

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF UNITY, MAINE
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015**

LOCATION: UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UNITY, MAINE

TOWN OFFICIALS SEATED AT HEAD TABLE:

**Selectman Clem Blakney
Selectman Chris Rossignol
Selectwoman Penny Picard-Sampson
Selectwoman Emily Newell
Town Clerk, Susan Lombard**

MODERATOR: Donald Newell

10:01:18 Moderator: Good morning Welcome to the 2015th Annual Town Meeting. Thank you all for coming out. This is a wonderful turnout. Just a few preliminary points about our meeting. We're very proud of it, and we have a few rules. That's my job to maintain order and to make sure that everyone is treated equally here. Every voter has the same tolerance as every other voter and, so, a few basics to help us in that regard.

10:01:46 Moderator: Most of you are long timers so you don't need this prep but, hopefully, we have a few new folks here today, and I'd like to know who they are. You don't have to acknowledge yourself. Sonya is new. Anybody else that is first Town Meeting? Thank you very much. Anybody else? Great. Well, we have three or four. Wonderful. So this is for you and a refresher for everyone else and me, in no particular order.

10:02:14 Moderator: One thing we don't do at Town Meeting when we're dealing with the articles is we don't do applauding and cheering and hooting and hollering and that sort of thing. And the reason we don't do that is that this is a process of learning from each person in this room to speak and if we have somebody speak and you have a whole big raucous cheer, then someone who has the alternate opinion is less likely to speak and it is very likely that that alternate opinion is very valuable to us. For the reason previously stated, we want to have every voice be equal. So if we get hooting and hollering for one person and not another it's not equal and we lose the value of coming together and talking to one another and listening to one another. So that's why we do it that way.

10:03:07 Moderator: There will be occasions to recognize individuals that have done stellar work for our community and then we will see if we can raise the roof a little bit then and there will be those opportunities to hoot and holler.

10:03:24 Moderator: On the same line, there is no room here for abusive or disrespectful language for the same reason. We want to encourage people to talk; not discourage them from talking. So save that for when you're out by yourself in your woodlot and you can use that language then but today, we're going to be respectful with one another. That's my job just to make sure that we remain that way.

10:03:55 Moderator: Another point, in the moment we had situations where folks will recall what somebody said someone else said about hearsay and, today, as we're discussing the merits of an article, that's inappropriate. What's appropriate is what you have heard personally, what you know personally. So firsthand information is highly appropriate. Secondhand information, let the person who has that directly offer us that information. We don't need to hear hearsay here.

10:04:40 Moderator: One of the old rules for the new folks and folks who have been around for a long time is the motion to pass over particular article. That will not be accepted as a legitimate motion today. That's what's called a negative motion, and if I accepted that motion then people would have to vote no to mean yes. That's very confusing. So a motion over, you really want that article to be considered, but you have to vote no on that motion to pass over in order to have the article considered, and that will really confuse voters. So we don't have negative motions.

10:05:23 Moderator: On that same point, I have a team here, a specially trained team, here at the front row that will move each particular question and second it. It's perfunctory. It needs to be done but I don't need to have a different person every time. Once we get rolling here, you will see it goes along quite nicely and so I do appreciate you bearing with me for a minute on the front end so we can get this lined up. And so it passes off pretty good this moving and seconding. Sometimes we have to wake up Dot and that's all part of the fun. Each article will be affirmatively moved in the front row and seconded, and then we'll open up for discussion.

10:06:06 Moderator: If there are people here who wish to speak or have sponsored a particular article and I'm not aware of that yet then let me know. Right when the motion is moved and seconded you could rise, Mr. Moderator, Don, however you want to refer to me is fine, just get my attention one way or another.

10:06:29 Moderator: The process of communication is to approach the microphone and talk there. And the reason we do that is no matter where you stand in this room and what direction you look, you will have your back to somebody and they will not be able to see your expression or hear your words. We need to take advantage of the microphones that have been provided and approach those mikes. We'll even ask Jim Kenney who has the voice that fills the hall no matter what direction he's pointed in, we'll ask him to go to the mike and will ask all of you to do that so we're sure that everybody can hear.

10:07:14 Moderator: This system is not working effectively or I'm getting too far away from it, and all of a sudden you lose me, then let me know that. Same with the mike back there. If you do not hear someone, let them know.

10:07:32 Moderator: We do not have the Color Guard with us today. Charlie Schaeffer is away today and he's usually the one to organize that. We greatly appreciate that. So I would ask you to rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. [Pledge of Allegiance recited together.]

10:08:17 Moderator: We had elections yesterday and we voted on Unity Utilities District trustee, and that's for a three-year term, and there were 20 votes for Charles Schaeffer, and one for Robert Shorey, Jr. Charles Schaeffer is duly elected.

10:08:42 Moderator: A lot of you know the results of the race for selectman but I'm going to read that. That's my job, and I would encourage you to recognize both parties together for their willingness to serve our community. Please let me finish this and then we'll have this opportunity to hoot and holler for both individuals for their willingness to serve. The vote was Clem Blakney, 122, and Emily Newell, 182. Emily Newell is duly elected as your new selectman. Let's hear it for both of them for their willingness to serve our town. [Applause.]

10:09:35 Moderator: And now let's do that one more time thinking of Clem and the hours and the weeks and the years that he has spent of his time to try to make our community better. Let's hear it for Clem.

10:10:02 Moderator & Emily Newell: Emily, if you would come forward. I have the pleasure of swearing you in. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Emily Newell, do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, so long as I shall continue a citizen thereof, so help me God.

10:10:41 Moderator & Emily Newell: I, Emily Newell, 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 the laws of this state, so help me God.

10:11:05 Moderator: Congratulations. [Applause.]

10:11:14 Clem Blakney: New tradition. The key to the Town. [Clem gave Emily a key. Applause]

10:11:25 Citizen: How about a speech, Clem?

10:11:44 Clem Blakney: I do want to thank you, really all. It was really, really great. You know, someone said the town spoke and that's exactly what it's all about. It is so great to get the town all involved in voting and involved in a lot of stuff that we've got going on. There are a lot of things that have happened in the time that I've been here, and the town is in a growing mode. It's exciting to see that. I want to take this opportunity to say, first of all, one of the things I want to do is thank our contractors that were involved in that, of course, our new town office. It's not perfect but with the money we had and were able to do, we've got a new town office and, frankly, it's our first town office this town has ever had. We've always been in kind of one building to another building and now we have a real town office. Thank you for helping us do that and it was a lot of work, a lot of grueling hours in making it happen. We have that new town office. The other thing is I just want to give thanks to everyone for understanding and working with the snowplow guys. We had an extra rough winter and they did a darn good job. They didn't make everything perfect but they did a darn good job under the circumstances. Finally, I want to give thanks to Heather and all the great administration that let us stay down the hallway for all these years until we got a new town office. Thank you for that. We had some flowers but they haven't arrived yet but the biggest thanks goes to [flowers arrived-Clem presented to Sue Lombard]. The last part is we want to give acknowledgement to, and that is our wonderful Town Clerk who was far more than a town clerk. She was family to this town, and that is Sue. Sue deserves more than a round of applause. [Applause] Twenty two years. She said 22 Town Meetings. And she is so looking forward to continuing that tradition by coming to every Town Meeting after this. Not! She is a wonderful person and we've got a rough road ahead of us without her. We appreciate everyone's understanding. I'm almost done now. All of us have a learning curve and we appreciate being spoiled

by Sue all these years that she's been there. "Sue, how do we do that? Sue, how do we do that?" We're not going to have Sue. Again, thank you, Sue, and thank you for my time that you allowed me to spend serving you. [Applause.]

10:15:22 Moderator: I've asked a couple of other folks if they would share a couple of thoughts. Chris has a couple. Chiming right in with what Clem has said, this was his first job helping to run a town, and coming in green and cool and wondering just how to do it. Without Sue it would've been a much bigger struggle and she guided him along so he has been very effective as our selectman so he thanks her greatly. Not a great public speaker he would admit. He has a heart this big. Jim Kenney, would you take a moment?

10:16:06 Jim Kenney: I would. Besides telling us what was very wrong, she was always our conscience. She knew the people of the Town of Unity better than anyone else in this town. She knew what they needed, how to help them, and to move everything in the right direction. She is the heart of what was happening here for the past 22 years. She was not hesitant in telling an old coot like me when I was headed down the wrong path. Didn't hesitate at all, but she always in the heart and mind of everyone around. Your effort has bettered Unity thoroughly. [Applause]

10:16:47 Faith Carlson: Two days after I moved here I was asked to work at an election, and this was the first time I had ever worked an election and I've worked many since then. I wanted to speak to Sue's wonderful organization of that and her fairness there. We've had so much in the news through all these years of hanging [inaudible] and all sorts of crazy things like that that went on. One time I asked Sue when we had to have a recount I said how far off were we off and she said one vote. When there were real huge elections she made sure there were plenty of election clerks to count and everything. I want to thank her for helping keep us on the straight and narrow and making sure that whenever somebody voted for Mickey Mouse she'd check to make sure that Mickey Mouse was not a citizen of Unity. Thank you, Sue.

10:18:13 Moderator: Thank you, Faith. With all this pomp you might assume that we won't see Susan in the Town Office any longer and that's not true. She will not be with us, she tells me, next year at this time. So, sometime between now and the next Town Meeting she'll be leaving us. That's the plan right now. Fade into the sunset. I'm getting a note from the folks running the lunch for us that the table in the back will be needed at 11 o'clock so, if you folks could filter into the seats up in front of you that would be terrific, and if we need additional seats then we'll make those accommodations. There are a number right up front where we can keep our eyes on you.

10:19:05 Moderator: I want to call your attention to page 46 in the book. Particularly to those who have left us since our last Town Meeting. I'll read them. Robert Barry, Alfred Bridges, Sheila Brooks, Timothy Christensen, Jeanell Cunningham, Sandra Dalton, Patricia Dixon, Raymond Dupere, Robert Harris, Randy Hubbard, Michael Koziupa, Fernand Lemieux, Peter Macary, Donald Mortland, William Robbins, Betty Shawley, John VonOesen, and Robert Winship. Please join me in a moment of silence. Thank you very much. These folks are part of the fabric of Unity and helped to make us what we are.

10:20:38 Moderator: Is John Zavodny here? He'll be coming, as I understand, and he has a very brief presentation on the state of the college. On a similar subject, Dot Quimby is here and wants to speak to us briefly.

10:20:57 Dot Quimby: Hi. I'm Dot Quimby, retired librarian for Unity College. The college will be celebrating its 50th birthday on July 25, this summer, and we would like to invite the Town of Unity to come up and celebrate with us. There will be van tours around the campus so you can see how we have grown. We also want to say thank you, Town of Unity, for being so wonderful and friendly to our students over all those years. Thank you.

10:21:41 Moderator: Thank you, Dot. Are there any guests here that wish to have a moment at our town Meeting? Oftentimes there are political representatives. Seeing none will move along.

10:21:57 Moderator: Before I get this thing moving I'm just reminding the new people this will go really fast unless someone asks a question. So if we start flying by these motions and you have a question about one of them then raise your hand or stand and ask, Mr. Moderator or Don, I have a question. So it's not intended to rush through this but these articles are the same every year so we're many of us are very familiar with them and we sort of routinely approve and will move through quickly. Here we go.

10:22:41 Moderator: 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. Any discussion? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

10:22:59 Moderator: Article 4, to see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials. Moved and seconded. Open for discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Thank you. [Motion carries]

10:23:12 Moderator: Article 5, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$77,723.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion.

10:23:29 Lynn Warman: I was wondering if we can move Article 39 to the front?

10:23:43 Moderator: You can make that motion if you will. I'm going to preface this, I'll take the liberty. Some people come to Town Meeting at different times. They know the order of the articles and when you move them they don't get to hear that article because you moved it. But, that said, if you wish to make that motion will let the body here.

10:24:11 Lynn Warman: I would like to make the motion to move Article 39 to the front.

10:24:22 Moderator: You want that considered right now?

10:24:26 Lynn Warman: Yes. May I speak on it a minute or do I have to wait?

10:24:26 Moderator: We need that moved and seconded, which we have. And so the floor is open.

10:24:28 Lynn Warman: LB1 was passed in 2005 under Governor Baldacci to set a limit to the growth of local government. Despite it's good intentions it has not made local government more efficient or less costly. The tax levy limit is a guideline to limit the growth of local government and to keep our property taxes in line. It is a guideline such as that that when you want to mortgage a new home, they say that

you shouldn't spend 35% of your income on your housing. To continue to spend above this limit is, in my opinion, recklessly irresponsible. If 69 percent of municipalities in the State of Maine last year were able to stay under their tax levy limit, then I think Unity should also be able to do that.

10:25:28 Moderator: Other discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. This particular motion requires a two-thirds vote so in order for me to be able to see those votes please use a green cards. When I ask you to vote.

10:25:55 Citizen: Please instruct us how the vote is, a yes or no.

10:25:58 Moderator: The motion is to change the order of the articles and, so, if you vote yes you're approving the change of moving Article 39, is that correct [yes], to be dealt with right now. If you vote no, then you leave the order the way it is. Any questions?

10:26:18 Penny Picard-Sampson: Why is it important to move it?

10:26:24 Lynn Warman: It's important to do it now because after we've spent all this money, if we do vote to stay under the tax levy limit, which is the responsible thing to do, then we'll have to do everything all over again at the end of the day. We could be here forever.

10:26:45 Najean Shedyak: Aren't we still in Article 4 at this time?

10:26:54 Moderator: We are not. That one is waiting and will consider this. Any further questions? Hearing none will call for the vote. Again, yes is you want to move that to right now, and no means you want to leave it right where it is. All in favor please raise your cards, and those opposed. Oh boy. We need to count. Wait, this is two-thirds. I'll still count. So, those in favor please hold your hands up and I'll count these. Those opposed? The vote is 49 in favor, and 41 against. That's not a two-thirds majority. The motion is defeated.

