

Bristol Town Meeting
March 17, 2012

Moderator Edward "Ned" Gordon opened the 193rd meeting at 9:03 AM at the Newfound Area High School auditorium. Ned asked Rick Alpers chairman of the Board of Selectmen to introduce the Board, which consists of Joe Denning, Donald Milbrand, Jeff Shackett and Phil Dion. Rick wanted to recognize Burt Williams, for everything he has done over the years the town wouldn't be what it is if it wasn't for Burt. The Selectmen were pleased and proud to dedicate the Town Report and the new pump station to Burt Williams. Burt thanked the Selectmen and stated that he loved this town and working in it for so many years. The Moderator asked Shaun Laguex, chairman of the Budget Committee to introduce the budget committee which consists of Paul Simard, Ron Preble, Tom Keegan, Mark Chevalier, Ashley Dolloff, Barbara Greenwood, Jon Thouin and Wendy Costigan, Dorcas Gordon and David Carr.

Moderator Gordon stated that only registered voters in the Town of Bristol could vote, he asked for a show of hands of non-residents, there were a few. He stated that we would follow parliamentary procedure and anyone that wanted to speak would need to come to the microphones.

If anyone wanted to make an amendment that could be done, but it needed to be in writing and needed to be seconded. Moderator Gordon read the results of Tuesday's election.

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$888,000) to build an addition to the Minot-Sleeper Library and renovate the existing library building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than the amount of eight hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$888,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the municipal finance act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bond or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first bond payment will be included in 2013 budget.

2/3 Ballot Vote The Budget Committee recommends this article 10-2
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Motion made by Rick Alpers, seconded by Jeff Shackett. Nathan Haselbauer spoke on the motion. This has been basically a 100 year project. This year what is being presented is improvements, but on a smaller basis and using local talent. Interest rates are low right now; also the library has raised a lot of money for this project by fund raising. Area towns have donated quite a bit of money. Over 149 local donations have come in. Raising this money would be about the cost of a new hard cover book, approximately \$21.00 a year.

Amin Kalaf stated that he feels that the library should be voted down this year, although he is a supporter of the library and respects the people that have worked on it.

Eric Rottenecker mentioned that people hadn't been able to pay taxes, that there was over 500,000 outstanding, and the town is spending too much money on a lobbyist in Washington, and that is money is going out for the Mica Building and the bike path and that this shouldn't go through.

Raymah Simpson stated that for spring taxes 97 % was collected and fall taxes 96 % was collected.

Susan Colby feels that the library is a good thing and will be a meeting place and bring more people in to the Town that it is a fantastic building, she is behind it and hopes people support it.

Walter Waring is in support of the library, feels it is a good learning experience.

Jody DeWolf feels that this is a good time to build as the interest rates are low; she is in support of this.

Susie Putnam feels that a lot of the old Historical Buildings in Bristol are gone, there is a question about the Old Town Hall, we have opportunity now to keep the library with the same look, and structure, and there will be a meeting room that many people can use. The library keeps up with the technical changes, the library has changed with these, and she hopes everyone supports this, as interest rates are low right now. That this has been a 100 year project.

Chris Dolloff recognized Brackley Shaw and Jim Nyberg for working so hard on this project and getting it where it needs to go, he had been against this in the past but is for it now, he had been in the Library a few weeks ago and was shocked at how busy it was. Feels it will be the corner stone of the downtown

David Powden was against this project, but now feels that this is the time and that the building is being done right this time, and feels that it will happen now.

Fred Eichman made motion to end discussion and move the vote, 2nd by Paul Fraser. Yeas have it for closing debate.

At this time voting was held in the hall way, voting started at 9:40 and will close at 10:40. At 10:40 AM Moderator Gordon closed the polls, and asked the Supervisors to count the ballots.

The moderator announced the results of the vote, there were 282 votes cast, need 188 for this to pass. Yes: 203 No: 79. Article 10 passed.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$815,000) to pay for Water and Sewer Improvements in Central Square, and to authorize the issuance of not more than the amount of eight hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$815,000) of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon: furthermore to authorize the acceptance of grant monies from all Rural Development, State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose, and/or any other grants or aid, which might be available for this project. The first bond payment will be included in the 2013 budget. Without impairing the nature of the bonds as general obligations of the Town, it is expected and intended that Ten percent (10%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid through general taxation and ninety percent (90%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid from user fees.

2/3 Ballot Vote required to pass. The Budget Committee recommends this article 11-1
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Joe Denning made a motion, seconded by Rick Alpers.

This is a project that the time has come, Joe thought it was part of the lake project, but indeed it is not. It has a major effect on FNOK, they put a lot of money in the community and they are growing, without this if the pipes fail, they only have a 2 day operating window, if our water supply shuts down then they do also. We did have a break in the line a few weeks ago. Project is for 1700' of water mains 675' of water service lines 800 'sewer mains, 500' of laterals and 9 complete manholes. At this point Joe deferred to Burt Williams, two years ago, we raised about \$100,000 to upgrade Bristol Square, the State of New Hampshire will put in \$497,000 DOT will be put in \$140,000. There will be a good face lift on this square, some pipes go back to 1894, and the newest water pipes are from 1950. The sewer pipes are from late 60's or early 70's. We are getting a lot of leaks in these lines; they have lasted because the water is so good in Bristol. This is a job that must and should be done; it needs to be done this year as the square is being torn up.

