

Warner Town Clerk

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Office Hours: Mon, Thurs
8:00 – 4:00 PM
Tues: 8:00 – 6:00 PM
Wed: 9:00 – 4:00 PM

Michele L Courser,
Town Clerk
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Deputy Town Clerk
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Annual Town Meeting Warner Town Hall 5 East Main Street, Warner, NH Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Beginning at seven o'clock in the morning and ending at seven o'clock in the evening to elect officers of the Town by official ballot and to act upon the following subjects:

Article 1

To choose Town Officers for the ensuing year.

ALMONERS OF THE FOSTER & CURRIER FUND	1 For 3 years	Janice Cutting	449
BUDGET COMMITTEE	2 For 3 years	Michael Cutting	432
	write-in	Harold Blanchette*	9
	write-in	Richard Bixby	4
BUDGET COMMITTEE	1 For 1 years	Robert E Blake	416
CHANDLER RESERVATION	1 For 4 years	Gerald Courser	466
MODERATOR	1 For 2 years	Ray Martin	463
SELECTMAN	1 For 3 years	Christine Frost	423
SELECTMAN	1 For 1 years	Samuel J S Bower	441
SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST	1 For 6 years	Michael K Brown*	261
		Karen Coyne	163
TRUSTEE OF PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY	3 For 3 years	Michael K Brown	393
		Sherry Colfer	380
		Teresa Hathaway	378
TRUSTEE OF TOWN CEMETERIES	2 For 3 years	Mary Cogswell	419
		Donald H Wheeler	399
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUND	1 For 3 years	Robert E Blake	421

* Winner by majority vote

Article 2

QUESTION 2: YES [] 122 NO [X] 360

BY PETITION: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the text of Article II B-4 of the Warner Building Code: remove section four, regarding minimum square footage, and appropriately renumber the following sections and; amend Article XIV-B(3) of the Warner Zoning

Ordinance to remove the phrase “an area of no less than 300 square feet.” Not recommended by the Planning board by a vote of 5-1.

Article 3

QUESTION 3: YES [] 100 NO [X] 382

BY PETITION: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to Table 1: Use Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance to reflect multi-family workforce housing as a permitted use in R-2, C-1, and INT. Not recommended by the Planning board by a vote of 6-0.

Article 4

QUESTION 4: YES [] 122 NO [X] 364

BY PETITION: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the text of Article VII of the Warner Zoning Ordinance: replace “the individual family’s” with “residential” and; to the amendment of Table 1: Use Regulations, to reflect multi-family dwellings, and the conversion of existing structures into multi-family dwellings, and permitted uses in R-3 and OC-1. Not recommended by the Planning board by a vote of 6-0.

ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT THE TOWN HALL

Moderator Ray Martin opened the meeting by announcing the results of the poll votes that occurred the previous day. (All three petition zoning amendment articles failed.) He asked that any resident who won an election report to the Town Clerk’s office to be sworn in.

Martin also announced the results of the Kearsarge Area School District voting that occurred the previous day.

At the polls, 503 people voted, which was approximately 25% of the Town’s registered voters.

Moderator Martin outlined the rules of the meeting, including the information that people could watch and listen to the meeting via a free Zoom link but, unlike other recent public Town Hall meetings, participants had to physically be present in Town Hall.

He also said that the Town Meeting would follow a modified version of the Roberts Rules of Order.

Article 5

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of making repairs, rebuilding, and improving certain Town roads, including the drainage of such roads, including Schoodac Road, Poverty Plains Road, Pumpkin Hill Road, Mason Hill Road, North Village Road, and other such Town roads the Select Board determines need such work, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) through taxation for the interest payment on the bonds and notes. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.) 2/3 ballot vote required.

Moderator read Article. Motion made to Moved Article. Seconded.

Moderator began by announcing a needed change to language in this article. Last year, the State Legislature passed a law that reduces the level of acceptance among voters for a bonding article; bonds formerly needed to be supported by 2/3 (or 66%) of the voters, but under the new law, that rate has been reduced to 3/5 (or 60%) of voters' acceptance.

(This problem was noted just earlier today by the NH Department of Revenue Administration.)

Moderator wanted a second to amend Article to strike the 2/3 vote and state 3/5 ballot vote required. Moved. Seconded.

Article 5 Amended - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of making repairs, rebuilding, and improving certain Town roads, including the drainage of such roads, including Schoodac Road, Poverty Plains Road, Pumpkin Hill Road, Mason Hill Road, North Village Road, and other such Town roads the Select Board determines need such work, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) through taxation for the interest payment on the bonds and notes.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.) **3/5 ballot vote required.**

Moderator read Article 5 as amended. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion to change from 2/3 to 3/5 vote Passed.

Selectman Carson said that this article would allow the Town to get a number of road projects done "in one fell swoop." The Town has frequently discussed the projects in the past, and Town Meeting voters typically approve roughly \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually to pay for these kinds of bigger projects, which usually done by outside contractors. "At that that rate, we don't get a lot of projects done," he said.

This year, the Select Board worked with Director of Department of Public Works (DPW) Road Agent Tim Allen to find a better way, especially since loan interest rates are currently low. By putting these six projects together, at an annual interest rate of 3.27% (and with construction costs estimated to rise about 7% annually) the Town could save roughly \$660,000, Carson said.

The other factor driving this approach is that the federal government is expected to provide funds for highway projects this coming year, and when those funds become available there will be considerable competition among building contractors, which could result in higher costs; the sooner the projects are put out to bid, the more likely it is that the Town will be able to get them completed.

