

**2020 TOWN MEETING  
July 11, 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)**

Moderator Lindsay Smith commenced the annual meeting at 8:06 a.m. with a moment of silence led by BSA Troup 44 members Tallis and Barnaby Diehn, followed by the National Anthem sung by Samantha Rizzo.

Moderator Smith made the introductions of the head table – Sam Eaton – Budget Committee Chair, Meredith Smith – Selectperson, John Kluge – Selectperson, Katherine D.P. Stewart – Selectboard Chair, Ryan Aylesworth – Town Manager, Jim Raymond – Town Attorney, Alisa Bonnette – Assistant Town Manager, Sandra Romano – Town Clerk, Wendy Huntley – Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector

Moderator Smith reviewed the protocols, policies and procedures for the meeting and COVID-19 related safe practices to be observed during the meeting.

Selectperson Katherine Stewart recognized all those individuals who have served the community by volunteering on Boards, Commissions and Committees, and who left service in 2019.

- Moderator: David Beaufait
- Old Home Days Committee Members: Brittney Cole and Lindsay Smith (our current Moderator)
- Budget Committee Member: Mark Eisener
- Fireward: Lloyd H. Hackeman, as well as Ken Wheeler, Tim Taylor and Wayne Claflin who served until March 2020
- Cemetery Trustees: Donald Crate and Gordon Clough
- Library Trustee: Jennifer Seiler-Clough
- Heritage Commission Alternate Member: Kristen Harrington
- Capital Improvement Program Committee Member: Dominic Albanese
- Energy Committee Members: Phil Vermeer, Charlie Depuy and Travis Boucher
- Recreation Commission Member: William J. Considine
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Member: Kurt Gotthardt
- Planning Board Members: Tim Taylor and Rita Seto
- Trustee of Trust Funds: April Guinness
- Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee Member: Charles Koburger

**Article 8:** (Lease without Escape Clause) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$190,000 payable over a term of five (5) years for the purpose of leasing four police cruisers. The Capital Improvement Program

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Capital Reserve Fund, which the Board of Selectmen is agent to expend, will be used for the annual principal and interest payments for the life of the lease.

Special Warrant Article 2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article: 2 in favor, 1 abstention.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention.

Meredith Smith: Move to accept Article 8 for discussion.

John Kluge: Second

Katherine Plumley Stewart: Move to table Article 8 because the oldest cruiser was replaced in 2020 and because the Town feels that the replacement of additional police cruisers can be revisited in 2021:

Meredith Smith: Second

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands to vote on whether to table Article 8.

Moderator Smith announced the majority of showing of hands was in favor of tabling Article 8. Article 8 tabled.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to replace a bridge on Oak Hill Road, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$150,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first interest payment will be due in 2020. The Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund, which the Board of Selectmen is agent to expend, will be used for the annual principal and interest payments for the life of the loan. Should both Articles 9 & 14 be approved, it is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to pursue integrated funding opportunities.

Special Warrant Article

2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

Katherine Stewart: Move to accept Article 9 for discussion.

Meredith Smith: Second

Ryan Aylesworth: Spoke briefly to CIP program and the article at hand covering the following points: The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee is requesting \$448,368 be raised and appropriate for the CIP Capital Reserve fund. This is a \$26,200 increase over last year's appropriation. When the current CIP program was instituted back in 2012 the goal was to increase that appropriation by \$26,200 each year. The strategy of the CIP Committee is to update and maintain fixed asset inventories, maintain an affordable long-term funding strategy for the development and implementation of a 6-year capital improvement plan, facilitate a smooth and affordable tax rate, and leverage funding sources that fit the town's needs. The Town began 2019 with a balance of approximately \$1.12 million dollars in the CIP Capital Reserve Fund and by the end of the year that balance stood at \$1.22 million, roughly a \$100,000 net increase. At present the intent is to withdraw \$163,000 in new items in 2020 to cover the costs associated with replacing one police department cruiser, security upgrades to the police station main entrance, purchase a DPW zero-turn lawn mower to replace an aging mower, replacing an aging above ground gas tank at the DPW, overhauling the DWP front end loader, upgrades to the Town server and IT server infrastructure, and replacement of outdated firefighting apparatus.

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This would result in a net increase of approximately \$33,000 to the CIP Capital Reserve Fund in 2020 once you take into account pre-existing debt service that the town is ultimately already responsible for. The goal is to continue growing the value of the reserve to begin minimizing the amount of borrowing the Town must pursue for more expensive projects and purchases.

As to the article itself; This is the bridge at the end of Oak Hill Road near the intersection with Grafton Pond Road spanning the Grafton Pond Outlet Brook. It is a large diameter corrugated metal culvert that was installed in 1994. The condition of the culvert is rated serious on the State of NH Municipal Bridges inspection program which places it among the "Red List" bridges, one of 241 municipal-owned bridges across the State in poor, serious or critical condition. The metal of the culvert is rusted or non-existent where it is in contact with the water. In order to avoid costly wetlands permitting, the proposal is to replace the culvert with a bridge like the one recently built on Boy's Camp Road and Lovejoy Brook Road (which also replaced failed culverts). The proposed bridge will be two lanes wide and long enough to span the brook while leaving an adequate stream bed and stable bank underneath.

This project will be financed by a 15-year bank loan, in combination with the project described in Article 14, with an anticipated interest rate of 3.25%.

Dr. Jerold Theis questioned the impact of trucks going across the bridge on Bog Road over the outlet of George Pond.

Ryan Aylesworth explained that the bridge in Article 9 is the bridge on Oak Hill Road and is over the outlet for Grafton Pond.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by red paper ballot at 8:23 a.m. and suspended Article 9 for one hour.

83 in favor. 9 opposed. Article 9 Passed.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,900,000 to make improvements to the municipal water system (including preparation of a funding application to USDA, hydrogeological work, design and construction of a new well to increase drinking water supply, and replacing approximately 5,500 linear feet of water distribution main) to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,800,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance of the Municipal Water Fund to reduce the amount borrowed. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to make associated future principal and interest payments from the Municipal Water Fund operating budget for the life of the loan. Should both Articles 10 & 11 be approved, it is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to pursue integrated funding opportunities while ensuring that all future principal and interest payments are made from the appropriate fund on a proportionate basis.

