really need to be mowed when they're a foot high, the stones get covered in grass. I, myself, take a little wire scraper and clean stones. I'm not seeing a whole lot of value for our dollar to be paying a sexton \$4,500. As far as keeping records, we have the records at the Town Office anyway.

13:08:49 Lynn Warman: The Cemetery Committee has not been pleased at all with the man doing the mowing. As a Committee, we decided we were not going to accept bids from this same person we've had for the last three years and, if we don't get a bid that is reasonable, then Anthony is going to take care of the mowing of the cemeteries. As far as why somebody wasn't there, I don't know, I never got a call. We have had no people cremating remains and burying in the cemeteries without contacting us, we just won't know they're there and can't keep a record of it.

13:09:40 George Maehdal: You shouldn't speak to a subject you know nothing about, you break that rule. I'm embarrassed to pay for power wash.

13:09:50 Don Newell: Any other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:10:03 Don Newell: Article 22, To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the Snowmobile Registration Refund from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to be used for grooming trails, with matching funds, under the supervision of the Selectmen and the Project Director. Motion seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:10:45 Don Newell: Article 23, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. The requested amount of \$2,000.00. Budget Committee

recommends raise \$2,100.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:10:59 Don Newell: Article 24, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Recreation for the ensuing year. Requested \$1,250.00. Budget Committee recommends to raise \$1,250.00. Moved and seconded. It's on the floor.

13:11:02 Charlie Schaefer: What is that money used for?

13:11:11 Bob Cartier: I can't answer that. Basically, the \$750.00, all that is for the swimming lessons that I've done every year. The \$700.00 is to tie things down, the chain, maintenance of the tables, and also to put the docks in. Every year without fail somebody drops something and we cannot find it so we have to buy new nuts, bolts. Last year we spent \$200 or \$300 more for a couple extra tables. I think we have six to eight tables, something like that. It's odds and ends.

13:12:11 Don Newell: So this request is less than last year, and we are saying that because we did a lot of the upgrade.

13:12:38 Bob Cartier: Yes, we stained all the tables. We bought several tables. The docks were upgraded five years ago. I'll put it out here, if any young fellas and young ladies would like to help, I just turned 77. We try to get it, it is just my wife and I and it wouldn't bother me, we could use some help. We try to get it in before Memorial Day and in the fall, when the weather is warm.

13:13:59 David Smith: I just want to suggest that Articles 23 and 24 seem to be pretty closely related and maybe in future years we could just combine those.

13:14:17 Don Newell: On Article 23, we have no more hands. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:14:41 Don Newell: Article 24, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Recreation for the ensuing year? Requested amount is \$1,250.00. Budget Committee recommends raise \$1,250.00. Moved and seconded. Motion is on the floor. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:14:41 Don Newell: Article 25, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for dues for Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Requested amount is \$2,674.00. Budget Committee recommends raise \$2,674.00. Moved and seconded. Motion is on the floor.

13:15:00 Resident: I'm new. What's that for?

13:15:03 Don Newell: Gail, are you here? Gail works there and she could probably answer what that's for.

13:15:13 Gail Chase. If you don't consider it a conflict of interest. Beside planning, community development, economic development, and services that we provide to all of our municipal members, this is an organization formed by municipalities willingly. We also have salt and sand, culvert, and sign programs and [inaudible] can be clearer on this than I but we make that a significant part to save money by purchasing culverts, posted signs, and salt and through our bulk purchasing program.

13:16:15 Sue Lombard: We bought culverts. This year we will be ordering calcium, possibly some geotextile fabric to help with our roads - we do save money.

13:16:34 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands we'll call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:16:39 Donald Newell: Article 26, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the contact fee for "Humane Society of the Waterville Area" for the ensuing year. Requested amount of \$2,980.58, Budget Committee recommends raise same. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

13:16:59 Resident: Who sets these rates?

13:17:09 Don Newell: Who sets the amount? They do.

13:17:12 Sue Lombard: It's \$1.42 per capita. They figure it and it's \$1.42 per person.

13:17:14: Don Newell: It's \$1.42 per capita per Sue Lombard. They figure the use for all the communities. Let's call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:17:56 Don Newell: Article 27, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$1,016.47. Budget Committee recommends to raise \$500.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

13:18:18 Barry McCormick: Thank you. I would like to move that the Article be amended, I would like to make a motion change that amount to \$20,000 from surplus. Thank you very much. Do we have a second? It has been seconded. Floor open for discussion.

13:18:43 Barry McCormick: Thanks you for not booing me when I asked for more money. I have written a statement I would like to read. I'm on a committee appointed by the Selectmen to review the Land Use Ordinance. Myself and other committee members have been in the past 11 weeks, we have put a lot of effort into the understanding as to how it is written. While there are definite changes needed, we realized that the Land Use Ordinance is derived from the Comp Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was written in 1993 and updated periodically along the way, last updated, I believe, in 2003. The Comp Plan is out of date and is not recognized by the State as being in compliance thus hindering the Town from receiving grant monies. In order to redo the Land Use Ordinance so that it is clear on what is needed to be developed in Town, we first need to address the outdated Comp Plan. The new Comp Plan and Land Use Ordinance will allow the growth of Unity to be properly managed by all concerned. We have put a lot of time and effort into this and we got to a point where we felt that the work that we were doing might be jeopardized by not having a Comp Plan that was up to date. There are a lot of us here who have been involved in that, we feel it is better to stop, get the Town's Comp Plan in order. There are a lot of things that go on in Town and everybody wants an input. We've got have to have a base to start. People's understanding of certain rules and regulations in Town is based upon the Comp Plan and Land Use Ordinance. Some of those can be interpreted in many different ways and it's so hard for home owners and business people who come in to Town to know what to do, even though we have the Land Use Ordinance because it can be interpreted in several different ways. If we take the time and spend the money, starting with the Comp Plan, get it where it needs to be, so everybody in here can read it and understand it. We as a Committee can take that and what we've learned and put it into the Land Use Ordinance, get it to where it is clear and precise. Our residents want to do something so there is less arguing, less

fighting, it's clear and understandable about what we want to do. Again, it all starts from that Comp Plan. Even though it's a lot of money, in spending the money will get a lot of people involved, anybody in town who wants to get involved will be able. There will be meetings throughout the year, if it takes a year to get it done. Everybody will have an input.