In addition, by taking in a bid for all six projects at once, the Town will realize additional savings by the "economy of scale" formula.

Selectman Carson asked DPW Director Tim Allen to add his comments.

Allen said he and the others in town have been talking about this idea for the last two or three years. Securing the loan would "give us a little more commitment to roadwork," he said. (In 1996, the Road

Committee listed 10 projects that needed work and, in the subsequent 28 years, three of those 10 have still not been done.)

Allen said his goal would be to get these six projects designed and “shovel-ready” as soon as possible. Allen also said that he created a list last year that analyses work that should be done to repair and maintain all the roads of Warner; and the estimated cost was roughly \$7 million.

If the Town approves this bond, he said, and then move ahead with the same concept in the future, it may be able to maintain the roads reasonably well for some years. “I think in the long run, it’s going to save the Town money,” he said of the bond.

If the bonding proposal passes, Allen said, it might also be possible for his department to eventually do away with its Capital Reserve Fund.

David Bates asked if the proposal would “prevent more costly degeneration” of the Town’s roads. Allen answered that it would.

Martha Bodnarik congratulated Allen on his work, but in view of the current Russia-Ukrainian conflict and the anticipated rise in oil prices, she was skeptical about the estimated costs in the proposal. “Prices of oil are skyrocketing with no end in sight,” she said, “and hot top goes up 1% when oil goes up .7%.” She suggested that the Town might end up being able to pay for only two of the four major projects. Allen said that even if only two of the projects had to be set aside due to a sudden, drastic increase in oil prices, the bond “is still a better way to do (pay for) the work.”

Selectman Sam Bower said he recognized the validity of Bodnarik’s comment. “I just don’t know if there’s any way we can predict exactly when will the prices go down,” he said. Construction costs could actually drop before the construction season begins next summer.

Jim Sherman noted that oil prices “dropped like a rock today,” and added that he expects that the federal government to find a way to stabilize oil costs by the end of 2022.

Steve Bridgewater proposed an amendment to the Warrant Article that you take out the words making repairs, rebuilding, and improving certain Town Roads, including the drainage of such roads and add **“for the purpose of engineering and rebuilding of Schoodac Road, Poverty Plains Road, Pumpkin Hill Road, Mason Hill Road, and North Village Road only.”** Then take out the words and other such Town Roads the Select Board determines need such work. The wording needs to be replaced **“with all engineered plans, cost estimates, and contract bids would then be reviewed by the previously established road committee before contracts are awarded. The Select Board would reward contracts after review** and then continue on with the wording of the Warrant Article.

Then Steve stated we need to fine tune to specify that the money can only be spent on those roads.

Article 5 As Amended-Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of engineering and rebuilding of Schoodac Road, Poverty Plains Road, Pumpkin Hill Road, Mason Hill Road, and North Village Road only. All engineered plans, cost estimates, and contract bids would then be reviewed by the previously established Road Committee before contracts are awarded. The Select Board would reward contracts after review, and to authorize the issuance of not more than 2,615,000 (Two Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars) bond or

notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) through taxation for the interest payment on the bonds and notes.

Moderator read Article 5 as amended. Motion made to Move the Article. Seconded. Discussion on the Amendment.

Rebecca Courser had a question on the amendment, stating that the Select Board as a governing body has the authority to spend the money, so they must be involved.

Moderator confirmed that the Select Board would still have the final say, as that section of wording in the Warrant Article would stay the same.

James Gaffney stated there is no language in the Warrant Article that directs the funds to go into either a Capital Reserve Fund or another account so that there can be accountability. These funds are not going to be expended in one year, they will be expended over a course of a number of years. If these funds do not go into an account that can be monitored, audited etc, there is a greatly increased chance that the funds would be expended for other purposes. I would like the person who submitted the amendment, to consider further amending the Warrant Article.

Moderator asked Steve Bridgewater if he would consider adding the language.

Steve stated that the wording is in the Warrant Article.

James Gaffney meant a separate account.

Susan Henley asked the Select Board when the funds are ear marked for a certain project and money is not spent at the end of the year 2022. Where do the remaining funds go?

Christine Frost stated that her understanding that this is for a loan. The funds will be encumbered and can only be spent on what the original loan was obtained for. The money would be in a separate account.

Andrew Bodnarik wanted to know if this is Capital Reserve Account or a special account?

Christine Frost said this is not a Capital Reserve Account, it is a loan.

Rebecca Courser moved the question on the amendment.

Moderator asked for a Voice Vote to Move the question on the amendment. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.

Moderator said we are now voting on the Amendment to the Article. Voice Vote. Passed.

Moderator seeing no more questions, opened the polls for one hour at 7:02 PM. Ballot Vote required on Article 16 as Amended.

Article 6 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,675,514 (Three Million, Six Hundred Seventy Five Thousand, Five Hundred Fourteen Dollars) as the 2022 Operating Budget for general municipal operations? This amount does not include appropriations contained in special or individual warrant articles addressed separately. (Recommended by the Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 6. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Moderator Martin introduced Selectman Christine Frost to discuss the article.

Selectman Frost noted that this budget represents a 4.9% increase over last year's. At the same time, only 95% of last year's budget was actually spent, due to a number of factors including a decrease in staffing hours (related to the coronavirus pandemic), as well as energy-related challenges. The Town's staff has increased and employees have received a salary increase, she said.