Special Warrant Article  
2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

Meredith Smith: Move to accept Article 10 for discussion.  
John Kluge: Second

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Ryan Aylesworth: Spoke briefly on the condition of the water system and asked Jon Warzocha (President of Horizons Engineering) to speak to the article. The following are the points that were covered by both gentlemen:

The Town of Enfield has the ability to source its water from three different well fields. The Prior well field is located in the northeastern portion of the service area and serves as the primary water supply source. Currently there are two wells located on the 8-acre parcel. Prior Well #1 has good quality water and provides the Town with nearly 60% of its drinking water; however, over the past several years its yield has been decreasing. Prior Well #2 has had quality issues with sand since it was installed and therefore is not used. The Marsh Well serves as the secondary source and provides a little over 30% of the water. This well is located on 25 acres of land in the northwestern part of the system. During the high usage and dry summer months of July through October; Prior Well #1 and Marsh Well work harder to keep up with demand. During this time the McConnell well is used. This well only supplies about 10% of the water and is not of the same quality as the other wells. It is hard and there are some other quality issues with an undeveloped well on this 31-acre parcel. Access to the well field is difficult due to the wetlands the well is located in.

The Town of Enfield has approximately 15,340 linear feet of pipe that was installed in 1903. The remaining distribution mains were installed throughout the 1960's and 1970's with ongoing replacement in the 1990's, 2000's and 2010's. These newer mains include about 23,160 linear feet of 4", 6", 8", 10" and 12" water main and are in good condition. The repair history on these mains will continue to be monitored. The older pipe (1903) has been some of the most problematic for the system to maintain due to continuing and recurrent breaks. Based on the condition of this pipe and the historical location of breakage, the table (provided in the online presentation of this article) represents a summary of the proposed replacement of this distribution main. The repair of these water mains has been separated into two phases with the pipes having the greatest issues being replaced sooner, in 2021 and the remaining being replaced 5 years later in 2026.

The distribution replacement is necessary to eliminate leakage, costly repairs and water outages for customers. By replacing the old high maintenance water main in two phases, the Town will obtain long term loan and grant packages in order that the Town can stabilize rate increases and reduce the need for costly repairs. The priority distribution lines that are being replaced are the lines from the well; if these old pipes failed it would be catastrophic for the system. The first phase of the project, which would be addressed if the warrant article is approved by the voters, proposes the replacement of approximately 5,500 feet of 10" water distribution main on Maple Street.

The Town is very fortunate in that its two primary wells are of good water quality and no treatment is necessary. The Town is currently able to supply adequate water from the Prior #1 well and the Marsh well. However, there are times during extended droughts, pump servicing and fire emergencies when the Town is forced to use the McConnell well which has poor water. Currently the town is able to manage the mixing of the well water but as the yields from the Prior Well continue to decline, they need to find an additional source that can meet the demand.

The Prior well site has potential for a second well. Although Prior #2 has sand issues; it could be surged and redeveloped. There is the possibility of "over-reaming" the well and installing a sand pack between the current well and a new 12" well. This is somewhat risky and not guaranteed to provide enough filtration to eliminate the sand issue. A new replacement well, Prior #3 could be sited at the Prior well field. In the 1990's the Town completed video logging and found that from depth 305 to 320 provided significant water flow and also sediment infiltration.

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The proposed work includes the development of an additional well at the Marsh site including test borings and the installation of the production well to replace the McConnell Well which has water quality issues. We only anticipate minor upgrades to the existing pump station and minimal transmission main.

The Town of Enfield has the potential to receive up to 45% grant funding from the USDA Rural Development Office in support of this project work. If this funding application is successful, it would subsequently reduce the amount the Town needs to borrow for the remainder of the project costs. The USDA Rural Development Application has been submitted for a funding package. In today's environment, the infrastructure loan rates are very low so even if the grant funding is low, it may be offset by the current low interest rates.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Dimitri Desserranno requested that Jon Warzocha give a breakdown of the \$1.9 million and when would the Town expect to hear about the final the funding package?

Jon Warzocha responded that roughly 50% was for watermain replacement and roughly 50% for well upgrades. He anticipates that Enfield would hear back from the USDA regarding the funding package during the fall of 2020.

Keith Thomas questioned the wording "intent" as he would like assurance that the paying back of this would be by the users of the water system.

Ryan Aylesworth responded that the wording used in this article is consistent with standard language used for many years on Town Meeting warrant articles pertaining to borrowing. He said that the Board of Selectmen would certainly honor this promise as there would be political consequences if a Board of Selectmen were to make a change for funding from nonusers.

Brian Degnan spoke in favor of investment for water and sewer infrastructure but believes this article is poorly structured. He encouraged all to vote against this article. Mr. Degnan spoke to his belief that any improvements to water infrastructure should be placed on the greater whole and paid with tax dollars, as opposed to being placed on primarily the current 479 water users of the water system.

Jean Patten stated as a Town water user, she "hates" the water rates but personally believes this really needs to be done and moved the question.

Moderator Smith noted that there was already someone in line for the microphone and will be heard.

Tim Jennings briefly spoke to his history as the public works director during the mid 90's. He understands the intent of the warrant article however with the conditions at present this is not something he feels that needs to be done right now. He feels that the current Town water rates are high relative to other communities across the state when combined as water/sewer. Urges the Town to wait and see what the conditions are due to the pandemic later this year and to decide on this project next year.

Ryan Aylesworth cautioned that the rate of inflation for construction of infrastructure costs is about 4% – 7% and that there will likely be significant financial implications associated to delaying this project even a year. Mr. Aylesworth believes that Enfield's water/sewer combined rates are closer to the median than the top 10% of users in the state, as suggested by Mr. Jennings.

Jon Warzocha spoke to his belief that the Enfield Water rates specifically are very close to the median water rates in the state based on available reports from the Department of Environmental Services, UNH and other reports. Investment in systems is very important over time. Mr. Warzocha understands the lack

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of knowing about what is going to happen in the future, but the funding environment right now for municipal systems is very favorable because interest rates are very low.

Dave McLaughlin questioned if this Article and Article 11 are contingent on getting grant funding?

Ryan Aylesworth responded no.

Dave McLaughlin made a motion to amend Article 10 to be contingent on approval by the federal Government for the Grant.

Article 10 as amended. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,900,000 to make improvements to the municipal water system (including preparation of a funding application to USDA, hydrogeological work, design and construction of a new well to increase drinking water supply, and replacing approximately 5,500 linear feet of water distribution main) to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,800,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance of the Municipal Water Fund to reduce the amount borrowed. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to make associated future principal and interest payments from the Municipal Water Fund operating budget for the life of the loan. Should both Articles 10 & 11 be approved, it is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to pursue integrated funding opportunities while ensuring that all future principal and interest payments are made from the appropriate fund on a proportionate basis. This Article is contingent on approval by the Federal Government for the Grant.

Dwight Marchetti seconded the amendment to Article 10.

Attorney Raymond spoke to changing a bond article and explained that DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) looks at bond articles that specified the approved wording of bond articles. There is also a Bond Counsel that scrutinizes the articles very closely on whether to allow the bonding to go forward. The wording on the Warrant Article as presented conforms to the statute and to DRA's recommended form. Once you vary from that, you create risk that DRA will disallow it or Bond Counsel won't allow it. This particular amendment does not provide any detail on what that critical funding or grant is. It is a very vague amendment and there is concern that if the article is approved as amended that either DRA or Bond Counsel or both will disallow it. The Town can do it but wants to caution moving forward with this amendment.