Burt turned it over to Jeff Chartier, Superintendent of Water and Sewer, Selectmen and Budget Committee have both recommended this. Along Pleasant St. 10" water main increase to 12" Summer St 8" line to 12" line Central Sq. along Rollins Block to Pat's Seafood 4" increase to 8" wrap round to Blue Skies, currently the lines are two small, sprinkler systems were installed, but not useable as the lines are two small. Also the lines will be going up North Main St and increasing those lines from 6" line to 8" line that is all the improvements for the water. 4" lines will be going into the buildings. Most sewer lines are 8" there is a 10" trunk line that will be increased to 24". In past year that have been three main breaks in the square, one break

flooded a building. Two other breaks this past year. This is the time to address these issues as the square will be ripped up, and can save money now.

Jody DeWolf: How long would this take, and will it tie up the square in July and August. Depending on the vote, it will be a bidding project; Jeff feels that it would take place as soon as possible. Rick Alpers stated the project will be done in sections, so that traffic will be able to flow through the summer.

Joe Denning stated when writing grants, you move like glue, they were hoping to start in the spring, but it may start in the fall.

Walter Waring: Admires the people at the tables, the Selectmen and Budget Committee and Burt Williams as well as Moderator Gordon. He feels though that this is the time to say NO and stop, because taxes are too high as it is.

Eric Rottenecker: Wants to offer an amendment to Article 11, Janet Cote seconded to read to be paid for by general taxation. He feels the Town Officials have segregated the town again, feels the infrastructure needs to be done. He understands that the money doesn't come in until 2014. He wants this amendment to happen so it doesn't just fall on the users. Jeff said that the maximum is \$44.00 a year it would go up for the users.

Jeff explained that if it went to taxpayers it would be between 11-13 cents per thousand.

Janet Cote wanted it explained that it was just the last sentence that would be coming out of the original article. Eric stated that, that was what he wanted. Janet continued to speak in favor of the amendment feels that it is good for the town, that this should be through taxation, we don't go for school users, or library users. So this should not just go on users.

Sue Waring agrees that the cost should be spread over the town, where the center is and feels the last sentence should be discarded.

Archie Auger looking a history of water and sewer, it has been the practice of the community the users paid the bulk of the rate, people in the out skirts have to pay for their own wells and septic system. Agrees we have some responsibility to all citizens, so he feels that the 10% is fair for taxation, and ask people to defeat amendment and vote in favor of project

Boake Morrison feels Water and Sewer has been a problem for a long time, he is for this system to be done, he feels everyone should pay for this. Wants everyone to vote for the amendment. Wants to know what the money in the capital reserve fund is for and needs to be used.

Jeff Chartier explained that the water capital reserve fund is for booster station that was 1.5 million project and that money is to make payments over the next 20 years. Money needs to be set aside for unforeseen issues.

Paul Simard in favor of amendment, going with this project and the square project, not just water and sewer it is for the whole project. Hopefully it will bring in more business and more revenue for the town

John Sellers his taxes went up in just two years; he feels that businesses should have the most burden of this cost. He feels it needs to be reasonable and that \$40.00 to businesses are not that bad. That no one pays for his system.

Burt Williams wants to see the project go through, however it is paid for, and this is approved through the board of selectmen and budget committee.

Jason North how much under the road and how much electrical. Rick Alpers stated that the \$888,000 is strictly for pipes in ground and laterals. State is going to be working on the other improvements in the square.

Don Milbrand feels everyone agrees that this is a good project and that it should go through, he feels that 100% should not be on the tax base or on the users; we need to get a number that would be fair to all taxpayers and users.

Jon Thouin as a committee member he was the dissenting member, he doesn't think the 10% is the right number; people on public water & sewer do get a 10% reduction in insurance.

Susan Duncan, people in Town will pay in water & sewer and in taxation. She would also like after the voting that this cannot be brought up again today.

Chris Dolloff this project needs to be done; since the square is being torn up we need to do this. Outskirts pay for their own.

Voting on amendment. Close debate moved by Shaun Laguex, 2nd Burt Williams

In favor of closing debate yeas, voting on amendment, to be paid from general taxation.
Hand Vote: amendment defeated.

Back to original article.

Eric Rottenecker wants to know if funds are available, Jeff has applied for the State Revolving Loan Fund. No grant monies available as of yet. Rick Alpers by mid-summer we may know, CDBG we will apply in July, interest rates available from local banks at 2.5%. Any monies we get would go on the project costs.

Tom Caldwell proposed amendment to split the cost equally between taxpayers and users. Janet Cote 2nd. He feels that it benefits everyone in the community, to a certain extent.

Speaking on the amendment:

Dick Gavalis wanted to know how much it would cost him, on a 50/50 split it would be 22.00 on the water/sewer and between 5-6 cents on taxes.

Janet Cote is outside of the water/sewer she is in favor of splitting this, it is not just business on this it is all of people that are on water/sewer.