Frost then turned the meeting back over to Moderator Martin, and Martin introduced Budget Committee Chairman Mike Cutting to review the Operating Budget.

Cutting noted that the difference between what was approved for the 2021 budget and what was actually spent was \$159,412. He said that that balance goes back into the general fund balance – as does any money not spent during the fiscal year – and it can be used to reduce property taxes.

Cutting then showed a pie chart indicating how the annual budget is spent on the different departments, and each department's functions.

Then he went on to review the total of last year's anticipated spending (i.e., the annual Operating Budget, plus the warrant articles, both approved at the 2021 Town Meeting); the sum makes for a total appropriation of approximately \$4.1 million.

Revenue estimates last year were a little higher than \$1 million; Cutting emphasized that the Town always estimates revenue conservatively.

Using a slide, Cutting shows that the property tax rate in Warner over the last eight years has fluctuated between \$9.96 per \$1,000 of property value (in 2019) to last year's \$8.50 per thousand. Last year's lower rate was because the Board of Selectmen used approximately \$225,000 of the general fund balance to reduce taxes.

“The whole idea of the budget is to maintain enough (money) to be fiscally responsible, and have enough funds to pay our bills on a daily basis,” Cutting explained. “But there's no reason to have so much money in there (the general fund balance). It's your money. It's my money.”

The state recommends that a municipality keep between 5% and 17% of its total budget (including the town, county and school district budgets) in its general fund balance, he said.

For some time now, Town leaders have aimed to have approximately \$1 million in the general fund balance. “And that’s what we finally got to last year,” he noted..

Cutting also explained that why he purposely did not list a projected tax rate for 2022 on his slide. It’s because that rate will largely depend on how Town Meeting voters decide on the various warrant articles that are under consideration tonight. The total amount of the warrant articles being considered at this meeting is over \$1 million, which is a substantial increase over the previous three year’s; but if the construction bonding article passes, a more general road repair article on the warrant could be passed over, so the total will drop to approximately over \$1 million, to \$824,000. If all the warrant articles are passed tonight, the total amount that the Town would need to raise from taxation for 2022 is approximately \$3.48 million, or an increase of approximately 12.3% over the 2021 rate.

Cutting then asked if there were any questions.

Martha Bodnarik urged that the voters reject the annual operating budget article proposed by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. She said the Town would then use this year’s budget, which would be sufficient because it resulted in a surplus.

In addition, she added that the Town still has about \$2 million in unsold properties that can be sold. Bodnarik also complained that the Town lost an “excellent bookkeeper” that has not been replaced. The bookkeeper fills an important role for the Town and that person “takes the temptation away from anybody to misappropriate funds.”

(Martha Bodnarik noted that the Bookkeeper’s Report, which has previously appeared in the annual Town report, is not available this year.)

Martha Bodnarik also complained that the Board of Selectmen approved pay increases for employees before the Town Meeting, so the official legislative body (i.e., Town Meeting voters) did not have a chance to review that idea beforehand.

Regarding the Town-owned properties that Bodnarik mentioned, Cutting said that the old Fire Station on Main Street is on the verge of being sold for approximately \$175,000.

Cutting said the Board of Selectmen proposed the pay increases because of the recent practice of salary increases and similar employee-benefits programs in light of the current shortage of workers.

This year, the Board of Selectmen proposed a two-part pay raise program: a 4.2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) jump, and a 2% merit revaluation increase; this is the first time the Town has ever included a merit program in its salary structure.

Select Board Chairman Carson said that the Town is currently upgrading the Town’s financial systems, which are probably more than 20 years old. “It makes it very hard to do our finances,” he explained, so the Select Board made a commitment to upgrade that function. In fact, the Board is now working with someone who knows both its old and its new systems; when the new system is up-to-date, the Board will hire a new bookkeeper.

Carson addressed the employee pay increases, saying that, like everyone else, Town employees are impacted by the current rise in inflation. “We’ve got to retain and attract good employees,” he said, and which is why the Board initiated the merit raise program last summer.

The regular pay increases have always come at the beginning of the year with the idea that, if the annual operating budget is not approved, the Select Board will find some other way to keep the pay increases. “We’ve got to treat our employees good,” Carson said.

Mary Pelkey said that the current COLA raise increase is a little more than 5% and the Town is only providing a 4.2% COLA increase, and a possible 2% merit salary increase. Cutting noted that only the Police Department has previously been eligible for merit pay raises. He said that the Town feels merit raises are appropriate for employees who are doing a good job.

David Bates said that Cutting’s property tax numbers are not adjusted for inflation. “If you adjust for inflation, it’s basically flat,” he said, which means that the Town is actually spending “less and less every year.”

A citizen said that local property values are continuing to increase, and Nick Clark said that, as assessed property values go up, “We’re actually being taxed more for the same property.”

Regarding the Town-owned lands, Judy Newman-Rogers said that the Board of Selectmen is currently reviewing a contract with an auction company to put three other pieces of Town-owned properties up for sale. “And that money will go back into the fund balance to be used at the end of the year (to lower taxes),” Cutting explained.

Martha Bodnarik said that her objection is not that the Board of Selectmen has awarded pay raises to Town employees, but that the Board is instituting the increases before the raises were approved at Town Meeting.

James Gaffney said that the Town received \$155,000 in each of the last two years from the federal government’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pandemic relief program. He said he’s suggested that the Select Board come up with a specific plan about how it wants to spend the money, but that has not occurred.

Andy Bodnarik said his main concerns about the pay raises and the spending of surplus funds is simply that the Board of Selectmen does not make that information explicit to residents.