Moderator Smith opened the floor to discussion on the amendment to Article 10.

Tim Jennings requested that voting on this be postponed so the Selectboard can direct counsel to re-word the amendment to reflect the intent of the amendment?

Katherine Stewart clarified, because the wording is vague, doesn't mean that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) can override Town Meeting. Part of town meeting process is that we have to have discussion on the amendment and then either vote up or down.

Dr Theis would like to clarification on postponing the article until bonding has been secured.

Ryan Aylesworth stated that if it is voted down, no further action would be allowed, and it would mean delaying to 2021 Town Meeting.

Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Smith called for a hand vote on the amendment to Article 10.

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32 In favor. 51 Opposed. Amendment to Article 10 FAILED.

Moderator Smith reopened the floor to discussion of the original Article 10.

Ryan Aylesworth requested Mr. Warzocha speak to the funding package of another community his firm is working with so that voters could better understand the long-term financial implication as far as lower interest rate versus a higher percentage interest rate.

Jon Warzocha spoke to his experience with another town similar to Enfield that recently got a USDA funding package offer. These days USDA has reduced the grant proportion to about 20% grant, but the interest rate was significantly lower at about 1.375% over the period of 30 years. The total cost of the project factoring in the favorable interest rate, it comes close to a wash or slightly better to do funding with a little less grant with a significantly lower interest rate. That coupled with the BOS and Town open to seeking other grant opportunities give flexibility to pursue other programs like the NH drinking water and ground water trust fund. There is a certain element of trust that the BOS will look out for the best interest of the water users and the town, but having the flexibility to pursue different programs is key to the process. Also pointed out that in order to get commitment from any of the funding agencies for a final commitment, having authority to borrow is critical. Without having authority to borrow there is no final commitment for a loan grant.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by gold paper ballot at 9:07 a.m. and suspended Article 10 for one hour.

57 in favor. 36 opposed. Article 10 passed.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,900,000 to make improvements to the municipal sewer system (including preparation of a funding application to USDA, improved access, infiltration and inflow removal, manhole rehabilitation, CCTV inspection, pipe rehabilitation), to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,900,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to make associated future principal and interest payments from the Municipal Sewer Fund operating budget for the life of the loan. Should both Articles 10 & 11 be approved, it is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to pursue integrated funding opportunities while ensuring that all future principal and interest payments are made from the appropriate fund on a proportionate basis.

Special Warrant Article  
2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

Meredith Smith: Move to accept Article 11 for discussion.  
Katherine Stewart: Second

Ryan Aylesworth spoke briefly on the condition of the sewer system and invited Jon Warzocha, President of Horizons Engineering, to speak to the article. The following are the points that were covered by both gentlemen:

The Enfield sanitary sewer collection system is primarily comprised of PVC pipe and precast concrete sewer manholes. The sanitary sewer collection system was originally constructed in the late 1980s. Since

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the completion of the sewer system, additional connections have been provided periodically for residential developments within the sewer service area. No major replacement and/or rehabilitation efforts have been made within the sanitary sewer collection systems. A flow monitoring study concluded that infiltration is low to moderate throughout most of the collection system, however, during periods of high groundwater, peak infiltration can account for up to 53% of flows in the collection system. These flows from infiltration are subsequently treated at the Lebanon treatment plant, which means the Town of Enfield is ultimately billed for this discharge.

Beginning in the spring of 2019, the Town of Enfield began working with an experienced wastewater system engineering firm to evaluate the municipal system. The manhole inspections revealed that approximately 40% of the manholes in the Enfield collection system have immediate needs. These defects ranged from light, to moderate active inflow and infiltration (I/I), to structural and operations/maintenance (O&M) needs such as deteriorating risers, backups, surcharging, and root intrusion. Some manholes were observed to have multiple defects. Approximately 30% of the manholes in the collection system could not be inspected due to accessibility issues including being bolted, paved over, buried, sealed shut, or unable to locate and access along cross-county easements.

Based on sonar testing of the gravity sewer mains, approximately 94% of the pipes tested scored in the “good” range (7-10), while 3% of the pipes scored in the “fair” range (4-6), and 3% of pipes scored in the “poor” (0-3) range. Approximately 50% of the pipes could not be sonar tested due to accessibility issues. Manhole and sanitary sewer main access is challenging due to paved over manholes, manholes being sealed shut, and inaccessibility along portions of the easements. The Town’s engineering firm has recommended the Town secure permitting approval to clear the easements and uncover and raise manholes where necessary. Inaccessible manholes present significant O&M challenges should any issues occur, such as backups of sanitary sewer mains that require flushing.

The Town’s engineering firm has also recommended follow-up investigations including CCTV inspection of the sanitary sewer collection system. The follow-up investigations should be completed prior to any rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, access should be provided to the manholes that could not be located, and manhole inspections and sonar tests should be completed on adjacent pipe segments. Smoke testing is recommended throughout the collection system to identify potential sources of inflow. Updates to the GIS mapping are also recommended upon completion of the follow up work. The CCTV work should be prioritized based on the results of the follow-up collection system field work and the updated asset management database. This will allow the Town to establish a baseline condition for each pipe and identify any pipes that warrant rehabilitation/replacement. The results of the CCTV investigations should be integrated with the asset management database developed as part of this Report. Pending the identification of any major structural deficiencies during the CCTV work, the most cost-effective approach is to utilize trenchless technologies that allow for in-situ rehabilitation. The typical useful life of sanitary sewer system components without proper maintenance and repair is 50 to 75 years. With proper maintenance and repairs the useful life of the sanitary sewer system components can be extended significantly.

Rehabilitation of manholes is also recommended. Of the manholes inspected, 22 were found to be in need of rehabilitation. Active I/I and/or structural deficiencies, such as loose and fallen bricks from the risers, were observed in these manholes. Loose bricks provide areas where infiltration can enter into the manholes and fallen bricks can present significant O&M challenges including clogged pipes and backups in the inverts of the manholes. It is recommended the bricks in the risers of these manholes be grouted. We also recommend that manholes noted as having active I/I be rehabilitated through the use of a chemical grout and cementitious lining. A number of manholes, including the ones recommended for rehabilitation, have O&M needs including roots, backups/blockages, and capacity overloads to the system.



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The Town of Enfield has the potential to receive up to 45% grant funding from the USDA Rural Development Office in support of this project work. If this funding application is successful, it would subsequently reduce the amount the Town needs to borrow for the remainder of the project costs.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion on Article 11.

Dimitri Desserranno questioned the value of the proposed efforts and asked for a cost breakdown of the \$1.9 million.

