

**TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE**  
**TOWN MEETING**  
**March 22, 2014, 10:00 A.M.**  
**Unity Elementary School Gymnasium**

**Town officials seated at head table:** Sue Lombard, Clem Blakney, Penny Picard Sampson, Ronald Rudolph, Chris Rossignol

**Moderator:** Don Newell

**Reporter:** Sherry Powell-Wilson

10:03:07 Don Newell: Can you all hear me? I have appointed my daughter, Emily, to be my voice to the greatest extent possible so mine will last. We have a few preliminary things to go over before opening the meeting officially. Would you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance?

[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.

10:04:30 Don Newell: Is my voice coming through? I have the voter results from our election day, which was yesterday. The first was for Selectman and the vote was 32 for Penny Picard Sampson, and one for David Smith, it was a write-in. You probably wrote that in yourself! I still have a sense of humor. And then secondly, the vote for the new Director for three years, all 30 votes cast were for Najean Shedyak. There is one more, I'm sorry, the Unity Utilities District for a three-year term, six votes passed for Holly Hein, and one for Carol Fowler. Holly Hein is elected for another three-year term.

10:05:54 Penny Picard Sampson: I, Penny Picard Sampson, do swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State so long as I shall continue as a citizen thereof so help me God. I, Penny Picard Sampson, do swear that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my abilities the duties incumbent upon me as Selectman according to the Constitution and laws of the State so help me God.

10:06:31 Don Newell: Thank you very much. This pledge seems like it takes on more and more responsibility every year. I'll probably be a bit more abbreviated in this section of our meeting for obvious reasons. I would like to get anyone in the right frame of mind for our meeting. The first function is, how many folks do we have here who are voters and are here for the first time? So, I'll apologize already, I would like to remember everyone's name but I won't be doing that because it's privileged information, you don't have to tell us your name. I do want to take a moment to welcome you from the podium and give you some encouragement. I want to thank you for being here for this very important annual meeting. Make sure, if you will, I think this will apply to you, make sure that if there is any question along the way, to participate in this meeting, then say Mr. Moderator, whatever. Just get my attention and I'll work with you. If you want to make a motion, a motion to amend, then you can just let me know, and I'll guide you how to do that. So, the key at this meeting is every voice and vote is equal, and we have a long tradition of treating each other with great respect throughout the year in our community and that's not going to change today. We want to be sure that everyone has the right to be heard. I'll do my best to make sure that happens. We also want to be sure we hear the individual opinions of everyone here for sometimes the best opinions come from brand new people, and sometimes they come from the most quiet people so we don't want to see any restrictions whatsoever. We want to hear your thoughts, questions, or opinions. Thanks again for being here and call on me if you need any assistance.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

19:09:41 Sue Lombard: Does everybody have a green card?

10:09:47 Don Newell: We could divide the house between voters and nonvoters, we don't need to do that, but we do divide you by giving those who are privileged to vote a green card and so we will use a variety of voting methods today. Primarily, we will use voice to vote and that will be conclusive and, if it is, that's a vote.

10:10:16 Don Newell: If I call a vote, and it passes or fails, and anyone has any question about whether that vote was clear, then rise and ask for a different voting method. Then, we'll go to a raising of the cards. We want to be absolutely certain we have the vote correct. So, keep these handy. If you would go to page 49 please.

10:11:17 Don Newell: At this time of our meeting I'd like to take a time to recognize, honor, and respect those who are not with us any longer, who have been residents of our community. These people helped make Unity what it is. Will take a moment to recognize them and then we'll have a moment of silence in their honor. James Phillips, Jane Shorey, Charles Andrews, Lewis Cole, Sr., Robert Hayes, Velma Bradeen, Janet Gardiner, Rodney McElroy, Bertha Knowlton, Florence Jewett, Robert Elwell, Shirley Campo, and Karen McCormick. Will you join me in a moment of silence? Thank you very much. These people will be sorely missed.

10:12:43 Don Newell: Are there any people in the room who are going to request an opportunity to speak to this group? What's your name, sir?

10:12:53 Jonathan Fulford: I'm running for State Senate.

10:12:58 Ed Murphy: Ed Murphy from Waldo Community Action Partners.

10:12:59 Don Newell: Do you want to speak to the Article that deals with you? [Yes]

10:13:17 Citizen: I represent the American Legion Post if anyone has any questions about the Article 45.

10:13:22 Don Newell: What Article is that?

10:13:44 Sara Trunzo: I'm Sara Trunzo. I'm going to request a time to do a little update on the college.

10:13:57 Emily Newell: I would like to provide an update on the Comp Plan Committee.

10:45:07 Jim Kenney: I heard the gentlemen say Article 45. What is Article 45?

10:14:15 Don Newell: It's 28, thank you.

10:14:16 Lorraine Norton: I'm Lorraine Norton. I'm here to speak on Article 5, if requested. Article 6, I'm sorry.

10:14:44 Jim Kenney: I would like to have a moment, if I could, to say thanks to Susan for the awesome work she did on this booklet.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

10:14:59 Don Newell: Why don't you do that right now, and you're going to be joined by Charlie Schaeffer, he wants to do the same thing, so the two of you can stand at the mike and thank Susan for her terrific work.

10:15:12 Charlie Schaeffer: I'll defer to Jim other than thank you, Susan, you've done a nice job.

10:15:25 Jim Kenney: Susan, I thank you for the effort you've put into this. Thank you very much.

10:15:32 Don Newell: What were the savings associated with you doing this in-house?

10:15:35 Susan Lombard: About \$1,300.

10:15:54 Don Newell: That was \$1,300 for turning that out. Okay, Brian, we have to have a vote of our people. We're going to vote, we need a two-thirds majority to have people who are not residents speak at our meeting. All in favor or opposed to having Brian talk to us? [All in favor] That's two-thirds.

10:16:31 Brian Jones: Thank you to the citizens for letting me speak. Why don't I just do it this way? I'm your State Representative. Can everybody hear me? Let me state that it has been a much tougher legislative session. One of the things that we were able to do for the municipalities was restore revenue sharing from last year. We didn't get it to the levels that it was a couple years ago. In Troy this morning, apparently, last month's revenue check was smaller than the previous one, so if it's not back up after the State starts the fiscal year, let me know and I'll figure out what's going on. A couple things, one thing I do is represent you in the State House and if I don't hear from you on certain issues, I really need citizen input to determine how to properly do my job. My e-mail address is in the book. Please feel free to e-mail or call me anytime. The other thing I do that is probably of more value to you is I deal with constituent concerns and issues. For example, we're going to hear from the representative from Waldo CAP about some of the issues we've been having with the Ride Program for our elderly citizens. I'll be inquiring, I've got a gentleman looking for some grants and patents for an invention he has. I have heard from some who have lost their benefits because of separation due to domestic abuse with children involved so, anytime you have a relationship with your State government that is not working as well as it should, please feel free to contact me. That's probably the most valuable part of my work, and it's probably the sanest part of my work. I'm honored and pleased to represent you, and please be in touch.

10:19:00 Don Newell: Is it Jonathan? [Yes] Please signify by raising your green card if that's okay with you all. [All in favor]

10:19:12 Jonathan Fulford: Hello folks, I'm from Monroe, and this is my first foray into politics. I'm running for State Senate. I'm a builder. I've been in Monroe for 33 years, I raised my family there. There are a lot of reasons why I'm running but one that you guys are facing today, as in every town meeting, is property taxes. You've probably already heard about revenue sharing and cuts to school funding, a lower and lower rate which you really don't have any control at your town meeting about what to do about that directly. There was a change in the tax laws in 2011, which cut everybody's income tax, which is a good thing, but that's a tax that benefits the wealthiest Mainer's and property tax hurts everybody who works for a living, and how it is paid for was by reducing spending to the local towns. I think that was an unfair tax adjustment and hurt folks who work for a living. I would be opposed to that kind of unfair taxation. There are a lot of other issues that I'm very passionate about, too much to cover today. I'm going to be traveling around the county all summer trying to meet as many people as I can. I'm happy to hear any thoughts and opinions that you have on anything, and look forward to getting to know you. Thank you for your time.

## Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

10:20:37 Don Newell: I'm going to ask some of the other folks who are giving us an update on our community or a special committee to speak at this time and we'll start with Sara Trunzo.