Chris Perkins moved the questioned.

Moderator asked All in favor of Moving the Question Article 6. Voice Vote. Passed.

Moderator read Article 6. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Ed Mical made a Motion to Move Article 16 Forward. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 16

Shall the Town vote to establish a Transportation Alternative Program Matching Grant Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for design engineering in support of Warner’s Transportation Alternative Program connecting the downtown village district to the Interval District, and to raise and

appropriate the sum of \$95,111 (Ninety Five Thousand, One Hundred-Eleven Dollars) to be place in that fund? The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (**Not** Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-2; Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0.)

Moderator read Article 16. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

James Gaffney proposed an amendment. James wants to replace the wording with Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the existing capital reserve fund established in 2020 for study and engineering of the possibility of creating a sidewalk connecting the downtown area with exit 9.

Further, shall the Town instruct the Select Board to establish a committee to lead the study, gather information and report back to the town the feasibility and impacts of such a project. 50% of the members of this committee shall be owners of property along the main street route that could be impacted. This committee shall present findings to the Town at Town Meeting 2023. The Select Board shall solicit volunteers for this committee publicly on the town website within 30 days of passage.

Further, shall the town vote to repeal 31:95B authority provided by the town in 2002 town meeting. Effective upon passage.

James Gaffney presented RSA 31:95-b for information.

Section 31:95-b

31:95-b Appropriation for funds made available during year.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any town or village district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing, indefinitely until specific rescission of such authority, the board of selectmen or board of commissioners to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town or village district meeting, unanticipated money from the state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year. The following shall apply:

(a) Such warrant article to be voted on shall read: "Shall the town (or village district) accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that any town (or village district) at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the selectmen (or commissioners) to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town (or village district) meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?"

(b) If a majority of voters voting on the question vote in the affirmative, the proposed warrant article shall be in effect in accordance with the terms of the article until such time as the town or village district meeting votes to rescind its vote.

II. Such money shall be used only for legal purposes for which a town or village district may appropriate money.

III. (a) For unanticipated moneys in the amount of \$10,000 or more, the selectmen or board of commissioners shall hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken. Notice of the time, place, and subject of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant municipality at least 7 days before the hearing is held.

(b) The board of selectmen may establish the amount of unanticipated funds required for notice under this subparagraph, provided such amount is less than \$10,000. For unanticipated moneys in an amount less than such amount, the board of selectmen shall post notice of the funds in the agenda and shall include notice in the minutes of the board of selectmen meeting in which such moneys are discussed.

The acceptance of unanticipated moneys under this subparagraph shall be made in public session of any regular board of selectmen meeting.

IV. Action to be taken under this section shall:

(a) Not require the expenditure of other town or village district funds except those funds lawfully appropriated for the same purpose; and

(b) Be exempt from all provisions of RSA 32 relative to limitation and expenditure of town or village district moneys.

Source. 1979, 42:1, 1991, 25:1. 1993, 176:3, eff. August 8, 1993. 1997, 105:1, eff. August 8, 1997. 2005, 188:2, eff. August 29, 2005. 2014, 237:1, eff. Sept 19, 2014.

James stated that 31:95-b is a provision in New Hampshire law that allows the Select Board to accept unanticipated funds. The consequences of repealing this authority from 2002 is that the Town will be forced to plan ahead. It means if they want to accept grant money, they have to come before the town with a warrant article a year in advanced. They would have to come before the town and state what the funds will be used for. It allows for open transparent government and for everyone to participate in the process. It is not a large burden on the Town or Select Board. It will help prevent what has happened to date with this project.

Gaffney began by discussing the final clause in his proposed amendment. "RSA 31:95b is a provision in New Hampshire law that allows the Select Board to accept unexpected funds – grant money, anything you can imagine from the federal government. They're 'unanticipated funds,'" he explained. "The consequences of repealing this authority that we gave them in 2002, is that the Town will be forced to plan ahead.

"It means that if we want to accept grant money, it means we have to come forward with a warrant article, just like any other warrant article, a year in advance and say, 'This is our intent, and this is the permission we'd like to have, to accept "x" amount of money to do "x, y, and z" purpose,'" he said. "It allows for open, transparent government. It allows for everybody to participate in the process. If they don't ask in advance, then they have two other options: they can come to the Town at the next Town Meeting and ask for permission to accept and expend those funds, or they can have a special Town Meeting sometime during the course of the year," Gaffney explained. "This is not a large burden on the Town. It's not a large burden on the Select Board. And it will prevent what has happened to date with this project."

Some citizens applauded the amendment.

Andy Bodnarik seconded the amendment.

Moderator Martin said that, in his role as moderator, he found the first part of the amendment is appropriate, because it pertains directly to Article 16. However, the second part of the amendment, regarding the repeal of RSA 31:95b, could be considered later in the meeting, or as a separate article under "New Business."

Martin ruled that the two parts should not be together in the proposed amendment.

Gaffney argued that the two parts are appropriately combined because they are germane to the original Warrant Article 16.

Martin said he was ruling that the second part cannot be joined to the first and that it could be proposed later in the meeting.

Moderator Martin said he could bring this to the floor for a vote, whether or not to support his ruling.

Kimberley Edelmann said that if the two sections were combined into a single article, the whole article might be disqualified by NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) after the meeting closed. That would make both sections null and void.

Martha Mical made a motion to separate the language in the amendment that states, “Finally, shall the Town vote to repeal RSA 31:95b authority, provided by the Town in 2002, at Town Meeting, effective on passage.”