Jon Warzocha responded within the asset management plan and the USDA package was a budget of about \$20,000 to complete some additional inspections and for sewer line lining. The industry wide standard in NH for repairs and lining for sewer main has a linear ft cost of about \$120/linear foot. The repair and rehabilitating of manholes is about \$500/manhole. Then there are other things like design permitting, traffic control, loan package processing cost, etc. The costs are based on our engineer's opinion of costs based on experience with similar projects put to bid recently along with public domain published data for bid results put out by NH Department of Transportation and other sources. These projects may take a couple of years to complete and we need to do our best to ensure there is enough money to do the project as scoped. The cost may seem high, but this is what they are based on, industry standards that are out there today.

Walt Madore asked, regarding articles 10 and 11, how the breakdown effects the less than 500 homes in the town that are going to be paying this back. How does this affect the rates?

Ryan Aylesworth responded that the rates the BOS adopted in December for 2020 was projected to cover the debt service for this project. The average cost is an 8-9% increase in the overall water/sewer rates and that is already in effect in the quarterly billing for 2020, so users will not be seeing their rates go up additionally as a result of paying back loans associated with the project.

Jon Warzocha added, the other thing to think about when considering doing a fairly significant water and sewer infrastructure upgrade is to think of future rate predictability. The cost of construction, design and permitting tends to go up every year. There is some benefit in doing the project now and taking advantage of today's regulatory environment as opposed to what it might look like in the future.

Brian Degnan believes this is a much-needed item but structured poorly. This is definitely for the greater good of the community.

Dwight Marchetti asked for clarification on the water leakage into the sewer system and how was the percentage estimate of 50% arrived at?

Jon Warzocha responded that you basically take the water in to households and the metering of flow out and billed by Lebanon. Also, we investigated specific manholes that have popped, and it was estimated that during storm events how much increased flow was experienced. These estimates may not be perfect but are pretty reliable.

Dwight Marchetti asked that if this article passes, is the first order of business to examine the system to see where specifically repairs are needed?

Jon Warzocha answered that generally the areas of problems have been identified but the specific section of pipe has not been determined.

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Celie Aufiero asked about Article 12 being another \$75,000 requested for sewer. With all the borrowing of money the Town does, how much is paid for interest and what is the total? Ms. Aufiero expressed her worry that the General Fund will have to bail out the water and sewer funds.

Ryan Aylesworth replied, Article 12 for \$75,000 is essentially part of this overall project. There is a specific program that NHDES administers for planning and diagnostic work. It's 100% principal forgiveness. Therefore, the Town is only paying a nominal interest cost. As far as the overall debt service, it is about 4-5% of the overall operating budget. DRA recommends not to exceed 10%. Adding this project brings the Town's percentage of debt service to 6-7% of the overall operating budget including the water and sewer budgets.

Katherine Stewart reminded everyone the BOS meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. If one cannot attend meetings, the minutes are available online on the Town's website. Please come and educate yourselves.

Celie Aufiero asked if any money from the CIP is going into the water and sewer project?

Ryan Aylesworth answered no. No revenue or appropriation made into the CIP is ever used for a town water or sewer system project. No undesignated funds are used for the water or sewer funds. Three years ago, the sewer deficit was about \$700,000. The 2019 audit is complete, and the deficit is now about half that. Revenue collected from taxes, water and sewer do get deposited into the same physical bank account for cash flow purposes but are accounted for in separate funds. The Town's general fund, which is funded with property tax revenues, will not be used to support costs associated with water or sewer projects.

Jean Patten is a member of the budget committee and is frustrated and disturbed that hardly ever is there one member from the public in attendance at meetings. Therefore, she called the question.

Moderator Smith noted that there was already someone in line for the microphone and will be heard.

Patrick (unintelligible) noted of primary concern is storm water infiltrating the sewer system, can this be quantified and how often is this a concern? Believes that all who live in Enfield benefit from the quality of the infrastructure of the water and sewer systems. Patrick (?) also noted that in Los Angeles California the water rates are less than Enfield NH.

Ryan Aylesworth answered, the size of LA is considerably larger than Enfield and any time you can spread the operating cost across a much larger customer base, the costs per person goes down considerably. Enfield continues to explore possible ways to expand the customer base in the future with the goal of lowering the amount of fixed costs borne by each user.

Jon Warzocha explained in the study, it was shown that the storm water infiltration is occurring regularly when the water table is up. Also, there is a fixed amount of flow to be sent to Lebanon and reducing the amount of storm water in that flow reduces costs and allows for additional customers to be added down the road.

Patrick (?) requested, for clarification, for a ballpark figure on the number of times per year there is a storm water infiltration event of the sewer system? Would today's rain be infiltrating the system?

Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works answered that today's rain would not be a huge infiltration event. More during the winter when there is a rain event and the ground is frozen. The water cannot be absorbed into the ground. Usually the 2" rain events in the spring cause an infiltration as well or whenever the water table is high, and we receive a major rain event.

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Tim Jennings commented, the infiltration may only happen a few times a year and for a short period. Mr. Jennings doesn't feel the Town has a good analysis of the problem and in these unprecedented times of a pandemic urges all to vote no on this article.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by green paper ballot at 9:43 a.m. and suspended Article 11 for one hour.

50 in favor. 43 opposed. Needed 2/3 majority. Article 11 Failed.

Article 9 results announced now. 83 in favor. 9 opposed .Article 9 Passed.

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for wastewater planning related to recommended follow-up sewer system investigations from the 2019 Wastewater Asset Management Project, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$75,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; said borrowing to be from the NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund of which 100% of the principal is to be forgiven. There will be an interest payment due in 2020. The Municipal Sewer System Capital Reserve Fund, which the Board of Selectmen is agent to expend, will be used for the interest payments for the life of the loan.

Special Warrant Article  
2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

Katherine Stewart: Move to accept Article 12 for discussion.  
John Kluge: Second

Ryan Aylesworth: The Town intends to apply for a loan in the amount of the \$75,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This loan carries with it 100% principal forgiveness and an interest rate of 2%. We estimate the Town would incur interest expenses of more or less than \$1,000 at the conclusion of the project. In 2018 the Town took out a loan (also with 100% principal forgiveness) to comprehensively inventory and assess our municipal sewer system infrastructure (many components which we know are plagued by groundwater infiltration), and identify how the system will best be upgraded and maintained over time in order to meet the needs of the community, including capital planning and ensuring the size and condition of the system can adequately accommodate future projected growth. Additionally, in 2019 the Town took out a loan, also with 100% principal forgiveness, to undertake a feasibility analysis of constructing and operating a local wastewater treatment plant in order to disconnect from the City of Lebanon's municipal sewer collection and treatment system. The feasibility analysis is ongoing and is expected to be complete by September 2020. This second loan was effectively used for Phase II of a two-phase planning project. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee strongly support these projects in order to reduce the likelihood of system failure and make system updates more proactive to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of the system. The NHDES funding being requested now will enable the Town to begin addressing a number of the system issues that were identified during the asset management planning process. If the Town is successful in obtaining funding from NHDES to perform additional follow-up

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investigative/diagnostic work for the municipal sewer system, it will help us identify and address sections of sewer main that are presently allowing a considerable amount of inflow and infiltration. The City of Lebanon is billing the Town of Enfield for this inflow/infiltration given that it is received at their wastewater treatment plant. The Town will not be eligible to receive NHDES funding for this project if Town Meeting does not approve Article 12.