Don Milbrand wants to thank Tom for the amendment he is in favor of the amendment as he had suggested this. He feels that the 50/50 is equitable

Close debate

Voting on amendment replacing language to pay 50% users and 50% taxation
Voice Vote hard to tell, asked by show of hands the yes's have it amendment passed.

Closed debate on Article 11 by Susan Duncan, 2nd by Jeff Goodrum.

We will be voting on the amendment to Article 11 so that the last sentence is changed in the article to read:...it is expected and intended that fifty percent (50%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid through general taxation and fifty percent (50%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid from user fees.

The Moderator stated that this ballot vote would be the same as the former ballot vote.
The polls opened at: 11:15. Voting as amended will remain open until 12:15 pm

Moderator noted that it is past the time for the polls to close on Article 11.
Polls are closed and the supervisors will count votes.
The results of Article 11 are 231 votes cast, needed 153 vote NO 47 Yes 183 and 1 blank vote
Article 11 passed

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million, three hundred three thousand five hundred and forty-one dollars (\$5,303,541) for general municipal operations.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 9-3
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Motion made by Shaun Laguex, 2nd by Chris Dolloff

Shaun Laguex, Chairman of the Budget Committee spoke on this article. Department Heads came in earlier in the year so that they could explain their requested budget figures. He explained how the Town portion of the tax bill went up due to the property values. That there is no increase to Town employees. The police budget is down; there is an increase in the outside detail, because of several projects going on. This is off set by the revenue side. General Govt. portion is slightly down. Fire department is level funded. The Selectmen wanted to level

fund and so did the Budget Committee, if revenues come in it would go down. Highway Dept. up slightly because of fuel and new roof for highway shed, paving down slightly, small machines. Welfare is up slightly, which are mandated from the State and the economy is down. Projects are down, but need to renew the master plan, town buildings need to be repaired. Town budget decrease from last year.

Paul Simard wanted to know if we adopt this budget, as the final budget can it be amended and Ned explained no, it cannot be done unless it a special town meeting is scheduled. He would like to go over the other articles first and then come back to Article 12. Ned explained that this article could be tabled and then come back off the table, moved by Eric Rottenecker 2nd by Carol Huber. Voice vote to close to call, hand count in favor voted in the affirmative. Article 12 is tabled.

Went on to Article 13 (see further down the page)

Article 12 has been brought back to the floor

Eric Rottenecker made an amendment to take 10% off the budget, Paul Simard seconded this motion. Ned explained that he needed a number for the budget. Eric's amendment is to see if the town will raise and appropriate four million, seven hundred seventy-three thousand one hundred eight-seven (\$4,773,187) an amount that equals a 10% decrease from the budget committee recommendations for general municipal operations.

Eric's reason for decrease is because we voted for a tax cut; we need to get this budget down to a reasonable amount. He knows the budget committee and the Board of Selectmen can bring it down to this.

Dorothy Kocozawka since she has lived here her taxes have gone up over \$7,000. She is paying over \$10,000.0, to live in her own house, she feels that something needs to be done to help the senior citizens; she will be paying \$250.00 per week to live in her own house.

Paul Simard speaks for all of the elderly and low income people that can't pay their taxes and feels that there is a lot of fluff in the budget. Hopes everyone votes in favor of this amendment.

Archie Auger wanted everyone to look at page 35 of the town report, and note that there is less money in the budget this year than last year and commends the budget committee and board of selectmen for keeping the budget down.

Boake Morrison feels that employees should not get raises and that they should pay for their own insurance, we don't know what is going to happen in November.

Rick Alpers we have insurance rates for 18 months, from July 1, 2012 out.

John Sellers his taxes have gone up 25% in two years, he feels the ambulance was needed and it brings money into the town, he feels bad for the elderly, but we need to look, be better stewards.

Chris Dolloff works in Concord, 25% of their revenue is tax exempt, and he sees how people live all of the time. This is a level funded budget or a decrease. He called DRA asked for an update for the State we are 44% in State with a lower tax rate.

Walter Waring he will never sit by, when people who work for the Town of Bristol, are being criticized, the problems are with government, not the employees.

Eric Rottenecker wanted to know how much would be added to the tax rate next year with the addition of the library and the ambulance. Rick Alpers explained that the library would not go on the tax rate until 2013; the ambulance would go on 2012. He wasn't sure what it would do to the tax rate and he didn't want to guess.

Amin Kalaf he believes that there is a lot of pork in the budget and need to get the budget in control as well as the taxes, he hopes people vote in favor of the amendment.

Fred Eichman wants everyone to know that the Town Administrator was out shoveling the sidewalks and walk ways and wants everyone to know that you wouldn't see many Administrators out doing that. What is the projected growth of the town, with these new projects on the table.

Rick Alpers is not sure that he can answer that question, but thinks he can answer Mr. Rottenecker's earlier question the two big projects won't be in the budget until 2013. The ambulance will be in this year, tax rate for 2012 Town rate will still go down by 12 or 13 cents. There is some building that will be coming into Town; building permits have gone up again, since 2007. Bristol is taking a slight corner on the road to recovery.

Carol Huber is 100% in favor of this reduction, house is less now, she retired and then had to go out and get a full time job. She doesn't know how she will be able to pay taxes in a few years.