10:20:48 Sara Trunzo: Hey folks, my name is Sarah Trunzo. I'm a Unity resident, I'm a Unity College alumni, I'm currently the director of the Veggies For All food bank farm, which is part of the Maine Farmland Trust. Because I'm a graduate of Unity College, I'm going to be part of that community forever, and value the work that is going on there. I've been asked to give you an update on behalf of President Stephen Mulkey, who is unable to be here at all today because of scheduling conflicts, but he wanted me to bring you an update about what is happening at Unity College, and what is planned for the future. Since last Town Meeting some important developments that have happened at the College include the College's NEASC accreditation. NEASC is the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. It's a body that gives the College the ability to grant diplomas and credits to students when they graduate. It gives our accreditation. The College has passed that accreditation with flying colors. We got a 10-year accreditation, which is the highest level of accreditation that any institution can get. Those awards are always for graduates that have [inaudible] or certainly have some areas for potential improvement and development. One of the areas that the NEASC asked us to reconsider for the College is our mission and in response to that the College has adopted a new mission statement which is why, which is why I need to have a computer up here. Through the framework of sustainability science, Unity College provides a liberal arts education that emphasizes the environment and natural resources. Through experiential and collaborative learning, our graduates emerge as responsible citizens, environmental stewards, and visionary leaders. Finally, we wanted to share with you also some informal comments that were made prior to the review process. One of the NEACS reviewers on the Commission of the NEASC Board said, "If I had an 18-year-old, I would recommend that he or she attend Unity College," which is really a high level of recognition, seeing how each of you all had everything to do with the high-quality faculty at the College. There is some major growth that is happening at Unity right now, some of which is physical with the new residence hall, a 70-bed unit. There is some construction going on right now. It's going to be a LEED-Certified Silver building and that will be available to the students starting in the fall. The College has also acquired through generous [inaudible] Half Moon Field Station, which you all may know as Half Moon Gardens. The College is going to be involved with a new initiative on a very beautiful site near Port Clyde, which is an opportunity that has been made available through our relationship with the Andrew Wyeth Foundation. Then there are, of course, general updates being made with operational functions as well as the aesthetics of the campus. Enrollment is on the increase. We're looking at, for the 2014 freshman class, one of the biggest classes in Unity's history, which is great. Stephen also wanted me to convey to you all that there are no immediate plans for the enrollment to exceed about 600 students, which is just a little bigger than the current student base right now. Other growth areas include 13 new faculty members hired in the past 2 years, an increased focus on sustainability science and sustainability programs, and trying to make more efficient use of infrastructure that it takes to run an institution of higher education and the campus itself, to really provide not only a great education but a stable sustainable business that's going to keep being an active part of this community and the economy. In order to do that, the College is looking at launching summer programs, online programs, and graduate programs starting in the fall of 2015. So, a lot of changes but a lot is going to stay the same. Really quickly, following the mission statement, there is not going to be a change in the College's focus. They're going to continue to be focused on environmental education and sustainability in order to be progressive and lead the way. The College is also going to need to have a relationship with the community. It's really a special relationship that our college has with the town because of the way the college was founded. I wanted to share with you that Stephen spent some time at one of the proceedings of the Comprehensive Plan visioning session and was very, very encouraged by all the excitement and support that there is not only for the College, but also for some feedback about the need for increased communication. The College is hiring a new

## Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

communications director, she hasn't even arrived yet but already Stephen has asked her to consider ways that we can improve communication within the College and the community so that you all feel more informed, and that the College of what our neighbors think and how they're feeling about developments at the College. Finally, I just want to say on behalf of Stephen, he sends his thanks to the Town for being so supportive for each and every one of you for being engaged with the College the way that you are, for welcoming students and creating a safe, wonderful environment as it has for the past 50 years, which is really amazing. We're celebrating our 50th anniversary this coming year so please keep an eye out for ways we're going to celebrate and to commemorate. Finally, Steven very much regrets that he can't be here and needed to send me here in his place, and he hopes to be at Town Meeting in 2015. Thank you.

10:27:33 Don Newell: Thank you, Sara. We're very happy to have you come. You know, one of the things you talked about is that the College has a very positive impact on our community in a lot of ways, and one of them is that students come here and actually stay here. There's a really good example right there. Next up, is our Comprehensive Planning Committee and Emily is going to do a brief update on that.

10:28:10 Emily Newell: You all noticed we've been handing out this yellow piece of paper. We won't go through line by line right now but if you have a chance during lunch to any time after to read through the vision. We put these all on the right side of the page. The left side is little bit of info of what we've been up to. Generally, over the last year we've been meeting once a week every week, which is a lot of time. We spent most of that time trying to figure out how to involve all of you and your neighbors, figure out how to learn what you really think and want for the future of the community. This is for all of us. We did a survey, we had about 160 responses from that. We had a visioning session with about 120 people in the room, and that's pretty good. We have 60-75 here today, but this is Town Meeting, so the fact that we had 100 people come to the visioning session was amazing. But, on the other hand, what about the other 2,000 people in the Town. We really want to hear from everybody. So, we have a couple of ways for you to get in touch with us here on the left side of the paper, and here's a copy for your neighbors and if you have ideas that you think the town should consider in the future, just get in touch with us. We're going to be finalizing the first draft of the plan by end of the summer or early fall. We're also going to have another planning meeting somewhere over the next couple of months where we will propose strategies to accomplish. Please be on the lookout for notices of that meeting. Thank you.

10:30:12 Don Newell: So, we're getting close here. We've got a well-oiled machine here in terms of running through our articles and newcomers and some that are not so new might get the impression that we're hurrying through this process. We're not. It's incumbent on anybody who doesn't understand something that you raise your hand and slow down that process. The moderator requires an affirmative motion on every article in the warrant so motions will be moved and seconded before we go to discussion. Then we'll talk and once I sense the group is ready to vote, I'll call the vote and we'll go from there. Like I said, some of these will go along fairly rapidly, and some of them won't. That's all up to you. So, 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. The floor is open for discussion. Hearing none we'll have the vote, all in favor aye, opposed no. The motion carries.

10:32:06 Don Newell: Four, 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. All in favor aye, opposed no. Motion carries.

## Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

10:32:21 Don Newell: Article 5, I need to stop and talk with you a little bit about that. Article 5 says to see if the Town will vote to exceed, remember that word, exceed the property tax levy limit of \$309,370 established for the Town of Unity by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. That bill was started as an LD1 and now is written in statute. It's somewhat complicated. I did a little research on it. It all started when I asked Susan to send me a computation of what the numbers were that would impact this so I would be ready to respond to your questions when you asked me that. The figure was something like \$250,000, I think, that we would be over the property tax levy limit if we approve all the Articles in the Warrant. In the process of looking at that worksheet that comes from the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Maine, it looked like there was an alternative computation and I said why aren't we doing that? The reason is that the \$250,000 is based on property tax levy limits of last year, multiplied by the growth factor, not based on what we raised for money last year but rather the property tax levy limit. The \$250,000 is a total of what we're over the limit for the last two years, not just this year. It's very deceiving to the average voter when looking at this. I drilled down a little deeper and found there are two possible articles you could put in the Town Warrant. One says that you can vote to exceed the property tax levy limit and the provisions for that are to take care of an emergency. So if your fire truck got burned in a fire, or you had a severe storm that washed out several culverts in the roads and you had to get them back in a hurry so you could move around the community, that's an emergency provision where you could vote to exceed the limit. And, it makes sense not to raise the limit because that's a one-time event, it's not raised based on an increase in fiscal needs. Option two is to vote to raise the property tax levy limit. The difference in words is exceed the property tax levy or raise the limit. So what if you raise the limit? If we had raised [inaudible] last year, then the property tax levy limit this year would be based on that higher figure times the growth factor that the State of Maine provides to us for what would be reasonable to increase our municipal expenses on new construction in your community, a higher tax base, and a few other minor things. So the bottom line is what we should have been doing all along was option two, and this article is option one so, what we're going to ask you to do is to move to consider Article 5 after Article 37. Again, this is suggested by the Maine Municipal Manual for Town Offices. Consider the Article when you decide what you're going to spend, and then approve on that limit to raise the limit. We'll ask Susan to keep track as we go along so when we get to Article 5 after Article 37, that we'll know where we stand. We'll have a discussion, we'll have a vote, and if you approve, and we increase the levy to equal the existing levy plus what we approved. If you do not, then we back up and start going back through those Articles shopping until such time we hit what we've agreed to do with them. That's the plan. I'm suggesting we not have a detailed conversation about this right now but you can. I'm just moderating. I would like to request that we have a motion to move this article for consideration to after Article 37. [So moved] It has been moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:38:52 Charlie Schaeffer: First of all, I would just like to know, what is our overall budget right now if all of these articles are approved? What will be our expected income and expected expenditures?

10:39:13 Sue Lombard: If we vote in all the articles today it would raise \$659,144.10 making the total budget \$1,104,364.41. That's total budget. If we vote in all the articles today, it would raise \$659,144.10.

10:40:01 Don Newell: Sue has some other details, it would mean an increase in the amount we raise of 33% over last year. If we vote everything in and this is what Article 5 speaks to. If you vote on all these articles, then you have increased your total amount raised through taxation for these specific purposes, not schools and that sort of thing, by \$164,530.11, and that is a 33% increase over the previous year. That would also represent an increase in the total budget of \$66,564.43, that's a 6.4% increase. Susan, what items, big items, are not included when you compute the tax levy limit?

10:41:56 Sue Lombard: County cost, school costs are not included.

10:42:04 Don Newell: That's where we get down to \$66,000 in the total budget, 6.4%. With regard to Charlie's question, where Sue got that factor for the percent increase, that would be appropriate under state law, is 1.20220. Now, if you look at the town budget, you will find it a high proportion of that budget on the items is roads. Do you believe that the cost of maintaining roads has only risen by 2.2% in the past year? No, not even close. So, if you wonder why there are problems, the cost to the Town to run its business has gone up way higher than what happens in the growth rate in the community. It's not good but that is what is going on. So we either have a relative reduction in services or you have a relative increase in property taxes for real estate owners. Okay, the motion to move this is still on the floor. I see no further hands so will call the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:44:02 Don Newell: Article 6, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate not more than \$12,000 from TIF funds for professional services associated with identifying and advancing business growth within the Town. This means tax incremental financing, and it's a State program. We have a motion made and seconded. The floor is open.

10:44:32 Citizen: Okay, it seems to me like we've had this TIF about 10 years or so, now all of a sudden you don't understand what TIF is about and we need to spend this money locally or why to somebody out of the area to tell us how to use these funds?

10:45:16 Don Newell: Is there someone in the room that can respond to that question? Thank you, Noreen is from away but she understands this TIF program very well. So, Noreen, we'll see if we have approval for you to be represented here. All in favor, please raise your cards. Motion carries.