13:21:41 John Piotti: I am in strong support of this motion. I think it's a great idea. I want to give folks a little bit of background. Barry mentioned we have a Comprehensive Plan that was passed 20 years, 20 years ago to the day in this room. That's a long time ago. It has been modified once since then in 2001 and those were modest changes. It's an old document and very out of date. It's older than you think because Unity actually adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1989 but shortly after the State Growth Management Act was passed by the Legislature and the form we had done our Comp Plan in was no longer valid. The plan, that was done in 1993, actually simply pulled a lot of the information from 1989, that seemed so out of date at that point. We right now have a Comprehensive Plan that in many cases is based on data that is 25 years old. It's clearly old and out of date and needs revision. Some people ask what's a Comp Plan? What does a document like this do? It really has two main components. One is it analyzes the current state of the town, provides good data on how many buildings have been built in the last few years, and what the projected growth might be for that. It might look at different areas in town where critical and natural resources have been mapped. A huge portion of this is just data so you can make good decisions based on that for future planning. The second component of a Comp Plan is an active community process that will get people talking about where they want the community to go. If done well, these involve, as Barry said, a large swath of the community. When we did it, in my mind, in a somewhat amateurish fashion 20 plus years ago, we had 40-50 members of the community involved on an ongoing basis plus did surveys and other things to engage even broader groups. The ability to do it even better and a more inclusive Comp Plan exists today. There are tools now for electronic visioning where you can look at what a portion of the town would look if it was developed in a certain way. There are tools that didn't exist 25 years ago, e-mail and the like to get word out. We have a Town website now that can be used to inform people. I think the Committee did about as good a job as it could've done 20 or 25 years ago, but it is terrible out of date and needs revision. A couple of other points, one is Barry alluded to the fact that our Comp Plan right now is not recognized by the State. As of December 31, 2012, that was the case. It's so far out of date that it's not recognized. What does that mean? It does not mean that the State of Maine is going to be coming and knocking on the Selectmen's doors and saying you are in violation. But, if you don't have a Comp Plan that is recognized by the State, you are not in as good a shape to get some down-the-road funds or other grant funds that may be available from the State of Maine. A common question on the competitive applications that the Selectmen and other have pulled together is, do you have an approved Comp Plan? So, Unity, in the last 15 years has probably received to an amount of \$3,000,000 for various things where that question was asked. You can't say it with certainty that if we had not had an approved Comp Plan we would not have gotten those funds. You don't really know. But it certainly helped us obtain some of those competitive funds. So, that's one reason to do it. It puts us in a better standing. The second reason to do it, Barry alluded to the fact that the Selectmen had appointed an Ordinance Committee and they were looking at ways to review the Ordinance.

As someone who has served both on the Comp Plan Committee and on the Planning Board for many years, I would be the first one to say that Unity's Land Use Ordinance is very much out of date. A lot of the criticism over the last few months which prompted the development of this committee, is about there are problems with the Comp Plan. I will say quite frankly that I thought it was inappropriate that a lot of that criticism was directed at the Planning Board and the Comp Plan Committee. The Planning Board doesn't develop these things, it is forced to review applications in relational to them, and in regards to the Comp Plan Committee, that Committee has been charged by the Selectmen in

the past to do some kind of Comprehensive review. We only tweaked at the edges. It is important to understand how this works. As Barry said, the Land Use Ordinance under State law has to be consistent with the Comp Plan, so if you have a Comp Plan that says some things specifically, you cannot revise your Land Use Ordinance in a way that is contradictory to that. A first step, if the community does want to take a hard look at changing our Land Use Ordinance, has to be looking at the Comp Plan. In my mind, that's not the reason to do it. I do think the Ordinance needs some changes but the real reason to do comp planning is that it allows the community to come together and think about where we should go as a community in the future. There is great value in that process. We had a hearing, you will hear about it later when we discuss briefly Article 35 today. But, we had a public hearing, the Planning Board was required to conduct on another Article and in that meeting, this issue came up. We had a struggle. Barry suggested that we have a straw vote, who in this room would support paying, recognizing it's big money, \$20,000, to develop a new Comp Plan and when Barry suggested that, nobody knew where this would, we had no idea. The straw vote in that room was 39 people in favor, and one opposed. I think people understand what's at stake here, that this is a chance to really guide the future of the town and they see the value of it. Twenty thousand dollars is a lot of money. You may wonder where it would go. The Selectmen will have a few options. One option is to hire KVCOG to do this and \$20,000 would be their price. It sounds like a lot but, like many things in life, you get what you pay for and the amount of analysis that is needed in order to make good decisions, takes time and money to develop. The kind of community process that I described, that is truly engaging, takes time and money. So, I think it is money well spent and I urge you to support it.

13:29:17 Jim Kenney: I'll try to be brief. It's the right thing to do.

13:29:26 John McIntire: Thank you, John McIntire and I live over on the Dump Road which also looks real good this time of year. I support this effort to redo the Comp Plan. The changes that have happened in the 20 years I have been here are pretty amazing but it would allow all of us to put some input to where we want to see this town go. One of the objections to this whole thing that I have heard it is that it looks a whole lot like zoning, and I shouldn't probably say that but I will because I think it needs to be out on the table. It does look like zoning but only looks like zoning if you think of it as a restriction, and what I see it as doing is laying out areas in town where we the people live here want to see things happen. We don't want to restrict things, we want to be able to say, yeah, come on in, and this is where we would like you to do this, and it would really give us that opportunity. It might also give us the opportunity to talk about what we want our roads to look like over the next 20 years.

13:31:06 Jean Bourg: I would like to speak briefly to the process of doing this and how it has to be the most inclusive thing that we do. How it has to be open, and we should start very soon so announcements should appear on the website for those interested in taking part. This committee should be a large group or several groups. There is a lot to be talked about. The shared Minutes are posted online at the [unitymaine.org](http://unitymaine.org) website to see the announcement and formation of this and get yourself involved.

13:32:13 Don Newell: We're going to pause a moment because Jean brought up Sherry Wilson and I want to take a minute to recognize her. She is not paid staff. She is a professional stenographer, court reporter. What is your profession?

13:32:32 Sherry Powell-Wilson: I work as a transcriptionist. I'm a student in this.

13:32:35 Don Newell: You can talk fast and at long length, like me, and she gets everything so, if you want to know what is going on with the Ordinance Committee, read the Minutes and it's all right there. Let's give her a little round of applause. Thank you, Sherry. So, back to the motion.