Moderator Martin asked the meeting if it agreed with his ruling that the two “divergent topics” should be separated, i.e., that the language regarding RSA 31:95b is omitted from the amendment. (Moderator said he would except a motion to bring up the proposed RSA 31:95b language later in the meeting under new business.)

In a voice vote, the meeting concurred with the moderator.

Moderator then opened discussion on the now-amended amendment.

Michelle Kendrick questioned whether \$5,000 would be enough to pay for a feasibility study.

“Five thousand dollars just isn’t going to do it,” Select Board Chairman Carson said.

Janice Cutting said that Hillsboro looked at doing a similar sidewalk/multi-use path project for a TAP grant several years ago. That Town broke down the costs between the feasibility study, the design work, and the engineering work; the estimated cost of the feasibility study was listed at \$31,000, and the route was a longer that the one being addressed in Article 16. “It can be done,” she said.

David Bates said that he would prefer to have his road construction done by a professional civil engineer.

Gaffney said that the money that the Board of Selectmen is requesting in this article is for a TAP “matching fund,” (i.e., the Town would pay 20% of the total costs and the grant would pay the remaining 80%). This action was taken without the Town voting on it. In addition, if the proposed design engineering work is completed, and the Town later decides against building the sidewalk/multi-use path, the matching grant funds disappear. The Town would have to pay for the engineering study.

Selectman Carson reminded the group that the Board has been talking about this project for some time, and that the discussion always included the idea of matching funds. Just as the Town did on helping to construct the Barbara Annis Roundabout on Rte. 103, funds have been put aside for the last few years to help pay for the project. If the Town approves the Article and later decides against moving forward with the project, the money that’s been put aside the last two years would be able to reimburse the State for the cost of the design engineering work.

Andy Bodnarik said his problem with the Select Board's proposal is one of process. He said the fund was set up for one purpose but would now be used for a different purpose, if the project moves forward under this article.

He also said that the criteria used for TAP grants focus on multi-use (i.e., pedestrian and bicycle) paths. However, those kinds of paths are not recommended for running adjacent to main thoroughfares like as Rte. 103.

"You don't have the room," he said, and the application wouldn't be rated as high as it currently is if the Town's application didn't refer to two deaths in the area that "are unrelated to the project you're talking about," Bodnarik said.

Carson said that the Select Board wants to look at all possibilities for the proposed path. That includes a multi-use path, although there is a good chance that the design engineering work would come back with a finding that advises only a sidewalk. (It could indicate that even a sidewalk is not advisable.) "Until we do the study (proposed in Article 16), we won't know," he concluded.

A Citizen pointed out that DPW Director Tim Allen spoke earlier in the meeting about the challenge that his department has now maintaining its roads. He also criticized how the Select Board handled a recent informational meeting with local property owners along the proposed route, saying, "You couldn't answer the questions" the local homeowners proposed.

Mike Kinshaw suggested that Gaffney change the language in his proposed amendment from simply "fifty-percent (50%)" of local property owners to "at least fifty-percent (50%)" local property owners. Gaffney agreed the change, and Moderator Martin asked if it could be considered a friendly amendment to Gaffney's amendment.

Kinshaw answered yes, and the motion was quickly seconded.

Kinshaw also asked if Gaffney had set a number of people for the committee.

Moderator said there are typically eight to 10 residents on this type of committee, but it would depend on how many people want to be on it.

Moderator closed the Bond Article at 8:02 PM. Ballots were counted. Motion Passed as Amended 129-34, more than 3/5 required.

One resident asked if there has been a pedestrian count on the proposed route. Carson said it had been done in the past, but those numbers are not available at this time.

Martha Bodnarik said that she would not favor spending one more dollar for this project. She said there's no demonstrated need for the sidewalk, no accidents that she's heard of that were related to pedestrians or bicycles on Main Street, and that people who own homes in the area would be "harshly impacted" by the a sidewalk and are not in favor of the project.

Finally, she said there is nothing in the commercial area off Interstate 93's exit 9 that would draw children from the village and necessitate a sidewalk.

Emma Bates said that people underestimate the number of walkers along Main Street in "all kinds of weather."

“I’ve seen seniors from the senior citizens housing walking in the snow,” she said. “I see kids walking back and forth from school, including my own... This is a very well used road. There are lots of people who don’t have transportation and to get down to buy their groceries. They also walk to get down to work down there, because that’s where most of the jobs in Warner are. If we’re not providing a safe way to get down there then I think we’re doing a disservice to our Town,” she said. “So I’m against the amendment.”

Some residents applauded after Bates’ remarks.

Rebecca Courser made a motion to move the question.

Moderator Martin asked the audience were in favor of moving the question.

In a unanimous voice vote, the citizens answered in the affirmative.

Moderator Martin said the meeting would now vote on the amendment to Article 16; the amendment, proposed by Gaffney, would replace all the language in the original amendment with the following:

Andy Bodnarik asked Moderator Martin for a show of hands vote and Martin agreed.

The moderator then asked those in favor of the amendment to raise their hands with a pink paper ballot. After a brief count, Martin said that the vote was too close to insure a correct count and proposed using a paper ballot. Voice Vote. Passed.

Returning to the vote count on the amendment to Article 16, Moderator announced that the amendment passed, 78-74.

He then returned the discussion attention to the now-amended Article 16.

Moderator read Article 16 as amended. Discussion on article as amended.