10:28:53 Moderator: I've got a motion on the floor. I'll recognize you and give you a minute after this action. So, we're on Article 5. That's been moved and seconded for discussion, and the floor is open for discussion.

10:29:16 Citizen: This seems about a 10 percent increase in salaries and I'm wondering if part of that is because in Article 40 we're going to be acquiring an assessor as an employee of the Town, possibly, and also whether that includes training. It just seems like 10 percent is a lot higher than the inflation rate and it seems excessive so I would like an explanation, please.

10:29:51 Moderator: My notes tell me it's a 1.7 percent increase that Susan provided to me previously. That includes training for the replacement for Susan. I presume there will be some overlap period as part of that training. There was a question about the assessor's fee. I understand that's the same. There is an article simply to change who's responsible to sign the documents. It is the selectmen or the assessor. That is what that article is all about. The contract figure stays the same. I don't intend to mean to know all of this. I just have Susan prep me in advance with the questions that I anticipate. Other questions?

10:30:50 Citizen: I do see a difference in the amount of \$77,000 in the Article versus what the Budget Committee recommends that's significant, \$9,000. I'm wondering what's that's about?

10:31:20 Susan Lombard: Carryover from last year. We didn't use that \$9,000 amount.

10:31:34 Moderator: So, Susan, when it says raised and appropriated, then appropriated the carryover and raising the difference. And that's how that's working. We didn't spend all of the money from the previous year so that's applied to this year. So the amount raised will be the Budget Committee recommendation. Good question. Others? Seeing no other hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

10:32:07 Moderator: It is important that as we go along that all of you vote, even if we're doing A's and A's because there may be one where it will make a difference. It's real important to stay with us and vote on these.

10:32:24 Moderator: Number 6, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Assessing Services 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.

10:32:41 Moderator: Next up we have a representative here and we'll give her a couple minutes to say hi.

10:32:54 Mary Anne Kinney: Good morning. I am your State Representative, Mary Anne Kinney, for those of you who don't yet know me, and I'm on the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee in Augusta. Things have gotten off to a slow start and we're trying to push things through, They keep telling me it's legislative time and I think it's rude personally but that's my opinion. I didn't know if any of you had any questions or concerns. Last weekend I went to the Troy Town Meeting and they commented about how both you guys and Troy do flags and one of the issues that is before us is to remove the sales tax from sale of the United States flag. In chamber, I sit right next to a gentleman who is on the Appropriations Committee, and said that bill is going to die in appropriations. However, he also told me that I can get them with no sales tax so if you guys want the US flag to hang in town, and I don't know if that's in your budget, I haven't looked at your Town Report, and I've got to get back to Troy on this. I can get those for you without the sales tax. If that's something you want me to do. It's just a thought. I welcome any questions if you have any. I'll get some of my business cards and will leave those up front if you want to take them out on your way out. You can contact me at any time.

10:34:32 Moderator: Thank you very much. Ron Cropley will be pleased to know he can save a dollar on those.

10:34:45 Moderator: Article 7, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$600.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:35:01 Penny Picard-Sampson: I'm apologize for not being able to stand up and sit down. I just got out of surgery and home for a day. What we wanted to do different this year than what we've done in the past is we moved special appropriation articles up front so people would still be here to discuss them. We also wanted to have written ballots, which we understand will take up a few more minutes but

if you're here at the meeting to get out early, it's only one day a year that we're here. The reason for the written ballots is so that we can get a true number as to how people feel in the vote. A lot of times people won't oppose a vote because they don't want their neighbors to see that they might be voting against something that they're neighbors might support. We will request for each article, seven through 18, as a written ballot. It should only take a few extra minutes and we appreciate your patience.

10:36:23 Moderator: We have a motion to change the way we vote and we'll have to do that for each one of the articles because they're not grouped. Each time that I read one of these articles, we will ask folks if they want to have a written ballot, which means you get a slip of paper and come up and drop it in the box as we all file through. So, we have that as a motion. Do we have a second? [Seconded] Thank you. Discussion?

10:36:57 Citizen: Could someone please explain what Broadreach Family Services is?

10:37:07 Moderator: Can't do just yet. We currently have a motion of the floor and that is to change the way we vote, whether it be just asking you to raise your hand or voice vote, we'll file by the ballot box. That's on the floor right now.

10:37:25 Penny Picard-Sampson: Don, is this debatable?

10:37:28 Moderator: No, I don't believe this is. It's not debatable. Thank you. So, no debate. We just have to go to a vote and this does not require a two-thirds majority. I'm going to call for the question. All those in favor of the motion to have a written ballot will answer with a yes, and those opposed will use your cards as well. All in favor of having a written ballot? Please signify with your cards. And those opposed? The opposed have it. We've been asked for a recount. Those in favor of a written ballot please raise your cards. Thank you, keep them up there. I have 43. Those opposed. Fifty two. The nays have it. I think I saw a couple of hands there, someone up in the back, did you have a green card? There was somebody, I thought I saw a hand that didn't have a green card in it. Okay, you don't have a card. There is one right here. You can't raise two hands at once. I just want you all to know I'm watching.

10:40:02 Citizen: Before we begin to vote, I have some information on Waldo Cap on expenses and what they have paid out to Unity residents only. It was not passed out before and I would like permission to pass this out before voting begins.

10:40:24 Moderator: That's fine.

10:40:31 Citizen: I'm just wondering if you need to change the battery in the microphone.

10:40:37 Moderator: It's fading? Or I'm getting too far away from the antenna with this portable rig. Do the batteries blow up when they get... Probably if I stay near the transmitter I'm all right. It is all right now? [Yes] I'm going to run with it. I won't wander around quite as much. Is that information critical to people understanding Broadreach? I'm going to go ahead with this. I've got a hand in the back;

Lucia Picard: Hello. My name is Lucia Picard. I'm a new member to the Budget Committee. Before we get too far into the voting I was wondering if there could be an explanation about when we raise this money, what that means for the Town taxes and, also, if somebody could explain about the tax anticipatory notes that we've had to take out because I'm not sure that everybody, especially first-time people today at Town Meeting, understand what the Town is going through financially. So if somebody could explain that?

10:42:25 Moderator: Okay, tax anticipatory notes.

10:42:35 Clem Blakney: Tax anticipatory note means that when we do not have enough money to keep the operations flowing in the municipality, then we have to borrow expected taxes coming in and, basically, they see our tax base and they say, alright, we'll loan you money on anticipated taxes coming in. Now with that, let's apply the other part of the equation to that. People say but we have a surplus. It's not really a surplus. We call it that but it is the operating expenses that we use to keep things going and that can diminish when people do not pay their taxes right away, and that's what we have. At this point a lot of people are holding on to their taxes and, as a result of that, cash is not coming in to the municipality system. Therefore our operations get so low to the point that we cannot continue to function. People repairing the roads and et cetera, et cetera, so we have to borrow money in order to do that. And that includes the school administration costs. That's the way it works. When we get too low we have to borrow money.

10:43:51 Moderator: A little sidebar on that. I asked Susan what we borrowed and the cost and, this year, we had available \$335,000. We borrowed \$150,000. The interest costs on that loan was \$410.83, and the legal fees to get that loan were \$1,857.75. If you look in your Town Report you'll also see that there is considerable revenue because folks don't pay their taxes on time. I recall it's something like \$12,000.00. So there are two sides of the late payment of taxes issue and the need to borrow money.

10:44:31 Citizen: It's not \$12,000.00 that is due?

10:44:43 Moderator: No, the interest earned on the taxes due was \$12,000. Sorry about that David. Thank you for clearing that up. Okay, Lucia, did we answer the question?

10:44:58 Lucia Picard: Yes, except you might add how many loans we've had to do in how many in years a row we've had to do that.

10:45:13 Moderator: One year in a row. This is the first time. Yes.

10:45:19 Sue diRosario: I'm not a resident of Unity. I request permission to speak on Broadreach.

10:45:33 Moderator: Okay, I'm supposed to do this for anyone who is not a resident. With our politicians I get a little slack on that we have never denied a politician the opportunity to speak to us where they have taken the time to come. I get a little lazy on that but we'll do that here. We have an individual from Broadreach that would like to speak to us on the subject. I need you to vote. All in favor of letting her vote please raise your green cards? Those opposed? You're on.

10:45:59 Sue diRosario: I'll make this brief. I'm with Broadreach Family and Community Services. First off, I want to say that we deeply appreciate the support of the Town of Unity. We've been a nonprofit 501(c) since 1983. We deeply appreciate it. Someone asked the question what we do, particularly in the Town of Unity. This year we've provided \$103,000 worth of services to 32 people. Those individuals included children who receive early childhood education in this building. We also provide behavioral health and case management services to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health and behavioral health issues. We also provide prevention services. This is primarily child abuse and neglect prevention, substance abuse prevention, and we provided services to 13 individuals for that. Services to 32 individuals was \$103,000 this past year to Unity.

10:47:09 Moderator: Thank you very much and thank you for coming down and being with us. Any questions for her while she is here? I guess you're off the hook. Thank you very much. I won't do this with every article but because we have some new folks here, if you look below the article you will see the Budget Committee recommendation and the Selectmen recommendation. It is the privilege of anybody in the room to move to amend the figure. If you move to amend the figure to \$800.00, that would not be acceptable because the figure in the article is \$600.00. You can't go above that, but you can go below it. I'm just letting you know that anyone of you can make a motion to amend any of the articles at any time. We will consider that amendment before we vote on the final motion.

10:48:01 Matt Picard: Before we go any further with any voting, I would like to know if you'd take a look around, is everybody here, who has a card, registered to vote in the Town of unity?

10:48:19 Moderator: Yes.

10:48:19 Matt Picard: You're sure about that?

10:48:22 Moderator: Do you recognize someone you question?

10:48:22 Matt Picard: I don't know.

10:48:29 Moderator: Back to the original motion as moved and seconded.

10:48:36 John McIntire: I just would like to make a quick comment. We've got these half dozen special requests coming up and it's my taxes as much as it is yours. Believe me, mine have gone up by four times what they were 20 years ago with not much improvement to the property and no improvement to the road. But at the same time, times are tough for everybody and I like to live in a town that not only takes care of itself but is compassionate and takes care of all the citizens. Thanking you.

10:49:27 Moderator: Anyone else? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? . Motion carries. It's \$600.00, that's what's was read.

10:49:41 Moderator: Article 8, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area for the ensuing year. Motion made and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. I'll accept any motion on every one of these. We'll have a vote on whether we're going to have a written ballot or not on this article. All those in favor of a written ballot please

raise your green cards. And those opposed? The motion is defeated. The floor is open for discussion on the main motion.

10:50:23 Penny Picard-Sampson: Can I amend that number? As you can see from the article, both the Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommended zero dollars for the Hospice Volunteers of Waterville. We need to cut our taxes somewhere. We have other things that need improvement. Correct me if I'm wrong but I believe there were only two people that benefited from the Hospice Volunteers of Waterville and, also, the same services are covered by another agency or a couple other agencies so, we've got double coverage on some these.

10:51:07 Moderator: The motion was to not fund it. We'll consider that basically a change in the figure from \$500.00 to \$0.00 is what we're doing. We have a second on that. Okay, now the floor is open. Discussion on the motion to change the figure to zero.

10:51:34 Citizen: What are the other agencies that provide that same service?

10:51:42 Penny Picard Sampson: We talked about that at the Budget Committee.

10:51:52 Moderator: Anyone know? Can't help you. That's hearsay again. Take that into consideration as you vote. Any other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor of the motion to amend the figure to zero signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we're back to the main motion as amended. All in favor of the main motion with the figure being zero, signify by saying aye. Opposed, no. Motion carries.

10:52:28 Moderator: Article 9, To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Kennebec Behavioral Health for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. We have motion made and seconded to have a written ballot on this article. All in favor of a written ballot raise green cards. And those opposed? Motion is defeated. The floor is open for discussion.

10:52:59 Penny Picard Sampson: As you'll see below the article the Budget Committee recommended \$100.00, the Selectmen recommended \$100.00 versus the \$500.00 that they had asked for. Sue, can you tell us how many people benefitted from Kennebec Behavioral Health?

Moderator: Thirty six people benefited. Anyone here from Kennebec Behavioral Health? Are you? All right. Will have a vote to see if you're allowed to speak as a nonresident. All in favor please raise your green cards? And those opposed? You're on.

10:53:47 Tina Chapman: Good morning. My name is Tina Chapman and I am here representing Kennebec Behavioral Health. First of all, I want to say thank you considering our funding request. You have funded Kennebec Behavioral Health in the past so we appreciate that as well. We have provided service over the last year for 36 Unity residents, and we've seen them approximately 584 times during the year. The amount of funds that we have absorbed, that were nonpaid by Unity residents, is about \$17,000, but we're happy to do that because that's part of our mission, to be able to provide services for people even though they can't pay. I wanted to just tell you a little bit about the kinds of services that people are accessing, who are residents of Unity. We have people are accessing our Access Center which is basically calling and being triaged to find out what program would best provide support for

them depending on what they need. We have a Community Support Program. We have a Children's Case Management Program. We have a High Hopes Clubhouse, which is vocational rehabilitation. By far, the highest number of people who access services are accessing our med clinic services, and that includes children. We have a multisystem therapy program, outpatient services for both adults and children so just wanted you to know what's happening for Unity residents on behalf of Kennebec Behavioral Health.

10:55:23 Moderator: Thank you very much. Any questions? I don't see any questions. Thank you. Any further debate on the subject? We're on the motion to amend the figure to \$100.00. That was the motion to amend wasn't it Penny? [Yes] So discussion on the motion to amend? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Will use our green cards. All in favor, with your green card, please, raise your hands. And those opposed? We have to count. Going back to the ayes. All in favor pick them up please?

10:56:12 Citizen: Is this to amend?