10:45:49 Noreen: Thank you for your question. The Town of Unity approved TIF in 1997. It's gone through two amendments. It's rather complex in the procedural aspect and in the allocation of TIF revenues. The Selectmen have looked at the TIF. TIF revenues were originally used to help fund the fire station, and TIF revenues will continue to go into a truck fund and the fire station purchase. Because it had been used for a public building, the town Selectmen said when the town office, let us look and see if TIF can be used to help fund the town office. So, that's when they began to look at it and brought me in because it's confusing to how procedurally and allocation-wise [inaudible]. First, to answer the question can we use it for the Town Office, the answer is no but there are useful ways to use TIF funds that have not been capitalized on to date. Part of my process is to not only review the existing program but to clarify the procedure and, also, in that process, we began to talk about there is a lot here. The Selectmen have the right to allocate funds without coming to the Town. The Selectmen decided they don't want to do that anymore, we want to come to the Town on how to use the TIF revenues. One of the things they did was create a Unity Tax TIF Advisory Committee and, so, part of these funds we have asked for today is to use a portion of the TIF revenue for the advisory committee in order to make the best use of the TIF revenue that we can. What the Unity TIF Advisory Committee is going to do, and I'm going to guide you, is try to identify, while working with the Comp Plan process as well, how can we use these TIF revenues to increase commercial investment within the community. My personal goal to the Town would be that within five years, and I don't know the current percentages, what percentage of property taxes are paid by residential tax payers, but my goal is to decrease that by 10% by increasing the portion of property taxes that are paid by commercial by bringing in commercial investment. It's not just a professional consultant, it takes working with the Town, the Advisory Committee and residents in order identify what the best use of those TIF revenues is. To date, it has just automatically been spent in a set way, and this process is to get you, us to a place where it's deliberate and thought out and it's making the most of every TIF dollar we have available.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

19:49:19 Don Newell: Thank you, Noreen. The floor is open. Other comments?

10:49:22 Marilyn Koziupa: I'm wondering about the commercial investment, what does that mean? Does it mean bringing business into Unity here because I see that happening. I see signs up for sale, commercial properties. Is that what you mean?

10:49:53 Chris Rossignol: It means jobs, yes. The goal of the TIF program is to create jobs, so yes.

10:49:56 Marilyn: Are we trying to be another Waterville? Well, I'm quite concerned about that because I came from out of town.

10:50:16 Don Newell: Marilyn, I'm going to control the conversation.

10:50:25 Marilyn Koziupa: He was talking so I was answering him. I'm questioning.

10:50:29 Don Newell: I sense you're being rather aggressive.

10:50:41 Chris Rossignol: The goal with TIF is to increase jobs, that's the goal. That's what it's set up to, retain tax dollars, to help businesses in town that are existing, and help create new business to create jobs.

10:51:06 Marilyn Koziupa: There are jobs in other places now besides Unity. I think I have been answered.

10:51:17 Charlie Schaeffer: Commercial versus residential property taxes, do we know now what percent of our property taxes are commercial versus residential?

10:51:17 Susan Lombard: Don't have that. Probably the assessor's agent can develop that information for us.

10:51:50 Dennis Jones: Where has this TIF money been going to since 1997?

10:52:04 Clem Blakney: The TIF revenue, part of it has been going to the fire station, as allocated, and the rest of it has been going to the Unity Barn Raisers.

10:52:23 Dennis Jones: Why have we been...how much has been going for allocations?

10:52:23 Clem Blakney: It varies every year, but basically it is anywhere between two-thirds of the allocation fund to the Barn Raisers, yes. That varies every year depending on the increment shared back.

10:52:53 Dennis Jones: What's the number?

10:52:59 Susan Lombard: \$292,000 rings a bell but I'm not sure of the facts.

10:53:03 Clem Blakney: That's about \$292,000.

10:53:05 Dennis Jones: Every year?



Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

10:53:07 Susan Lombard: Total.

10:53:17 Clem Blakney: One of the things that we have created the Advisory Committee for is to research and to learn what we can do to effectively use that money going forward. At this point, what went to the Unity Barn Raisers, at this point from 2000-2012 that we have records for, is a total of \$233,696.00.

10:53:39 Dennis Jones: But what was that money used for?

10:53:57 Chris Rossignol: We're researching that.

10:53:59 Clem Blakney: It was used for economic development.

10:54:04 Don Newell: Is there a UBR representative here who can speak to that?

10:54:14 John McIntire: Part of the TIF money has been in the town report for the last years has gone to the Unity Barn Raisers. That's no secret. I have not made it any secret and there isn't anyone on the Barn Raisers who has. There are a lot of things that has happened around town as a result of that but not directly bringing jobs in. The TIF agreement signed with the State I think in '04 is last when we modified it. What it talks about is trying to improve overall the Town of Unity. One of the things that we've got in this town is Triplet Park, we've got a park down there t that's not only a memorial for three little boys but for a firefighter. We've got a viable, active community park that's bringing some very interesting and educational programs for young people. That came through the Barn Raisers. We've got a Community Center, we've got five or six buildings scattered around town that the Barn Raisers have purchased, rehabbed, and sold back into private hands. The Barn Raisers paid taxes on all these properties for years such as the Community Center. That building has been open for community meetings, it's free to the town whenever it meets. All of that work, let's go back far enough, there are trees that have been planted along Depot Street.

10:56:22 David Smith: Well, we've been involved in a number of different community and economic development programs over the years. Sarah spoke about what is now a college program that started under the auspices of the Unity Barn Raisers. We worked for a long time at bringing in various businesses to the community and upgrading those businesses currently in town, so that was a focus for us for a long period of time. I don't have the figures in front of me but approved grants brought in, is John Piotti here, I believe it was somewhere in the vicinity, grants for Unity economic development, so we used the TIF funds to augment all our operations at Unity Barn Raisers in furtherance of those programs. We worked for a long time with different businesses in town. I recall the vet, they wasn't able to make a go of it, but that's one of the businesses we brought into town into one of the Barn Raisers' properties. It's a residence now, again, we tried for a long time. The one on Main Street, the cellular phone/AAA was a building that we rehabbed and that is now a business. We've worked with a lot of different businesses, and brought a lot of dollars for rehab and other programs that are still ongoing. The Health and Wellness program, some of which is in affiliation with New Horizon's Health Care, that wasn't able to make a go of it. We do keep that gym available for people. So, the Barn Raisers has been involved in a number of different programs. I don't have a list of them in front of me but the community meals, community trails, Triplet Park, a whole host of things, and we go after federal dollars and state dollars to bring into the community to make Unity a better community and to help the citizens of the community.

10:59:41 Gail: The Unity Barn Raisers also besides initiating projects, sometimes advises on projects and sometimes carries them out. One interesting one is the old grammar school. For years we've tried

## Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

to do something to preserve that building because it has a place in Unity's history but we were not successful. We did accept that building back from the town, correct? So, it was on our shoulders to do something with it. We're working with John Piotti and the Maine Farmland Trust that now has ownership of that building, it will turn into an agricultural entity, an agricultural center that includes classes for events, an expanded farmer's market, exactly what the plan of the final project is I'm not sure, but also Maine Farmland Trust has been working with KVCOG and KVCOG is making available \$200,000 to help clean the building and the additional fee of \$125,000 as a loan to the Farmland Trust to finish ridding the building of toxins such as asbestos. These are some things that have prevented the building from being adequately used. So that's the sort of relationship in progress that UBR is often involved in, all to the end point of assisting the town and community.

11:01:58 Citizen: A question I have on the Unity Barn Raisers, is it all for Unity or does this benefit other towns?

11:02:24 Don Newell: You need to go to the mike.

11:02:24 Dennis: Who says where...the Town doesn't vote on where this money goes?

11:02:41 Don Newell: The question is, does the town vote on where the TIF funds go? We voted on the \$10,000 for the fire department each year, and that's the only part that we voted on.

11:02:53 Dennis Jones: I think we ought to vote on the rest of it.

11:02:58 David Smith: This was voted on at Town Meeting.

11:02:58 Don Newell: The contribution to UBR, you mean?

11:03:06 David Smith: It hasn't been voted on each year but when the TIF, the last time that the TIF district funds were negotiated or renewed, I don't know what happened to that contract, but it was voted at Town Meeting. I believe it was a one-third or two-thirds split as to where those monies would go. That was voted on at Town Meeting. I can't remember what year. It was voted at Town Meeting.

11:03:40 Dennis Jones: There is no law that says it has to be voted on every year?

11:03:45 David Smith: I believe the way the Article at the time it was written was where the funds from the TIF district would flow.

11:03:54 Dennis Jones: Forever?

11:03:55 David Smith: No, there's a finite term for the TIF district itself. It only lasts an "x" number of years.

11:03:58 Dennis Jones: When's it up?

11:04:08 Don Newell: I'm going to, I've been patient, the Article is about appropriating money for the Town to use for commercial enterprise. The Unity Barn Raisers was not informed that they would be under review here and had an opportunity to bring all of their notes and all of their details. So, that really is not the subject. The question is, will we allocate \$12,000 from TIF funds that the Town will use for these purposes, and I'll review that before we get the final vote.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:04:42 Barry McCormick: There's a lot of stuff being said here.

11:04:55 Don Newell: I'm not going to let everybody come to the mike.