One resident asked if the Town would lose its opportunity to win the TAP grant, if the voters reject the proposal at this meeting. In that case, the Town could lose roughly access to approximately \$900,000, he said.

Gaffney said that the Board of Selectmen could still possibly accept the TAP grant unless the Town Meeting repeals the action by approving his proposal to eliminate RSA 931:95A later at this meeting. Moderator said that if the Town turns down the TAP grant, it would be up to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to decide what to do with it, since they award the grant. “They could pull it back, or they could award it to another town,” he said. There is also the possibility that the DOT could give Warner another year to study the issue.

Select Board Chairman Carson said that the amended article is “not really workable” for the proposed project. He said that \$25,000 would not get the Town the information it needs to move forward because it wouldn’t be enough to get the proposed design engineering work completed. “I think (the amendment) was designed to squash the sidewalk. I’d recommend voting this down,” he said. “I think the sense of the meeting is that the sidewalk is dead.”

Harry Seidel said that, without the original-proposed design engineering study being done, there's no chance that the Town will get the TAP grant, even if the citizens want it later.

Tim Blagden said that the Town has applied for the TAP grant and it's currently "in the process of being approved." "It was the top (rated) project in the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning District," and the fourth best in the State, he said. "So we've competed and we've won. So, that money will come to the Town, if the Town chooses to accept it.

"What's extremely unfortunate is, as part of the grant," there is approximately \$100,000 required to do the required engineering design study to decide specifics like: Should it be a sidewalk or a multi-use path? What side of the road should it be on? Should it cross the road at any point in time?

"That work can't be done for \$25,000, it's going to take the (roughly) \$100,000," Blagden said.

Without the more expensive study, the Town "can't make an informed decision" about the project.

If the Town moves forward with the project, 80% of the money would be refunded through the TAP grant. If it decided not to move forward, the capital reserve fund would pay for the study, he said.

Sam Milender said that he's been living at 98 West Main Street for some years. "The first time I heard of this proposal was a month ago," he said.

One resident asked how many people that own homes along the West Main Street area were contacted by the Town to ask for their input about the project. Select Board Chairman Carson said that it held an informational meeting for residents about two weeks ago.

There was some vocal disapproval heard to that remark.

But Carson said the project has been discussed at the last two annual Town Meetings as well as other public meetings. It's been listed among the Capital Improvement Plan for several years, and it was noted in the Master Plan some years back.

Another person asked why the residents who would be impacted were only contacted two weeks ago. Some citizens applauded.

Gaffney said that the project came to the Planning Board in 2020 listed as an "urgent need" for the Town. "We gave them \$10,000, they did nothing," he said. "The same thing happened in 2021."

He added that the amended article would give the Town the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposed project to the Board of Selectmen.

David Bates said that, from the beginning, the Town said that there would be an opportunity for local residents to voice their thoughts about the proposed project after an engineer was involved and present to hear all the questions and concerns. Several attendees applauded the remark.

In response to some calls from the group, Moderator Martin asked if the majority would be in favor of moving the question. The response was unanimously affirmative. Martin directed the voters to cast their ballots with the white paper.

While the ballots were being counted, Moderator Martin announced that he's decided that it would be improper to have a separate vote at this meeting regarding the clause in the original amendment, i.e., repealing the Town's 2002 acceptance of RSA 31-95:B in 2002.

“I’m ruling it is out of order,” Martin said, explaining that it hadn’t been properly noticed before the meeting, and its passage could impact other grants already in process. He said it could be brought up at a future meeting.

Gaffney objected, saying that the change would not hinder the Town from accepting other grants. He said that it would not be a burden to the Town’s governance and that it would “provide the entire Town with transparency.”

Martha Bodnarik asked if the meeting, under “Article 23 – Business” could direct the Board of Selectmen to neither apply for nor accept any other grants related to the sidewalk/multi-use path project until the committee mentioned in the amended Article 16 makes a report.

Martin said that would have the same impact as Gaffney’s proposal to reject RSA 31-95b.

Andy Bodnarik said that Martha Bodnarik’s proposal would only impact future Select Board actions, not grant actions that are already in process.

Article 16 Amended - Failed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the existing capital reserve fund established in 2020 for study and engineering of the possibility of creating a sidewalk connecting the downtown area with exit 9. Further, shall the Town instruct the Select Board to establish a committee to lead the study, gather information and report back to the Town the feasibility and impacts of such a project. At least, 50% of the members of this committee shall be owners of property along the main street route that could be impacted. This committee shall present findings to the Town at Town Meeting 2023. The Select Board shall solicit volunteers for this committee publicly on the town website within 30 days of passage.

Moderator said we are now voting on article 16 as amended. Ballot Vote. Failed 99-40.

Moderator ruled the last sentence in James Gaffney’s original amendment, “Further, Shall the town vote to repeal 31:95-b authority provided by the town in 2002 Town Meeting” is out of order. It involves several grants that are out there that are in process at this time. It involves several grants that are currently in process and it wasn’t noticed.

James Gaffney says that it is germane to the Warrant Articles. It causes transparency.

Andrew Bodnarik made a point of inquiry. Restrict reconsideration on Articles 5, 6, and 16 as amended. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed

David Bates made a motion to move Article 17 forward. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 17

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$56,000 (Fifty Six Thousand Dollars) to the previously established Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Fund? This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 6-1.)

Moderator read Article 17. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Moderator Martin invited Parks & Recreation Department President Apryl Blood to speak to the article.