10:56:13 Moderator: This is a motion to amend. Fifty eight. I already know what's going to happen. Those opposed? Forty one. The motion carries. Now the main motion with the amendment, so it's a motion raising \$100.00. All in favor raise your green cards? And those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you. Penny, do I have permission to not move the question on the voting method?

10:57:11 Penny Picard Sampson: Yes.

10:57:27 Moderator: Article 10, to see what sum, if any, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for MidCoast Community Action for the ensuing year. Motion made and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

10:57:41 Penny Picard Sampson: I get to be the lucky one. First, Sue, can you tell us how many people. Thirty people received benefits for MidCoast Community Action. They had requested a thousand and both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended \$250.00. The reason for that was some of the, again, services overlapped with other services from other agencies. So, my amendment is for \$250.00.

10:58:18 Moderator: We have a motion to amend the figure to \$250.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion on the amendment. See no hands will call for the vote.

10:58:31 Susan Piotti: I just have a question about this. When we raise \$250.00, when they're asking for \$1,000.00, does that mean that fewer people can access care or will it be given to them anyway, it's just that Unity doesn't contribute as much?

10:58:57 Moderator: Penny, do you have an answer?

10:59:02 Penny Picard Sampson: The answer is we still receive the services. We just put in less and if you look at, like I do, what other towns support these agencies at, you'll see like a town like Lincolnville give them a dollar, they still receive the thousands of dollars because most of these agencies are federal, state, and county supported already.

10:59:30 Moderator: Thank you. In the back?

10:59:32 Sue Kingsland: I'm not a resident but I do represent MidCoast Community Action.

10:59:41 Moderator: Please vote to allow her to speak, all in favor please pick up your green cards. Thank you very much. All those opposed? You're on.

10:59:57 Sue Kingsland: My name is Sue Kingsland. I'm the Director of Child and Family Services for MidCoast Maine Community Action. I wanted to clarify particularly about the duplication of services. For the Town of Unity, MidCoast Maine Community Action specifically contributes to WIC, which is Women, Infant, Child care program. That includes instruction with a lactation aid for breastfeeding, we have nutrition education for families, and we also provide the all-important nutrition food vouchers. That's where families who qualify can go to the store with those vouchers and get a lot of food for their kids. With that clarification, thank you.

11:00:49 Moderator: Any questions?

11:00:53 Citizen: Is there any program where I can get a voucher to help me pay my taxes?

11:01:03 Sue Kingsland: If you find that let me know too.

11:01:08 Moderator: Thank you very much. The floor is open for discussion on the motion to amend to \$250.00. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? We're going back to the cards again. All in favor raise your green cards. And those opposed. The ayes have it. The noes were very vocal. The food folks need to begin to set up at that back table so will need to have you move please. We're going to take a little bit of a break. Don't go anywhere.

11:01:52 Jim Kenney: I don't know if you saw that we've been joined by Senate President Mike Thibodeau?

11:02:06 Moderator: I didn't see that. Mike, come on up. While they're shuffling chairs it will give you an opportunity to say hi.

11:02:14 Mike Thibodeau: Thank you. My name is Mike Thibodeau. I've had the privilege of serving Unity now for nearly five years in the State Senate. If there is ever an opportunity for me to help you, you're not hearing it? I'll hold it closer. If there is ever an opportunity where you need help navigating the bureaucracy that exists in Augusta, please reach out to me because I'm anxious to do that. I have represent you for nearly five years and this last fall, I had the privilege of being elected, the honor of being elected by my colleagues to serve as President of the Maine Senate. The folks in Augusta did a little bit of checking and it's been 90 years since somebody from Waldo County has served as President of the Maine Senate. None of us are real sure what Senator Buzzell from Belfast actually did but it took everybody 90 years to forget. I promise to be on my best behavior during the next two years so it isn't another 90 years before somebody from Waldo County has that honor. Thank you and we'll get back to business so we can go to lunch.

11:03:42 Sonia Antunes: I have a question. I'm just wondering if somebody voted on something and someone has something to say after, can we go back and like revote?

11:04:25 Moderator: Yes, you can. It's called a motion to reconsider and the motion to reconsider can only be moved by a person who was in the majority on the motion. So, in the ayes had it, then it would have to be someone who voted aye on the motion to move to reconsider. If the nays had it then it would be someone who voted against it who said I would like to reconsider that. That's the way that works.

11:04:52 Moderator: I believe we're on Article 10, and we've accepted the amendment of...what's going on back there? Let me reiterate where we are to make sure I know where we are. Article 10, we've had a motion to amend the figure to \$250.00, and that has been seconded and approved, and now we're back to the main motion.

11:05:25 Citizen: I have a question there. I have a question about what the young lady was saying. I want to know what she was thinking about that made her ask that question. What was it about?

11:05:41 Moderator: She was asking a procedural question.

11:05:45 Citizen: I understand that but what was she thinking about that she wanted to try to bring up something we voted on already? I wanted to know what article she had in her mind when she asked that.

11:06:07 Moderator: She doesn't have the privilege of speaking to that issue because she acknowledged in her face that she voted with the group that lost that particular motion, so we can't have this discussion on it. She might talk to you over lunch and you might come back to move to reconsider. We can't do it right now.

11:06:31 Moderator: Article 10, we're on the main motion. The amendment is \$250.00 is the amount. Any further discussion. Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:06:49 Moderator: Article 11, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for New Hope For Women for the ensuing year. The number is \$830.00 for New Hope For Women for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

11:06:59 Citizen: I would like to move that we go with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$500.00.

11:07:11 Moderator: Do we have a second? Moved and seconded that the figure be changed from \$830.00 to \$500.00. Any further discussion on the amendment? All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. We're back to the main motion as amended. Any further discussion on it? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:07:44 Moderator: Article 12, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. It's moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

11:08:00 Tom Aversa: I can speak to that. My name is Tom Aversa and I live in Unity, and I'm also the secretary for the Land Trust. I just wanted to, some people don't know what the Land Trust is. Our land trust has been in Unity for 10 years now, going into our eleventh year. What we do is we help to conserve lands in the area, we preserve working forests and working farms, wildlife habitat, and provide an area for people to fish and hunt. As development pressures increase those lands become more difficult to come by. This year we put in a new boat ramp down on the 25-mile stream. Even though our purview is dry watershed, we probably have about 2,000 acres in Unity. Unity is sort of the [inaudible] of our organization. We provide a presence in the Town and the knowledge for the Town to places to provide information on, wildlife habitat. We also provide events at least monthly where families come to snowshoe, trail identification and things like that.

11:09:21 Moderator: And you have a trail or two?

11:09:25 Tom Avera: We have, yeah, we have trails on many of our properties and those can be used by hikers, almost all of our properties are open to hunting unless a donor requests that that isn't the case. I can take questions if anybody has any.

11:09:44 Moderator: Any questions for Tom Aversa? Guess you're off the hook. Any other discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:09:56 Moderator: Article 13, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open.

11:10:16 Citizen: What is that?

11:10:20 Moderator: Can anyone tell us about that?

11:10:20 Citizen: It's Meals on Wheels. I'm not of this town so I'll need permission.

11:10:20 Moderator: Can we have permission for this gentleman to speak, please? Raise your green cards? And those opposed? You're all set.

11:10:27 Citizen: Senior Spectrum is an organization that provides meals and for people who are shut in. Mostly it's an aged group, it's older people because they're usually the ones. Even people that are disabled that have difficulty getting good food or to go buy food. We provide meals for them for about a week, one good meal a day per week. They are brought around by, my position is, I'm a volunteer driver. Most of us are all volunteers, just a few professional people enough to keep the organization running to keep our costs down. We do get donations from federal and state government, which is due to the times and has been cut back severely. We also keep an eye on these people who are shut in, some of them we're their only contact and through framing and even where we all know these people, we try to keep an eye on without interfering in their lives, to give them all the freedom we can. We try to keep an eye on them and make sure that they're safe and they're well. We might not say anything to them at the time but Senior Spectrum also provides a counseling service so those of us who are drivers will go and report it in confidentially. The most important thing, which is the most important to anyone who is hungry -- food.

11:12:34 Moderator: Thank you very much. Any questions of this gentleman? Seeing none will move on to the general floor. There are two hands in the back?

11:12:41 Citizen: Is this out of Belfast? [Yes] You also have a day program don't you?

11:12:56 Citizen: Yes, we have a daycare program, we [inaudible] we have legal advice for Senior Spectrum and things like that.

11:13:12 Moderator: Thank you.

11:13:12 Citizen: I have a question. I don't know if I can do this.

11:13:20 Moderator: Would you go to the mike please so we can hear you? Thanks, Jim. Everybody goes to the mike.

11:13:23 Citizen: I have a question. I don't know if I can do this but am I allowed to make a motion to amend Article 13 to wording and change the Spectrum Generations to Senior Spectrum Generations?

11:13:44 Moderator: Why? Why are you doing that?

11:13:46 Citizen: I would have never asked the question if I had known it was for seniors. I didn't know what Spectrum Generations even was.

11:13:51 Moderator: My guess is that the agency that provided that, that's not the name?

11:14:03 Citizen: Oh, okay. He said that. That's why I'm asking.

11:14:09 Moderator: Answer my question for me. What's the program called?

11:14:12 Citizen: The program is called Senior Generation, Meals On Wheels.

11:14:23 Moderator: In the letter that was sent to the Town it was called Spectrum. I understand your question. It's not going to change because everybody in the room now knows what it is. What you're suggesting is for another year we get that cleared.

11:14:41 Citizen: That's what I was saying so it's clarified.

11:14:44 Jolene Tupper: I do believe, and I could be wrong, but like I've contacted them a couple of different times through the years and they helped with like what's on your medical insurance plan, and the other thing that they really, if this is the same outfit, when I came home from the hospital I knew that I couldn't, I needed help to stay in my home. It ain't much but it's home. They're the ones that contacted Elder Independence of Maine but Elder Independence of Maine also you don't have to be a senior citizen if you're disabled to have those services and so I don't know if that's included in what that gentleman was talking about.

11:16:13 Moderator: If you hold the mike but you don't speak in it that doesn't work. I think we've got the drift. Any further questions. Seeing no hands will call for the vote and let me remind you what we're voting on. That one was as it was read with the figure being \$300.00. That's the main motion. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:16:36 Moderator: Article 14, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. We'll have to wake up Dot. I told her that was going to happen. [Laughter] The floor is open for discussion.

11:16:55 Lynn Warman: I would ask that we stick with the recommendation of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. They have this Maine Youth Game Loft thing that happens at Mount View. I went to the school budget meeting last year and at the end of the budget meeting they voted for \$50,000 just in case. I suggest they put the \$500.00 for this in their just in case funding and not ask for it from us.

11:17:34 Moderator: Your motion is to change the figure from \$500.00 to zero? Okay, do I have a second? I do. So, further discussion on the amendment to change the figure to zero?

11:17:45 Penny Picard Sampson: Just a little additional information. They are already accounted for in the RSU3 budget. They're already in there and funded and, also, I found out when talking with the Reentry Program for the Waldo County Sheriff's Department, because we also provide snacks, that they receive lot of their food from the Waldo County Sheriff's Department Reentry Program.

11:18:20 Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion? Seeing none will call for the vote on the Article as amended which is for a zero figure. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

11:18:33 Moderator: Just so we all know what we're doing, obviously I don't, that was a vote on the amendment to change the figure and so I'm going to call for that vote again just so that everybody knows, including me, what we're voting on. If you're in favor of changing the figure to zero signify by saying aye. And if you're not, signify by saying no. The ayes have it. Now we'll vote on the main motion as amended. All in favor, aye? And those opposed, no? Thank you very much. I appreciate you're keeping me straight. This is not as simple as it looks.

11:19:14 Moderator: Now we're on Community Action Partners, Article 15, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,372.00 for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. Wait a minute, you guys gotta be snappy here. I'm trying to keep this moving.

11:19:49 Penny Picard Sampson: As you'll see in the notes below, the Selectmen recommended \$5,000. The Budget Committee recommended \$4,500.00. What I would like to amend the Article to is the Budget Committee recommendation of \$4,500.00.

11:20:13 Moderator: Thank you, Penny. Moved and seconded to move the figure to \$4,500.00. Further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor of amending the figure to \$4,500.00 signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we're at the main motion as amended. All those in favor of the main motion as amended \$4,500.00...did somebody want to speak?

11:20:44 Citizen: Yes, I request permission to speak on behalf of Waldo County Community Action Partners.

11:21:09 Moderator: Okay, with your green cards in your hand, please give me a [inaudible] for this gentleman to come up and speak. And those opposed? Thank you very much. You're on.

11:21:14 Michael Hallenbeck: Good morning everybody. My name is Michael Hallenbeck. I'm the Director of Waldo CAP. I just want to take this opportunity real briefly to thank you all for your continued support in the past, and for considering to continue to support Waldo CAP. Is this better? I'll try not to look at you all then. The request that we're making from this Town is in many ways exactly the same request that we're requesting of every single town in Waldo County. Let me just take a moment to explain for those who might not know how we do these town funding requests. As an organization, we're now in our 50th year and we are supported and funded primarily through federal and state funding. That state funding in the last year amounted to about \$70,000,000 dollars that was distributed in the form of energy services, fuel assistance services, child services, transportation services and other family services throughout the County of Waldo. The amount that we receive is never quite enough to fund all of the needs in the communities and on top of that some of the programs that we are running, the federal government is asking us for matching funding so we have to find some matching funds from the communities. What we do and what we have done for many years is that we established a formula and that formula is that we ask town every town in Waldo County for two percent of the value of services that we deliver to the town. So in the past year, for instance, to the Town of Unity, we've delivered services to a little over 500 individuals at a value of approximately \$424,000.00. That forms the basis of the request we make to the town of \$9,300.00. Last year Unity was kind enough to fully fund Waldo CAP with a request of a little bit more than that, about \$9,800.00 and our request this year was about \$9,372.00. That difference is simply because of the value of services that changes year to year. When we come and ask for support for our service for the town we always ask for that two percent amount of the services delivered. Again, thank you for your consideration and for your support in the past.