13:32:55 Jo Kenney: I would just like to speak from up here. To me, I'm speaking in favor of the motion absolutely. I've been on this Committee looking at the Land Use Ordinance and I've learned a lot, and I realized how much I didn't know from a legal standpoint. We got to read the statutes and really understand what some of the issues are with land use and, really, it's all about balance. You can't interest unless you understand what all the interests are, and the only way you can do that is to have this Comprehensive Plan initiative and be able to have everybody speak to what their needs are. We've had challenges with business growth. We've interest about businesses and the employment they can bring to us. We have concerns about taxes and how we grow help grow our community, and I guess the State refers to it as a growth management program, but this is our opportunity, using that vehicle that the State prescribes, to really see where we should go as a town. We would address the taxation issue, how we really grow that way. And, by the way, I'm glad John used the "z" word because I intend to use it too. We do have a form of zoning already regardless of what our visceral feelings are of zoning, there is always going to decisions in any community about how land is used. So, that is a public debate that really is appropriate in the comprehensive planning process where everybody is involved. And, by the way, we would love to have Unity College here because I think about the sustainability initiative and what a resource, when we go through this comprehensive planning process, we would all agree that that's the way it should go. And yeah, it's a lot of money but it's worth it.

13:34:59 Lucia Picard: I'm trying to understand the cost of 420,000. I understand it would be for the Council to do I'm not exactly sure what...community involvement and a lot of input that we're talking about, counsels and stuff made up of townspeople. Would they be getting the information from a third 3rd entity? I don't know the hierarchy and how it works. We would be paying a large amount of money for what exactly?

13:35:47 John Piotti: I can't speak specifically for KVCOG and what they might do today. KVCOG was hired by the Town of Unity 23 years or so ago to do something similar. I suspect it would have several involved components. One would be that either KVCOG themselves or some subcontractor would provide the technical data that would need to be collected. It might be of housing starts, it might be census information, it might be environmental information and the like. Again, they may do that or they may subcontract for that. The second thing is they would provide staff support to whatever community committee is created. That's going to be the Selectmen's decision on how to constitute that. State law does not prescribe how that is done but there is a State manual that gives some very strong suggestions on how to do it well and ensure the Selectmen take that under advisement. That will be a volunteer committee but there may be a few odds and ends and cost that might be related to it, and it needs to be staffed, and KVCOG, in the past, 22 years ago, they would play that role of making sure the agenda was put together or making sure the right information is there for a meeting. Maybe facilitating the conversation. The second component, and a third component which is costly, is this whole idea of public engagement. It's not just announcing that there are meetings and having people show up. It would most likely be surveys. It could be some of what I refer to where there are some visioning sessions that might involve the use of computer technology or other things. All that stuff takes money. There would probably be multiple mailings. It's great that we have a website and a lot of people now use e-mail but not everyone does. There would probably be a need for a couple of town-like mailings so, you start to add all those things up and you can see how we get to a figure of something like \$20,000. My final comment on that is that's what they say is needed. There are a lot of good negotiators in this town, and it could be that some

of the work that Unity has done that isn't so out of date, for instance, the work that was done on the sewer system, the analysis that was done there, I don't think it has changed that much so maybe some of these items can be dusted off and reused. There may be a way to negotiate with KVCOG and get that price down. My final point, KVCOG is not the only game in town and there's no reason to not look elsewhere to private consultants for the same services.

13:38:32 Barry McCormick: I was going to say, John has covered everything but I'm going to say it again. We already have the extensive history and if we won't go over \$20,000 if we don't have to. To me, it would be \$20,000 if we started from scratch. Randy Reynolds has done a tremendous amount of work in maps, wetlands, Shoreland zoning, and aquifer maps - we've had that for the 11 weeks to work with. He's done a great job.

13:39:33 Jo Kenney: The only other point I would make to John's comments is the actual writing of the plan. We can save money there in terms of writing it. We already have a document, and we have some of those surveys, as John said. We have some of the information and we can save some money in actually writing the plan and, at the same time, get some good guidance based on the new statutes and some of the other information that become available now.

13:40:11 Emily Newell: I don't have anything personally to say. Nancy Zane wrote a comment and asked for it to be read. I am in favor of this motion. I, unfortunately, can't attend today but I would like to make a proposal for funds for the Comprehensive Plan. There are many reasons for a Comprehensive Plan for the community. I have two here. Unity is at a critical point in development, being a hub town located a half hour from Belfast and Waterville, 45 minutes from Augusta and Bangor, makes this a perfect place for folks to settle who can work in any of those communities. It's important that we have proper planning to manage this so Unity can remain a community that we want to live in, while meeting the needs of all the residents. I want you to take a moment to think of towns you have driven through or have lived in that were not planned well and suffered from congestion or unplanned sprawl. Few of those communities have felt as inviting as towns like Unity and have a strong business base. This is what we are aiming for with the Comprehensive Plan, inviting business to town and managing growth while keeping our character. Last point I make it is an important process in which all citizens of Unity will be invited to be a part of. We want your opinions. It will not be an exclusive group of individuals who make all the decisions. The more diverse the group of people working on the plan, the better it will be.

13:41:59 Lucia Picard: I would just like to say that I'm am totally in support of redoing the Comp Plan, however, with so many unknowns and the giant pool of resources and the volunteer possibilities, maybe change the amendment to a lesser amount until we know what the actual amount might be and maybe start out a little less in debt.

13:42:33 Don Newell: You could make a motion to that effect. I'll let you know that the consideration is that we ask for those funds from surplus. They are not committed and it does not make an impact on the tax base and we'll do everything we can not to spend the money. No impact so it won't change anything. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:43:06 Don Newell: Okay, I'm going to clarify this. The motion was to have \$1,016.47 requested. Let me clarify for you, the motion was to substitute that number for \$20,000. We're now approving \$20,000 from surplus. So now I'll ask for the vote for the main motion as amended which means that we are asking to raise \$20,000 to initiate a new Comprehensive Planning Committee and complete that work. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:44:05 Don Newell: Before we move on, we have a little matter of housekeeping. This is the first time that I remember Rod McElroy has sat in the back and didn't talk. I asked him to come up front while we were coming back to our meeting and that didn't happen. So, what I'll do is I'll come back [to the back of the room] for a brief chat here because I don't remember all of the things that Rod McElroy has involved with in the community over the last 20 plus years. Can anyone remember anything that Rod did in our community to empower the community?

Resident: [Inaudible] working on Route 9.

Resident: Rod was my high school principal.

13:45:24 Don Newell: Yes, he worked in education for us for a couple years.

13:45:30 Resident: Rob was a founding member of the Unity Barn Raisers.

13:45:36 Barry McCormick: When he was the principal at the school I went to, unfortunately I lived right next door to him. I would see him with my father out behind the house chatting many times. It was pretty hard to get anything by him.

13:46:09 Jim Kenney: Rod was not my principal but he was available to everyone to give sage advice and to listen to. That was precious. Thank you.