11:04:55 Barry McCormick: There's a lot of stuff being said here that doesn't really fall into the TIF program itself. As far as the Barn Raiser's getting the money, that was only for the first year. After that, it was up to the Selectmen to choose who is to handle that money, and after it is allocated, it is supposed to be voted on by the Selectmen where those funds are to be allocated and for whatever reason. That never has happened for various reasons. I'm not blaming anybody, but a lot of the things being done, the Barn Raisers are doing a great job in town but a lot of that is not TIF. Certain things are not TIF eligible. So, the reason for this vote today is to put the past in the past and work on the future of the town community. Noreen is here to do just that. She knows the program, she knows what the benefits to the town will be, to create jobs, economic development. So, what the Barn Raisers have done in the past, right or wrong, is done. We need to move forward positively. Noreen is here to do that. If we can get behind her as a community, the Town of Unity will benefit. So, again, a lot of the stuff being said today is not true. I just wanted to bring that up.

11:06:31 Don Newell: I'm going to ask Noreen to come up, she has a sentence to read, and it's crystal clear, how this all works.

11:06:40 Noreen: Thank you. As I said, the Unity TIF is comprised in two ways. One is procedurally, and one is allocation-wise. While it is true that the development program that was approved by the Town gives the certainty to the Unity Barn Raisers in the language, the end of that paragraph says if it's not allocated in [inaudible] reserved for Unity Barn Raisers, this portion of the TIF program may be potentially used by Unity Barn Raisers in future years or reallocated for another TIF eligible purpose as the Town sees fit, and that's one-third. And, again, the other third was for the grant matching and the same language exists there, and that portion also has that going...read for that amount that goes to Unity Barn Raisers includes that second third. The point that the whole process of the UTAC committee is to help them develop recommendations that ultimately come to you, the town, is for how should we be using those TIF revenues. What is the best developable purpose to use those revenues. And, it may include services provided by Unity Barn Raisers. It may include other programs completely, but the key is to be in the best interest of advancing and improving the economic wellbeing for Unity.

11:08:18 Charlie Schaffer: I would like to call the question. [Motioned and seconded.]

11:08:25 Don Newell: This is a motion to limit debate, it requires a two-thirds vote and so I call a question and the question is to limit debate and then we'll come back and have the vote on the question. So, all in favor on limiting debate? Those opposed. We're ready for the question, the motion carried. So now, Article 6, to see if the town will vote to appropriate not more than \$12,000 from TIF funds for professional services associated with identifying and advancing business growth within the Town. All in favor, aye? Opposed no? Use your cards. All in favor, aye? Those opposed? Motion carries.

11:09:48 Don Newell: Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$76,842.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

11:10:04 Charlie Schaffer: Question, last year we raised \$76,000, it was \$65,000 actually. That's about an \$11,300 increase, 17%. I didn't know paying Sue could be that expensive. What is that attributed to?

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:10:37 Don Newell: It is interesting you would ask that questions and the answer is not nearly as simple as you might think. \$76,842.00 includes the animal control officer. It just got moved into that because they are salaried. Animal control's salary used to be separate. That's \$2,180.00. Then, it includes the Code Enforcement Officer, and that is \$5,737.00 that's in here this year, but wasn't before. Then you have to go in and take out Article 8 because that is now separated from this Article and that is \$8,487.50. Then, you have to take out Article 9, which is not in this Article anymore. I don't know what that was last year.

11:11:18 Susan Lombard: I'm going to be training someone.

11:11:22 Don Newell: Also included in that is training for a new town clerk. I'm sure you are all aware that bringing somebody in to take Susan's shoes without any previous work would be impossible. So that's a general answer, we can crank the numbers if you want. Can you tell us if there are any significant increases?

11:12:11 Susan Lombard: The only increase is to the animal control officer. I think we doubled that amount.

11:12:27 Charlie Schaeffer: Sue, was code enforcement and animal control officer separate articles last year?

11:12:35 Don Newell: Yes, and what's the request for the town clerk trainee?

11:12:40 Susan Lombard: Well, I think we've got one starting in October maybe at \$12.50 an hour, including Arlene who will be up until October 1st, and the trainee is like \$11,000.

11:13:02 Don Newell: We had Arlene previously and now we're going to add in the trainee, so the overall increase to the Town, you've got a handle on that.

11:13:10 Susan Lombard: \$10,000.

11:13:11 Don Newell: Okay, a \$10,000 increase in this transitional period. Further questions? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:13:23 Don Newell: Article 8, to see what sum, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Assessing Services for the ensuing year. Motion moved and seconded. I need to stop and include a figure. We're not just approving a blind statement, we're approving an amount and what I intended to alert you to was that unless the amended figure is included in each Article as what was recommended by the Budget Committee, so that is included by reference by referencing your Annual Report. I don't see that, so, in this case you're voting to raise it by \$10,000. I guess while we're on a roll here, there are various ways we provide funds to our community to do our work. So when you raise, that is through taxation of real estate. Excise tax, which pays for a lot of our roads is from registering your vehicle so please go out and buy new cars, it helps a lot. Then we have Susan, what else do we have? Sources of revenue?

11:14:44 Susan Lombard: There is surplus.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

11:14:46 Don Newell: So, if you see so many dollars from surplus then we're taking out of what has been accumulated as a safety net for one good reason is so we don't have to go out and borrow the funds for the Town until the tax revenues are received. It takes a fair amount of dollars.

11:15:06 Susan Lombard: There is an administration fee when you come into the office to register your car. We get \$3 or \$4 from that. We get a rebate from PERC for trash.

11:15:20 Don Newell: PERC is like \$2,200 coming back to us. That's part of the overall agreement with the committee, community, towns and PERC. That's just a little information on how these funds are raised. When we are talking to you about levy limits, that refers to the amount raised, am I correct? [Yes] So, levy always speaks to that raised through taxation.

11:16:02 Don Newell: Article 8 was moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:16:18 Don Newell: Article 9, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the ACO/CEO/LPI Incidental Account for the ensuing year. I would like to stop and take a moment and talk about who our annual report is dedicated for. Look at page 1. Ron Rudolph, who has been working for the Town for 10 years and been a dedicated servant for all of that period. I wanted to take a moment to thank Ron for that service.

11:17:28 Ron Rudolph: Thank you. By the way, this is the first meeting that I've come to late!

11:17:45 Don Newell: Mike Thibodeau has arrived so we're going to stop a moment and vote to see if we can give Mike Thibodeau a couple minutes to talk to us. All in favor raise your green cards. Those opposed? Mike, you're up.

11:18:08 Mike Thibodeau: The good news is I'll only be a minute. My name is Mike Thibodeau and I have had the privilege and honor of representing all of Waldo County in the State Senate for the past four years. The last two years I served as the Senate Republican Leader and, much like your budgets at home, the State is faced with pretty significant challenges as well. I ask for your patience. Sometimes it would seem very simple but the State budget is a complex matter. We have been able to resource some revenue sharing which is critically important to many of the selectmen and important to everyone who pays property taxes. We closed out the 2014 budget shortfall last night, and because of that we'll get through 2014, which as suggested, we're still faced with some difficult challenges. Thank you for giving me a few minutes here. If anybody has questions, certainly I will be around for 5 or 10 minutes. If there is something that I can be of assistance with, I'm one of those guys that still has a home phone and that is probably the most efficient and best way to get hold of me. Mrs. Thibodeau, she answers that phone, she checks the answering machine, and she makes sure that I return those calls.

11:20:09 Don Newell: We stopped right in the middle of an Article 9, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the ACO/CEO/LPI Incidental Account for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded.

11:20:52 Charlie Schaeffer: For a simple country boy, would you explain what those acronyms are please?

11:20:56 Don Newell: Animal control officer, code enforcement officer, and licensed plumbing inspector. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

11:21:28 Don Newell: Article 10, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. 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.

11:21:28 Don Newell: Article 11, 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 appropriated by the Town. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:21:55 Don Newell: Article 12, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Fire Department accounts for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. These are numbers recommended by the Planning Committee. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:22:19 Don Newell: Article 13, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Office loan payment. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:22:29 Charlie Schaeffer: How much of that is principal and how much of that is interest?

11:22:34 Don Newell: The total PI is \$30,703.13.

11:22:34 Susan Lombard: \$5,703. Is interest.

11:22:52 Don Newell: What's the rate on that?

11:23:03 Susan Lombard: Two point seven five percent (2.75).

11:23:11 Don Newell: Wouldn't you love to be doing that on your mortgage on your home? Let's vote on 13. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:23:40 Don Newell: Article 14, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance 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? Motion carries.

11:23:56 Don Newell: Article 15, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Electricity for the Town Lights for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote.

11:24:10 Citizen: I'm just wondering what the increase is due to?

11:24:22 Chris Rossignol: CMP was looking at an 11 percent increase, and we are looking to do some additional work to the sand shed, new lighting.

11:24:35 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:24:54 Don Newell: Article 16, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town's share of the Unity Area Recycling Center and Universal Waste Facility for the ensuing

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:25:22 Don Newell: Article 17, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to Penobscot Energy Recovery Co. For the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. I do want to stop and tell you, because I have some notes from the Town Clerk in here. She wants me to tell you that we had a 964-ton increase in the amount of waste that Unity provided to PERC.

11:26:02 Susan Lombard: That was the total PERC.

11:26:06 Don Newell: That's up 42 tons from 2012. The point is, we need to do a better job with recycling and, actually, we get money back when we take items to the recycling center, and we get to pay more when we put into PERC so it seems like a no-brainer for recycling.

11:26:34 Don Newell: Article 18, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Landfill maintenance and monitoring for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:26:50 Charlie Schaffer: Why the decrease?

11:26:53 Don Newell: Because of the reduced level of monitoring this year and next year. Is there another question?