11:24:04 Moderator: Thank you very much for being here. Do we have any questions for him?

11:24:06 Clem Blakney: Yes sir, what is your salary?

11:24:11 Michael Hallenbeck: What is my salary? I'd rather not discuss that here.

11:24:22 Moderator: Other questions?

11:24:24 Lynn Warman: Yes, there is an elderly lady in our town that I had been given doctors trips to the doctor as she didn't have anyone to take her. There was a time when I couldn't take her and I asked her to call this number to see if perhaps she could get a ride there and it was going to cost her \$80.00 for a trip to her doctor's visit at that time from this outfit. I don't know why, and she never called them again but it doesn't work for everybody. I just wanted to put that out there.

11:25:02 Moderator: Other comments? I did take my walk this morning.

11:25:09 Penny Picard Sampson: Thank you, Don, I appreciate it. On the paper that Waldo CAP handed out earlier you'll notice on the bottom some of the programs that they take credit for, which would be the Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets, Neighbor For Neighbor, the Cinderella Project. A lot of this is done by donations by you people. When I worked for MBNA and Bank of America in Belfast, every year we would get a list of names the teams there were responsible for buying and donating to each of the individual families. The monies didn't come from Waldo CAP. They merely provided us with the names of the people. So, when you think about it, a lot of times you're already donating to some of these projects that they're taking credit for.

11:26:05 Moderator: Thank you. Any other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. We've already voted on the amendment, correct me if I'm wrong, and the amendment is \$4,500.00. Now we're looking at the main motion as amended. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. . Motion carries.

11:26:35 Moderator: Article 16, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for Unity Barn Raisers/Unity Community Center for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion.

11:26:48 Penny Picard Sampson: I would like to fix the method of voting on this one, Don.

11:26:57 Moderator: We have a motion to fix the method of voting to as a paper ballot vote. We'll use the green cards so I can see what your will is. It's not debatable. We'll vote on the motion to fix it, the way we vote. All in favor of that raise your green cards. The ayes have it. There are 55 and I know how many there are in here now. We will have a paper ballot. Sue has those. Once we get ready to vote then we'll file by grab a ballot, put your yes or no on there, and put it in the box. Further discussion on the motion, yes?

11:28:13 Citizen: I want to recommend that we go with the Selectmen's recommendation of zero.

11:28:30 Moderator: Okay, so the motion to amend is that the figure be reduced from the \$10,000.00 that is in the Article to zero. Do we have a second? We have a second. Discussion on the motion to amend. Yes. At the mike.

11:28:38 Citizen: I'm asking do we have a member of the Unity Barn Raisers here?

11:28:42 Moderator: Do you want them to just make a general statement or deal with the question?

11:28:49 Citizen: I just didn't want them to miss the opportunity.

11:29:04 Moderator: John, before you go, just so you know had a question been directed to him he would've had the opportunity to respond. That was not the case. I don't direct. I manage. If anybody has a question for folks to come answer your question, just make sure that you direct that to them and I'll let that happen.

11:29:21 Chrissy Hunter: I'm just wondering why the Selectmen voted to give zero?

11:29:33 Moderator: Okay, we're going to have John first, the first request. John would you give us a brief on that?

11:29:46 John McIntire: I'll speak as the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Barn Raisers. We've put this request in for a number of years. The Town has assisted the Barn Raisers in their work in Unity. That has not happened in the last couple of years. We're feeling a real pinch in terms of funding. The request was made for \$10,000.00. I can tell you the request at \$10,000 is about half of what it costs carrying costs of the building, to operate the Community Center. That includes minimal staffing, heat, power, maintenance, snow plowing and that sort of nonsense. So, it also happens to be about the amount of free space that we have offered over the last year to various groups including the Town of Unity. One of the missions of the Barn Raisers is to provide Unity with a meeting space, a public meeting space that is available to all. It's free to the Town. We don't ask. Town meetings, special committee meetings and that sort of thing. We also offer that space free of charge to the Open Door who uses it for a week every month and pretty heavily. There are two of the major users. The Open Door obviously is the larger of the two. I had an interesting discussion earlier this week with a couple of community members about this whole thing and it was suggested that the Barn Raisers need to improve their fund raising and I agree. That's one of the things that we expect to do. We've talked about that later this week at our Board Meeting. In the meantime, it still costs money to run the building. We put the \$10,000.00 figure in there to let people know just exactly what it does cost to operate this. The Town has a much smaller footprint these days in terms of its town office because there is meeting space available elsewhere. That costs us a good bit less than for that new town office. There it is. Other questions I would be...I'll make an attempt to answer or find somebody who can.

11:32:42 Dan French: John, I have kind of a statement to make. I attended a Barn Raisers meeting here several years ago and I was amazed of the fact that of the 12 or 14 people at that meeting, about nine of them represented other towns in the area. I'm talking Burnham, Thorndike, Knox and so forth. My question was that at that time, do these people make decisions for things going on in Unity or are they there for other reasons. I was told at the time by one of the members, we need the participation but we need members. Well, the big thing is that bothers me about the whole thing of raising \$10,000, you hit the nail on the head. Why don't they go out to these other towns? If you want \$10,000, wouldn't it be better to give \$1,000 per town for participating with the Barn Raisers or me footing the whole bill. It doesn't make sense. And the other thing is that I haven't heard from last year. There was a question about a financial report for the Barn Raisers which they said would have it this year. Is there one? It should be made public I would assume So we're back to square one again as far as knowing what the money stands for.

11:34:44 Moderator: John, do you care to respond to that please?

11:34:46 John McIntire: So, let's just talk about the financial report real quickly. There is not a detailed budget in our report that is in the Town Warrant. There is a report about activities. The 990 that the Barn Raisers file with the federal government is available to anybody who requests it. Come into the office and I'll make sure you get one. It is available. It is available online for those of you who are inclined to do that. I apologize, Dan, for not having something in the budget and we'll just make a note to make sure that that does happen in the future. In terms of reaching out to other towns, yes. The Barn Raisers have reached out to other towns. We have not formally requested funding in other town meetings this year but that's going to be the next step next year and that's all we can do. Any other

questions? The primary use of the building is made by Unity residents and the Town of Unity. That's where it works.

11:36:24 Dan French: The only other question I have is, not just myself but other people in Town of Unity, we asked questions about what's going on here, going on there, well the Barn Raisers are involved in this in what way? Nobody knows. Nobody knows what's being constructed here and there. Things said about construction in town that does involve the Barn Raisers. Why can't we get an answer? It's all like mystery with things going on and I think this is a problem that I have is you're not open enough about what's going on with the Barn Raisers. You are internally but you're not to the public here. The tax paying citizens [inaudible] to ask for \$10,000.00 to support these other towns and people coming in using the facilities without backing them up.

11:37:21 John Piotti: Hi, I'm John Piotti, and a lot of people associate me with the Barn Raisers because it was a big part of my life for many years but I stepped down as the volunteer executive director nine 9 years ago. So my involvement since then hasn't been much more than as many members of the community who were just simply members. What I assume Dan is talking about, I raised my hand when he talked about construction happening in town. The construction that's most visible on School Street, which I assume he is thinking of, is the building next door to the Community Center, which used to be owned by the Barn Raisers but it is now owned by the organization that I run, Maine Farmland Trust, and that's going to be a new office building for the organization. And then, of course, the old grammar school also used to be owned by the Unity Barn Raisers but that was purchased and that is being converted into what is sometimes referred to as a food hub. A facility that will serve, actually, we're already serving to other temporary space, 50 farms in central Maine. A place where products will be brought together, what we call aggregated, and then in some cases stored and that building will be used for storage and distributed. I don't want to go into detail on that, that's off topic. I am assuming, since those properties used to have connections to the Barn Raisers, and that is the visible construction in town, that's what the question was about that I wanted to respond to.

11:39:00 Moderator: John McIntire, do you have an additional response to those points?

11:39:11 John McIntire: No, I thank those people who have asked me directly about what the Barn Raisers do and would reiterate that I'm open to it. My phone number is in the telephone book. Mary is at the office area obviously. Beth is in the office periodically. We have two part-time staff people at this point, and are trying to continue to run programs and keep the place open, suitable. It's a 24-hour warming station should people need to get in in case of emergencies. There is a local telephone in there that Unitel has been good enough to maintain for local calls in emergencies. It's also the emergency evacuation center for this building should there be an emergency evacuation of this building at any given point. That's about all I can say. I'm happy to answer questions.

11:40:37 Moderator: Faith had her hand up, and there was a prior request to ask the Selectmen why they chose to recommend zero rather than the amount requested.

11:40:47: Clem Blakney: As stewards of your tax money we did not want your taxes going up and, secondly, we want the UBR to be self-funding and encourage that. That's the simple answer we want to go with.

11:41:09 Faith: I wanted to mention that anybody here can be a member of the Barn Raisers. It's not a private organization. Anybody can go into the once-a-month meals and so forth that they have. Anybody can use the building. It's not like it's separate from anything else. It sounds like some people feel it is. I've been a member for many many years and it's open for everyone. I do think the Town owes a little something for the free use of the building, and I don't think the other towns use it to that extent either.

11:42:07 Jim Kenney: I know that somebody wants to speak behind me but my question is, can we move the question? We have a ballot.

11:42:19 Moderator: The motion to move the previous question requires a two-thirds vote because it's limited debate. [Inaudible] have a chance. It's not debatable and so I'll ask you to use your green cards if you will and we'll vote on the motion to limit debate. When I ask those in favor if you want to limit debate, then you'll raise your green cards in favor of that. Yes?

11:42:51 Citizen: The motion limiting debate on is to put funding at zero?

11:42:58 Moderator: That is correct. Thank you. The motion that we're limiting debate on is to move the figure from \$10,000 to zero. All in favor of the motion to limit debate please raise your green cards? And those opposed? The ayes have it. So, we'll call the question on the motion to amend to lower the figure to zero. So if you're in favor of moving the figure to zero vote yes. All in favor of the motion to amend? Please raise your cards. Those opposed? We need to count. Those in favor please? And I notice as I count that cards come up and go down and it's really tricky trying to count under those conditions so please keep them up until I'm done. There's 50. Those opposed? There's 43. The ayes have it. The figure is zero and now we're back to the main motion as amended.

11:44:34 David Smith: Good morning. My name is David Smith and most of you folks probably know me. I'd like to speak in support of the organization and hopefully answer a couple of questions and not take too much of your time. Dan, one of your comments was about folks from out of town that are involved in the organization. Unity Barn Raisers is not open only to Unity residents and the Board of Directors, which is typically made up of somewhere in the 12-15 member range, we serve for people who are willing to serve on the Board of Directors and it's a struggle sometimes to find people who are willing to put in the time and make the commitment to serve on the Board. We welcome folks from outside of town. Unity Barn Raisers has never been an organization that only serves the Town of Unity. A lot of programs work with the other towns around us. As far as asking for monies specifically at town meetings from other towns, those other towns are not coming to do town functions in the Community Center. The Town of Unity would be the only community that uses it directly for town functions. When John McIntire mentioned that the town didn't support the Barn Raisers the last couple of years, that wasn't due to anything due to denial at a Town Meeting, it wasn't due to a vote. It was due to the Selectmen choosing not to provide the TIF funds that had been previously approved and I believe are supposed to run up through 2018 if I remember correctly. Which was done by town vote at a Town Meeting years ago when the TIF District was set up. Those TIF funds each year were a bit more than what the Barn Raisers is asking for this year. So, my motion that I'm looking to make would be to fund the Article at \$10,000 and to have that \$10,000 come from TIF funds rather than raise from taxes.

11:47:13 Moderator: We have a motion made. Moved and seconded. Any question on the motion to amend?

11:47:14 Andy Reed: Taking Dot in consideration, and these ladies in the front, I'm one of the older people here. I've been in Unity all my life. Back about 19 years ago, a group of six people got together at Alice Cheeseman's house to try and do something beneficial for the Town of Unity. Okay? The building where the Barn Raisers is now housed was coming up for sale. Six of us signed a note for \$18,000 guaranteeing \$3,000 apiece in something went upside down. So we were all on the hook for \$3,000, which is a small price to pay to be able to have an organization in this community when nothing else was being done to promote the community to make it beautiful, to bring businesses into this community, to try to make Unity a central hub of the area. If you look around Unity, you look at Burnham, you look at Troy, you look at Albion, you look at Thorndike, Knox, and we tried to make Unity the rub so people came here. One of the things was to find out what people wanted. We did a survey to find out the most people wanted at this point was a decent grocery store and if you look at the grocery store we have now, that was a benefit of this survey to increase it. Now we've got a decent grocery store here. But the thing is the Barn Raisers have done a lot. We've bought a lot of buildings, we've repaired the buildings, they were blighted, we repaired the Barn Raisers building, and we got a grant there. We got a grant to do a walkway across the river which is I think was close to \$600,000. We probably got \$150,000 grant to work on the Community Center. We also, in our charter that if the Barn Raisers goes upside down the Town owns all the property. So we're investing in the property that the Town will eventually own if something happens. When I was on the committee to do the new building for the town office, one of the things that we were able to do was to shrink the size of the town office form what it was to reduce the cost to the Town of Unity because we had to build a facility that we can use any time. We hold our meetings there sometimes. We hold our votes there sometimes. We used to, like John, like David said, it's a warming station. It's something that we're very proud of, and to say, oh, we're not going to give the Barn Raisers any money because our philosophy, I'm not involved on the Board anymore, because you're only allowed to be on there so many years and you have to drop off, is to improve the community, and that's what it's for. If you look around the town, the trees or the things that the Barn Raisers have done, I'm pretty darn proud of it. And the thing is, we want to keep that going.