13:46:32 Don Newell: So, to summarize, Rod has been involved in essentially every committee that has been available in some way to contribute to life here in Unity and, so, I just wanted to take a moment to stop and thank him for that.

13:47:34 Rod McElroy: We're from northern Maine. People here have a kind spirit. We were just going to be here for a couple years. That was 49 years ago and we're still talking about moving.

13:48:13 Don Newell: Don't go anywhere. We've got a little bit of work today and then we're going to have an auction.

13:48:44 Don Newell: Article 28, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for donations to the following area organizations for the ensuing year. You can read the list of those and the amounts that are requested and recommended. We're going to start out with the figures that are recommended by the Budget Committee in keeping with what I've done down through the list. American Flags, \$100.00, Broadreach Family & Community Services, \$400.00, Boy Scout Troop #233, \$100.00, Cub Scout Pack #233, \$100.00, Dorothy Webb Quimby Library, \$2,260.00, Community Farm Share, \$600.00, Hospice of Waldo County, \$500.00, Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area, \$500.00, Kennebec Behavioral Health, \$500.00, Knox Booster Club, \$0.00, KVCAP, \$0.00, MidCoast Community Action, \$1,000, Mt. View BUM League, \$100.00, New Hope for Women, \$830.00, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, \$750.00, Sexual Assault Support Services, \$250.00, Spectrum Generations, \$500.00, Maine youth Alliance/The Game Loft, \$300.00, United Cerebral Palsy, \$0.00, Unity Troy Little League, \$500.00, Unity Historical Society, \$1,000.00, Volunteer Regional Food Pantry, \$2,000.00, Waldo Community Action Program, \$10,709.00, Waldo County YMCA, \$0.00. We have a motion that is seconded. So moved.

13:50:29 Tabitha Littlefield: I had a couple of things I wanted to point out in particular with some of the items on here. I think people should be able to individually contribute to the charities they choose



without it coming out of taxes. I also believe that KVCAP was deceitful in getting signatures to even have them on here. They were standing outside of the Community Building when we voted in November collecting signatures. When they asked me for mine they did not want to tell me who they were and why they were collecting signatures. When they finally did, I said I don't agree with what KVCAP does, a lot of it is keeping our fat people fat, our lazy people lazy, and I don't think it's a good program because it's a hand-out program, not a hand-up. It's not being orchestrated properly to really do what the community needs it to do. It needs to be completely revamped and reorganized to better citizen's lives and not keeping them in their horrible state. So, to give that amount just seems ridiculous. Also, are there any representatives from The Game Loft here. I was hoping that they would still be here to tell us a little about more what they're doing. If anybody is not familiar with The Game Loft and what they do, it was started as a business game store in Belfast, and The Game Loft was an upstairs room where you could go play the games, used games. It was a great hangout spot for kids, it really was but, honestly, it was created as an advertising campaign for the store. It was a way to advertise their product so that they could sell their product. It moved on from that and became something where they were going around the schools and they were playing games as an after school program, and that's great. It's a wonderful thing for them to do but I don't think our tax dollars need to pay for it because, ultimately, it is still an advertising campaign for a product. So, some people may choose to contribute to it if their children are involved, but I don't think our tax dollars should go to it. We don't need to be spending our tax money to advertise for somebody else's for-profit business.

13:53:08 Don Newell: I'm going to slow you down a little bit and I only do that because it's not going to be terribly productive because you're talking about multiple lines simultaneously. By the time you get back to your motion to make some amendments here, folks have forgotten what you said. I would suggest, we're going to handle these on an individual basis. If anybody in the room wants to talk about amending the amount, please rise up to make the motion. Don't go anywhere. You asked me before and I told you there is a process and this motion is open and to accomplish what you want to. You can't change the fact that this motion is on the floor. You can address each individual item, make your make motion to amend, and we'll deal with that and we'll go right down the line. So, if you want to do that...pick one of them.

13:54:15 Tabitha Littlefield: Okay, I definitely want to start with WCAP. I think if we're going to donate money to WCAP through taxes that are raised...

13:54:17 Don Newell: Wait a minute. What you are doing is debating your motion to amend before the motion to amend is made. So, we need the vote to amend and then we'll open it up for discussion.

13:54:17 Tabitha Littlefield: Yeah, I think it should definitely be lower.

13:54:50 Don Newell: You need to make a motion to amend from \$10,709.00 to something else.

13:55:12 Tabitha Littlefield: I make a motion to amend to \$0.

13:55:12 Don Newell: Okay. We have a motion to amend the Waldo Community Action Program from \$10,709.00 to \$0. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Now you can defend your reasons to do that.

13:55:23 Tabitha Littlefield: I've already said my peace.

13:55:29 Citizen (Mr. Murphy): I'm not a resident of Unity. Can I speak on behalf of the Waldo Community Action Program?

13:55:29 Don Newell: We'll have a vote on that. Using your green cards please. All those in favor of letting him speak today please raise your green cards? All those opposed? You're on.

13:55:49 Mr. Murphy: Good afternoon folks. One of the first things I want to say is a lot of these programs and especially the Waldo Community Action Partners, has a difficult time as matching funds has dropped and drawdown State and federal dollars to provide services for the people in your community. The Waldo Community Action Partners serves 275 individuals in the Town of Unity this last year. We provided \$430,000 worth of services. We were able to that because the people in your community voted last year to fund us at a \$12,000 level. If you notice, our request is almost \$2,000 less this year because our request is always based on 2% of the dollar value of services that we provide for your community. Two years ago our request was \$13,000, so it's gone down two years in a row because the level of service has gone down. We take people for cancer treatments in our transportation program, we take people for medical appointments. We went 168,000 miles travelling people to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and all kinds of different things under that program. Our home energy assistance program served 146 homes. In that program, we spent \$68,015. Your general assistance account in your community is drastically affected by that program alone because everybody who got our services qualified for general assistance. General assistance reimburses your community at a rate of \$.50 on the dollar. We ask for \$.02 on the dollar so that we can keep our offices open year-round and provide services to the people of your community.

13:57:57 Don Newell: Clarify for us the numbers you are holding, are they for residents of the Town of Unity only?

13:58:07 Mr. Murphy: Residents of the Town of Unity only. I left a sheet over there for everybody to get first thing this morning. I've been here all day. We have community baskets, we do Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets. This year we had \$60,000 worth of baskets we distributed and not one dime of tax payer money was paid to put those baskets together. The fire departments distributed them throughout the county. They were all donations made from WCAP staff members, members of our community, and business members of your community. These programs are well used, \$430,000 worth of serves in your community and we ask that you raise \$10,709.00. That doesn't even equal seed match for one bus for the transportation program alone. You really need these programs in hard times by the people who are less fortunate in your community.