Apryl Blood said that the Town's skate park at Riverside Park was constructed about 15 years ago. The Rec Department has diligently worked to keep the facility properly maintained but last Spring, when the staff was planning to replace one of the larger side panels, it was found that the substructure was rotted through. Within hours, it was determined that the structure was unsafe and a liability for the Town.

The Parks & Rec Board had been trying to figure out how much life was left in the facility, but the members now had to move forward with how to fix it in a way that would provide the Town with longevity and with the least amount of maintenance.

One option they considered was concrete, but that would cost about triple the cost of wood; and is that if there is a crack in a concrete panel, the whole panel has to be replaced. The second option considered was steel, which is warranted for 20 years; the total price, for installation and materials, is \$108,445.75. Wood was also considered, but the same problems the facility now has would likely arise again.

Tim Blagden, who is a member of the Parks & Rec Board of Directors, said that the article proposes money to pay for one-half of the project, with the goal of asking for the other half at next year's Town Meeting. But with prices rising regularly, he made a motion to raise the figure in the article to the full price of \$108,445.75. Seconded.

Moderator Martin directed discussion to the amendment.

Mike Kinshaw asked if the amount in the article were doubled, would any portion of be raised through taxation. Martin said the amendment does not address the language in the original article; funds would come from the Town's unassigned fund balance.

Michael Kinshaw asked if the whole amount \$108,445 is going to come from the unassigned fund balance. Moderator confirmed.

Seth Henley asked how recently the Board received its cost estimates. Blood said that they were received in December and the steel one is valid for the coming Spring.

David Bates commented that Riverside is one of the few parks that is within walking distance for youngsters who live in the village. It's important for children to have safe places to play.

Andy Bodnarik said that if the amendment passes and the expenditure is doubled, that would mean more money coming out of the unassigned fund balance. He asked if that much money was available. Selectman Bower said that would be possible, especially since Article 16 was defeated earlier in the meeting. He added that he would support the amended article to raise the expenditure to \$108,445.75.

After some additional discussion, Budget Committee Chairman Mike Cutting offered some observations about the impact of doubling the skate park expenditure. "It's roughly 34-cents per \$1,000 (of property value)," he said. That means that, taking the average value of a home property in New Hampshire (\$400,000), the result would roughly \$125 - \$140 on a tax bill.

Martha Bodnarik asked how many residents would benefit from the skate park improvement. Blood said she didn't have a precise number but that a variety of people use the park on an ongoing daily basis.

Jerry Marsh asked about the cost of pressure treated wood. Blood said that the Department doesn't have much funding for maintenance, so that impacted the Board's decision to go with steel.

Rebecca Courser moved the question. Voice Vote. Passed.

Moderator asked to vote on the Amendment. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 17 As Amended-Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$108,445 (One Hundred Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Forty Five Dollars) to the previously established Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Fund? This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation.

Moderator read Article 17 as amended. Asked for a Voice Vote. Voice Vote to close for Moderator to determine. **Moderator** asked for Hand Vote. Passed

Article 7 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,400 (Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars) to be added to the previously established Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 7. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Moderator Martin invited Select Board member Sam Bower to address the article. Bower explained that this was an annual appropriation that was established so the Town could set aside enough money to fund its required Property Revaluation, which occurs every five years.

Moderator Read Article 7. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

James Gaffney made a motion to Move Article 22 forward. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 22 Failed

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be raised from surplus funds from the Town General Funds to replace the existing transfer station compactor. Funds shall be placed in the existing transfer station facility project capital reserve fund. This article has been submitted by Petition. (**Not** Recommended by the Select Board, 0-3; **Not** Recommended by the Budget Committee, 0-7.)

Moderator read Article 22. Motion to Move Article. Seconded. Discussion Followed.

Gaffney said he submitted this article and that it came out of the Budget Committee's annual review process. "At the time, the Select Board had made not made any recommendations to provide any

funding to deal with the (Transfer Station's) compactor, which has been reported at the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Committee for years as being as being near the end of life," i.e., seriously damaged, he said. It frequently breaks down and needs to be replaced.

"What this (article) does is instruct the Town to put one on order," he added, noting that Transfer Station Foreman Varick Proper says it would take approximately six months before a replacement is available; if the current one becomes completely inoperable, the Town could spend its "entire Operating Budget" to deal with the resulting problems (until the newer one is installed). The new compactor costs approximately \$60,000," Gaffney said.

Selectman Bower pointed out that no one of the Select Board or the Budget Committee recommends this article, nor does Foreman Proper.

Bower said that Proper does not want to do what this article, which is to "replace the existing compactor." Proper would actually prefer to have two operating compactors in the future; and there is already sufficient money in the Transfer Station's Capital Reserve Fund to pay for one.

Bower said that Article 13, which has not yet been considered this evening, addresses most of the concerns related to this article, and will "save the Town \$20,000. It is supported by Foreman Proper, all the members of the Select Board, and the entire Budget Committee.

One resident asked about the second compactor.

Selectman Bower responded by noting that the Select Board is working on a plan to reorganize the Transfer Station, as Proper has indicated is needed. The foreman is hoping the redesign will help with various issues including site safety, traffic, and recycling of materials, Bower said.

The Board is talking with engineering firms and hoping to come up with three options: a small, simple redesign; a medium-sized redesign; and a larger one that might include a composting facility to Warner as well as other nearby communities.

One citizen noted that New Hampshire is surrounded by three states that have composting programs: Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Another citizen, who's worked on the Town's current compactor, spoke in favor the current article. He said that it would do is ensure that a workable compactor is available in Town if the current one becomes inoperable.