CCTV evaluation is eligible since it could lead to future capital projects. The Town's engineering firm carried \$140k for CCTV so this would allow us to do approximately half the system if the Town receives the planning grant.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Celie Aufiero wanted to advise that land use and flood plains should be taken into consideration when figuring water runoff.

Steve Patten hopes the study will investigate the individual sewer services because many times he has seen cleanouts that are broken.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by light blue paper ballot and because Article 12 is for under \$100,000 it need not be suspended for one hour but may be tallied sooner so advised all to vote immediately.

73 in favor. 16 opposed. Article 12 passed.

**Article 13:** (Lease without Escape Clause) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$48,000 payable over a term of seven (7) years for the purpose of leasing one Public Works one-ton pickup truck. The Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund, which the Board of Selectmen is agent to expend, will be used for the annual principal and interest payments for the life of the lease.

Special Warrant Article  
2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

Meredith Smith: Move to accept Article 13 for discussion.  
John Kluge: Second

Katherine Stewart: move to table Article 13 because the Town feels that replacement of this particular DPW vehicle can be reasonably delayed until 2021  
Meredith Smith: Second

Moderator Smith opened the vote by show of hands.

Majority in favor. Article 13 tabled.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to replace sidewalks in the village area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$40,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first

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interest payment will be due in 2020. The Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund, which the Board of Selectmen is agent to expend, will be used for the annual principal and interest payments for the life of the loan. Should both Articles 9 & 14 be approved, it is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to pursue integrated funding opportunities.

Special Warrant Article  
2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 14 for discussion.  
Katherine Stewart: Second

Ryan Aylesworth: There are several sections of sidewalk in the Enfield Village that are in need of repair and/or replacement. The three worst sections are along the length of High Street, along Shaker Hill Road between Wells Street and Livingstone Lodge Road and along Main Street between Estey Lane and the Mascoma Lakeside Park. The plan is to rebuild the worst sections by pulling up the existing pavement, improving the base, and repaving with colored or painted asphalt. Sections that are not in need of complete rebuilding will receive a colored or painted asphalt overlay. The sections of asphalt will not be stamped with a brick pattern as was previously done; this will help facilitate repairs in the future, improve sidewalk deicing and save considerable up-front expense. Any funds left over from the requested amount once the identified sections are addressed will be used to improve other sections of deteriorating sidewalks in the village area.

This project will be financed by a 15-year bank loan, in combination with the project described in Article 9, with an anticipated interest rate of 3.25%.

The Town also has a Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund and some funds would be used to lower the amount borrowed.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Tim Jennings questioned why get a loan for this small amount of money?

Ryan Aylesworth replied, through the CIP planning process it was determined best to combine with the bridge construction project and to move forward with an integrated funding plan. About a third of this plan will not need borrowing as it will be funded by the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund.

Steve Stancek questioned what the aesthetics would be; if the painting of the bridge sidewalk sections would look with the other areas that still have a brick pattern?

Ryan Aylesworth spoke to how aesthetic considerations were talked about at length and that is why the pigment asphalt or painted asphalt is planned to basically mirror the color that is out there. Public feedback has been that the colored sidewalks downtown make it "pop" and gives it a little bit more of a pleasing effect.

Jim Taylor spoke to the maintenance of the stamped sidewalks including in the winter the brine pools in the depressions and therefore does not melt the surfaces as well. There are also issues with the repainting and patching of the asphalt when necessary. This is more of a specialized task and outside help is sought which adds additional expenses.

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No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by purple paper ballot and because Article 14 is for under \$100,000 it need not be suspended for one hour but may be tallied sooner so advised all to vote immediately.

69 in favor. 17 opposed. Article 14 Passed.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$6,936,460 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Katherine Stewart: Move to accept Article 15 for discussion.

Meredith Smith: Second

John Kluge: In light of the current economic hardships being experienced by many Enfield residents, and our goal of pursuing cost savings while maintaining high-quality municipal services: move to reduce the appropriation in Article 15 to \$6,727,966.

Katherine Stewart: Second

**Article 15 as amended:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of ~~\$6,936,460~~ \$6,727,966 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion on amending Article 15.

No discussion was had.

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands to vote on amending Article 15.

Moderator Smith announced the majority of the showing of hands was in favor of amending Article 15.

Sam Eaton explained the Budget Committee's thought was, during the current economic hardships, to lower the budget to level funding from 2019 through many small adjustments and not hiring 2 employees. However, that keeps level staffing with what we have now and a high quality of life. Our Non-property tax revenue is on par with last year.

This amendment has unanimous support from both the Budget committee and BOS.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion on Article 15 as Amended.

No discussion was had.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by show of hands.

81 in favor. 1 opposed. Article 15 Passed.

Katherine Stewart moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 15.

John Kluge second.

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Majority in favor for restricting consideration of Article 15.

Results of Article 10 and 12 were announced:

Article 10: 57 in favor, 36 opposed. Article 10 passed  
Article 12: 73 in favor, 16 opposed. Article 12 passed

**Article 16:** To hear the report of the Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee relative to the evaluation of existing facilities and an examination of alternative options and conceptual designs that meet the Town's municipal facility needs.

Meredith Smith: Move to accept Article 16 for discussion.

John Kluge: Second

Katherine Stewart: The Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee is in the process of completing its work and finalizing its official recommendations and, because we will be providing detailed updates at a later time: move to table Article 16

Meredith Smith: Second

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion.

No discussion was had.

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands to vote on tabling Article 16.

Moderator Smith announced the majority of the showing of hands was in favor of tabling Article 16. Article 16 tabled.

**Article 17:** Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153 to collect an additional motor vehicle registration fee of \$5.00 per registration for the purpose of supporting a municipal transportation improvement fund. Said fund shall be a capital reserve fund established for this purpose and governed by the provisions of RSA 35, and the Board of Selectmen shall be appointed as agent to expend from said fund. All fees collected will be deposited in the newly created Municipal Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and public transportation.

The additional fee shall be collected from all vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all terrain vehicles as defined in RSA 215-A:1, I-b and antique motor vehicles or motorcycles, as defined in RSA 259:4.

Special Warrant Article  
Paper Ballot Vote Required

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 17 for discussion.