13:59:21 John McIntire: I am part of the Budget Committee and 6-8 weeks ago we had a hearing, a public open hearing about this whole budget and while the Budget Committee does not have final say on this, we do have a pretty diverse group and we actually managed to come up with these numbers in agreement. Penny, back me up. Most of them we agreed on. What we did was we tried to listen and give an opportunity for everybody to make statements about what they felt about this program. I agree with a lot of the concerns expressed about some of the ways programs support life but, but it's life and we need to take care of our own, particularly while they're alive. We voted a little bit ago to spend \$23,000 or \$22,000 maintaining cemeteries. We're talking about \$23,000 for quality of life for living people. I think we should just keep moving.

14:01:05 Penny Picard Sampson: As some of you know, I'm a credit analyst at Bank of America. We're taught not to loan with our hearts because if we did, we would be losing money. We hear the stories and we want to be nice and give them the money they want. The Game Stop I don't support and never have.

14:01:28 Don Newell: Okay, we're only talking about Waldo County....

14:01:32 Penny Picard Sampson: Well, I'll get to that. The reason is because sometimes the people are in the room and you don't want to say no because you don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, you want to support them. Waldo CAP, I have some support for but not \$10,000. So, what can we do from here, Don? We're suggesting \$0.

14:01:58 Don Newell: What happens is if we defeat that motion to amend, then floor the old one for further discussion and someone could amend for a different figure.

14:02:11 Lynn Warman: I just want to agree with Tabby, a man stated earlier that 85% of our State taxes go to education and Health and Human Services and welfare, and I just think that to force the people in town to pay again every year is wrong when they are already through their state taxes. People need to be more responsible for their own families and helping their own families and neighbors, and those that do, the people that I see that struggle in paying their taxes really struggle to pay their taxes. It's not fair to spend their money on all these programs year after year after year.

14:02:57 Charlie Schaefer: I would like to say that I know some of the people in town who rely very much on the Waldo Transportation Program. In particular there is one lady and her daughter who sometimes we help with transportation and sometimes with food. Our church does give this lady money to buy food. She has no car, her daughter has no care, and their medical trips to Waterville. Waldo CAP helps them out. This lady would be lost without Waldo CAP's transportation and she's not the only one. I suggest we continue to support these programs.

14:04:01 Jim Kenney: I support the amendment. If this is money is not approved, that does not end the service. Sometimes that message is implied. The service is paid for from matching funds that come out of federal taxes, state taxes, and our county taxes. The services don't end when the level of funding changes.

14:04:35 Don Newell: Other hands? We're ready to vote on the motion to amend. To go over it again, it is to change the figure on WCAP from \$10,709.00 to \$0. All those in favor of the motion to amend say aye? Opposed, no? It's defeated. The floor is open for discussion on the main motion.

14:05:03 Resident: If I'm reading this right, there are two groups where the Budget Committee has recommended more than the request was. American Flags and Spectrum Generations. I would like to amend the motion to say that we will raise no more than what the request was so that would be essentially cutting the American Flag back to \$25.00, and Spectrum Generation to \$300.00.

14:05:47 Don Newell: Do we have a second on the motion. Moved and seconded to make the amount contributed equal to the amount requested. Floor is open for discussion.

14:06:07 Resident: I'd like to speak against the amendment. The Spectrum one is a valuable program that we provide for the community. For The Game Loft, for our kids to be well-behaved, they need something to do and if they can provide a place for them to go, I it provides something for them to do, and I think it's a lot cheaper that say treating juvenile delinquents where they find other ways to keep themselves busy.

14:06:45 Penny Picard Sampson: The first amendment was about the Spectrum Generation request. I, believe it or not, won something at the Budget Committee and that was to increase the Spectrum Generations budget. Go figure. That was because the gentleman was speaking there and he had his figures and the number of meals that they serve to the truly needy. Not the gentlemen going to the meth clinics that we're paying for through Waldo CAP. But, the truly needy homebound people that need food. So, \$.17 per meal. What a bargain, so I suggested that we increase it to \$500.00 and the other reason for that is because I said if we're paying at least the same amount for behavioral health, that I believe benefitted two people, then we ought to at least give the same amount to Spectrum Generations that benefits over 100.

14:08:30 Don Newell: Now Penny, before you leave, we have a motion that dealing with two of these numbers. Have you spoken to the American Flag man.

14:08:30 Penny Picard Sampson: The American Flag, no I didn't see to it. I was okay with the \$25.00.

14:08:33 Don Newell: Okay, so what you need to do is move to bifurcate. You're going to separate these two previous amendments into two amendments. Okay, so you make that motion? Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion on bifurcation of those two so we can consider the American Flags separately from Spectrum Generations. Any discussion on that.

14:09:01 Dave Kennedy: Citizen: I am not a citizen here but I represent Spectrum Generations, and I would like to speak to the citizens on their behalf if possible.

14:09:17 Don Newell: I need to bifurcate first. I Seeing no hands on the motion to bifurcate so I'm going to call for vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? We're good to go on the Spectrum Generations alone. I need to have a green card vote, all those in favor of Dave Kennedy from Spectrum please raise your cards? You're up, Dave.

14:09:47 Dave Kennedy: I want to thank everyone for the privilege to speak here today on behalf of Meals On Wheels which is what we're talking about. The Meals On Wheels program where the only requirement to get the service is that you have to be housebound. It doesn't have anything to do with your ability to pay how or how much money you earn. It's for people who can't get out to get their own groceries without great hardship. It also covers those healthcare people, family, that might be stuck with them at home too. The reason why it was brought about was to make sure they had one good, balanced meal a day. Now everyone that works in this program are volunteers, well, I can't say everyone. Ninety-seven point five percent (95.7%) are volunteers. I'm not from this town but I'm your driver here. The figure that she was saying, I was the one who spoke it, but the figure was that in 2012, we served 1,800 plus meals for that year in this town. Now that's a pretty good bargain, even at Swanson meal prices. It actually costs me money to come over here and serve your citizens. I get a stipend of \$.40/mile and I run a round that runs over 65, and I only accept 43 miles of it because I believe in this cause. This is something, these people when I go to their door and I see their face, they are waiting for me. They are not here today because they can't get out to come for you to hear their voice but they could be your voting citizens.

14:12:12 Don Newell: Dave, I think you won your case. I'm going to call for the vote on the amendment to raise the amount on Spectrum Generations from \$300 to \$500. All in favor of that amendment please raise your green cards and say aye. Opposed no. Motion carries. 30/0. Bob, you're up.