11:27:02 Citizen: You say there is a reduced level monitoring because of what?

11:27:15 Clem Blakney: A test is not done every year so, therefore, there is a decrease in the terms of the expense of the monitoring.

11:27:25 Don Newell: They pull samples from the test wells and that is basically what the cost is. No further hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:27:49 Don Newell: Article 19, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Curbside Recycling Pick Up for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:28:06 Don Newell: Article 20, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Metal Recycling Bin for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:28:21 Citizen: Why the increase?

11:28:23 Don Newell: Susan said it's \$128.00. Is that just a rounding thing, it's just a rounding request. We're not going to spend any more than we have to. It's the same amount requested last year.

11:29:07 Clem Blakney: We are reviewing in terms of that process, in terms of shifting that and, did we make to make an amendment to that? What we're looking at is moving that over to the recycling center in Thorndike.

11:29:25 Citizen: Excellent idea!

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:29:32 Clem Blakney: What we want to do, so it's not just the community, I mean encouraging recycling is good but a whole region. It also enhances the recycling center as one more wonderful feature that can be offered to the community. That is something that we're looking at transitioning over to them.

11:29:50 Don Newell: Sounds like that might be a convenience issue to them. It might even lead to a lower employee cost because we don't have people there.

11:30:04 Clem Blakney: That is correct. Ron has been doing an excellent job but we're looking at consolidating that and moving it over there and it keeps everyone and everything involved.

11:30:19 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:30:25 Don Newell: Article 21, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:30:37 Charlie Schaffer: I note a significant decrease in winter roads and summer road. I'm not sure that we want to decrease money from what we spent last year.

11:30:49 Don Newell: Susan tells us that we overspent with the roads last year. That winter, you will recall because it wasn't that long ago, we are still in it. We don't want to vote to raise money to take care of the perfect storm is basically what is going on here. Other questions? Seeing no hands will call for the vote.

11:31:32 Citizen: He asked about the summer roads too.

11:31:36 Don Newell: I'm sorry, on summer roads we expended \$357,000, we're asking for \$350,000, is that what you're talking about?

11:31:35 Chris Rossignol: We're just trying to keep it at \$350,000. We had a little remainder from last year, the previous year so that got rolled in, that's the increase. Our goal is to keep it at \$350,000.00.

11:32:03 Don Newell: The Selectmen are trying to be as frugal as they can. They did have some carryover in the previous year.

11:32:18 Eric: What are they going to pave? Eric, I'm just wondering what roads, are they going to pave any roads?

11:32:21 Don Newell: During this summer are we going to pave any roads?

11:32:31 Chris Rossignol: The goal for the coming summer is to, hopefully, our goal is to make it to the town line on the Town Farm Road. We're also looking to cut brush, prep ditch, culverts, and what not on the Waning Road over to the Clark Road is our goal for the summer.

11:33:06 Don Newell: Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:33:14 Don Newell: Article 22, to see what sum, if any the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.



11:33:14 Penny Picard Sampson: After the Budget Committee meeting, I was looking through the books and our cemetery provision. So we had, as far as the Cemetery Committee came up with \$22,700, a lot of broken stones, a lot of work that needs to be done. After we set the budget, and after the Budget Committee, which I'm also on, I had done a little bit of research. We have a fund already for repairing stones and fixing cemeteries, which you can take half of that fund. There is also the perpetual care fund, which you can take half of the interest that generates each year and put that toward cemetery maintenance and repair. So, I like round numbers. If we take, \$5,100 out between those two funds that are already in existence, then we would only need to raise \$17,600 instead of the full \$22,700. I'm proposing an amendment that we raise \$17,600 and take the remaining \$5,100 from existing funds.

11:35:36 Don Newell: Moved and seconded. So, the carried over funds does not change, that is the \$361.74. The amount we need to raise through taxation does change because we're taking advantage of some funds available for cemetery repair in the amount of \$5,100. Any discussion on the amendment?

11:36:51 Lynn Warman: The Town has that land beyond pond 1 that we want to map out and survey for more cemetery space. We don't have to do it right now but at some point that will cost a lot of more money and add into our cemetery budget.

11:37:09 Don Newell: Can you hear her? There is a plan something needs to be done down the road. If you pull these funds out, the argument is then, that's okay, it's not an emergency just keep in mind that will push that out in the future.

11:37:29 Jim Kenney: I very seldom need a mike. If you don't hear me I'd be surprised. Has not the Cemetery Committee planned that and included that in their numbers or is that a future action that is not being considered now?

11:37:47 Lynn Warman: I was going to save that money to use for surveying and plotting.

11:37:53 Jim Kenney: But that's not within your current plan, right?

11:37:57 Lynn Warman: No, we're going to use the money now. Also, we're new at this. We don't like spending your money. Some of these things we had written down we really don't know what they were for. We spent more money on mowing last year but we had a much better job done for us. We have a lot of stones damaged and after that's fixed we won't have to spend that money anymore. We need our sexton. We need to take advantage of his experience. He knows the laws and he knows how to do everything. I just wanted everybody to know that at some point it's going to cost us a lot of money to do the survey and mark it all out and have additional space because we're limited. Maybe we have a little more than 100 at the Pond Cemetery, and we have some spaces at Quaker Hill that we can only use for cremating because there is ledge so there so we don't have a lot of cemetery space. We can look to the future and realize we need to take care of that land because it's going to cost us more money and surveying is very expensive.

11:39:40 Don Newell: I checked in with Penny trying to get a handle on how this all works and, apparently, the more you use those funds, the interest earned each year, you have to have to add it as part of the plan, otherwise it goes into the fund and you take it back out. So, if you create a plan that you're going to use it down the road, run it by the people.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:40:06 Lynn Warman: There is one account that had around \$10,000 in it, that's what I'm talking about. . Not the interest. We should be using the interest year after year.

11:40:17 Penny Picard Sampson: We can take half of the funds out and it still leaves like \$4,500 or \$4,600 in there. We sold three lots last year. I was looking at the income. Okay, it was \$600, we sold six lots last year, and Susan says that we are running low on lots but we should still have plenty get us through the next couple of years. We can get the stones fixed now and get that expense done. We're mandated to take care of our veterans stones, some of them are being replaced. So, if we get that done first then we probably won't have to worry about the surveying and having more lots, I don't maybe for three to four years. So we can kick that can down the road a little and currently save ourselves some tax money.

11:41:31 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:41:39 Don Newell: Article 23, 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. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:42:15 Don Newell: Article 24, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kanokolus Beach 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. Motion carries.

11:42:34 Jim Kenney: I told you I have a good crew helping me here. I apologize. We had an amendment on the floor on how we're going to handle cemeteries, and approved that very nicely but I need back to back up. Penny's motion was to take from other funds \$5,100 to decrease the amount necessary to be raised from taxation by that \$5,100, leaving a figure of \$12,234.26 to be raised. That was the motion to amend, so I'm going to revote that. All in favor of that motion to amend, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries. Thank you very much. That motion to amend carries. Now we'll vote on the motion as amended. Keep an eye on me. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:44:07 Don Newell: Article 25, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for dues for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:44:54 Don Newell: Article 26, to see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and appropriate for the contract fee for the Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:45:08 Marilyn Koziupka: I have a question. What towns are included in the Humane Society? Obviously Unity because it's here. What other towns?

11:45:13 Don Newell: Is there anyone here who knows what there is?

11:45:16 Penny Picard Sampson: There are several, it's been 10 years since I was Animal Control Officer. We had Waterville, Winslow, Fairfield, Unity, and Unity Plantation; last I knew Thorndike and Troy were using them as well. Once you get further south we use Belfast but more northern and Kennebec always used Waterville. Unity has always used Waterville.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:46:05 Marilyn Koziupka: But that's not the Animal Control Officer, right, the building where they house the animals?

11:46:15 Penny Picard Sampson: That's the building where they house the animals.

11:46:21 Don Newell: What are the services that we get?

11:46:22 Penny Picard Sampson: What the Waterville area Humane Society does is they take our strays so if Sue Dwyer gets a call for a stray dog and she goes and picks it up, she doesn't have the owner, she will have to take it to the Humane Society. Other than that, if the dog had any medical expenses they would have to take care of that. Is that good enough?

11:46:58 Don Newell: Any other questions on that? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:47:18 Don Newell: Article 27, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise an appropriate for Benjamin Berry Post #50 for the ensuing year. Moved seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:47:40 Don Newell: Article 28, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for American Flags for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:47:58 Randy: I thank you all. If you see a flag torn or falling down, we're willing to pick it up. Please give us a call.

11:48:19 Don Newell: Article 29, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:48:19 Charlie Schaeffer: Is Broadreach a nonprofit or for profit operation?

11:48:24 Susan Lombard: It says not for profit.

11:48:26 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to suggest that next year we write out these following articles separately because the old way of doing it was a little hard to follow, the nonprofit donations in under one article. Now is the time to look at the monies we are donating versus the monies that we need to work on our roads. I'm talking as a voter right now and not necessarily as a selectman. These do add up and this year's total is in the \$18,000 range. So think about how many years we've giving away \$18,000, \$20,000, \$21,000 and how much that money could be used to put in our roads. Now, nobody disagrees that these aren't good services. But when you are approving these you're telling me, you're telling Mr. Kenney, you're telling Mr. Schaeffer where their money is going as far as donations when everybody has the opportunity to make donations out of their own pocket to the charities of their choice. That is my suggestion that we look very closely at the money we're giving away instead of money that we could be using for our important needs right now, which are the roads. Thank you.