Katherine Stewart: Second

Meredith Smith: Because the Board of Selectmen does not wish to establish an additional fee during these uncertain economic times: move to table Article 17

John Kluge: Second

Moderator Smith called for voice vote on tabling Article 17.

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Moderator Smith announced the majority was in favor of tabling Article 17. Article 17 tabled.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for community master planning with said funds to come from unassigned general fund balance.

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 2-1.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-1.

Katherine Stewart: Move to accept Article 18 for discussion.

Meredith Smith: Second

John Kluge: Because the Planning Board has voted to put the Master Plan on hold until such time as public engagement processes can more effectively take place: move to table Article 18

Katherine Stewart: Second

Moderator Smith called for voice vote on tabling Article 18.

Moderator Smith announced the majority was in favor of tabling Article 18. Article 18 tabled.

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the Employee and Retiree Benefits Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned general fund balance.

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-1.

Katherine Stewart: Move to accept Article 19 for discussion.

Meredith Smith: Second

Ryan Aylesworth: In 2018, Town Meeting voted to create a new Employee and Retiree Benefits Trust Fund and raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the first year of the fund's operation. An appropriation of \$25,000 was also approved in 2019. The purpose of this new trust fund is to offset the costs of (1) final compensation due to employees who are retiring or otherwise separating from employment and (2) expenses that are eligible for employee reimbursement via the Town's existing health reimbursement account (HRA). At the time, it was explained that, in the absence of a dedicated trust fund established to offset such costs, when an employee retires or otherwise separates from the Town, the Town pays all eligible accrued leave (i.e., paid vacation and eligible sick leave) from the personnel/wage account associated with the employee's respective department. This can result in placing a great deal of financial stress on a department's operating budget given that employee separations are often not known or anticipated in advance of the annual budget being set. Furthermore, while the Town may have the good fortune of going a year or more without having a single municipal employee leave service, it is not uncommon to have multiple employees retire or leave employment for a variety of other circumstances within a given budget year. For this reason, many towns elect to establish a separate trust or reserve fund for which they make a relatively consistent level of appropriation every year to ensure sufficient funds to cover final employee compensation and eliminate funds within the operating budget being redirected from the original intended purpose. In 2018 and 2019, there was one anticipated employee retirement and two unanticipated employee retirements; this resulted in the full amount of the 2018 appropriation



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(\$25,000) being fully expended. We have one long-time employee retiring in 2020 (Paula Rowe, PD) and two more long-time employees (Sandy Romano, Town Clerk; Phil Neily, Building and Fire Inspector) who are planning to retire during the first half of 2021. It is anticipated that an appropriation of \$30,000 in 2020 will be adequate to cover all eligible expenses in 2020 while ensuring the fund begins 2021 with a positive fund balance. The proposed funding source for this appropriation is undesignated fund balance, and, as such, it will not have any impact on the tax rate.

Moderator Smith opened the floor for discussion.

Steve Stancek asked if the long-term purpose was to build up a fund balance to cover these separations?

Ryan Aylesworth responded that once the fund balance reaches a target of approximately \$100,000, the Town will have an adequate balance to cover anticipated separations and potentially unanticipated separations. Once the balance is reached, we will only need to replenish the fund as necessary, which may be every two or three years.

Dr. Jerold Theis asked if these funds were invested and earning interest?

Ryan Aylesworth answered that the funds are invested in low risk products, such as CD's etc, and invited a member of the Town's Trustees of Trust Funds to share additional details about the present investment strategy.

Ellen Hackeman as member of Trustee of Trust Funds advised that currently the board is looking into moving the funds to a financial advisor to invest those funds more strategically with the goal of earning a higher rate of return than be realized with the present use of CD's.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith called for show of hands on Article 19.

82 in favor. 2 Opposed. Article 19 Passed.

Moderator Smith announced the results of Article 14:  
69 in favor. 17 opposed. Article 14 Passed.

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$448,368 to be placed in the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund.

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 20 for discussion.  
Katherine Plumley Stewart: Second.

Ryan Aylesworth explained the CIP Committee is requesting \$448,368 be raised and appropriated to the CIP-CRF in 2020 (a \$26,200 increase over the \$422,168 raised and appropriated to the fund in 2019) so that we can continue to build and maintain sustainable capital reserves moving forward. Each year the CIP Committee ensures the amount appropriated to the CIP-CRF exceeds the total amount withdrawn, with the goal of growing the size of the fund so that fewer vehicle/equipment purchases necessitate any

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borrowing (i.e., loans and capital leases). This is in keeping with past precedence in building up the value of the CIP-CRF funds.

Moderator Smith opened the floor to discussion.

No discussion was had.

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands on Article 20.  
67 in favor. 9 opposed. Article 20 passed.

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:81, a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses (as defined in RSA 72:80). The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, modernize, or enlarge within the Town. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the Town. State education and county taxes are excluded from the exemption. The exemption shall be granted for a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the increase in assessed value attributable to the improvements and shall remain in effect for a maximum period of ten (10) years. If adopted, the exemption shall apply to all properties within the municipality for which a proper application is filed. The percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted on a per case basis based on the amount and value of public benefit provided, as determined by the Board of Selectmen. For the purpose of this exemption, in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement a minimum of one of the following must be provided: enhance economic growth and increase the Town's tax base; creation of needed services or facilities not currently available in the Town; redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area; prevent or eliminate blight; or, retain local jobs, increase local job base, and/or provide diversity in the job base. If approved this exemption shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect for a maximum of five (5) tax years.

Special Warrant Article

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 21 for discussion.  
Katherine Plumley Stewart: Second

Ryan Aylesworth: This article introduces an innovative new tool (RSA 72:81) to stimulate economic development and re-development in NH communities. The provisions of this article give Enfield the power to offer a financial incentive, in the form of a property tax exemption, to commercial and industrial developers to build and/or expand in Town. The maximum exemption allowed under this RSA is 50% of the increase in assessed value attributable to the improvements and the maximum period is 10 years. It is important to emphasize the exemption only applies to the added property value derived from an eligible improvement, and not the entire assessed value of the property. For instance, if a developer completes improvements to a piece of commercial or industrial property and the assessed value were to increase from \$500,000 to \$700,000 as a result, the partial exemption would only apply to the additional \$200,000 in new value and the property owner would continue to pay taxes on 100% of the "pre-improvement" value. A municipality may opt for a lower percentage and a shorter duration. The exemption shall apply only to the municipal and local school portions of a property's increase in tax burden due to the development. As per RSA 72:82 (Procedure for Adoption) section II, a vote adopting RSA 72:81 shall remain in effect for a maximum of 5 tax years; provided, however, that for any application which has already been granted prior to expiration of such 5 tax year period, the exemption shall continue to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted.

Moderator Smith opened the floor to discussion on Article 21.