14:12:43 Bob Cartier: I just want to say we support the Legion and all those involved in putting the flags up, The \$100 is a tiny amount to pay tribute to all the those who served.

14:13:44 Charlie Schaefer: Why does the Budget Committee recommend to raise \$100.00 if \$25.00 is all they need? I believe in helping people out through money and all but if they are not asking for it, why give them more?

14:14:25 Don Newell: I have the motion to amend the American Flags. Motion to change that figure to \$100? We're going back to \$25. We had a motion to change it, the Budget Committee recommended \$100 from \$25. I don't see any further hands on it.

14:15:00 Max Gillette: It was a lot of work for the Budget Committee to go over all of these deciding what was proper and I can't remember exactly what they said at that meeting. If we're going to ignore the recommendations of the Budget Committee, we ought to discontinue the Budget Committee.

14:15:32 Don Newell: I don't think that we're going to raise debate on every one of these lines. Right now we're only talking about two or three of them.

14:15:44 Jim Kenney: Just a question to instruct. If this amendment is decided no, it goes back to \$100.00 then you move on the \$100.00.

14:16:06 Don Newell: Not necessarily. I'm going to be as open and as nice as I can be. What number is it going to be to allow this group to decide what that number is going to be. We're not going over \$100 but if you want to go to \$50,00. So, are we all clear on that? I'm going to call for the vote to reduce the figure from \$100.00 to \$25.00 on American Flags. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:17:07 Don Newell: Okay, so we are now entertaining anybody who wants to talk about any other lines.

14:17:19 Jonathan Doughty: Just curious, what it is Seabasticook Regional Land Trust?

14:17:40 Don Newell: Do we have a representative here? Tom Laverser[sp].

14:17:40 Tom: The Seabasticook Regional Land Trust, we recognize and serve the wild lands of the area, we work with willing land owners if they want to do conservation permits on the land. We also take outright donations to preserve the rural landscape, and we also offer programs regularly for the communities and we do pay taxes.

14:18:23 Jonathan Doughty: I make a motion that we amend the Land Trust fund to \$0.

14:18:36 Ron Rudolph: I second that.

14:18:39 Don Newell: So we have a motion made and seconded to change the figure from \$750 for the Seabasticook Regional Land Trust to \$0.

14:18:45 Jonathan Doughty: I would like to make a comment quickly. My comment is because of I have three people who I have talked to in the past year who were lied to concerning use of the land by the group. I will not make mention of their names but I have had three people I have talked to, I found it to be deceptive way of stealing people's property. That's my opinion.

14:19:15 Ron Rudolph: I went into a land trust for agricultural easement. I get a knock on my door, yes, I'm not going to name the names. Where do you want us to put the sign? I said, what sign? Sebasticook Land Trust, we bought your property, your land trust. I said, you did? Well, put it on the front of my lawn so they put it in there and they left. I start looking at my land trust, the one I originally had with Unity Wetland and it was sold, and I didn't even know this, other land trust and now Sebasticook is buying it. I don't think it's fair that somebody in this town, anybody has to pay money for a land trust that is, in my opinion, phantom so I would recommend \$0.

14:21:15 David Smith: I would like to speak in favor of the motion. I'm sorry that Ron has some confusion about the land trust and the progression of one land trust name to another but the Friends Of Unity Wetlands became Sebasticook Regional Land Trust when they expanded their service area, and I know there was some confusion. The land trust doesn't own the property, I think he seemed to indicate they claimed it and I can assure you that's not the case. I believe they just hold an easement which will forever protect that property from development in the future. That's typically what land trusts are doing. The land trust doesn't own most of the property because they have a couple pieces of property donated to it [inaudible] public use such as the bog preserve on Route 9 and 202, and also the Stetson preserve which is a beautiful piece of property donated to them. They own those properties. Most of these properties they are dealing with are just ones that they hold easements on where willing landowners have given up their development rights to protect that property forever so it can be maintained as farmland and wetlands. I think land trusts are very valuable assets to us in the area and I fully support them and the Budget Committee's recommended of the \$750.00.

14:23:21 Jonathan Doughty: My concern is that using tax money because whether the trust itself is good or bad, two out of the three people I have talked with were told lies. Direct lies concerning this.

14:23:43 Don Newell: No, I heard you say that once now and I'm going to call you out of order because I'm fairly confident that you can't prove that and to have our group here making decisions on innuendo is inappropriate. You talked to two people and you gave you lies. Now, if you want to be specific about this then I will allow it on the floor but if you're not going to be specific about what exactly was said and why it was incorrect, then I'm going to call it out of order.

14:24:05 Jonathan Doughty: There was the issue of they were asked to sign before they were given encouragement to go to counsel.

14:24:17 Tom: I think you basically addressed my point which was what I've heard here is based on hearsay. Jonathan wanted to bring something like that up. We don't lie to people. We don't steal land from people. We work with willing landowners who are interested in preserving their wild lands or farmland and we try to facilitate that. We take donations from people who want to donate land because they want to see it preserved to help preserve the whole character of Unity.

14:24:57 Don Newell: I'm going to request the opportunity to speak. I try to avoid this but David Smith is the deputy moderator for this purpose.

14:25:09 Don Newell: There was mention of the Pleasant Lake preserve, the part of the Sebasticook Regional Land Trust property that they own. I had a lot to do with that. I represented the individual who gave that property to SRLT. SRLT was very thoroughly vetted against other six other land trusts by my client before they were considered to be the best in the business for his purposes. We went through a very complex process deciding how that would be done and agreeing on the easement, and that's been in place now for 1-1/2 years, something like that. SRLT made a lot of major

commitments so my client can have process and, to date, every one of those has been upheld to the letter. There have been no misunderstandings, nothing irregular at all, and the previous owner is thrilled with what SRLT is doing with that property.

14:26:28 Don Newell: [Took back position as moderator.]

14:26:35 Pam: I would like to say that as a member of the SRLT board, we do a lot of fund raising in support of these conservation easements. They cost money to oversee the lands and to make sure they are properly cared. It costs money to build a conservation plan and, a lot of times, SRLT is raising extra money and helping the landowner to come up with the money that's necessary and one of those ways is a small donation we're asking from your town. I think we add lots of character to the town in being able to preserve natural resources. I think it's money well spent.

14:27:28 Dennis Jones: I just have one question. Does that make them tax exempt?

14:27:38 Don Newell: No, they pay taxes.

14:27:41 Resident: In fairness, I have land that's in the land trust. I'm very pleased with it. I still pay taxes on the land. I would like to go against the \$0 because I very much feel the land trust also preserves a lot of the trails in this community which add a tremendous amount to our community. That could be coming out of tax dollars but it would be a heck of a lot more than \$750.00.