Bruce Wheeler is concerned about the amendment; he feels that we have Selectmen and Budget Committee working long and hard to come up with money to run the Town. Also a CIP committee to try to work things out for years to come. He knows that the Highway has gotten behind in some of the projects that need to get done, he wonders about bridges. He feels we should listen to the people that have worked on it for months. In years ahead there will be more people on fixed income. Some people were under assessed in the past and that is why the assessments went down.

Archie Auger there has been a lot of discussion about tax rate, the municipal rate is a small part that you pay for taxes, the amount you pay in school taxes is way above the town, the school has dropped two million this year, and hopefully next year it will drop more. Bristol is going to

pay roughly 5 or 6 thousand dollars less, in terms of what our share is. Maybe some of that could be used for projects; it is not all gloomy news.

Eric Rottenecker look at page 56 of the Town Report. The CIP has recommended things for the future that we have staring us in the face; we are going to be hurting in the future. He doesn't feel that CIP is working for us. He feels the more businesses and residents that move into Town the more services are needed. More growth means more government.

Phil Dion whatever the body gives the Town that is what the town has to run on, it has to be found someplace. He suggests going to the Budget Committee during the year and not do it today. We have two new budget committee members and people should go to the meetings. Look at lines items to see what they consist of. There are tax groups in Town to go to. All services will get reduced, go to meetings to get involved.

John Bianchi made motion to close debate, Alan Blakely second.

Voice vote to close debate on the amendment Yeas have it. Close debate

Voting on amendment

Voice Vote to close to call

Hand vote, the amendment is defeated.

We are now back to the original article, motion to close debate ayes have it to close debate on the article. Vote yes that will be the operating budget for the town.

At this point Mike Bannan asked why we couldn't still speak on the Article; Moderator explained that he asked if people were ready to vote, Ned asked for a motion to reopen debate, Jeff Goodrum made the motion, seconded by Susan Duncan

Mike Bannan commended Ned for a good job, Mike would like to reduce all raises and reduce the budget \$126,906.00 seconded by Jeanne Solokoski. His understanding is that the budget committee wanted no raises this year, it is being referred to as re- classification in labor grades, he feels a raise is a raise, and he is critical of the budget committee and the selectboard. He feels that everyone is having a problem. He has found 200,000 in the budget that he feels could be cut, in the police department and he sees this in a lot of places. It is time to not give the employees a raise, we give them benefits. Wants to cut everything on the budget.

Ned wants everyone to know we are discussing the amendment and that it would reduce the budget by \$126,906.00 any way the Board would want to cut.

Wayne Anderson commends the Budget of the Committee and the Board of Selectmen want to vote in favor of the amendment and that no one is putting the employees down and that the municipal employees need to pay some of their own.

Ashley Dolloff stated that there are no raises in the budget, the rates in the budget are based on last year, there was some re-classification on labor grade, the Fire Chief could have a raised, but declined it.

Jeff Goodrum in favor the amendment, he feels if the school found money then the town could find money as well. What do the employees pay for benefits, Rick answered 7%. His taxes went up and he has to pay 50/50 on his insurance.

Eric Rottenecker feels that everyone is in love with the taxes in town, he is in favor of the amendment and he was told that 3 years ago 15% was given to all the employees and that another raise would not be forthcoming for a long time, he wants to know why they getting a raise now. It feels to him that the town is working for the employees and not the other way around

Rick Alpers doesn't know where the 126,000 is coming from; the employees have only received a 1% increase in the past 3 years. There are two re-classifications in the Town Office, the land use office and the health officer, we added those to, two of the employees, so they got re-classified, if we gave all town employees a 3% raise it would not come to 126,000 dollars so he doesn't know where Mike got that figure, it would be 38,000.

Joe Denning as far as 3 years ago, things were bad, but not quite as bad here as in some places, and we implanted the 15%, but never issued it. It was 1% over the past few years.

Walter Waring stated that he would never stand by and let the employees get attacked. The people in this town voted 3 years to get the employees up to par with the surrounding towns; we have good employees and will do the job.

Mike Bannan first he agrees with Mr. Waring, that we do have good employees, Rick doesn't know where this came from, Mike feels that all you have to do is look in the budget, some people got up to 30% raise. He wants everyone to know that the economy is in trouble, he looked back two years ago that we increased the tax rate 27%.

Jeannie Sokoloski are the employees of Bristol getting the same pay as last year?

Steve Yanuzzi no one is getting a pay raise, he is making less than when he started.

Jeannie wants to know if they are making the same this year as last, Rick answered that yes they are making the same.

Patty Albert want clarification of this she works and wants to know if they are paying their insurance, employees are paying 7% and employees are paying more for deductible and co-pays, she wants to know if the town employees are going to take more cuts like other people. She has to pay 50% and wants to make sure that the town employees are treated the same. Rick explained again that the deductible and co-pay is more.

This amendment will cut the budget 126,906 dollars not necessarily out of the employees.

Kathleen Girona has gone to budget committee meetings, and the discussion does not take place in the committee meetings and feels that the town meeting is the place to discuss all of the concerns.

Rick feels that Kathleen is right, and that the 7% is going to change and it will increase in the next year, it will be a discussion in one of the meetings of the board in the first of April.