David Beaufait made a motion to amendment to Article 21 to read:

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To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:81, a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses (as defined in RSA 72:80). The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, modernize, or enlarge within the Town. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the Town. State education and county taxes are excluded from the exemption. The exemption shall be granted for a maximum of ~~fifty (50%)~~ twenty five percent (25%) of the increase in assessed value attributable to the improvements and shall remain in effect for a maximum period of ~~ten (10)~~ five (5) years. If adopted, the exemption shall apply to all properties within the municipality for which a proper application is filed. The percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted on a per case basis based on the amount and value of public benefit provided, as determined by the Board of Selectmen. For the purpose of this exemption, in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement a minimum of one of the following must be provided: enhance economic growth and increase the Town's tax base; creation of needed services or facilities not currently available in the Town; redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area; prevent or eliminate blight; or, retain local jobs, increase local job base, and/or provide diversity in the job base. If approved this exemption shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect for a maximum of five (5) tax years.

David Fracht second the amendment to Article 21.

Moderator Smith opened the floor to discussion on the proposed amendment to Article 21.

A member of the public asked what percentage of reductions are other area towns offering to businesses?

Ryan Aylesworth added for clarification that the article would allow the BOS to reduce the taxable burden on the new value up to 50% but has the discretion to allow less than that on a case by case basis.

Katherine Stewart offered that some of the discussion had around this article was the properties around town that do not qualify for financing for various reasons. This Article as originally written is for the reduction considerations on any improvements only. This is to act as an incentive for improvements.

John Kluge spoke about the Route 4 Business District and the potential development of 2 prime pieces of real estate that have not been developed thus far. Mr. Kluge spoke in favor of this article as written and having the flexibility.

Kim Quirk, owner of Energy Emporium told of having taken advantage of such a program five years ago. It was negotiated and was a great program. Energy Emporium is looking to expand and stay in Enfield, and this type of program is exactly the type of thing they are looking for to stay in Enfield. Opposes the Amendment.

The member of the public asked again if anyone knew what reductions if any are offered by area towns?

Ryan Aylesworth replied he doesn't believe Lebanon has adopted this as their development has grown leaps and bounds. This is to attract business to come here.

Sharon Beaufait spoke to her feelings about the taxes here and not seeing much business coming into Town. Feels that this is putting more on the back of Taxpayers. Ms. Beaufait supports businesses coming to Town, but feels this Article is too Subjective and for too long of a period of time.

Ryan Aylesworth responded that in the absence of, or with a diminished or stagnant commercial property base, that even with every effort to minimize taxes, increases in spending does put a strain on the taxpayer. If you don't have a stable commercial base, it does put the burden on residential property owners.

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Ryan Aylesworth spoke to the COVID-19 environment right now and advised that 93% of 2020 1st issue property taxes are paid. That stands with historical records.

Steve Stancek asked how this all relates to the Tax Increment Finance District?

Ryan Aylesworth responded, any additional value generated as a result of new business or further development on Route 4 would continue to stay in the TIF district. Mr. Aylesworth anticipates this will ultimately enhance the value and grow the value of the TIF district.

Linda Jones asked for clarification on the wording which reads the exemption will remain in effect for a maximum of a period of 10 years, yet the last sentence reads ...will remain in effect for 5 years.

Ryan Aylesworth clarified that, if the town adopts this, by law it will need to be voted on every 5 years for adoption program, but the benefit will remain over a 10 year.

Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Smith called for a hand vote on the amendment to Article 21.

David Beaufait requested a visual count on the Amendment to Article 21.

17 In favor. 57 Opposed. Amendment to Article 21 Failed.

Moderator Smith reopened the floor to discussion of the original Article 21.

Tim Jennings encouraged all to defeat the Article because he believes it is based on the opinion of the Board of Selectmen. He questioned what would an appeal process be? There are too many unintended consequences. This could be very complicated for the Town. How would one measure the effectiveness of this plan?

Ryan Aylesworth responded that this would not result in any transfer of dollars from existing taxpayers. This is all happening with new tax dollars. We know empirically this would be beneficial because this conversation has happened, and based on the decision made here, may impact whether an interested business owner will come here.

Ryan Aylesworth went on to say that the Town has to decide what message it wants to send to prospective commercial real estate developers and investors. The real value of adopting RSA 72:80 will probably be less a function of the direct benefit a property owner may receive in the form of a tax break, and more a function of the message Enfield would be sending to the outside world that we are a business-friendly community that would like to see new enterprises come to Town.

David Fracht spoke as a private citizen emphasizing that his remarks do not reflect the Planning Board as he is a member. He has been opposed to tax benefits because this can create an unfair advantage between businesses. If area towns also adopt a program like this, it could become a bidding war to get businesses. If and when the Town's Master Plan is passed, that would open up a lot of grant programs which are at no cost to the taxpayer. This is not the best investment of our tax dollars to attract new businesses. Urges all to vote no.

Bridget Labrie is on the Schoolboard and has the experience of sitting on the other side of the table and asks all to think about how the public votes people into office to make decisions in the best interest of the Town. This gives the BOS the ability to do this, not the guarantee they will. Encourages all to vote yes.

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Nancy Smith feels that this is just another tool for the BOS to put in their toolbox. Nothing says they have to use it, but it's just a tool and we should give it to them.

Steve Stancek at first had reservations, but at this point gives his reserved support to this idea. It does, in some ways, counteract some of the income potential of the TIF district but as Nancy mentioned this is just another tool. The TIF has been in effect for quite some time and we had hoped there would be more in the business district. If in 5 years we feel this isn't working, we can vote to stop it. Urges support for this article.

Kim Quirk said again, as a business that would like to expand in Enfield they would need some help to do that. All locations under consideration need renovations. Being able to do those renovations and bring new people into the business helps Enfield and employees to live in Enfield. In the long run, there can be some really good tax results. Brings property value of renovated property up yielding more tax dollars in the long run.

Jane Plumley believes the Town needs diversity and jobs here; we need people to stay here. The beauty of a small town is the little businesses that provide stability. We're not going to have a grocery store until we show that we would welcome them. Mrs. Plumley strongly urges all to support Article 21. We need this in place so that if opportunity knocks, we're ready.

Robert West thinks the question about activity is critical. Route 4 has vacancies. This is a gesture to show that we have funding options. Mr. West does not believe this would create a bidding war.

Jean Patten calls the question.

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands to vote on Article 21.  
70 in favor. 9 opposed. Article 21 Passed.

Article 11 tally announced: 50 in favor. 43 opposed. Needed 2/3 majority. Article 11 Failed.

Katherine Stewart made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Ed McLaughlin questioned what restrict reconsideration means?

Moderator Smith answered that it means that the article is done and cannot be considered again.

Ed McLaughlin seconded.

Moderator Smith called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration of Articles 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Majority in favor.