11:50:31 Richard Moore: I can't not say anything about the Open Door. About nine years ago the Open Door went from a dream, [inaudible] said to me, tell me, and she said your kitchen awaiteth and I thought, who's she talking to, she can't be talking to me. Well, 9-1/2 years ago the Open Door opened its doors and everything fell into place. Twenty two thousand five hundred meals later, we are still in business. We don't charge anything. We don't want anything but the people that opened their doors to us was simply amazing to see them. Tell you that come on in and use our kitchen and the days just go on and on and next year is our 10th year to do this. And I thought, wow, that's awesome. I wish we could pay them something. We're from Quaker Hill Christian Church and we don't have the funds to do that. The other thing that they're doing is we have approximately 25 classes every year that we provide. We have a gardening class, and that class provides all the needs for gardeners in the area with almost 60 families last year that got all their gardening supplies. We hold our classes at the Barn Raisers building. The other class coming up, you might want to tell your friends about is we supply flocks of chickens, either 12 layers or 12 meat birds and they're free. You come to the class and learn a little something before you take your chicks home so you don't kill them all. But anyway, open arms, these folks have just opened their arms to us. I just am speechless to try and describe this to you.

11:53:10 Citizen: Could you just clarify the last part you said was speaking from the food pantry perspective. The first part you said speaking about the Open Door meal program. What classes are you talking about are the food pantry's classes? Not the Open Door classes?

11:53:33 Richard Moore: That's correct, I'm sorry. The classes that we have are through the volunteer regional food pantry, and not through the Open Door. I'm sorry. It's hard to tell what hat you're wearing.

11:53:47 Penny Picard Sampson: As a selectman, it's an important to note that it's not that we don't support the Barn Raisers, but as they're sole stream of support, we don't agree with...we think they should be more self-sufficient. They used to be self-sufficient back in the day. We would be agreeable to renting the space if we needed the meeting space.

11:55:02 Sherry Powell-Wilson: I have a question. I'm Sherry Powell-Wilson. Hello. There's talk of selling property from the Barn Raisers. My question is, you couldn't sell it for enough to get \$10,000 to cover what you need? The property next to the Community Center, and the old grammar school?

11:55:25 Moderator: The question was...

11:55:34 Citizen: How much did you pay for those properties?

11:55:34 Moderator: Yeah, it's a much more in depth question than what can be answered here....why didn't those, I keep seeing competition here. Dennis you want a mike? I always like to hear what you have to say.

11:55:53 Jim Kenney: Eventually are we going to vote? We moved the question and then it just seems to stretch out and stretch out and stretch out.

11:56:08 Moderator: The question on the amendments but the question on the main motion has not been moved. So we're trying to get folks educated here.

11:56:18 David Smith: I offered an amendment from [inaudible].

11:56:25 Moderator: It was. That's what we're talking about. Yes.

11:56:28 Citizen: I'm not entirely sure although I love the amendment, that it's the sensible way to go and as soon as I'd explain, Dave, I'd ask you to take it back. My concern is that there are certain things that allowable under the TIF statute, and there are certain things that are not. Perhaps, if this is an inappropriate time, we can ask our consultant, Noreen, to clarify. My understanding is that certain activities that take place in the Unity Community Center are TIF eligible. Those would be the gym, the kitchen, anything that has to do with economic development is eligible. What I don't want us to do, and I am totally in support of the Barn Raisers, I'm on the Board, but I don't want this body to pass something intending to do something and then find out we're in conflict with state TIF law. I'm getting a nod from Noreen. Does it seem as though I'm not wrong? Thank you. So I don't want things to even more confusing for next year when we have to revisit something that we've done this year. So with that mind and in that spirit I would ask the maker and the seconder of the amendment to withdraw, and I

would ask our moderator if another amendment for a different amount of money can be made at this point?

11:58:16 Moderator: The answer is yes. But not unless the motion on the floor is withdrawn and it doesn't have to be withdrawn by the same.

11:58:25 David Smith: [Inaudible] we're about to make another motion, I will withdraw.

11:58:30 Citizen: In that case, I would like to move that we accept the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$7,500.00. Not from TIF. Raising.

11:58:34 Moderator: Do we have a second? The motion is in order and that's what I was going to talk about. This gets into a really gray area from the standpoint of elementary procedure. There are no rules in the 6th Edition on it and I've done it at two boards before where we bounced all over the place and kept firing numbers. I'm just letting you know that I'm going to limit this. We're not going to keep throwing out numbers until hopefully we win one. This motion is highly appropriate in my opinion. I'm accepting it. Just so you know, I would accept, if this fails, I would accept one more and then we're done with that so we're not going to keep running eight or 10 numbers hoping and praying that somebody will accept it. Barry? We did vote on the motion to zero and that was approved. That amendment was approved. That brings us back to the main motion, and I'll open that back up to the floor to debate the main motion with now a zero figure. Just as there was an amendment to move it to zero, it was equally appropriate to ask that the figure go to \$7,500.00. That's why I made that statement. I'm not going to allow every \$100 increment to see if we get one approved. I will let this go two more times and then we'll vote on the main motion with whatever figure has been approved at that point. So now we have a motion, if seconded, that the figure move to \$7,500.

11:59:43 Jim Kenney: We seem to have forgotten maybe that we voted to make this a written ballot for this phase of this question, and we're doing this numbers floating around but we haven't gone to the box yet.

12:00:06 Moderator: That's because the main motion has not been settled yet. Once the main motion has settled, then we'll deal with it in ballot. We're just debating the figure right now. So the motion on the floor is...

12:00:22 Penny Picard Sampson: The point I'd like to make is that we've already voted for zero dollars at the amended question. We already have a fixed voting method in place so I'd really like to just push for the vote now and otherwise we're just going to keep on.

12:00:51 Moderator: You're moving the previous question on the amendment for \$7,500.00. You just moved the previous question on the motion on the floor which is the amendment to move the figure to \$7,500.00. [No, inaudible] You don't have that option. You can move the question on the motion on the floor, which is the amendment. You have to deal with the motion on the floor and the motion on the floor...Yes you can, that's what I said. You just asked for limiting debate on the amendment to move the figure to \$7,500 and to call the vote. You can do that if you want. Yes, one more time. Yes, Pat? While Pat is moving to the mike, I will inform you that actually you don't really have a right to overrule, you overrule the vote and yes you can, if the procedure that the moderator is using has

brought objection in the house, then you can call for a vote on that and what that does there is a vote to sustain the moderator. So that is available to you, I'm just letting you know.

12:01:52 Pat: I just wanted to clarify how the Budget Committee got to the \$7,500 for people. We had this discussion at the budget meeting [inaudible] brought forth the recommendation of zero. People on the Budget Committee talked about it and this discussion went on for a while and felt that it was important enough to give something to...to have funding there. We did not go to the full \$10,000 because that did seem like maybe that was more than we could afford at this point, but we went with the \$7,500 as sort of an in between stage because it is an important part of the Town, it serves an important function, and it needed funding, and so I just wanted to make sure that people understood. This discussion did happen in the Budget Committee. It wasn't something that the Budget Committee just through together.

12:02:03 Clem Blakney: And we do acknowledge that they worked at the Budget Committee and would like to point out as an observer and people pointed this out that we did have a conflict of interest in the vote in the Budget Committee that some of those were on the UBR Board.

12:02:29 Sydney Taber: I actually do not remember that conversation. We did not have that particular conversation. I'm objecting to what you just said. Am I allowed to do that?

12:02:44 Moderator: I understand. We're just going to take a minute and take a deep breath. Okay? We have got a wonderful turnout today and folks have been extremely respectful and not overly energized until you marched up to the mike and you were overly energized. Your words are fine. Just raise your question.

12:04:51 Sydney Taber: I'm objecting to the comments that were just made because I do not remember that conversation.

12:05:30 Moderator: So your point is you don't remember having a conversation at the Budget Committee Meeting about....

12:05:35 Sydney Taber: Regarding any conflict of interest.

12:05:38 Emily Newell: For clarification, I believe the conflict of interest has something to do with money and the four members are all volunteer, I think? I just wanted to have that clarified and if anybody knew the answer?

12:05:43 Moderator: Is there a conflict? Anybody know?

12:05:42 Pat: So the conflict of interest would be if the people on the Budget Committee got some benefit from that and they're not getting a direct benefit because they are volunteer on the board.

12:06:22 Lynn Warman: I was at that meeting and it wasn't mentioned at the time but when I left I did feel a conflict of interest in that people on the Budget Committee were asking for funding for their

organization and I think that's what they mean. It just seemed to me that a Budget Committee should not be people that were asking for money from the Town.

12:06:54 Mike: I would just like a reminder of where we stand right now. Are we considering motion now at \$7,500? [Yes] I would like that we move to a vote.

12:07:10 Moderator: Okay, we have a motion on the previous question on the amendment on the floor which is to move the figure from zero to \$7,500.

12:07:18 Jim Kenney: I believe you said, only one more chance so if this is rejected there is there another number coming up?

12:07:32 Moderator: Not necessarily but if there is that's the last one. Do I have a second on the motion to move the previous question? [Seconded] So, we're going to call the vote. If you vote aye that means that you want to move the figure from zero to \$7,500, and we'll go and vote on the main motion with the new number. All in favor signify by raising your green cards. And those opposed. Okay, I've got to count. It's pretty clear to me that I've got to count because of the sensitivity of it. Thank you. All in favor of the amendment to move the figure to \$7,500.00 please raise your cards. Thank you. Forty nine. And those opposed? Forty six. Forty nine. We'll vote on the final motion. We have some choices. We can go to a division of the house. Or I can get some assistance here so we can crosscheck. Thank you. You have to have two thirds and Mike's motion was to limit debate. He wanted to vote right now. So we're voting on do we limit debate. I didn't say that. Did I say this could get complicated? So back to square one. We're voting on the motion to limit debate. That motion requires a two-thirds majority. Those people in favor of limiting debate and then next we'll ask the question about the amendment itself. Those in favor of limiting debate please raise your cards. Those opposed? That's easy. The ayes have it.

12:10:52 Moderator: Now, going to go back. I need help. We're going to walk these aisles. I'm going to have two people running that side, and Clem come over here with me, Emily and Susan will read that side. Clem and I will do this side so we'll know exactly where we're at. Clem and I will handle the front table. The question is the amendment to move the number to \$7,500, all in favor of that amendment please raise your cards? We'll need to count separately and compare notes. Right? [Hands high]

12:11:32 Moderator: Get them up there please. I have 27. And we'll count the front table, we have 27 on this side, and Susan are you voting? We have 29 and then... Those opposed? Start again? Trying to keep my eye on these things. Twenty three. How many at the front table. Three. [Is this two-thirds?] No, it's two-thirds in order to limit debate. Now we're on the amendment and that's majority and we don't have a majority. It's dead even and so that 23 on this side, we've got to redo this. On this side we got a conflict. I didn't figure it would come down to one vote but it did. We have to have the noes raise your cards again. No on the move from zero to \$7,500, that's what you're voting on. Twenty two. Twenty three.

12:15:13 Clem Blakney: And these three up here were not part of this.

12:15:48 Moderator: I added them in into the previous figure so we have 22 and 3 is 25, and 28 from the other side is 53. The ayes had 54. The ayes have it.

12:16:31 Moderator: So the ayes have it. Now, we're on the main motion and the motion to limit debate is fine with me. We're holding up our team back there. Your food is getting cold. I'm guessing you want to go and file through and vote before you leave because some people may leave and I tell you right now we're teetering. I see no further hands. I'm going to call for the vote which means line up and make sure you protect your green card as only people who are registered voters can vote.

12:17:09 Citizen: Define what the vote is for.

12:17:12 Moderator: The vote is to raise \$7,500 for the Unity Barn Raisers this year. Yes will mean you're raising \$7,500. No means you don't want to do that. We'll come back at 1:15.

[VOTING AND BREAK FOR LUNCH]

13:08:56 Moderator: Alright ladies and gentlemen, if you'll take your seats we'll carry on. Thank you. We have counted the votes and here are the results. The yeses are 58, and the noes are 55. The motion carries.

13:10:05 Moderator: Article 17, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,266.00 for the Dorothy Webb Quimby Library for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. We didn't even have to nudge that did we Pat? And the floor is open for discussion. Yes.

13:10:34 Citizen: I would just like to ask why the Selectmen recommended \$1,000.00 to the Budget Committee's \$2,266.00.

13:10:49 Clem Blakney: We're trying to basically cut costs where we could. On every one of them we reviewed each one of them, and this is the amount we came up with. Just cutting costs. Nothing derogatory at all about it. Just how do we save money.

13:11:08 Moderator: Other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:11:17 Moderator: Article 18, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. No cheering here. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:11:44 Moderator: We wore you all out on 15. Article 19, 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. There is no figure in the article but the recommended amount is \$1,000.00 and that's what we use in the motion for now.

13:12:12 Citizen: What is that?

13:12:14 Moderator: That is animal control officer, ACO, and CEO is the code enforcement officer, and the LPI is...licensed pet catcher? Training and mileage and that sort of thing. Piece of equipment, that sort of thing. They lump that into one sum because we never know what the expense is going to be in any given year. As you see, we raised \$1,000 but we only spent \$412.75. See no further hands will call for the vote.

13:12:45 Citizen: LPI is local plumbing inspector.

13:13:00 Moderator: Oh that's what it is? It's not local pet catcher? I'm sorry. I needed a little humor here. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:13:11 Moderator: I can't tell you how much I appreciate, being in the position I'm in, all of you and we have a wonderful turnout and I know a lot of people have deep-rooted feelings on either side of these issues, but you all have conducted yourself admirably. Just wonderful. So proud. Article 20, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$7,500.00 as you see in your reports. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:13:59 Moderator: Article 21, 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 for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no?

13:14:32 Citizen: Could we get an explanation for this?

13:14:39 Moderator: Well I think we have somebody who can explain this, Chief David Smith.