Both Andy Bodnarik and Gaffney spoke in favor of the article saying, "We need the compactor."

Martha Bodnarik said she trusts the judgment of the Budget Committee and Foreman Proper about adding funds to the current Capital Reserve Fund. She spoke against the article.

Select Board member Christine Frost said there is currently \$80,000 in the Transfer Station's Capital Reserve Fund. The Select Board is working on the engineering study, and is looking forward to presenting plans at next year's annual Town Meeting for the voters' consideration.

Question has been moved. Voice Vote. Passed.

Moderator read Article 22. Voice Vote. Motion Failed.

Seth Henley made a motion to Restrict Reconsideration on Articles 7, 17, and 22. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 8 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for Preservation of Town Records? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 8. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 9 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 9. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Police Chief Bill Chandler explained that this was to keep the department's ongoing vehicle repair/replacement schedule moving forward.

One resident asked if the Town has given any further consideration to purchasing a Tesla (electric) vehicle. He said his research indicates that it would be a good investment.

Police Chief Chandler said that his own research indicates that, while there are advantages for the electric vehicle, he isn't yet convinced that it would be a beneficial purchase for the Town at this time.

James Gaffney made a motion to move the question. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed

Moderator Read Article 9. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 10 Passed

Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 (One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 10. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

DPW Director Tim Allen said that he asked to have an increase to this annual request to help to replenish the Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, so the department can continue to move forward with relevant design work.

Moderator read Article 10. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 11 Passed Over

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund contingent upon Article 6 not passing?

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator wanted a vote to Pass Over Article 11. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed Over.

Article 12 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$165,000 (One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund?

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 12. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

DPW Director Allen said that two department trucks are in “dire need of replacement.” He’s working on purchases but this article will allow the department to order one of the trucks now; the purchase will actually occur in 2023.

Moderator read Article 12. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 13 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$80,000 (Eighty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Facility Project Capital Reserve Fund? This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 13. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Discussion Followed.

Selectman Bower said that, as was discussed earlier, the Select Board, the Budget Committee and Foreman Varick Proper are in favor of this article.

Select Board Chairman Carson said that this \$80,000 would pay for part of the engineering design work. (The money for the new compactor is already part of a different capital reserve fund.)

James Gaffney was curious about the original language of the relevant capital reserve fund. Moderator Martin said the 2021 Town Meeting established this fund.

Select Board member Christine Frost said the Board is hoping to engage an engineering company to do a redesign study of the facility. The Board has requested that the company make a public presentation of its proposal.

Martha Mical Move the question. Voice Vote. Passed

Moderator reread Article 13. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 14 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established land Conservation Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 14. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Conservation Commission Chairman Nancy Martin showed a slide presentation outlining the Commission's ongoing work and its importance to the Town.

The \$25,000 in this article will primarily be used to support conservation efforts at the Blue Moon Berry Farm, one of the Town's few remaining working farms and the site of one of the highest environmental habitats in New Hampshire.

Rich Cook, who has been working on the project, said that the Commission's role would be to pay for an appraisal of the property.

The Five Rivers Conservation Trust Board, which is based in the Concord area, will submit a grant application to the NH Farm Fund; that money will provide \$20,000 for the property easement. The Commission will then look to the NH Land and Conservation Heritage Investment Program for the balance of the easement, although the landowners are providing the easement at approximately 40% of its market value, Cook explained.

Moderator read Article 14. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 15 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$96,678 (Ninety Six Thousand, Six Hundred-Seventy Eight Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire and Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 15. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Fire Chief Jonathan France said the money would be used for apparatus for the firefighters.

Moderator read Article 15. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 18 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Employees Expendable Health Trust Fund? This fund is used to partially reimburse participating town employees for deductible health expenses. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 18. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Article 19 Passed

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be

placed into the fund? This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 19. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Select Board member Sam Bower said that this article comes up regularly at Town Meeting. The fund is a kind of “safety net” for the Town, to deal with unexpected expenses (e.g., legal costs).

Moderator read Article 19. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 20 Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,800 (Thirty Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire Fighter Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator Read Article 20. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded.

Chief France explained that this fund was created several years ago to deal with the increased costs of equipment.

Moderator Read Article 20. Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Article 21

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$69,000 (Sixty Nine Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Library Building Renovation and Repair Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, 3-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee, 7-0.)

Moderator read Article 21. Motion made to Move the Article. Seconded.

Library Trustee Michael Simon said that the Board is still dealing with problems related to the updating the HVAC system in the Pillsbury Free Public Library building. It was originally recommended that the Board propose articles that would fund the project over three years; this would have been the third year, but the costs have risen significantly since the original estimate.

The Board is asking for a relatively modest appropriation this year.

During a brief discussion, Librarian Nancy Ladd said that, as many people know, “costs are crazy” right now, so a fundraising event held two years ago didn’t produce a significant amount of income.

Ralph Parsons made an amendment to add \$24,000 to the \$69,000 for a total of \$93,000. Seconded. Discussion on Amendment.

Moderator asked for vote on the amendment. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 21 As Amended Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$93,000 (Ninety Three Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Library Building Renovation and Repair Capital Reserve Fund?

Moderator read Article 21 as amended. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.

Article 23

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Hearing no further business, **Moderator** asked for a Motion to Adjourn the 2022 Annual Town Meeting of Warner at 10:18 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Transcribed by Ray Carbone.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele L Courser
Warner Town Clerk