John Kluge made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10 & 11.  
Same Eaton seconded.

Moderator Smith called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10 & 11.

Majority in Favor.

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**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an electricity power purchase agreement of up to 25 years with a qualified third party that will install, own and maintain a solar energy system on the Department of Public Works salt and sand shed, and to grant a lease and easement for access to the location of the system. The Town will purchase the local solar energy at a cost of not more than \$0.120/kWh the first year, with an increase of not more than 2% in each subsequent year, and includes an option to purchase the system for no more than the depreciated market rate (as determined by an independent appraiser) during the term of the agreement. The Board of Selectmen would be authorized to negotiate terms and enter into said agreement through December 31, 2020, at which time the authorization would expire and necessitate additional Town Meeting approval.

Special Warrant Article

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 22 for discussion.

Katherine Stewart: Second

Charles Clark spoke to Article 22 covering the following: This Power Purchase Agreement allows a third party to install and maintain a solar array on the Public Works shed so the Town of Enfield would not have to make a capital investment in order to get the benefit of lower electricity rates from solar energy generated locally. The current cost of electricity for the DPW building is approximately \$0.16/kWh. The savings in the first year should be a minimum of \$2,500. Each additional year the savings is expected to go up. Over the last 25 years, Liberty Utility rates have increased close to 3% per year. This contract caps the yearly increase to 2% per year and provides for fixed monthly payments, making budgeting easier for this building. The Town will have the option to purchase the system during the life of the lease, if desired. In addition to the projected financial benefits associated with this proposal, the Board of Selectmen wishes to explore options for renewable energy production and use for environmentally responsible reasons.

Tim Jennings commented, after negotiating with the apparent low bidder, if it's true that the town can save money over the next 35 years then he encourages them to do so. One element to be careful of; if the solar array produces more power than the Town is using, be sure to pay attention to the rate that the Power company is paying.

Charlie Clark answered that very seldom would the Town generate more power than it uses. We don't have the space to generate the amount of power needed.

Sam Eaton asked how much does the Town currently pay for electricity?

Charlie Clark has evaluated the power bills for the past 7 years. The rate varies for the time of year from 9 cents to 16 cents. Overall we would be paying less. After we own the system we would be saving real money.

Ryan Aylesworth noted this sets article sets a cap of 12 cents/KWH. Thru bidding, we could achieve a lower rate.

John Kluge: How long till we would own the system?

Charlie Clark: When this goes to bid, the years are negotiated. We would purchase at a depreciated price. Normally after 5 to 10 years.

Matthew Donica asked what the life expectancy on the solar system is?

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Kim Quirk responded typically solar panels have a 25-year warranty to be producing 80% of the power when compared to first installed. The actual life expectancy of the panels is unknown. 30? 40? maybe 50 years? The cost to purchase the array in a future time is estimated to be at market value which is usually 60% of the cost to install when purchased in 5-6 years.

Charlie Clark added this article is no cost to the Town. This gives permission to the Town to look further into purchasing solar.

Bryan Bibeault questioned how long will it take for the solar array to pay for itself?

Charlie Clark answered, as long as it's generating, the Town can't lose money.

Kim Quirk added, the first 5-6 years the system is owned by an investor. There is no return on investment then. The town would be paying less for the electricity it uses during this time. At the time the Town considers buying the system, then there is a good return on investment. This is a 25-year agreement and over 25 years the rates do go up and down each year but usually 3% so if the Town negotiates a rate less than 3%, that's good.

Moderator Smith called for a hand vote on Articles 22.

Majority in favor. Article 22 passed.

Katherine Stewart made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 22.

John Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration of Articles 22.

Unanimously in favor.

Jean Patten commented that there was a question on what does restricting reconsideration mean.

Attorney Raymond answered that this keeps an article from coming up again later in the same meeting.

**Article 23:** (By Petition) “New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution”  
“We the town of Enfield hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire’s economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety”

“We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire’s natural resources upon which we rely.”

“The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Enfield’s State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to Enfield’s Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Enfield’s Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.”

John Kluge: Move to accept Article 23 for discussion.

Katherine Stewart: Second

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Meredith Smith: Because this issue deserves debate which can be had at a later date and in the interests of time: move to table Article 23

John Kluge: Second

Moderator Smith opened the floor to discussion on Tabling Article 23.

A woman asked what does tabling mean? How long is it tabled?

Ryan Aylesworth: If it is tabled, it could be revisited at the next Town Meeting.

Sharon Beaufait feels we are faced with consequences of climate change and we are at a critical junction of terrible things happening and the effects are irreversible. We need this ability to say to NH that this matters to Enfield. Please let's have this discussion.

Tim Jennings feels this should be tabled. This body is not the best form to address it. This is a specific form of action of an array of actions that could be taken against climate change.

Robert West thinks this should be discussed when more people are in attendance.

The woman stated that this is a very important issue. The fact that it's last on the agenda, doesn't mean it should be tabled because some people have left. It is an important discussion.

John Kluge believes this is enormously important. What bothers him is the specificity of the approach here. He doesn't know enough of the science to be able to speak about carbon cash back programs and if they are the best option. Believes tabling the article would give time to research more.

A member of the public agrees with John. This is very specific legislative issues. Need to focus more on local issues.

Nancy Smith gave some background on this Article. There were efforts in Concord to get cash back implemented and the representatives were looking for Towns to support this. That is how this Article started. Ms. Smith agreed it needs more discussion and added, we're probably past the window of opportunity in Concord simply because of their legislative session.

Reed Bergwall commented, with all due respect to John, government starts right here. And we're having Government inaction. This is a viable way to start taking action. Voting against this sends the wrong message. Mr. Bergwall is in favor of this Article.

Jeff Stott Believes further deliberation is needed to discuss the cost benefit of this proposal. This is basically self-taxing us for vitally needed energy to heat our homes and businesses. One cannot tax into prosperity. This should be tabled.

Steve Stancek moved the question.

The woman stated her belief that the former speaker gave misinformation.

Moderator Smith called for a show of hands vote on whether to table Article 23.  
30 in favor. 14 Opposed. Article 23 tabled.

**Article 24:** To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.



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John Kluge: Move to accept Article 24 for discussion.

Katherine Stewart: Second

Meredith Smith: In the interest of saving time and minimizing the potential for exposure: move to table Article 24.

John Kluge: Second

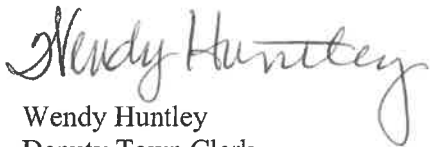
Moderator Smith called for a show of hands to vote on whether to table Article 24.

Majority in favor. Article 24 Tabled.

Moderator Smith informed that absentee ballot requests are available for the September Primary and the November general elections.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Huntley".

Wendy Huntley  
Deputy Town Clerk