11:50:54 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries. I want you to use your green cards. So please your vote by using your green card, all in favor, raise your cards, and those opposed. Thank you very much. Motion carries.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

11:51:23 Don Newell: Article 30, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Boy Scout Troop #233 for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:51:36 Citizen: Every year our meeting is opened by the local Boy Scouts who are presenting the colors, and everybody stands and says the Pledge of Allegiance. This year we have only one scout. Every year I question what kind of message we're sending to our young people that we can spend \$500 on a flag and only \$100 dollars on the young people who are sharing the colors. I'd like to make the amendment to raise \$500 for the Boy Scouts.

11:52:33 Marilyn Koziupka: I second that.

11:52:42 Don Newell: We have a motion made and seconded to raise our goal from \$100 to \$500. Just so you know, had the \$500 been in the Article itself, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Boy Scout Troop #233, then would be out of order. But the motion is perfectly acceptable because we didn't say the money recommendation.

11:52:58 Lyn Warman: I think that's great but recently we've had some trouble with our Boy Scout Troop and the two boys that are here today aren't with the Unity Boy Scout Troop.

11:53:29 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye.

11:53:33 Jim Kenney: What are we voting on?

11:53:46 Don Newell: We have a motion to amend \$100 to \$500. All those in favor of increasing the amount from \$100 to \$500 please see aye. Opposed, no. The motion is defeated. Back on the original motion as stated. Any further questions about that? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

11:54:17 Don Newell: Article 31, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for MidCoast Community Action for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:54:32 Jessica: Mr. Moderator, I'm not a citizen. I'm not an illegal alien either. I'm the Executive Director of the MidCoast Maine Community Action.

11:55:13 Don Newell: In order to allow you to speak to us, we need to vote to do that so please raise your card if you are voter to signify your willingness to do that. Those opposed?

11:55:21 Jessica: Thank you very much. We are the provider for Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties which is the Women's, Infant and Children nutrition program. Last year we served 42 families through WIC, which is nutrition counseling. We work with moms who are pregnant and six months postpartum. We work with children up to the age of five. We provide nutrition counseling both for the moms and the kids and identify any health risks that they may have. We work very closely with pediatricians who see these children, and quarterly we do heights and weights to make sure they are growing and developing according to normal standards. We also test for anemia, and communicate all of this information to their primary care physician. They also do receive food packages and vouchers for nutritious food that is much of the same as the SNAP program. They can only buy certain foods that are deemed nutritionally appropriate and basically, unfortunately, the security of the WIC Program is dependent more and more to young families. We have breast feeding counselor. She works by e-mail and telephone, and her job as a former WIC mom is to provide consultation to the new moms who may be having trouble breastfeeding. That's really important for infants to be able to get breast milk. She

## Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

has been successful in that she has a caseload of 200 new moms. I think that speaks volumes where a part-time person who has been trained can provide that kind of level of service. I appreciate the money that we received last year and I would be happy to answer any questions.

11:57:43 Charlie Schaeffer: How much money is spent on the folks here in Unity?

11:57:59 Jessica: That is \$84,924.00, the majority of it is federal but we've had federal funding cuts, so we use municipal funding to help augment to keep our service level up. So, \$85,000 in Unity.

11:58:17 Penny Picard Sampson: I would just like to know what some of the surrounding communities have given you for donations this year.

11:58:34 Jessica: I can tell you that Jackson gave us \$100. I'm trying to remember all the town meetings I have attended. Belmont gave \$500. I'm trying to think of Waldo County. I think Freedom is giving \$500, Troy, I can't remember, it is \$100 or \$200 that Troy gives us. Brooks, \$500. How many more do you want?

11:59:08 Penny Picard Sampson: I want the people to get a general feeling of the amount we're giving versus surrounding towns.

11:59:17 Jessica: We do look at the level of service and so if they are giving less often it's because we are serving fewer people. We do have a clinic here in Unity.

11:59:32 Penny Picard Sampson: I have one more question. Can you tell me are any of your services redundant with Waldo Cap?

11:59:42 Jessica: No, they are not. She wanted to know because we're a Community Action Agency, if any of our services are redundant with Waldo Cap. No. We provide similar services in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties as well as Waldo CAP does here. We are the only service provider for the WIC program. We do work closely with them for referrals.

12:00:13 Mark Nickerson: Could you repeat again, what's our budget for the Town of Unity?

12:00:17 Jessica: Just Unity, as far as the amount of money was \$84,924.00. That's for 42 families. They come in for quarterly visits and consults and, also, their food package dollars are in there. That also includes in the spring through the summer, we give extra voucher benefits to be used at farmers markets. This also includes the food, not just nutrition counseling.

12:00:55 Don Newell: Thank you very much. Seeing no further hands we're going to call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries. We're going to take a motion to recess for lunch for 50 minutes. Moved and seconded. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

12:44:19 Lunch break

12:59:18 Don Newell: Article 32, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:01:26 Penny Picard Sampson: I was hoping some people at the back of the room...I'm just going to make amendment that we change the amount based on 14 identified residents for Unity from instead of

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

\$830 which equates to about \$60 a person, to change the amount to \$10 a person and change the amount to \$140.00.

13:02:00 Don Newell: We have a motion to amend by changing the figure in the Article from \$830.00 to \$140.00. Seconded. Any discussion on the amendment? Seeing none will call for the vote on the amendment. All in favor of the amendment to reduce that price please signify by saying aye. Opposed, no. I'm going to go to the green cards. All in favor of the amendment indicate by raising your green cards. And, those opposed. Let's make sure everyone knows what we're doing here. All those in favor of lowering the amount then vote yes. All those in favor of the amendment raise your green cards? Those opposed. The opposed still have it. Motion is defeated.

13:03:23 Don Newell: Any further comments from the floor? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:03:30 Don Newell: Article 33, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:03:55 Don Newell: Article 34, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:04:05 Citizen: What is Spectrum Generation?

13:04:20 Don Newell: Can you answer that question? Please come to the mike. All in favor signify by raising your green cards. Thank you very much.

13:04:20 Citizen: Yes, I can. Spectrum Generation is a group of volunteers with a few professionals. We get some grants, federal grants, to provide meals for shut-in people, especially the elderly. Last year I think we spent around 1,325 meals in the Unity area. I'm the person who does it. I'm not of the higher echelons, I'm just a volunteer. If I get a raise of the minimum wage that Obama wants it wouldn't affect me at all. This year we don't have as many citizens that we have given services to due to circumstances, you know, they end up in nursing homes, so we did cut back our request this year. Last year you gave us \$500, and we're only asking \$300 this year because we're all volunteers and we all work as hard as you do in our regular lives, and we know how hard money is to come by. Especially when you see the people that I knock on their door and give them their meal.

13:05:59 Don Newell: The question that was asked, what is Spectrum Generations?

13:06:03 Citizen: It is services for the elderly. We do more than just meals, too. We give advice about where they can get other services, psychological advice. I have one person on staff that does that. They have an adult daycare down in Belfast. Just lately, you see the get together and the fund raiser they had over in Waterville, the Muskie Center is part of our unit. We also do a neighborhood watch type of thing when we're out in the field. We keep an eye on the elderly. Without us, if something happened, they could lie there for days. Now we have an organization, and I was talking to a guy at a food bank and we can probably get our food from there. Some generous people donated extra food that we get every month and this only goes to the elderly. We take it, extra bags like durable goods like cereals and things like that so they can have that on hand. I'm not really a person who believes in government too much but I did volunteer because I really believe in this organization.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

13:07:55 Don Newell: Thank you very much. If we need you we'll get you back. Any other questions? Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:08:13 Don Newell: Article 35, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:08:26 Don Newell: Article 36, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

13:09:09 Penny Picard Sampson: I make a motion to change the sum of \$9,873.00 to \$2,099.00, which would be \$1.00 for every citizen.

13:09:41 Don Newell: We've got motion to amend to \$2,099.00, which is \$1.00 per resident. Any discussion on the amendment? Is there anyone from Waldo County Community Action who would like to speak to it? We've got a motion to amend to \$2,099.00, that's \$1.00 for every resident. Any discussion on the amendment?

13:09:57 Citizen: I think we should hear from the guy here from that agency.

13:09:61 Don Newell: Okay, we have a request to hear from the director over here before we vote on this Article. All in favor of letting Ed have a talk to us. All opposed.

13:10:22 Ed Murphy: Thank you, I know it's been a tough winter for everybody, but it's especially tough for the poorer people in your community. We provided services to 282 Unity people this past year. We spent \$387,000. One program, the Home Energy Assistance program alone saved your community \$69,000 last year because our agency is in existence. The Home Energy Assistance Program provides fuel for low-income families. They are your friends, your neighbors and families. They have a tough time and need some of the programs to meet their basic needs. Some of this is state money, some of this is federal money, but we have a lot of local contributions that go into the agency's mission. I'll give you an example. We give out 1,800 food baskets at Christmas and Thanksgiving without involving one penny of state and federal money. I spend personally \$15 a week out of my paycheck contributing to that project. Our staff contributes generously to it as well. One of our board members lives here in Unity. These programs are really needed. The transportation program cannot function without matching funds from the communities. It requires 20% of local match to buy every vehicle we have. We raise that money from the communities at Town Meeting. We get funded in every town in Waldo County. I really want to reinforce that without the matching funds, transportation could go away in the future because the DOT is considering not having towns that don't contribute to not be served because they provide an operating match of 50%. The rest of it is all raised through other things. I'm happy to answer questions but if I explained every program we'd be here an hour.