14:28:14 Charlie Schaefer: I call for a vote.

14:28:30 Don Newell: To move on the previous question, do we have a second? Seconded. All in favor of the motion to move the previous question say aye. Opposed no. We've got a two-thirds vote, will call for the question. On the motion to change the figure from \$750.00 to \$0, all in favor of that reduction say aye. Opposed no. Motion is defeated.

14:28:58 Penny Picard Sampson: I just want to clarify where we were earlier with Tabitha's? So we ended up right now leaving Waldo CAP as is at \$10,000.

14:29:21 Don Newell: That is correct.

14:29:24 Penny Picard Sampson: Okay, what was the other one. The Game Loft was defeated with no specific motion on that. As of that vote that we had with her, Waldo CAP is still at \$10,709.

14:29:42 Don Newell: That is correct.

14:29:44 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to make an amendment to at least change that amount to \$2,000.00. I would I like to amend...can I do this?

14:30:09 Don Newell: You can but I need to hear the question of what you're asking me first.

14:30:39 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to amend Waldo Community Action Program to \$2,000.00. And then the other one was....

14:30:40 Don Newell: So, you're moving to another line? So, to avoid having to bifurcate, which you did last time... So, we have a motion to amend the figure on the Waldo County Action Program from

\$10,000 to \$2,000. Before we were talking about moving to \$0 and now we are talking about moving to \$2,000. I need hands on that subject.

14:30:40 Tom: I just would like to support was Max was saying that the Budget Committee people who attended that meeting. We spent a lot of time, people came to speak on the causes. It seems picky and disrespectful to the Budget Committee to go to the back door and make these cuts.

14:31:15 Gail Chase: Thanks for the words of encouragement. Everyone in this room is welcome to review the work of the Budget Committee, and I think all of that welcome that as well. As a member of the Budget Committee, I'm at this mike because of a few things that I heard, and I hear them frequently because we don't always agree. One is something that Jim mentioned a little while ago that if we do not come up with these funds, the services will not disappear and he's right. They will not. I don't want to be the person who says that my neighbor will continue to be helped even though I'm not willing to pitch in. It bothers me to be that person. Another thing is that I don't have children, I never had children, and wouldn't dream of resisting payment for schools from my pocket because I want to live in a community where people are educated. We can fight about whether schools are doing a good enough job at educating our kids but I would never say, well, because I don't benefit personally, and the people I gave birth to don't benefit personally, that I should not give from my budget. Likewise, if Waldo County does what it says it does, and I believe it. If there is \$ 407,000 coming into my community, I couldn't pay for that, I would ask you to pay for that. If we are getting that amount for services because of matching funds, all the better. All the better. We may have a difference of philosophy here, and that's why I hesitated to stand up over the last few years... We don't resolve that. If we feel a certain way, well we feel a certain way. To me it's not the softness of my heart, it's my brain at work. Someone else mentioned that we're struggling to pay and we are. But the very people who are being helped from these organizations are also struggling to pay their property taxes and they can't do both. They can't often feed themselves, pay for their medicines, psychiatric help, seek physical protection and all the other things that social services agencies provide to us and pay their taxes. Thank you, I've said enough.

14:34:45 Don Newell: Thank you, I don't see any further hands so I'm going to call for the vote.

14:34:48 Tabitha Littlefield: Back on the topic of WCAP and the things they provide and do for our community, or what they believe they do for the community. I can't say anything specifically because it would break certain people's medical confidentiality, but a lot of these people who are transporting to doctor's appointments don't need to go. I mean, we're talking about things like unnecessary things, like toenail clipping. We're being taken advantage of. The program needs to be reconstructed. If we give them less being the proposal of \$2,000, that's an excellent proposal. That means they have to use it wisely instead of being totally flippant with it. There are things that don't actually need to be done. That means people who don't need the services, don't get the services. People who do need the services will get the services but it won't be used unwisely. So they will be forced to start reconstructing and reorganizing so that the right things are being done.

14:35:56 Don Newell: Thank you. Any further hands. I can see where this is going.

14:36:11 Resident: I just don't know, it says the Town of Unity, and it says \$430,000. What is a block grant? My question is what is the block grant versus the Town of Unity price? I'm looking at the statement.

14:36:36 Resident: The community services block that we get from the State of Maine Community Action Agency. Under that grant, we're able to provide \$441,000 worth of services county-wide.



There wasn't any way to separate those by town so we don't ask for any money under the block grant. We had an electric lifeline, the child care food program, dental project and the dental project is almost now nonexistent, and the holiday basket project. We gave out 1,800 holiday baskets to people without one dime of federal or state money. I would like to correct something that was said today, that services can't go away. Well, they do. The dental program here, we wasn't able to get funding for it, we wasn't able to get enough community support for the dental program and that program is going away. The e weatherization program has been drastically cut and, as you see that all these last 20 years I believe that there is a strong possibility that program is going to go away. The transportation program right now is being reorganized. There have been severe cuts, \$345,000 in cuts that are earned through fee-for-services so that means we're getting much smaller in the office, we're going harder and harder on volunteers. We have almost 60 drivers on the road. I've heard mentioned today about methadone transportation. Well, let me tell you why it is important to you folks that we do that. We don't get paid very much to do it, we get \$1.58 to take a person to a methadone appointment. But we might be keeping that person from breaking into your home to steal your drugs and other things like that. These programs that protect you can go away. They are getting smaller. There is less money based on the dollar amount of service last year. We need your support at this time more than we ever did before. I ask you to support us please.

14:39:23 Tabitha Littlefield: I don't this want to drag on forever but, at the same time, a lot of services he's saying are, like he said, there's a lot of people in the community who participate in these services and let me tell you, as long as these services are still available, they'll continue to have you weatherize their homes, continue to take your handouts because that way they can afford their booze and their drugs and everything else they're doing wrong.

14:39:52 Don Newell: You're out of order. You're out of order.

14:39:55 Aimee Dorval: Can I say something, Don? I'm Aimee Dorval. I'm not ashamed to say that years ago I did use services like that. I had to. I'm not fat, I'm not a drunk. I'm not on drugs. Things are better in my life now. I'm sorry I'm so emotional but this does affect me. I didn't really expect to come here to say that but those services helped me for the one year that I did use them. So, I am the face of people that might need those services.

14:40:57 Don Newell: Thank you very much. [STANDING OVATION]

14:41:02 Resident: I would like to say to this young lady, with everything that has gone on in the last couple of weeks as far as name calling and picking on people.