13:14:47 David Smith: Hi, basically the reason for that is that we have certain income that comes into the town that would then need to be spent on fire department expenses. For instance, we have a contract with Kennebec County to provide fire protection services for Unity Plantation, next door. We don't know from year to year exactly what that's going to bring in because we have a base rate that we charge them and then you have a per hour cost for trucks and fire fighters. And so then we need to pay the fire fighters their hourly wage so we need to get the money from Kennebec County and then pay the fire fighters from it. We don't know what those calls are going to be. We just have basically a generic article that states that when we have income whether it's from a contract or whether it's from a grant that we might receive, that those monies get added in to our budget and then spent as appropriate.

13:15:52 Citizen: Where does the money that has been coming in go now?

13:16:01 David Smith: This article appears every single year so it's basically just a basic order of business to pass it. We address it every year.

13:16:11 Moderator: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:16:17 Moderator: Article 22, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Fire Department accounts for the ensuing year. I'm not going to read those. You have them in your report. Motion moved and seconded as read. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:17:10 Moderator: Article 23, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for E-911 for the ensuing year. Moved and seconded. The figure that we're talking about is \$500.00. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands, except for Maggie's, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:17:17 Moderator: Article 24, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Office loan payment for the ensuing year. The amount requested, \$30,132.81. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

13:17:31 Maggie [child]: Hi!

13:17:33 Moderator: Hi! Seeing no hands will call for the vote.

13:17:36 Citizen: How many years does that loan run?

13:17:38 Moderator: This is year two.

1:17:39 Susan Lombard: It's a 10-year loan.

13:17:42 Moderator: Seeing no other hands, will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? The motion carries.

13:17:52 Moderator: Article 25, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Electricity for the Town Lights for the ensuing year. The figure requested is \$8,500.00. Moved and seconded with that figure. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

13:18:09 Moderator: Article 26, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$17,334.68. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. I told them they should have lunch at 9:30!

13:18:40 Moderator: Article 27 , to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping fees to Penobscot Energy Recovery Company for the ensuing year. Requested amount is \$83,000.00. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Clem has asked to speak on it.

13:19:10 Clem Blakney: Thank you, Don. As some of you may know, I've also been the representative over there on the Board for Unity Recycling Regional Committee and, again, we've been able to cut the cost and have less that is applied toward the cost for the Town. That has been good. I will introduce the representative who is replacing me. What I wanted to talk about was the Article 27, of course, which is

the garbage. Things are going to change here for this town in 2018. All the towns that were involved in the charter for the MRC, and I forget what that stands for, Municipal Review Board, they are the overseers. You've got PERC, that's where our garbage goes and gets burned. Well that 30-year contract is coming to an end in 2018 and after all these decades, the price has gone up as the boiler in that PERC has worn out. It will not be able to be renewed for another 30 years. Technology has changed as is the price of bringing garbage there has changed. We started at \$12.00 per tipping fee per ton. They went bankrupt on that the first year, it was too much so the next year it went up to \$24.00 and they stayed at \$24.00 and now it's gone up and up and up. When 2018 comes, PERC [inaudible] is going to \$125.00 ton so, people, back to that previous one that we talked about there, Article 26, we need to recycle. What happened last year is we recycled less. I know we get busier and busier and we forget to recycle. The less we recycle, the more goes into garbage. It's going to cost the Town. What I want to do is grease the pump because next year it's going to be something that we vote on, whether we want to be a part of the new MRC bunch. Because the towns are all going to have to vote whether we want to be a part of that. One of the things that is happening with that, and as technology changes, do we want to be a part of it for a 30-year commitment, a 10-year commitment. Just some things that we have to weigh before us. Prices are going up in garbage so we need to think about conserving and doing our part on that. I wanted to introduce our new representative that is going to be part of the Unity representation over there at the Unity Recycling Board, and that is Brian Gaudet. He wants to say just a little bit more.

13:21:48 Brian Gaudet: I don't really need to say too much other than I've been doing a little bit of research on MRC. The Municipal Review Committee basically is trying to take a stance where they are not essentially going to be entirely responsible but basically be a watchdog over this new company who will supposedly be taking care of our trash. The name of the company is Fiberight that they're working with right now. As of next year, we would be voting to either join with them and if Fiberight is going to continue to be in the picture, with the MRC, they would basically start building in 2017 and be online in 2018 to take any of our municipal waste. They're saying right now that it would be somewhere around \$75.00 a ton I believe it was versus what we're paying now which is closer to \$52.00. After rebates [inaudible] they saying they could generate through their process which I've been doing research on. It's kind of interesting. Instead of burning the trash they're talking about composting it in such a manner as they get methane gas and other gases that they can use to produce electricity. I'm curious as to whether this technology really will work or not so so like I said I'm looking into it myself. If anybody has any great ideas for our own town to deal with their own waste, we are eligible for grants to deal with it on our own level. Otherwise, I think we're going to have to stick with whatever MRC can come up with for ideas as a group. They take care of probably a third of the trash in this state, dealing with PERC, and I think with the way they've set things up with Fiberight, I think that it might work well provided that Fiberight's technology will really actually follow through. That's all I've got for now.

13:23:48 Moderator: Next year before the Town Meeting might be a good idea to have a hearing so that we have an opportunity to really get educated about what the options are before we come into Town Meeting and debate what we're going to do. [Mr. Gaudet agrees.] The figure for the amount less that we contributed to the recycling center from last year to this year was 14.6 percent. In the letter it said slightly reused, well, 14.6 is not slightly. We're not doing well. I don't think it's because we're generating less trash, just guessing on that. I know I'm talking to the choir, right, but you guys know,

the non-choir folks, and some of your neighbors and you can tell, and like me every now and then I have eight bags out in front of my house that they know how to recycle. I have a lot of tendencies that help me to generate more stuff. Anyway, back to business. We have a motion on the floor to raise \$83,000.00 for rubbish disposal tipping fees to PERC. Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

13:25:08 Moderator: Article 28, 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 at the \$3,500.00 figure. Any discussion? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

13:25:27 Moderator: What's the term on that monitoring Clem and Chris? Forever?

13:25:47 Sue Lombard: We get so many years of good then we don't have to do it.

13:25:54 Moderator: So you have test wells. We're monitoring what is moving in the groundwater and if we have really good reports on that they might back off a bit? Okay, so Sue, I got myself confused here. We have a motion on the floor regarding the monitoring. We haven't voted, is that correct? [We did vote.] Thank you very much.

13:26:19 Moderator: Okay, So next is Article 29, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Curbside Recycling Pick Up for the ensuing year. The figure requested is \$9,116.64. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Yes, way in the back, Lucia?

13:26:32 Lucia Picard: I probably should've done this much earlier in the process but I wanted to know, for folks who may not have been here before, if everything were to pass as written, do you have a figure on how much our taxes would go up or what percentage?

13:27:14 Susan Lombard: Because we don't know yet what the school budget will be, I did my really poor assessing. The mill rate might go up 0.4, that's adding on to the school. We do know what the county budget is going to be. It will go up.

13:27:44 Moderator: What is the amount that if we approved everything in the articles, what is the dollar amount that we would be increasing? From last year?
Forty one thousand dollars would be the figure. I did a little bit of calculation just so that I could help to answer this question and put it in perspective. Just for easy math, let's call it \$40,000. If we raise an additional \$10,000, and you own a \$100,000 property, that has an impact on you of \$8.72 a year. So, if you have \$40,000, then it's \$40,000 x \$8.72, so if you call it 9, it's \$36.00 additional taxes on your \$100,000. Now I don't think everybody has a \$100,000 house, some are much more than that, some are less than that, but that gives you a bit of a benchmark so you can see what we're doing. Those figures were based on last year, and as Susan explains, that moves around but it gives you a pretty good idea of what the impact is of raising an additional \$10,000. What you'll find is the big elephant in the room is the school district and county taxes. I lose track of where I am. We have curbside pickup on the floor and we're looking for a vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

13:29:43 Moderator: Article 30, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Metal Recycling Bin for the ensuing year. The requested amount of \$1,000.00. Moved and seconded. The plan is on the floor for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no. Motion carries.

13:30:05 Moderator: Article 31, to see if the Town will vote to return a portion of the Kanokolus Road, from the intersection of Main Street to the end of the Pond Cemetery (approximately 1/2 mile), to its former paved status to aid in cemetery upkeep and headstone care. Summer road funds will be used to undertake this project. This article was submitted by Cemetery Committee petition. It's moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Lynn, do you want to speak to this?

13:30:42 Lynn Warman: The Cemetery Committee has had several people, I mean lots of people, complain about the condition of the roads, rocks being kicked up onto nice new stones, a lot of lots were sold too close to the road a few years ago and they're there, there is nothing we can do about it now but last year we had rocks in the grass, big rocks so that the mowers couldn't mow up to the road. Rocks that were kicked further, got thrown by the mower onto people's stones and it's just not good and the dust is just incredible on that road, blowing across the stones. One of the moms of a young mom who was killed started the petition to get the road put back up.

13:31:38 Matt Picard: This is a letter from Aunt Rosemary. She couldn't be here today. She's the lady who started the petition to repave the road. Good morning. I apologize that I could not be here today to join you in this democratic process. Thank you for listening to what I'd like to say about a proposal I initiated to pave the cemetery segment of the Kanokolus Road. First, I'd like to thank my nephew, Matthew, for reading this, and the Cemetery Committee for its devotion to aesthetics and sanctity of our cemeteries, the scouts who so kindly responded to my outcry of last year at this time by launching a much appreciated cleanup of the lots along the road. [Inaudible] for encouraging me to stay focused, and Lynn Warman for picking up the work for I found myself running out of time and stamina. The outcome is up to you. Why should you spend your hard-earned tax dollars on restoring a road through the Pond Cemetery to pavement when it was recently undone? If you have walked, pedaled, or driven along that road in the last year, you already know why. The graded road has encroached on existing lots. The loose gravel and stones become projectiles from the tires of vehicles passing through, shower over the grass and plantings and flowers. Many ricochet off the stones or come to rest on them. The roadside [inaudible] of dust and road debris. Mowing to the edge of the grass is rendered impossible in a cemetery now has a jagged edge uncut grass. The cemeteries are the final resting places of those who built this town we've inherited. They're our ancestors and our families. They are where we hope our families will find solace after we pass. They are the implicit promise we made to honor those who have counted Unity as home that we will respect their memories and provide a respectful and peaceful setting of final resting places. Failing to restore the pavement is a betrayal of that implicit promise. Please honor these ordinary and extraordinary citizens and those of us who love them by your affirmation today. Restore the pavement and the peace of Unity Pond Cemetery. Thank you, Rosemary Constable Pillsbury. I would just like to add to that that I know that we elect representatives to do what people think is right in town, and to some extent they do have a lot of authorities but I don't believe in this case that they had the authority to unpave the road in the first place. That's just my piece.

13:34:19 Moderator: Thank you, Matt. I can hear the question out there now, what this would cost and what it would mean for the long-term plan of how the town is taking care of their roads if this was down. I'm going to turn this over to Chris to ponder that.

13:34:31 Chris Rossignol: I contacted two of the paving companies. One is a relatively new paving company to us. The other one is one that we have used in the past, to get some preliminary numbers. In order to pave the cemetery, we're looking at a half a mile, and Pike gave us a price based on the numbers that they had currently of \$65,000 to do that half mile. American Paving gave us a price of around \$79,000. When I spoke to Pike, he gave me the numbers based on what he had but he did tell me that looking towards this summer the price of paving they're expecting it to go down. So these numbers are a little high if the cost of paving does go down for the summer season.

13:35:31 Moderator: Pardon me while I probe a little bit more. Are there other ways to mitigate the issue or at least some of them? Salt, grader to pick up the rocks?

13:35:46 Chris Rossignol: What we've done since we've taken Kanokolus back to dirt is we've utilized the grader, the compaction and calcium chloride to control the dust. Over time the calcium chloride will build up in the road and it will help with the dust. Are we willing to wait that long?

13:36:20 Moderator: One of the issues with the calcium chloride that it was spread the week after the grading was done, and you know what happens when you loosen up material on top and then drive through it on a nice long dry day. It blows everywhere and so that is one thing that Chris was looking into as well is trying to make sure that when the grader gets there that the folks with the calcium chloride are right there behind him. Further discussion on the article on the floor?

13:36:49 Dan French: Chris, does that include preparation of the road itself?

13:37:00 Chris Rossignol: It did, grading, compacting and the material.

13:37:10 Moderator: So the answer was, yes, it includes the preparation of the road for paving. Other questions?

13:37:16 Sonia Antunes: I'm just wondering how much does it cost to maintain the road now that it's dirt?

13:37:26 Chris Rossignol: It is substantially cheaper to maintain it as a gravel road because we can grade it multiple times as opposed to the cost of, the \$65,000 or the \$79,000 to go ahead and pave it over time.

13:37:42 Lynn Warman: I feel that the people who bought their lots over there and their expensive stones for their loved ones, it's like violating a trust. They bought lots in a nice cemetery and it's no longer a nice cemetery. The dust and the rocks are just incredible. It's violating a trust that they had in us in purchasing the lots in the first place, and the more the road is graded the wider it gets. I live on a dirt road. I know. The wider it gets and we're actually almost encroaching on some of these people's lots. They're concerned about people driving on their lots. To me it's a violation of trust of the people who have been buried there and the people who go there to visit their loved ones

13:38:49 Citizen: I just wanted to clarify because I am in support of this passing. I just want to clarify that maintaining this dirt road, even though it's cheaper, we would have to, those our costs that are annual where paving it would be this one-time cost that would last a long long time. Right?

13:39:22 Moderator: No, it's a lot more expensive to maintain a paved road than a gravel road.

13:39:30 Chris Rossignol: Typically, statistically a paved road is good for about 10 years before you start to deteriorate. It is cheaper to maintain a gravel road but we still have the dust issue to contend with.

13:39:53 Pat Haley: I've got one question for the Selectmen is what is the speed limit on that road? Is it 45 like the other dirt roads?