Donna Hardy has a question about the pay in the police department, Michael Capone explained that if raises are given, they don't go into effect until April; it has to wait until after town meeting. This year it will show the 1% is being carried for 9 months in 2011 and 12 months in the 2012 year. In the Police department there were employees changes and had to change the money around to different places to cover the wages. There was a onetime adjustment to the administrator line, as some was in the water and sewer line for the Administrator, now it is all under the administrator line so it can be clearer and transparent to the voter.

Voting on the amendment to lower the budget. Motion by Walter Waring, second by Alan Blakely

Voice Vote to close to call, hand vote, still too close to call. Ned asked the Supervisor to please Count hands Yeas 80 Nays 85 Amendment is defeated.
A ballot vote was requested with more than 7 people requesting it.

This will reduce the budget by 126,906.00.

Ballot vote YES 85 yes NO 88 1 blank ballot, also someone filled out a ballot and left it on the table it was a no, but it was not included in the count

Mike Bannan made an amendment to eliminate the police cruiser and reduce the budget 34,200.

Paul Simard 2nd the motion, Mike stated that we are spending money that we don't need, with the purchase of this cruiser it will be 6 cars, when he was a Police Commissioner they implemented a program one cruiser every 18 months, in the CIP plan there is a new cruiser for the next two years. He feels this is not a need, and it is not necessary.

David Hill, currently we have two cruisers running in 130,000 mileage range, he has more mileage on his car, but his car is not used like a police car. If these do not get replaced than we will be doing numerous repairs on these.

Motion to close debate by Rick Alpers, seconded by Walter Waring. Motion passed.

Voting on the amendment only, it is bottom line budget money comes from where the selectmen choose to have it come from.

Voice Vote to close to call. Hand Count Amendment is defeated.

Mike Bannan feels that the board of selectmen hasn't be diligent in running the Town, he feels the budget could be cut and still have services in this town, the way the highway department is operated, is wrong, we took money from highway then we have the highway department working on things for the town that they should not be doing. They have done the ditching at the town beach, supposedly we got a grant for that, but it is costing us over \$42,000. He feels that the roads are bad, because we have the highway department doing other things. Feels the budget committee is at fault as well, and wants the committee to do a better job.

Jeff Goodrum made an amendment second by Janet Cote wants to reduce the operating budget to \$5,150,000, approximately 2%, that is a reduction of 153,541.00 from the proposed amount. He feels that the school found 10% we could find 2%. Everyone has taken a pay cut, feels that we are not level funded, and we have regressed for the past 3 years.

David Hill wants to know why we would want this when we didn't want the \$126,000.00 reduction.

Joe Denning wonders why we are doing this for no rhyme or reason, when the Board and the Budget Committee have worked so hard on this for so many months, that's what we should be supporting.

Janet Cote wants to address the issues of economics of this area, her taxes went up, she is unemployed and she did attend meetings and feels that there is a rubber stamping going on and wants to charge everyone to be better at looking at a zero budget introduction and look at the figures going forward. Instead of level funding, and the level funding is not a true picture.

Tom Caldwell felt that Mike Bannan's comment that there was \$200,000.00 in the budget that should not have been there, then at least vote for this amendment to get some of that out of there.

Motion to close debate made by David Hill, seconded by Mark Chevalier.

Voice Vote on amendment to close to call. Seven people stood up, so we have a ballot vote.

The polls don't need to be open for an hour.

Total votes: Yes 81 No 78 amendment passed.

Motion made by Shaun Laguex, seconded by Archie Auger to discuss Article 12 with the new amount of \$5,150,000.00. Debate is closed.

Voice Vote Yeas have it, the motion passed.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$155,000.00) for the purchase of an ambulance and to further authorize the withdrawal of sixty four thousand dollars (\$64,000.00) from the Fire Department Equipment

Capital Reserve Fund and sixteen thousand (\$16,000.00) from the Ambulance Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. The balance of seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) to be raised through general taxation.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-4

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Motion made by Rick Alpers 2nd by Murray Campbell

Intent of Article oldest ambulance to be replaced it has more than 160,000 miles on it, it is a 2000 ambulance. There is some money in a capital reserve fund, the cost is \$155,000. The balance would come from taxation.

David Hill made an amendment to remove the wording "sixty four thousand dollars (\$64,000.) From the fire department equipment capital reserve fund" and change \$75,000.00 to \$139,000.00. Barbara Greenwood seconded the amendment. David explained that he feels that the \$64,000.00 is for the Fire Department not the Ambulance. Leave the money for the Fire Truck that will be coming up at some time.

Another comment was that we should use the money, instead of holding on to it and not getting any interest.

Steve Yanuzzi, Fire Chief would like to take the money out of both capital reserve funds, to just let it set it is not a good idea. The tanker won't be bought until 2017, so we have time to plan for that.

Voice vote on the amendment, amendment defeated.

Janet Cote made an amendment seconded by Mike Bannan to see if the Town will authorize the withdrawal of up to \$60,000. From the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and up to \$10,000.00 from the Ambulance Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for a total of up to \$70,000. To purchase a van-type ambulance.

Ned stated that this would replace the entire article.