13:13:10 Lynn Warman: How do we come up with the \$9,800 for Unity?

13:13:13 Ed Murphy: Sure, we ask for 2% of the service we'll use in a community, and 3% for transportation. You'll notice that our request is \$800 and some odd dollars less than last year. It is over \$2000 over the last five years it has gone done. The reason is for this is when that [inaudible] was out there we were able to use some of that money.

13:13:50 Lynn Warman: So the [inaudible] was \$750 less last year, they had that many less poor people that signed up for these services?

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

13:14:04 Ed Murphy: Thorndike people did vote \$750 this year at their Town Meeting. But their size and services is way different from the Town of Unity. Unity is a lot bigger community, probably four or five times the size of Thorndike. However, our request to the Selectmen there to not put the full request on the warrant. You folks can make choice today to not to fund these programs but, you know what, it's going to hurt some people you're sitting beside. I work with Community Action and I know how much it helps the people.

13:14:50 Lynn Warman: I don't doubt the need for this program, and I don't doubt that a lot of people really feel that it's important to contribute to it, but it is a charity, and there are four pages of people who couldn't afford to pay their taxes in this book last year, and some of those same people you're helping, you're hurting on the other end. There are so many different charities, we can't help them all. I think the Town should focus on the Town business.

13:15:31 Ed Murphy: I would like to comment to that. There are 282 people in Unity that probably couldn't pay their taxes at all if they weren't getting some of these basic needs met. We give them an opportunity to be able to pay their taxes by having some help with fuel, transportation, their weatherization, and the food that we provide.

13:16:00 Lynn Warman: I know that people need help with transportation to doctors. I've given elderly people that are no relation to me transportation to the doctor all the way out Vassalboro, and I didn't charge them a cent. I think people need to help their neighbors.

13:16:34 Don Newell: Lynn, do you want to make a motion?

13:16:37 Lynn Warman: I agree that we should cut it back:

13:16:50 Citizen: Everybody who wants to give \$5 or whatever should do that right here.

13:16:53 Citizen. If we vote to reduce this, would that reduce the matching funds that would come to this?

13:16:57 Ed Murphy: Absolutely not. It would cut transportation way way back. It would reduce what's available. These services would not be available. If every town thought that way, these services wouldn't be available, transportation, head start absolutely have to have local match in the community. Twenty percent for the overhead and [inaudible] is 50% for the for operating cost. If we reduce it, it hurts people of the community.

13:17:35 Citizen: This money is 2% of what you give back to Unity, plus the 3% matching, so you stand to borrow 20 times what we're giving you in the community

13:17:50 Ed Murphy: Yes, I'll give you an example. For the general assistance account, it will reverse by say \$.50 on the dollar. Those people who qualify for the Home Energy Assistance Program, you're paying \$.02 on the dollar for those services that we deliver. It's a big difference.

13:18:09 Penny Picard Sampson: I just wanted to say that this year I gave to Warm Waldo, I made three donations to Warm Waldo, which was directly sent to people who needed help with their heating assistance. I see people in the audience who also donated because I read about it on Facebook. There are no administrative costs for that. Before I got laid off from Bank of America, every year we did food baskets, and we did the Christmas baskets, and we did food baskets and we did additional food drives,



Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

and that was part of them. I have already given to them through my donations at work. Now they're asking everybody to donate to a charity that you have no say in necessarily what they're giving it to plus their administrative costs associated with that instead of having the ability to give directly.

13:19:36 Jean Bourq: An organization like this has infrastructure in place, grants in place, and a matching fund structure in place, which delivers a lot of value to our community, which is a very small [inaudible] on our part. I think we need to support that. We can give on our own too. We need to fund them.

13:20:26 Don Newell: Jean, let me just clarify, you're speaking against the motion to amend?

13:20:35 Jean Bourq: Exactly.

13:20:36 Citizen: If somebody contributed to this amount would that count toward their grant or does that have to come from the town?

13:20:46 Don Newell: Ed, if somebody privately contributed as individuals, does that count of part of the matching fund?

13:20:52 Ed Murphy: Part of what we spend is already contributed by those out there.

13:21:02 Citizen: I mean in order to get the matching grants, does it has to come from the town?

13:21:12 Ed Murphy: It's about the only source out there.

13:21:17 Don Newell: Do those private contributions add up to give you the total needed so you can apply for the match?

13:21:38 Ed Murphy: Private contributions add up to about 3% of what we need. Yes, they do apply to the match. But the town funds are critical for Waldo County for these services.

13:22:22 Sherry Powell-Wilson: I do speak once in a while. We throw thousands away to line someone's pocket for nothing yet we take it out on the backs...

13:22:29 Don Newell: Sherry, come up to the mike.

13:22:31 Sherry Powell-Wilson: Ed, what do you do for this program? Explained to us how you spend your day at work?

13:22:34 Ed Murphy: I have worked for Waldo Community Action Partners since 1958. I was promoted to transportation director on April 1, 1976 with a \$20,000 budget. Since then, the program has now between a 1.8 and 2.2 million dollar budget servicing all of the people including people in this room. I make \$68,000 a year. Last week I worked 102 hours for that paycheck, the week before 96, and before I get done this week it will be about 115 hours and that's the absolute truth. When you figure that out by the hour, it's probably not much more than minimum wage when you get done. I'm not ashamed of what I get.

13:23:26 Charlie Schaeffer: Bunny Moore is a member of the Waldo CAP Board of Directors, I used to be there 10 years ago. She can do that now.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

13:24:01 Jim Perry: For clarification, you were talking about the amount of private donations as a percentage of the match. Did you say it's somewhere around 3%?

13:25:00 Jim Kenney: I vote to move the question.

13:25:06 Don Newell: We have a motion to the previous question and we have it seconded. There's no debate.

13:25:16 Penny Sampson Picard: No debate? Can we have a secret ballot on the amendment?

13:25:25 Don Newell: I'll deal with that motion after we deal with the motion to limit debate. So, the motion is to limit debate and to call the question. Using your cards, those in favor of limiting debate? Those opposed. Motion carries to limit debate. Now we have a motion to change the voting procedure and that motion is to have a secret ballot which means that you would all file up here and put your ballot in the ballot box. That's a debatable motion. Any comments about that? The Article is seconded on the motion to vote by secret ballot. Any discussion on that?

13:26:30 Tom: Is there a precedent? Do we do that frequently?

13:26:45 Don Newell: Not so much. Is there a precedent to have a secret vote on this particular Article? Not so much. We have them occasionally. What's the theory behind it? I'll share that with you. Some people feel that a vote in a public forum where you raise your green card, sitting beside your neighbor, and a vote in a secret box is a different vote. You might vote differently if you're not exposed to the public. Secondly, in the Town Meeting manual regarding the vote is the majority of the people present at the meeting. It allows people to vote that are a no vote. We do it by voice or card. Some people might not come up and vote at all here but the theory is that more people would vote and more of those people might be the no votes on particularly sensitive issues that might be with neighbors. That motion is not unusual. So, let's back out of that. We have a motion to have this vote by secret ballot. If there are no further questions...

13:28:40 Citizen: I'm just wondering what we're specifically voting on, the motion to change the voting method?

13:28:54 Don Newell: We're voting on the motion to change the voting method and once you make that decision then we either vote by voice or card or by secret ballot. Penny has made the motion to vote by secret ballot. That is on the floor, it has been approved and seconded. We're ready to call the vote. If you want it to be secret then you vote yes. All in favor to make it secret ballot, aye. Opposed, no. The motion is defeated.

13:29:38 Don Newell: Now we're back to the main motion, the first the first amendment. We have \$2,099 as our figure now instead of what's written in there. All in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye. Opposed, no. Motion to amend is defeated. The floor is open for discussion on the main motion.

13:30:09 Penny Picard Sampson: I have a question. We discuss this every year. Is there an amount besides the full amount that we can get passed? Remember, we're still looking at State revenue, we're still looking at going over, what was the question, Sue, the \$379,000, we're still looking at that. We have to figure out where we're going to cut some dollars. Everybody comes to me and complains about the roads. They complain about their taxes going up. Mine went up 22% last year. It tripled since I bought my house 10 years ago. I was not one of the people affected by the reassessment. So we can give and

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

give and give, or we can get our roads fixed and we can have people afford to be able to pay their taxes so we can get our roads fixed. We need to figure out where our priorities lie and I know there are poor people out there. I was brought up poor, I know there are a lot of people in the room who were brought up poor. Sometimes people have to do on their own and in the meantime we need to get people some relief on these roads. I'm begging you to please reconsider a different amount so we can save some money on our taxes and still get something done. Thank you.

13:32:01 Citizen: I would like to call the vote.

13:32:21 Don Newell: As a lesson to our new folks who are here for the first time, had Penny made a motion to amend at some other figure we'd be dealing with that right now. She is asking what figure would be acceptable. Now we have a motion to limit debate on this and call the question. So, we'll have a vote on the motion to limit debate. All in favor of limiting debate on this Article please raise your cards. And those opposed. Motion carries, we have limited debate. All in favor of the Article as defined, say aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:33:47 Don Newell: Article 37, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the one and only Dorothy Webb Quimby Library for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. We the motion on the floor. Are there questions or discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:34:19 Don Newell: [Addressing Penny Picard Sampson] I think everyone can appreciate that you're trying to save dollars for the taxpayers. Everybody appreciates that so keep it up.