13:40:21 Chris Rossignol: I believe it's 45 but I don't think it is posted.

13:40:29 Pat Haley: I was in contact when they were doing logging operations, I live on a dirt road and it was 45. They're rocks and dirt are getting kicked up. Wouldn't it be a better alternative to lower the speed limit instead of putting \$65,000 into a paved road?

13:40:54 Chris Rossignol: Easier said than done. It is actually the State that posts the speed limits on our roads and not the Town.

13:41:05 Moderator: I don't know about you guys but I've seen where there is a sign that doesn't seem to have much association with how fast people are driving. That's been my take. Tom, you had your hand up.

13:41:15 Tom Aversa: I just had a question how this would affect other projects like paving Depot and things like that?

13:41:28 Moderator: I can answer the question on Depot Street, that's a state road and I think that is up to be done this summer. Anybody know about that? Sixteen? So a year from now Depot Street will be addressed. Not with our money, thank God. I mean not directly. So what was the other part of the question, Tom? What affect does it have on the other....yeah....you've got right in front of you at the bottom, \$360,000.00 for the public works. Is that summer roads? So you're talking about using \$65,000 to \$70,000 on that project. Other questions?

13:42:35 Citizen: Was there a previous pavement project for this year?

13:42:41 Chris Rossignol: We're looking at starting a project, brush, ditches, to get ready for paving the Waning Road. When you're spending the money on that road, it takes money away from from other roads.

It depends on where these funds go, it will affect how we handle the rest of the season. Paving-wise this year, we were actually planning on slowing down and maybe taking care of some smaller issues with the paving and not such a large project because we did make it further than what we expected on Town

Farm Road last year, that put us a little bit ahead of schedule so we figured we might kind of take back. If this happens we may focus on some other smaller projects.

13:43:33 Jim Kenney: A question for you, Chris. You've only got one coat of paving on the stretch of Town Farm, you have a very limited time for that second coat down before you start losing the first. How much of the second coat is going to go down in the Year 2015 on Town Farm Road?

13:43:54 Chris Rossignol: In 2016 we're hoping to finish Town Farm.

13:44:03 Jim Kenney: So you're going to put no second coat on the stretch you did? Good luck.

13:44:12 Jolene Tupper: When my husband, Fred, was passing away back in 1998, his sister, Jan and George Darling, unbeknownst to us, bought a double lot. We did thank them afterwards and it's right next to the road. The road is getting wider and is encroaching upon people's lots and I don't know if somehow putting up some kind of a fence would help or not. But then people would have to be able to get in and around the fence to tend to the headstones. Something needs to be done.

13:45:25 Citizen: The way I read the Article, they're talking about paving all the way from Main Street through the entire length of the cemetery. Is that correct? My first question would be is there a need to pave all the way to Main Street. Why not pave just in the section of where the cemetery is? That's where the problem is so you would cut down on the cost of paving that stretch of road. Now you got a quote of what for that whole half mile? [\$65,000] Okay so now we're talking a quarter of a mile so that cuts that cost in half. Let's say right now we're talking maybe \$50,000. The life span of that pavement, did he say the thickness? One inch, two inch?

13:46:34 Chris Rossignol: We were recommended to go 2-1/2 because we're going to try and do it in one shot.

13:46:40 Citizen: Okay, so the lifespan of that is you said 10 years. So that's roughly, do my math, \$5,000 a year. What are you currently spending now? You say you're multiple grading that road now so what's the cost for a year for maintaining that you're doing right now?

13:47:09 Chris Rossignol: I don't know the breakdown. For five roads we pay a total amount for all the roads that we grade. We would have to break it down by the mile. I don't have those numbers but I can't imagine because I don't think the grading costs \$5,000, a single grading, for all of our roads.

13:47:37 Citizen: One idea would be change that from a half mile down to a quarter of a mile just in the area.

13:47:43 Moderator: Just for your numbers people, three gradings are \$2,800, and they're covering how many miles? Give me a guess. Ten miles of dirt road, \$2,800.00.

13:48:01 Citizen: Is it appropriate to make a motion to amend that to pave just the cemetery area? [Yes] I'd like to make that motion.

13:48:07 Moderator: We have a motion to amend Article 31 to say that approximately one quarter of a mile would be paved and that would be that section directly in front of the cemetery. Is that correct? [Yes] Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion on the amendment.

13:48:31 Citizen: Is there any problem with being able to go from dirt to pavement to dirt again?

13:48:49 Moderator: Yes, there is a problem. [How big of a problem?]

13:48:56 Chris Rossignol: I honestly don't know. Typically if you look at our [inaudible] from hot top to dirt you typically get potholes. There is a section of the road that is currently dirt, hot top, dirt. I really haven't paid attention enough to see if that is an issue in that area but typically you will end up with potholes.

13:49:28 Citizen: I just want to know when some citizen has a request for a road improvement or a change to a road, what is a normal process they go through?

13:49:41 Moderator: Well, okay, if a citizen has a question or wants specifically to have a portion of road handled in a different way, what is the process and Clem said the process is to go to the Selectmen and they'll guide you from there. What happened here was there was a petition where enough signatures were gathered where it forced the Article on to the Warrant, and that's why we're dealing with it.

13:50:13 Brian: I just wonder if there has been any other ideas brought up as far as dealing with it other than pavement. Maybe using reclaim. Maybe looking at other alternatives other than calcium chloride? I think that we were to do a small stretch of pavement in that area, like down to the Mil Mac where the pavement ends and the gravel begins, the plow does an awful lot of damage in those transitions and I think just to do that stretch of pavement wouldn't be worth our dollars spent. I think we'd be better off to look at some reclaim or something else.

13:51:12 Dan French: The question I have, when you say 2-1/2 inches to put down, what's that compacted to?

13:51:25 Chris Rossignol: Two and one half and up. When you call for 2-1/2 inches of hot top with a paving company, that's compacted hot top.

13:51:41 Dan French: You can usually take 15 or 20% off that when you compact it.

13:51:41 Chris Rossignol: I checked with Pike and was assured by Rick that when we ask for 2-1/2 inches of hot top, it's 2-1/2 inches compacted.

13:51:51 Dan French: Like Brian brought up, do they pay us out of some of these crushing companies for crushing dust?

13:52:03 Moderator: We're starting to get there. Out on the fringes here. If the Selectmen are ordered to, I guess the thing to do, if you want to go down this road, is move to amend the Article to let the Selectmen come up with the most appropriate most efficient way for the Town to mitigate the issue. I

mean, that's something you can go to but to have a debate on roads at this level. You know what I'm saying. I'm just trying to guide you on how to move.

13:52:43 David Smith: I don't want to try to drag this out. Hoping to ask a simple question. It got brought up when it got turned into dirt or gravel last year. Is there indeed a State requirement that if you're going to convert a road from paved to gravel that it has to be done by a Town vote. [No] Okay, that's what I heard so I just wanted to check on that.

13:53:17 Doug: I want to say that I appreciate the folks you brought forth the partition. I think that was a nice thing to put this on the table. My question is do the Selectmen feel comfortable in looking into this issue and making a recommendation for next year? One way of best handling it is for us to take a vote now. Another way is for us to recognize that there is an issue and turn it back to Selectmen to solve. What would the Selectmen like us to do?

13:54:00 Moderator: We're having a consultation with the Selectmen. So the question was, how would you have the Town act today in a perfect world for Selectpeople? I can hear and I can tell they weren't answering your question. The question is, Doug says, well, we could decide not to take action on this if we were comfortable that the Selectpeople are going to take action to research the best possible way to mitigate the issues and come back to the Town, maybe at a special town meeting and say, here are the numbers and here is what we think we should do and let the folks make a final decision.

13:55:01 Emily Newell: And that's what we said yesterday.

13:55:07 Moderator: And so the Selectmen are very comfortable with that and they would indeed come back to the people and give them all the options and then let them decide.

13:55:15 Jim Kenney: A decision on roads has to be made early in the season, not late in the season so you can line up the contractors to get the job done at the right time. If we're going to delay doing this work at this time, it's a year's delay to get the right deal laid in with the right contractors to get the best buy going.

13:55:52 Moderator: For me, I'm talking too much but I never get to speak on an issue. Fifty thousand dollars is real money and doing your homework on how to handle a road, in my opinion, is what you ought to do. Even if it means you didn't get it done this year. Yes, at the same time you can mitigate the devil out of that road. You'd make every effort to be sure that the issues that have happened in the past year don't happen this year. Other hands?

13:56:20 Lynn Warman: I just wanted to mention that damages to those stones some very costly along the road is also something that the Town repairs and if we're going to continue to throw three-inch rocks at them, we're going to end up with costs that way.

13:56:50 Citizen: What I had was a question. We're having a real hard time getting past this. Is there anything, can this be tabled or something and go on?

13:57:09 Moderator: You can move to table and we'll have a vote as to whether we're going to table it.

13:57:13 Citizen: Alright, I make a motion to table this Article at this time.

13:57:17 Moderator: Hold up just a second. I cannot accept the motion to table. The reason is that we have 30 whatever Articles, or 40, and the job of the Town today is to act upon those articles and so if we table it the only thing we can do is to table to a time certain and that would mean either a time certain today or we have to make arrangements to have the continuation of this meeting at another day. It gets fairly complicated.

13:57:57 Citizen: Alright, then can I make a motion to have this article brought to the end of all the articles today? I would like to do that.

13:58:08 Moderator: We have a motion to take this article out of order and move it to the end of the article, and then consider bringing it back up. That requires a second and majority vote. Do we have a second on the motion? The motion dies for lack of a second.

13:58:27 Moderator: I just had a motion from here that said she would like to amend the motion to say that the Town will address the issues that have been raised in this petition and this article, and will make every effort to mitigate them this year which may include paving. They will make every effort to do it and they'll report back to the body as soon as they've done the homework and figured out what they think is the best alternative. That was the motion. It is seconded. We have a motion to amend on the floor. Further discussion on the motion to amend? Everybody understands the motion to amend? [Yes] They'll have a meeting to bring us back and tell us what they found. That's in the motion. Seeing no further hands, will call for a vote on the amendment? Yes, they'll make every effort to mitigate the issues described in the article and they may take action and at the very least will come back on a special town meeting and report their findings and make their recommendation so that the people get to consider that. So the question is, would that require a special town meeting, special town meetings cost a little bit of money, would it require that or can they just agree to come back and have a hearing and report out their findings to the body? I take that as a friendly amendment to your motion. Are you comfortable with changing it from having a special town meeting to having a meeting with the voters? You okay with that? Who is the second? The second is okay with that. The motion has been amended to not require a special town meeting, just a meeting with voters.

14:01:05 Matt Picard: Why couldn't we just move to vote as it's written and get it done and let the Selectmen can deal with it how they see fit.

14:01:20 Moderator: Well it's now been amended. If we voted on it as it was originally presented, the main motion, then the Town would be required to pave that road.

14:01:34 Jim Kenney: It has not been amended.

14:01:40 Moderator: Right, there's an amendment on the floor so we're going to have further debate and when there's no more debate we'll vote on the amendment. We're not in a position to vote on the main motion right now.

14:01:56 Citizen: A quick question about this amendment. If it is decided that we receive the Selectmen's recommendations at a meeting, if there are costs to those recommendations, then we can't approve them unless at a special town meeting, is that correct?

14:02:16 Moderator: That is correct. The original motion was for it to come out of the budget, no additional monies were requested in the Article.

14:02:26 Citizen: We still then would not have to approve a certain amount. The Selectboard would come forward at a meeting and by agreeing with the Selectmen's recommendation, we're automatically agreeing to the price of the recommendation without needing an all-town approval of that specific.

14:02:45 Moderator: That's because that's the Selectmen's choice anyway. They have a budget, they're going to decide how to best apply it on our roads.

14:02:55 Sydney Taber: Regarding all of the cemeteries, this is the only cemetery that we hear about having this problem. What's the difference between this cemetery and other cemeteries?

14:03:09 Lynn Warman: The difference between Pond Cemetery and other cemeteries is I'm standing in the road and now I'm standing on somebody's grave. That's the difference. It's on the same level. There is no difference whatsoever except for the rocks and tall grass between.

14:03:36 Moderator: So within two or three feet.

14:03:38 Matt Picard: The biggest difference from other cemeteries is that there is a public road going through the middle of the Pond Cemetery.

14:03:49 Lynn Warman: The other cemeteries, some of them are on dirt roads but they're away from the road. They're protected.

14:03:55 Jim Kenney: Pond Cemetery is unique in that it has a through road. All the other six cemeteries in Town having a road coming from the road into the cemetery. Pond Road has oil trucks, other vehicles going in, private homes, traffic every day. If you drive around to the other six cemeteries, you'll find they're not even plowed during the winter unless there's going to be an interment during that time. Can we move the question?

14:04:36 Moderator: We have a motion to move the question. No debate: All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now we'll vote on the amendment and that is to not require the Town to pave but to require them to look into it, research it and come back to us with the best information and their recommendation.

14:05:00 Citizen: Is this for a half mile or the quarter mile?

14:05:06 Moderator: This is neither one. This is to have them study all the possibilities to solve the problem. All in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. Now the main motion as amended. And I'm going to have you raise your green cards. All of in favor of the main motion as amended signify with your green cards? And those opposed? The motion carries.

14:05:45 Moderator: Thank you all very much. That was some great debate and great information. Article 32, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works for the ensuing year. The budget figure is \$360,000.00. That article opens up into another page. You have summer roads and you have winter roads at \$209,857.38, and sand/salt shed at \$2,000.00. Moved and seconded with those figures. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:06:26 Moderator: Article 33, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for cemeteries for the ensuing year. The requested amount of \$20,665.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

14:06:47 Moderator: Article 34, 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. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:07:11 Moderator: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$3,500.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:07:39 Moderator: Article 36, to see what sum, if any the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for dues for Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Requested amount is \$2,686.00. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

14:07:59 Lynn Warman: Sorry. I'm a big mouth. Why do we have to give money to the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments? We live in Waldo County?