Janet feels that since we service three other towns, think more economically we are serving three other towns; she was told that Alexandria will be purchasing their own ambulance. Calls for service have lessened, we don't need the biggest and best so the three towns contracted, only contribute to the operational cost. Feels that we can do what we need to do with a van type ambulance, instead of the box type.

Ned asked if she had priced out van type ambulances, Janet answered yes and then proceeded to explain what she had found. Ford 2012 van with ambulance package could be purchased for 63,835.00.

Chris Dolloff asked the Fire Chief of Alexandria if Alexandria is purchasing an ambulance, Chief Chevalier answered; no Alexandria is not purchasing an ambulance. We can't operate effectively for patient care in the back of the van, it is not about tax dollars it is about patient care, we have had a van ambulance in the past; it is too small for patient care. Access to patient is not the same as the box type ambulance; Chris is only talking about patient care. There are no fire based ambulances in the state as far as he knows. The only places that use van type ambulances are where they have transport from one place to another. Vans are for transfer only. When talking about budget, you lose the fact of patient care.

Eric Rottenecker feels that we need to get a van type ambulance, as he was talking with someone from a Massachusetts hospital and everything that came in was a van type ambulance. That would keep the price down, also he wants to know if we can keep this ambulance one more year and he doesn't believe we are spending very much money on this ambulance and if it needs repair than that money could come out of capital reserve. There are 174,000 miles on this ambulance. Contracting for other towns takes a percentage, can't we charge that percentage to new purchased vehicles.

Chief Yanuzzi from the Fire Department stated that in the past two years the year 2000 Ambulance One(A-1) the one we are talking about we have spent approximately 1400.00. Ambulance Two(A-2) the repairs will increase it has just over 100,000 miles on it and around \$5500.00 in repairs costs, which will go up as this will be the primary ambulance. If we push A-1 another year, the repairs will remain low because it is a 2nd, but the cost on the A-2 will go up because it is a primary ambulance. The Capital Reserve plan is to replace an ambulance every 10 years, we have pushed this ambulance out an extra two years, and if this doesn't happen we will have to replace two ambulances in the same year. The past two years we have applied for grants, have not been successful, we have been successful in other areas.

Boake Morrison wants this to be the last ambulance that we buy in Bristol, Danbury paid 39,000.00, he doesn't know what Hill pays, wants to know why the other towns don't pay their fair share, he feels that Bristol needs to stop taking care of the other towns.

Bruce Wheeler was head of an ambulance service many years ago, they never used vans, because they are not good for service, they are only good for transport. Some procedures can't be done in a van. Vans don't last long, vans are not built for all of the kinds of demands. They can work in cities but not in rural. He feels that the officials have applied it correctly for the other towns, if not than we need to do that, but he feels that has been done correctly. He is in favor of the motion, but not of the amendment.

Jody DeWolfe do we rent the ambulance, if so we benefit by being a landlord, we can deduct numerous things and make money.

Amin Kalaf Bridgewater is our next door neighbor and their taxes are half of what ours are. He feels that there isn't much difference between Bridgewater and Bristol, other than population. Wants to know from the Chief how he explains the cost of his budget. Ned stated that this

question has nothing to do with the amendment. Question should be raised at the operating budget discussion.

Motion to close debate Mark Chevalier, seconded by Denise Destafano.

Motion closed, voice vote.

Voting on amendment voice vote, amendment defeated.

Janet Cote made an amendment seconded by Eric Rottenecker to amend Article 13: to see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$98,000.00 to purchase a modular style ambulance and to further authorize the withdrawal of \$64,000.00 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and \$16,000.00 from the Ambulance Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. The remaining balance \$18,000.00 to be raised through general taxation.

Ned stated that this would change the whole article to this amendment. Janet felt that this would be economical and she has a quote for a cut away model as an ambulance, it has many features.

David Marshall he has heard a lot of numbers, is this a replacement for A-1 or A-2, what are we trying to buy?

Chief Yanuzzi stated that the committee that has been working on this for the past six months is to replace A-1 with a style similar to A-1. It has to be similar because of space and a diesel engine is best in the way an ambulance needs to be used. The chair of the committee will now speak on the ambulance.

Ben Laroche, Captain of fire department, was requested to look for a replacement for the ambulance, he does not know where the prices are coming from, he works for another service and they had one of these module's and it did not work very well, needed to be replaced sooner than some ambulances. Mini mods cannot do some of the things that are needed and required by the State. This \$98,000 ambulance would not work for Bristol and people would not get the service that they are used to getting. The money that is needed is a really good amount compared to some that are out there. Asking people to defeat the amendment.

Ben stated that the \$155,000 for new ambulance is a Chevy G series 4500 van cut away, similar to what Janet Cote is talking about mid standard, is 170" box chassis 14,000 lb. rating right now it is about what we would be maxing out, there is no extra equipment, except refrigerator to house medication, most of the equipment will be coming off from the old ambulance. It is just a bigger style box that is needed.

Paul Simard thinks that we got the box from another community, does this 155,000.00 include the box, and if so why can't we use the same box and just put it on the chassis. Buy cab and chassis.

Rick Alpers stated that we bought a box for a dollar from Loudon; it was put on a rescue truck just to take equipment to the scene.