14:41:12 Don Newell: I need to have you talk to me. You sound like you're getting pretty aggressive.

14:41:12 Resident: I'm not, I'm sorry. With everything that gone on in our community in the last week or so, I'm sure you have all heard, because of the bullying, name calling, and things like that, I don't think that should be brought up here. I don't think we should be calling out people because they're fat and need help. I think we should move the question and go on.

14:41:36 Don Newell: You are absolutely right. Motion to move the question.

14:41:38 Resident: May I make one comment please? We have talked a lot about the elderly and the services provided but one of the population is the head start which is a major focus of WCAP. We, as a Waldo CAP organization are making investments in our young people. They are getting

medical treatment, they are getting mental health assessments, nutrition, this sort of thing in the early formative years that are allowing them to grow up to be ready to go to school through this program. Let's not forget the investment in our young people.

14:42:20 Don Newell: I don't see any other hands. On the previous question I'm going to call for the vote. All in favor of the amendment to change the figure for Waldo Community Action Program from \$10,709.00 to \$2,000.00, all of those in favor of that signify by saying aye. Opposed no. Motion defeated.

14:43:00 Jonathan Doughty: I have an apology to make for my getting worked up with my motion earlier. My motion was still intended but I should have been more calm.

14:43:16 Citizen: I make a motion to limit debate, it's getting too emotional.

14:43:18 Don Newell: Thank you very much. We appreciate that. We have a motion to follow the previous question. Moved and seconded. Now I need a two-thirds vote. All those in favor of limiting debate please raise your hands with your cards. No votes. Motion to limit debate passes. Now we're going to call on the vote on Article 28 as amended. So, after all that we changed nothing. Article 28, as the Budget Committee recommended is on the floor. All those in favor please raise your cards. Those opposed. Thank you very much, the motion carries.

14:44:11 Don Newell: Article 29, To see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all 2013 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2013. Moved and seconded. Any discussion.

14:44:19 Resident: I think the rate is too high and I would like to amend it down to 5%.

14:44:22 Don Newell: We have a motion to move the interest rate from 7% to 5%. Motion dies for lack of a second. Further discussion? All in favor, aye? Opposed no. Motion carries.

14:44:52 Don Newell: Article 30, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committee, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. 506. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

14:45:00 Jonathan Doughty: Explain please, I'm new.

14:45:02 Don Newell: In order for the tax collector to accept your taxes in advance, we would have to give them to the buyer as opposed to give them to the town if you don't pass this Article. Further questions or comments? All in favor, aye. Opposed no. Motion carries.

14:45:38 Don Newell: Article 31, To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days after the tax bills are mailed. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

14:46:28 Dennis Turner: If I pay now can I get 5%?

14:46:30 Don Newell: Two percent and you want to change that to 5? Good luck with that.

14:46:35 John McIntire: At the risk of upsetting y neighbor, I'm going to suggest changing it to 1%. Where can you get 2% of any money you've got invested. You're not getting that kind of money, if you've got cash in the bank you're not getting 2%. It's a good incentive but it would save the town.

14:46:40 Don Newell: All right, we've got a motion to change in the Article from 2% to 1%. Seconded. The floor is open on discussion to change to 1%.

14:46:56 Resident: Are we changing to prepay ahead or on time.

14:47:05 Don Newell: It only relates to if you pay within the 30-days after the tax bill is mail, you will get a 1% instead of 2%.

14:47:15 Penny Picard Sampson: People, I pay my taxes on time. I'm not of those people you see in the book and I really, considering everything I have to pay for now, I would at least like to get my 2%.

14:47:40 Don Newell: We can go down, we just can't go up.

14:47:58 Jim Kenney: I do not support the amendment. In my previous life here in the town, the people that flood in to the Town Office in the first 30 days helps carry this town without needing to go reaching into reserves. Two percent is a good idea.

14:48:28 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote on the amendment, if you're in favor on John's idea of prepayment to 1%, vote aye. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Amendment denied. Sorry, John. Okay, now back to the main motion as read. All in favor as read say aye. Opposed no. Motion carries.

14:49:18 Don Newell: Article 32, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town, to see or otherwise dispose of, real estate acquired by the Town, for nonpayment of taxes thereon, to be advertised for sale by sealed bid; the Selectmen shall have the authority to accept or reject any or all bids, and to execute a Quit Claim Deed for such property. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

14:49:25 Charlie Schaefer: Is there any property from last year to dispose of? The year before?

14:50:03 Don Newell: No.

14:50:03 Nancy McIntire: What are the criteria for taking land? How long after not paying taxes, after the lien is put on?

14:50:18 Sue Lombard: After the lien is put on it is 18 months to a year for automatic foreclosure. Then the town is able to sell it if it chooses to.

14:50:46 Jim Kenney: I'm not going to speak to the mike. In my previous life, we went down to one property that was within a half hour and the only way to get the owner to pay his taxes for the tax year was the fact he was going to lose the land he had. He had the capability. He just chose not to.

14:51:16 Don Newell: Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor of Article 32 as read say aye. Opposed no. Motion carries.

14:51:25 Don Newell: Article 33, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$5,000.00 from undesignated funds (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated

expenses and emergencies that occur during the current fiscal year, 2013. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:51:48 Don Newell: Article 34, To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6 of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2014 to March 29, 2014. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:52:13 Don Newell: Article 35, Shall the Town amend Unity's Land Use Ordinance to enlarge the existing retail growth district to include the lots bordering the southeasterly side of Main Street/Route 202, north of the village, from the railroad tracks to the intersection of Route 220. Moved and seconded. On the floor for discussion.

14:52:14 John Piotti: This is the Article that I alluded to earlier when I was speaking about the Comprehensive Plan. This was put forward by some citizens of the town by petition that triggered the need for a public hearing by the Planning Board. Whether you think this is a good idea or don't think it's a good idea, the real point is this is premature. This kind of change should not be made in the Ordinance without violating the need for consistency between the Ordinance and the Comp Plan because the boundaries of this disregard specified in the Comp Plan. That sounds complicated. The bottom line is the decision of this body earlier today moved forward with Comp Planning is the way to think about these issues and the Town has decided where it wants to go, it would be appropriate to consider some changes to the Ordinance along these lines. Therefore, I urge you to defeat this motion.

14:53:46 Don Newell: Thank you. We're going to call for the vote. All in favor of Article 35 signify by saying aye. Those opposed, no. Motion is defeated.

14:54:08 Don Newell: There is no further work to come before this body, I make the motion to adjourn. Moved and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry E. Powell-Wilson, Notary Public