13:34:44 Don Newell: Article 38, to see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all 2014 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2014. Wait, we've got to go back to Article 5 here. I caution you, the Republican Journal is very interested in how this all plays out. She's taking copious notes over there. In the interest of total transparency, and you can say that in your report if you want, we asked MMA about this Article. Just one question because we wanted to know from their staff attorney if they would have any heartburn over us changing the word from exceeded to amend in that article. Well, lo and behold, she did. She thought that was subject to change and consequently that particular action should be postponed until a special meeting where you can rewrite the Warrant, post that Article, come back together and vote on it, and then if you did vote to approve all the money you change all the numbers. I should have known better. I made a mistake. Okay, I admit it. I should have made my position known ahead of time. This is my position. The Town's intent on what they're doing in this Article is crystal clear. It's not an emergency. It's not a one-time deal, It is the fact that municipal operating costs are higher than ever, and so exceeding the limit makes no sense. The State gives us two choices. We picked the other one and most every town in the State did the same thing. Anyway, I checked in with the Office of Policy and Management and they manage this whole statute. We switched to vote on the article at Town Meeting because if we don't we're going to have an very sparse assembly of voters dealing on the more important question. We need to deal with this now. I'm going to amend this, I suggest somebody make a motion to amend this Article. I work hard for the Town and I try to make sure we get it right.

13:39:01 Don Newell: Now, you guys are in charge from here on. Capable hands. Need to go back to that vote. Moved it to here. If we are going to amend this, if we are then we would amend as follows. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$309,370 established for the for the Town of Unity by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. That would be the Article amendment that we would need in order to deal with this today and cover whatever additional cost we

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

had just approved in our appropriations. Moved and seconded. Before we go out to debate just so you know, we had the old Article last year. We approved it and got done what we needed to do. We could have gone with the old Article but it's just not the right thing to do. There's going to be a million dollars difference between the levy limit and what the actual appropriation cost. We need to establish this platform so we can see each year where we are in relation to previous limit and the growth rates for incomes and property taxes in your community. Motion made and seconded to amend that Article. The new Article 5 is to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit again. The current levy limit is \$309,370.

13:42:04 Charlie Schaeffer: That's all we did was change the word exceed to increase right?

13:42:07 Don Newell: Yes.

13:42:08 Barry McCormick: Is this what the Selectmen and Sue advised to do? I just like to know, to make sure that this is something the Selectmen and Sue advise us to do.

13:42:29 Chris Rossignol: The consensus is yes.

13:42:30 Citizen: You're saying to increase it but you're not saying by how much.

13:42:48 Don Newell: If this Article is approved, actually, the Article, the amendment on the floor, so if you want to put a specific figure on it, you could amend that Article to do that and the floor would be open for that. The question was does Sue have the total of our appropriations to date so she can tell us how much we need to increase this by?

13:43:25 Sue Lombard: \$654,044.10.

13:44:02 Don Newell: So, the total appropriations that qualify under this particular section of the law, \$654,044.10. That constitutes an increase over the previous levy limit of \$245,617. That increase is over the past two years. What was the figure that we went over last year, do you have that.

13:44:41 Sue Lombard: We didn't go over last year. The year before.

13:44:59 Don Newell: We exceeded the year before. Other questions?

13:45:06 Citizen: I'm probably the only one who has this question, I'm just trying to clarify what we're talking about. Are we talking about the levy limit, is that the difference between the Town's income and what came in from taxes versus what expenditures are?

13:45:58 Don Newell: We're going to try to not get into that too deep.

13:45:58 Citizen: I have a question. It sounds to me like what we're saying is this is kind of a technicality. From I'm back here saying is are we saying my taxes are going to go up a lot from last year or not? What are we saying? What's the percent?

13:46:11 Don Newell: The answers to the various questions, and we'll take them in order is absolutely. Taxes are going up from last year. What is the percentage increase? We dealt with that previously. The increase in the total budget was \$66,564 or a 6.4% increase. The increase in amount raised is \$164,000 or a 33% increase. What's the difference? Last year we used surplus. Last year we took from our surplus \$165,500.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

13:47:14 Sue Luce: This year we have a town office payment that we didn't have before.

13:47:25 Don Newell: \$100,00 of that is right there in the fact that we used surplus last year while waiting for tax revenues.

13:47:38 Jim Kenney: Who asked the question about taxes going up? Raise your hand. Doug, today we worked on the municipal taxation and the County budget is in, but the answer to your question is not known until the school budget is in. What we heard here is the municipal budget, I'm going to pick a number, 1.5 mil, but the big chunk is from the school, and none of us are aware of what that's going to be. You have to vote on it. I'm not answering your question directly because there is no answer.

13:48:39 Don Newell: I'm going to try to go one further step. If we raise \$164,500 more this year than last year, that would be paid by the tax payers. What is our total tax base?

13:49:02 Sue Lombard: I don't have that.

13:49:24 Jim Kenney: What the town is valued for.

13:49:28 Don Newell: Last year we had a total commitment of taxes to be paid of \$1,740,000. If somebody would get their calculator out, that would increase the budget by \$164,508.00, divide that by 1,740,000, you'll the percent increase of this particular action on your tax bill.

13:49:59 David Smith: That's under 10%.

13:50:06 Don Newell: So, if you're paying \$5,560.00 on your taxes now, it would be \$56.00 more.

13:50:24 Jim Kenney: What percentage of the total that Unity raised for municipal purposes, is that not part of the total?

13:50:41 Don Newell: I took the total dollars and the increase and put it as the base. Again, last year we did things and used surplus and that's not available to do that again:

13:51:02 Jim Kenney: I have attempted to do that calculation. I have some math degrees, I am a rocket scientist. Anything that is under the description of fixing it is what I heard Don say I fully support it because it is funny math from the State of Maine Treasury Department.

13:51:41 Don Newell: That's what we're debating now. Do we amend the Article. Then we can talk about the whole how we're going to approve.

13:51:53 Charlie Schaeffer: I make a motion to move the question.

13:51:55 Don Newell: Motion approved and seconded. We're going to need a two-thirds vote. All in favor of limiting debate? Those opposed. We're going to call the question. We are voting on the amendment to strike the previous Article and incorporate the Article that says to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$309,370 established for the Town of Unity by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. So, all in favor of amending the Article say yes. Those opposed, no. Motion carries.

Unity Town Meeting  
March 22, 2014

13:52:46 Don Newell: Somebody asked what the significance of 309 is. The State statute doesn't care, that's what we spent last year. What the State statute does care about is that if a town is going to vote to spend more of a percentage increase in the fiscal expenditures in the town, a percentage increase higher than the State average income growth rate plus the additional taxable real estate community, that they stop and think about that. That's the whole bill in a nut shell. They just want people to stop and say this is going to increase your taxes. Any further discussion?

13:53:56 Penny Picard Sampson: Can we just clarify what happens if we say no?

13:54:10 Don Newell: The question is what happens if this passes and what happens if it doesn't? I'm going to back up one step just to frame it. It would be the same answer if we passed the original motion. Nothing changes there. What happens if you don't pass this article as amended then we go back to work and we find \$166,000 in what we've approved today to cut out of this budget. Or, we get into the actual figure and we decide if we'll spend less than \$166,000 or \$156,000 or \$80,000 or whatever, we go back and work to see if we can come to some resolution of what the right answer is. If you vote yes for the Article as amended, then you have approved all of the decisions that we have made today on appropriations.

13:55:31 Citizen: Back to my original question. Does this mean we are spending more than we are taking in?

13:55:43 Don Newell: No, we're spending more than we did last year.

13:55:50 Penny Picard Sampson: It's still coming out of your pocket, Leisha.

13:55:55 Don Newell: Seeing no further hands will call the vote. A yes means you are approving the Articles, the appropriations that we just dealt with. [Vote occurred by secret ballot]

14:02:42 Don Newell: The votes have been made and counted. Those in full favor of the amended motion, 39. Those opposed, 12. Motion is approved. Thank you all very much for your patience. Making that an amendment was the right thing to do.

14:03:37 Don Newell: Article 38, to see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all 2014 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2014. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:03:56 Don Newell: Article 39, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to paragraph 36 M.R.S.A., section 506. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. Those in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:04:21 Don Newell: Article 40, 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. Any discussion? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. Those in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries. Susan, do you know what that costs the town to provide that?

14:04:45 Susan Lombard: Not right now, no.

Unity Town Meeting

March 22, 2014

14:04:49 Don Newell: Article 41, 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.

14:05:37 Matthew Picard: Do we currently have any properties that are in consideration for this?

14:05:27 Don Newell: We don't.

14:05:49 Charlie Schaeffer: Did we dispose of or sell any last year at all?

14:05:55 Don Newell: No, just in case.

14:05:57 Citizen: How is it advertised if there is...if one comes up I'd like to at least know about it? Where is it advertised?

14:06:10 Susan Lombard: We would put it in the newspaper, we'd probably put it on the Town website. It would be widely advertised. This wouldn't happen until December. I would use the Sentinel. I haven't done it for years.

14:06:47 Don Newell: Let's call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:06:53 Don Newell: Article 42, 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, 2014. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Those opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:07:19 Don Newell: Article 43, to see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6th of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2015 to March 28, 2015. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:07:47 Jim Kenney: I heard a motion for adjournment, I will second that.

14:08:01 Clem Blakney: I wanted to say something. There is an open position that we need to fill. The Director in the Office of Emergency Management has been doing it for years and is ready to move on to greener pastures. It pays \$125.00 a year. Anyone who is interested in filling it, please see me.

14:08:55 Don Newell: We had a motion on the floor, it has been moved and seconded. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

14:09:01 Town Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Sherry E. Powell-Wilson, Notary Public**