Eric Rottenecker does not understand why anyone in the room wants to pay more taxes and wants to know why we can't refurbish what we have. He would rather spent money on what we have than to buy new. He does not understand why we need these now.

David Powden wants to know why people are against this ambulance have you ever been in the ambulance or used the ambulance or talked to the people that work in it. It is needed.

Leslie Dion a couple of things, one is that we are already two years overdue on this ambulance so it has been put off, another concern is that there has been a committee formed for 6 months to study the needs of an ambulance, and now we have people not in the field trying to make decisions on what the needs are, after we have a committee that knows the needs, we need to go with the experts and go with what they want.

Dick Gavalis how much is this 75,000 going to cost the taxpayer, answer 16 cents per thousand. Arguing over 16 cents.

Janet Cote wants everyone to know that this does not reflect on any of the staff or members, we have a very good fire department and ambulance service it is just to save tax dollars.

Motion to close debate made by Walter Waring, seconded by Boake Morrison
Ayes have it to close debate on the amendment.

Voice Vote Nays the amendment is defeated.

David Marshall wants to make an amendment include: to sell A-1 ambulance, year 2000 model to sell on the open market. Rick Alpers seconded. Ned stated that this would add to the article, not really change it. Rick also wanted to speak on this amendment.

Rick wanted to know if Mr. Marshall would be fine with the trade-in. Mr. Marshall stated that would be fine as long as we received something for the ambulance. Jane Cote made a point of order that the amendment would have to be changed. The amendment would have to be voted down, or it could be withdrawn, Mr. Marshall will withdraw the amendment, seconded by Rick Alpers.

Chris Dolloff wanted to clarify that the \$155,000 has been negotiated with the companies, he can assure everyone that the committee has worked very hard on this and that they have gotten every penny that they can out of the old ambulance. If it was sold on the open market, we would not get as much for it, as we would for a trade in.

Vote on the article Motion to close debate moved by Burt Williams, seconded by Tom Caldwell

Voice vote on closing debate, yeas have it motion passed.

Voice vote on article 13 as written in warrant.

Voice vote too close to call, show of hands yeas have it, article 13 passed

Article 14: Pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease the upper level of the old fire station located at 15 High Street to the Bristol Historical Society for a period of five years at one dollar per year.

Don Milbrand made a motion, seconded by Mason Westfall

The Historical Society uses the upper floor of the old fire department, the Board of Selectmen are only authorized to give a one year lease, anything longer has to come before the Town Meeting, he hopes you vote in favor. Charlene Fraser motioned to end discussion, seconded by Sue Waring.

Voice Vote the yeas have it, motion passed.

Tom Caldwell made a motion to remove Article 12 from the table, seconded by Shaun Laguex, this means that this non-debatable, so we will move on to Article 12.

Mark Chevalier wants to table Articles 15-18. The Moderator explained that they have to come before the body, before they can be tabled. There were some questions about this and Ned felt that the proper way to handle this is to bring the motion forward and then if someone wants to table it they can. Ned feels that this is the fair way.

Article 15: By Petition:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior year’s actual amount of local taxes raised by more than one dollar?”

Pass over, no motion on the floor

Article 16: By Petition:

To see if the Town will vote to limit the size of the Police Department to two (2) full time officers per one thousand (1,000) full time residents.

Motion made by Janet Cote, seconded by Jeanne Sokoloski. Ernie Richards spoke on this article he feels the police budget has more than doubled in the past 11 years. This happened with experiencing a decline in the population in Bristol. The petitioners have no problem with the Bristol Dept. the reason for this is for financial, across the country everyone is faced with revenue shortfalls. Local and State governments have been reducing services, and employees.

Bristol needs to do this also; we need to become more pro-active so people are not taxed more than they can pay. They know that in the summer there is a larger population. This article would reduce expenses in the department and would not have to get as many cruisers. He feels that we have too many police and it would help our tax rate.

Robert Dumond has 42 years of criminal experience, and knows that the Police Department is a very good department. State wide is 1.9 police officers for every 1,000 citizens; he explained different towns how it is figured out. He feels that we have too many officers for the population.

Eric Rottenecker back on July 14, 2011- September 4, 2011 showed how many vehicles are parked in the parking lot, that were parked quite a bit of the time. He feels that we cannot be that busy if they are parked that much of the time.

Barry Wingate stated that he worked for the department 35 years and chief as 29 years, he retired 5 years ago. When he left the department there were 9 officers and 5 cruisers, and that is the same now. You can't just go by population, most departments look at the officers per thousand, not on population, but on any given day the population served in Bristol is approximately 6,000 per day and summer is more like 9,000 or 10,000 that is what figures show. If Boston went by population only, they would have 1/3 of the officers that they have now. If this article passes and the Police Department went to 6 officers, it would have a drastic effect on the services in town. When he was chief in the 80's he had 10 part time officers working, he kept them busy, you can't do that anymore because of the standards. If this article passes you will see a drastic change in the Town. He hopes you vote down this article down.

Shaun Laguex is it binding; if it passed does it reduce the budget that we just passed.