4:08:06 Moderator: Gail, you're from that group. Can you respond to that question? We're going to put Gail on the spot.

14:08:18 Gail: The literal answer to the question is that Kennebec County, Somerset County, and western Waldo County are in the valley of Kennebec or Kennebec River, and Kennebec Valley Council of Governments serves all municipalities following the river up as far as Canada. So that's the little question. If you really meant why the heck should you bother to pay, yes, the rest of eastern Waldo County is served, I believe, by Eastern Maine Development Corporation. Basically, in the State of Maine, there are either councils of government, planning councils, or development organizations that provide planning services, that provide economic development services, community development services, and various things that most sovereigns can't do on their own because we don't pay full-time staffs, we don't have a town manager here. In addition, the towns, and this particular town, is very wise because it participates in KVCOG's purchase program, which means you can buy road signs, salt, calcium, culverts, various things, most of dues back to the town. Good enough?

14:09:55 Moderator: Good enough. Not seeing any other hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:10:01 Lucia Picard: I just want a recap, we discussed this during the Budget Committee meeting and isn't this a type of thing that should be paid for with TIF money?

14:10:27 Gail: Yes. Budget or TIF money.

14:10:37 Moderator: The question is the source of funds and Lucia said, well, yes we've agreed to raise \$2,686.00 dollars. Maybe we don't need to raise it. Maybe TIF could be used for that. And, can I see your green card so that Noreen can talk?

14:10:58 Noreen: Thank you, folks. Dues to organizations such as the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments that provided economic developments services can be paid by state statute, are allowed to be paid with TIF revenues. However, your development program for your TIF currently does not have that listed as a use and you can only use it for those purposes that are specifically stated in the development program. The Unity TIF Advisory Committee is going to be looking at making amendments to that TIF Development Program over the next year as is listed in the Town Report and that would certainly be one of the things we would add.

14:11:46 Moderator: Further questions on Article 36. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye. Opposed, no? The motion carries.

14:11:55 Moderator: Article 37, to see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the contract fee for Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year. The requested amount is \$2,980.58. 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.

14:12:19 Moderator: Article 38, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 from TIF funds for professional services associated with identifying and advancing business growth within the Town. Budget Committee recommends \$15,385.81 from TIF, and carried forward to this year is \$1,614.19. Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion.

14:12:46 David Smith: I'm just curious, where it was just explained that we can't use it for dues for organization that does economic development, can we use it for these professional services that do that sort of thing if it isn't currently allowed in our TIF legal paperwork?

14:13:09 Moderator: And the answer is it is allowed in the paperwork. Is that correct? [Yes.] It just has to be stated ahead of time what you're doing with it basically. Other questions?

14:13:20 Citizen: I'm just wondering, it's \$15,000.00 for these professional services. What is, I mean it's professional services for business growth but they're in charge of the TIF money right, because that's all they're in charge of, deciding where it goes?

14:13:54 Moderator: Noreen, do you want to respond to that? I'm not quite sure what the question is so I'll let you handle it.

14:14:07 Noreen: Let me see if I understand your question. You want to know what you're getting for the \$15,000?

14:14:19 Citizen: Yeah, well I believe in the budget it says that TIF income was \$47,000 and we're using \$15,000 to decide how to spend the \$47,000? It doesn't make any sense to me.

14:14:26 Noreen: We found over the last year looking at...in the past we just gave the money to others to spend and so we're really honing down with the UTAC, the Unity TIF Advisory Committee, that what is it that the community needs. We've identified the five things that are shown on last page that we're working on and we're advancing those efforts. We've started the Unity Business Exchange to be place for businesses to come together to try to help each other and build, a rising tide raises all boats. We're looking at business attraction, specifically for a lodging investment. We're looking at updating the website. We're taking on some projects and what you're paying for is guidance and in terms, it's kind of awkward as I'm the one essentially much of that amount is going to, but it is guidance in that process of moving those efforts forward. This particular year you're getting a little extra for your dollars. We are going through that amendment process and the amendment process would be anywhere from \$12,000 to \$20,000 for professional services just to take you through that process, and I'm prepared to take you through that process and do the things that I've done over the past year at the same time.

14:15:58 Moderator: Seeing no further hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:16:11 Moderator: Article 39, to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$551,394 established for the Town of Unity by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. That's a mouthful. And we have to vote on that by written by written ballot. Is that debatable?

14:16:44 Susan Lombard: No.

14:16:47 Sonia Antunes: Don, can you put that in a way that is understandable to people like me?

14:16:54 Moderator: Such a good question. The answer is no. Susan won't let me. I did that last year and she said you talked us to death with that. It was about a half hour presentation. I will do my best. The State has decided that towns are not being careful enough with how much they allow their budgets to increase on an annual basis and, in some cases, towns increase their annual budget... what happens is towns increase their operating budget more than the increase in taxable property in any given year. There are some other factors they weave into that. Basically, increasing the cost higher than the rate of growth of their community and so they passed a state law that we're going to force towns to acknowledge what they're doing and that's what this tax levy limit law is all about. We asked Susan, basically it was \$46 with everything as recommended, and now it is \$37,000 in change is what we're over where we should be according to this tax levy limit law. That's what that is all about.

14:18:32 Citizen: Taxing us more than legally, than the limit?

14:18:45 Moderator: It's not illegal. The relative tax per property owner will rise slightly because of these changes. Like I said, at \$40,000 dollars it's basically \$36.00 on a \$100,000. That type of thing. Okay, we need to call the vote because it's not debatable. I just was answering a particular question there.

14:19:14 Citizen. If I vote yes my taxes will go up? I don't understand.

14:19:29 Moderator: I can certainly understand why you don't understand. This is complicated. The motion is to allow this community to go over the pre-established tax levy limit. The state has figured out and computed, Susan has done this, what it would be to just keep your average tax on your real estate the same and just rely on growth for your increases. And we're going over that slightly. So you're going to approve that. You're going to say these expenditures that we have approved we're ratifying. It's okay. We acknowledge that it's a little bit more than what our growth would cover, and we're going to approve that. So when you say yes, you're approving the expenditures that you've already approved. You're ratifying that. Remember, Susan explained, there is a big elephant in the room in addition to your local operating expenses. A much bigger elephant. Schools and county taxes. School taxes are \$1,000,000. County taxes are \$200,000 or \$300,000. Something like that. There are some big ones that we don't have much control over. You can get in and vote on those as well. This is a fairly small percentage so the taxes will go up but not necessarily because of this very much. I've already explained that. Anyway, that's the best I can do.

14:21:07 Jolene Tupper: Haven't I read or heard something about Governor LePage about cutting people's property taxes or doing away with some type of taxes?

14:21:26 Moderator: You need to go reread all of that stuff. There are a lot of changes proposed by the Legislature and by the Governor, mostly by the Governor as I understand. I'm no student of that way but it is way more complicated than we're going to get into today. There are a lot of potential changes. Sales tax rates may go up. Yes, property tax rates may go up. There is always something that is going to offset something but it is extremely complicated and not the domain of this meeting. So we have this article, which is on the floor. There is no debate and we have to file by the box. I suppose we could poll the citizens and if we had an overwhelming number of people who said we're cool with just having one ballot voted we could avoid all of that marching around. See what I'm saying? This is probably cheating.

14:22:32 Citizen: You answered the question of what will happen if we vote yes. What will happen if we vote no?

14:22:47 Moderator: Then we go back to work and go cut \$37,000 out of what we've allocated.

14:22:55 Citizen: So why wasn't this article put up first off.

14:23:02 Moderator: It's awfully hard to figure out where you are. If you vote it first off then you open up the floodgates and they'll vote for everything so we purposefully put it at the end so we know what we've done, and now you can say, that's okay or no it isn't. And if it isn't then we've got to go back and do some cutting and slashing. There isn't any easy way to deal with this, in other words. We'll need to cut that money out of something. I'm going to poll the group. I'm going to be a little squirrely here

because we know how long it takes poll the group. If we have a majority of people that are comfortable responding to my question then we'll have one person go cast the vote for those people. If you are comfortable with disclosing your position on this article, that's cool, then we'll line up and vote. You see what I'm saying? Did somebody say no?

14:24:25 Matt Picard: I said I'll vote.

14:24:27 Moderator: You'll vote for what? Okay, well, we're going to have to have a general understanding of how you're going to vote.

14:24:38 Jim Kenney: I would vote to accept this article.

14:24:47 Moderator: So we've got a voter and now we just need a general consensus. Does that work for everybody? How many people are prepared to vote no on this article? We're going to run through. Line up. The last time we had two blank votes. There is no reason to vote blank, and don't write on the back of it. There is a yes or no on the front.

14:25:09 [BREAK TO VOTE AND COUNT THE VOTES]

14:34:22 Moderator: We have counted the votes, 45 yeses, 32 noes. Motion carries.

14:35:06 Moderator: Article 40, to see if the Town will vote to change from a Board of Assessors to a single assessor. The assessor will be appointed by the Selectmen for a term not exceeding five years. Moved and seconded. Floor is open for discussion. Not seeing any hands...yes sir. The assessor is a professional assessor, Elliot Bane, and he's been doing this work right along and we pay him by contract a \$10,000 fee. It's just authorizing him to sign off on documents rather than have him do all the work and have the Selectmen sign off on the documents. Any further questions. Seeing further no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:35:53 Moderator: Article 41, shall an ordinance entitled Floodplain Management Ordinance for the Town of Unity, Maine be enacted? Moved and seconded. The floor is open for discussion. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. Basically if you approve this you get to buy flood insurance. If you don't approve this, you don't get to buy flood insurance.

14:36:27 John Piotti: I'm sorry. Dan French and I were being bad in the corner. I didn't realize this item had come up. Just really quickly. I don't know why this gets passed up to the Planning Board because it's really not Planning Board business. We were asked to take it on so we had the hearing for it a couple weeks ago. Let me explain what's going on here. The Town from time to time develops various ordinances, land use ordinances, a whole host of things, road ordinances. This is not one of those. This has really nothing to do with the Town of Unity. This ordinance is developed by the state and federal government. We have enacted this very ordinance with one exception and the exception is if you look on page 2, where they refer to the maps, the maps have changed. From time to time the federal government revises the flood plain maps. I wish this was the case but the way this is the following. You don't have an up-to-date ordinance with the new maps, and Unity residents are ineligible to buy flood plain insurance. It's in the center of page 2 just referring to the maps. So really what this is is

bureaucratic gobbledygook. We really don't have much choice except to adopt it about once every five years, the feds bring new maps, we have a hearing on the new maps and we bring it to Town Meeting.

14:38:39 Andy Reed: One other good thing about that is if the Town approves the flood maps, you go for a loan and your property is in a flood zone, if you don't get flood insurance you can't get a loan. What it does is protect the homeowner, say if they're in a flood zone and they buy flood insurance and get a mortgage on the property, then if you have damage to the property you can get some monies from the flood insurance. If the Town doesn't accept it, then you can't get a mortgage because the federal government requires that any properties in a flood zone have to have flood insurance before you can get a lot. It would restrict a number of people in a low-lying area that want to get a mortgage on the property or a home equity.

14:39:32 Matt Picard: So that's basically insurance that people get flooded out the banks would get their money?

14:39:46 Andy Reed: Well, yeah, but I dealt with it when I was in banking and people I told them to get flood insurance and they told me when I bought the property it wasn't in a flood zone, even though they were paying for it, not with a bank loan, and I'd recommend it. I would say I've lived here all of my life and I've seen that property underwater and they bought flood insurance and then a couple years that they had the property we had a big flood on the lake and it paid them. I can't tell you how much but allowed them to fix it, the condition of their property. It's important that the Town accept it for the residents to be able to have property in a low-lying area.

14:40:29 Moderator: Thank you very much. Seeing no other hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? The motion carries.

14:40:41 Moderator: Article 42, to see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all 2015 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2015. Moved and seconded. Floor is open.

14:40:54 Citizen: What is the rate now?

14:40:58 Moderator: It's seven. It has been seven right along.

14:41:08 Citizen: What did the Town pay to have to borrow?

14:41:17 Moderator: Two and a half or three. Something like that? We don't have that data here but 2-1/2 or 3 is a good guess. We're a town, we get some special rates. The banks give special opportunities to loan to towns. Any other questions on the motion? Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:41:45 Moderator: Article 43, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. paragraph 506. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries. If you have a closing and the closing representative withholds taxes and they go to send it to the Town and you didn't approve this, you have a mess.

14:42:18 Moderator: Article 44, to see if the Town will vote to allow a two percent discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days after the tax bills are mailed. Moved and seconded. Seeing no hands will call for the vote.

14:42:31 Dennis Jones: If we got a little more than 2% maybe the town wouldn't have to borrow money to get through. If you offered 10% they'd come in sooner.

14:42:50 Moderator: What Dennis said maybe if you offered them 10% they'd come in. Sooner or later that would be a major hit on your budget. Being a financial person, you're basically getting 2% to pay a little bit early. So let's say you paid three months, that's two percent times four, that's eight percent per annum is what you're earning on your money by paying it early. So if you're in the habit of paying your taxes early anyway, it's a heck of a deal to pay when you get the bill. Anyway, any other hands? Seeing none will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:43:32 Moderator: Article 45, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town, to sell 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. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:44:01 Moderator: Article 46, 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, 2015. Moved and seconded. The floor is open. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:44:27 Moderator: Article 47, to see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed one-sixth of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from 02/01/2016 to 03/26/2016. Moved and seconded. Floor is open. Seeing no hands will call for the vote. All in favor, aye? Opposed, no? Motion carries.

14:44:57 Moderator: That concludes our business for today.

14:45:36 Jim Kenney: I make the motion to adjourn the meeting.

14:45:38 Moderator: Thank you very much. Do we have a second? [Yes] All in favor, aye? Motion carries. Thank you all.

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