Rick Alpers stated that no it is not binding per the attorney, it would be advisory only. It says only 2 full time officers per 1,000; Shaun doesn't feel that this will get what the petitioners want.

Chris Dolloff feels that Barry Wingate did an excellent job for all those years and that the standard needs to be kept the same. He works in Concord and you can't compare it as it is not apples to apples. We had 474 in custody arrest. There a lot of people in this town, in the school system there is more than 1,000 people in that. When he is out of town he wants to know that his family is protected.

Police Chief Michael Lewis first and foremost he commends the budget committee with the opportunity to talk with the department heads and give them the chance to cut their budget. He cut part time wages reduction of over 65%, 3 part time officers, \$40,000 was asked for fulltime overtime wages, national standard is 10% for overtime, which would be \$90,000. Call the closets towns to Bristol you would find that between \$77,000.00 and \$103,000 is for overtime he reduced his by \$4800. Michael understands that people are taxed and he will do the best that he can, but when times are tough numbers go through the roof, they are not an

agency that makes fictitious numbers just to look good for the budget. These numbers are arrests, they respond to.

He has asked the Town to set up a revolving fund, by not setting one up we need to order a cruiser, if it was a revolving fund then the funds would be there when a cruiser is needed.

Ernie Richards he wants to make it clear that he looks at Bristol as a rural community, he didn't realize that we were more like Manchester or Weirs Beach, he moved here permanently two years ago. There have been more break ins around here, and there could have been more police presence. Look around the community is 3,000 people he feels that six officers is enough.

Carol Huber stated that we have nine officers and she understand that we need enough to cover 24/7 coverage. Every day she has seen two officers in a cruiser during day light hours and she want to know why. She has a friend in Franklin and they don't have two officers per cruiser in Franklin, why do we.

Rick Alpers answered that the newest officer, the ninth officer has not been to the academy so she has to ride with one of the officers, she will be certified soon. The man riding with the officers is an intern.

Eric Rottenecker, would like to close the discussion and would like a ballot vote.

Seven people stood, so there will be a ballot vote.

Close discussion on the article motion by Burt Williams, seconded by Jeff Goodrum.

Ballots cast: 148 Yes: 68 No: 80

Article was defeated.

At this point Fred Eichman made a motion to adjourn, that is a non-debatable motion, Nays won, keep the meeting going

At this point Ned wanted to thank everyone that had worked on Election Day as well as Town Meeting. He thanked Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, David Hill, Loretta Carey, Sue Martin, Jan LaFerriere, Patty Woolsey, and Anne Arnold for helping.

Article 17: By Petition:

To see if the Town will vote to separate the fire rescues from ambulance

The ambulance service is a contractual commitment by the fire department to user towns and, while revenue generating, the true cost of ownership is buried in the landlord functions of the fire department.

Motion made by Janet Cote, seconded by David Hill.

Janet wants to call attention on how to account for ambulance service, in 2005 there was a committee to study this, and it appears as though the committee was never formed, or it was disbanded. In effort to have transparency and clear accounting to run both fire and ems separately, somewhat like the water and sewer. Since we service three towns separation would be measured for departments to actively access and market it. She feels that the percentage is not what it should be for the other towns. Wants a clearer picture of the revenues and expenditures.

Fred Eichman made a motion to table this article, seconded by Bob Patten, if it is tabled there is no further discussion, if it doesn't come up at the end of the meeting, it is gone for the year.

Voice Vote to close to call

Hand vote to close to call, need to count them. Yes 85 NO 55 Article 17 is tabled.

Article 18: By Petition:

To see if the Town will vote to have town elections and town meetings changed to May. We feel that some people cannot vote due to the fact that they are away for the winter. We also think the spring is a better time for the elderly to get out. In May there is no need to worry about snow, slush, mud or even cold.

Robert Dumond made the motion, seconded by Jody DeWolfe.

Robert stated that we are a democracy; this is an attempt to give everyone an opportunity to come out to the meeting.

Mark Chevalier made a motion to table this article, seconded by Murray Campbell.

Voice Vote to close to call Hand Vote Ayes have it, article defeated

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Article 19:

To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Susan Duncan felt that it has been a little contentious with people that wanted to speak on petition articles and she has set at the front two tables and knows how frustrating it can be after you have worked so hard, she doesn't necessarily agree with the petition articles, but appreciates that we got to talk about most of them, and everyone is tired, but they should have their chance to speak if they want to. She wants to Thank the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee and the Moderator for letting everyone speak.

Mrs. Dumond supports all of the police and firemen, but wants to know if we have a town meeting if we pass an article why can the selectmen change it, she wants to know if there is a mission statement, every place she has ever been have a mission statement and by-laws.

Rick Alpers explained the articles are non-binding, state statues gives powers to the budget committee and selectmen that they vote on during the year. Rick explained that she needed to go the State to get the State Statues. There are two state reps' here that she could talk to.

Mason Westfall it is been a long while since we have had a person with the caliber and quality of Michael Capone and his dedication is more than what we should expect, he goes to all of the meetings and gives the selectmen the best advice that he can.

Motion made by Rick Alpers to close the meeting, seconded by Mark Chevalier, all those in favor Aye, Nay 1. Meeting was closed at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted

Raymah W. Simpson
Town Clerk